

<p><b>Arkansas State Board of Optometry Meeting Minutes</b>  <b>April 24, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Freeway Medical Tower Building</b>  <b>Little Rock, AR 72204</b></p>	<p><b><u>Attendees</u></b>  Members: Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. James Hertzog, Dr. Matt Jones, and Dr. Beatrice Reed</p> <p>Others: Dr. Allison Hall, Amber LeClerc, Michael Lewis, Jessica Kloss, Dr. Dwight Thibodeaux, Dr. Theresa Vo, and Suzette Weast</p>	
<p><b>AGENDA</b></p>	<p><b>Summary &amp; Actions</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTER</b></p>
<p><b><u>Call Meeting to Order</u></b></p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Dr. Beatrice Reed, President</p>
<p><b><u>Standing Items</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction: Attorney General Board Attorney</li> <li>2. Minutes from February Meeting</li> <li>3. State Board Office Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Financial Report</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Dr. Reed introduced Attorney Jessica Kloss as our newly designated board counsel from the Arkansas Attorney General’s office.</p> <p>The February 20, 2025, meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. With no request for changes to the minutes, a motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Hertzog to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.</p> <p>Executive Director, Suzette Weast presented the financial report. Cash reserves are lessening from the fee reduction as expected. The Legislative Committee voted for the licensing fee reduction to continue another year to ensure licensing boards have only three years of operating costs in reserves. The reduction only applies to licensing fees and not to fines or administrative fees. Fees are expected to return to the regular rates on July 1, 2026. A motion was made by Dr. Matt Jones and seconded by Dr. James Hertzog to accept as presented. The motion passed.</p>	<p>Dr. Reed</p> <p>Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Secretary/Treasurer</p> <p>Suzette Weast</p>

<p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. License Renewals       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. George Ingram, OD</li> <li>b. Johnny Bowman, OD</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Dr. Ingram requested to practice this year without obtaining continuing education since he will retire in February of 2026. The board did not accept the request which conflict with the Arkansas State Board of Optometry rules and regulations so Dr. Ingram will remain retired. Dr. Bowman has been inactive for 3 years and requested to transition back to active with proof of continuing education. He decided to remain inactive since the rules require applying as an endorsement candidate after the lapse of licensure.</p>	<p>Mrs. Weast</p>
<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. License by Endorsement Candidates       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dwight Thibodeaux</li> <li>b. Theresa Vo</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Complaint Committee Update</li> <li>3. NBEO</li> <li>4. APC Certification (new &amp; endorsement licentiates)</li> <li>5. ADH monthly Administrative Fee effective 7/1/2025</li> <li>6. ADH hold on out-of-state travel payments</li> </ol>	<p>The board heard from Dr. Thibodeaux and Dr. Vo during a time of questioning. Both candidates have completed all requirements for endorsement. A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Fitzhugh to approve Dr. Thibodeaux for license by endorsement. A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Hertzog for license by endorsement. Both motions passed.</p> <p>There are no complaints to report.</p> <p>NBEO has two new exam sections: injection skills (ISE) and laser/surgical procedures (LSPE).</p> <p>The topic was introduced for new applicants and endorsement candidates to be required to take the advanced procedures certification. Arkansas will start considering phasing in and informing new applicants of the future requirement.</p> <p>ADH is initiating a 10% fee incurred for administrative processes.</p> <p>ADH has initiated no out-of-state travel approvals until further notice for financial reasons.</p>	<p>Dr. Reed</p> <p>Dr. Fitzhugh</p> <p>Dr. Susan DeBlack, Vice President</p> <p>Dr. DeBlack</p> <p>Mrs. Weast</p>

<p><b><u>Open Items</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next Meeting Date</li> <li>2. Arkansas Optometric Association</li> <li>3. ARBO Meeting</li> <li>4. Advanced Procedures Testing</li> <li>5. Per Diem and Mileage</li> </ol>	<p>The next meeting date is June 19, 2025</p> <p>The association's conference begins this afternoon, and Jurisprudence will be on Friday at 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Dr. DeBlack will be the voting delegate for Arkansas on June 22-24, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN.</p> <p>June 19, 2025 is the next licensing testing where Dr. David Hall and Dr. Matt Jones will proctor the practical laser exam for advanced procedure licensees. Testing begins at 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>A motion was made by Dr. DeBlack and seconded by Dr. Jones for per diem and mileage. The motion passed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Dr. Reed</p>
<p><b><u>Adjourn</u></b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.</p>	

  
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 Dr. Beatrice Reed, President

  
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 Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Secretary