

## Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

October 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Dr. Bryant Ashley at 1:30 PM.

The following board members were present: Dr. Bryant Ashley, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. Beatrice Reed, and Dr. Dan Hennessey via teleconference. Also in attendance were Tanya Ford, Board Director, Amber Leclerc, Board Assistant and Lacie Kirchner, Asst. Attorney General and Board Counsel.

The minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting were presented. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

The Board Update including the Financial Report was presented by Ms. Ford. Dr. Reed made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford reported there will be a new online format for license renewals this year, and that next year, the Advanced Procedures Reporting Form will be added to the new format. It was emphasized that everyone must complete the reporting form whether they performed advanced procedures or not. Also next year, Online Jurisprudence will follow the same format. Ms. Ford also noted that as part of Rules Promulgation, the Board voted last month to accept the Uniformed Service Member licensure process.

Dr. Ashley reported that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education issue regarding SREB has been resolved, and questions or concerns regarding SREB will be handled by the Arkansas Optometric Association.

The Board acknowledged a request to add an additional Advanced Procedures test date. No additional test date will be added at this time. Dr. Hennessey presented the topic of moving toward one level of licensure. Discussion followed.

Dr. Fitzhugh presented the Complaint Committee Report. There are three complaints pending at this time.

Ms. Kirchner reported on updating the existing Rules. She noted that the Bureau of Legislative Research has been reviewing all Rules, including Optometry, for format changes. The Board will continue to review the existing Rules for needed updates and clarifications. Ms. Ford will send out a draft of the current proposed changes.

Dr. Hennessey presented the OE Tracker Update and stated that OE Tracker is well utilized in the state. The State Board pays annual dues to ARBO for OE Tracker. ARBO on a national level emphasizes the use

of OE tracker for tracking CE. Dr. Hennessey stated he will give a more extensive report during the Jurisprudence course at the ArOA Fall Convention this weekend.

The next Board meeting date is November 17, 2023.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion for mileage and per diem. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to adjourn. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

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Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer

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Dr. Bryant Ashley, President