

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

November 20, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Beatrice Reed at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. Beatrice Reed, Board President

Dr. Susan DeBlack, Vice-President

Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Secretary

Dr. James Hertzog, Board Member

Dr. Allison Hall, Member ArOA

Suzette Weast, Executive Director ASBO

Matt Burns, Executive Director ArOA

Amber LeClerc, ASBO

Jessica Kloss, Board Attorney

Pieper Martin, OD

Rebekah Swicegood, OD

Standing Items:

(1) Minutes of October meeting presented by Dr. Robert Fitzhugh:

Motion by Dr. DeBlack to accept as presented, motion seconded by Dr. Hertzog, motion passed.

State Board Update:

(a) Financial report presented by Suzette Weast:

Reported an error of \$30125.00 was made by the state and will be credited back to our fund balance. It was to have been removed from our fees. It will be corrected at a later time. Also, an operating expense of \$2666.74 for commitment of purchase orders was explained and noted that there were 5 pay periods in October.

Motion by Dr. Hertzog to accept as presented, seconded by Dr. DeBlack. Motion passed.

Old Business:

(1) Dr. Reed reminded Board at February Meeting a portion of Board Rules tentatively could be reviewed. Board should review packet provided prior to the meeting.

(2) Optical Business Issues:

A complaint with Stanton Optical will be referred to the Complaint Committee.

New Business:

(1) Licensure Introductions

(a) Pieper Martin, OD – License by Examination

It was stated Dr. Martin passed her exams and only needs to complete her 100 hours to be able to practice in Arkansas.

(b) Rebekah Swicegood, OD – License by Endorsement

Motion by Dr. Hertzog to accept by endorsement, seconded by Dr. DeBlack. Motion passed.

(2) Complaint Committee presented by Dr. Fitzhugh

Nothing to report. We will get started with complaint against Stanton Optical Company when it is received from Suzette Weast.

(3) License Renewal

(a) License Renewal Reminders

It was stated that we send out many reminders for license renewals. It was decided that reduction in the number of reminders was needed. The board will receive a copy of the correspondence being sent to our licensed Doctors. Suzette and Dr. Reed will work on the number of notices being sent. No action was taken at the present time.

(b) Grace Periods of License Renewals

At present time there is no grace period. Board Attorney Jessica Kloss will research rules to see if we can extend a grace period.

(c) Retired Optometrist Concerns

Discussed a Doctor who wanted to practice until February 2026 without obtaining continuing education as required by law. The Board provided him with copies of the law and explained what he wanted was not possible.

(4) Approved Non-Convention CE Credit

Dr. Reed reported that she approved several CE courses as is her prerogative.

(5) ARBO

Dr. Reed discussed a Keratoconus treatment that is non-invasive. Board has not acted on this at present. No action was taken. This is informative.

(6) Board Training

Board Attorney Jessica Kloss presented a very informative training seminar on the Freedom of Information Act and the Administrative Procedures Act. It was a great learning experience for the Board.

(7) Dr. Hertzog made a motion to have a tentative agenda of the coming meeting to be sent to Board members one week prior to the meeting. Dr. DeBlack offered a friendly amendment to include the entire meeting packet. This was accepted by Dr. Hertzog. Both motion amendment were seconded by Dr. DeBlack. Motion passed.**Open Items:**

(1) Dr. Reed informed board that the next meeting is February 19, 2026.

(2) Motion by Dr. Hertzog for per diem and mileage. Seconded by Dr. Hertzog. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Hertzog, seconded by Dr. DeBlack. Motion passed.



Beatrice Reed, OD, President



Robert Fitzhugh, OD, Secretary-Treasurer