**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners**

**(June 24, 2022)**

**(VOIDABLE FOR LACK OF NOTICE; ALL ACTIONS RATIFIED ON JULY 12, 2022)**

The following are the minutes of the meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners (“LSBOE”) held on June 24, 2022, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Following the conclusion of this meeting, during the board meeting which was conducted following the Annual Meeting, it was learned that the agenda for the meeting had not been posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Upon the recommendation of counsel for the Board, the actions taken at the Annual Meeting were considered voidable and the meeting was rescheduled to July 12, 2022, following proper notice and posting as required by the Open Meetings Law. Accordingly, the minutes below are for purposes of documenting the meeting only, but the actions taken therein were adopted and ratified at the July 12, 2022, meeting.

Board members in attendance were:

Jeff Anastasio, O.D.

Chris Wroten, O.D.

Jerry Gerdes, O.D.

David Heitmeier, O.D.

Dale Benoit

Others in attendance were:

Gary Avallone, O.D. (by videoconference; not counted as present or towards the quorum)

A.J. Herbert, Counsel for the LSBOE

Nicole Simmons, Legal Assistant to A.J. Herbert, for the purpose of taking the minutes

Those members of the public listed on the guest sign-in register

A quorum being present, the Chairman called the meeting to order. Dr. Anastasio reviewed the timeline of events and the audit issued by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor in December 2021; the areas identified by the Auditor for corrective action; the status of the items addressed and those which needed to be addressed; and the report commissioned by the LSBOE from Carr Riggs on categories of shared expenses that the Board should pursue recovery of.

Dr. Anastasio also reviewed the provisions of Act 313 (SB 328) from the 2022 Legislative Session, and the changes to the governance of the LSBOE required by the legislation.

Dr. Janot on behalf of the OAL inquired in what year the consumer member on the board had been appointed and when his term of office expires, and how the order of the district elections in Act 313 was determined. The board suggested that counsel for the board could contact Senator Fred Mills, the author of the legislation, to obtain answers.

Dr. Janot also inquired about the status of the board’s rule on the dispensing of medications and expressed his hope that the rule could be finalized and implemented quickly.

Amanda Hickman, O.D., on behalf of the OAL, asked whether the board would provide to the OAL a list of the names and contact information for those taking the board’s examination. Mr. Herbert replied that he would have to research whether that information is public record prior to licensure, or if the applicants’ information is considered private prior to licensure.

There being no further actions to be taken, the Annual Meeting of the LSBOE was concluded.

ATTEST:

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Gary Avallone, O.D.

Secretary/Treasurer