

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

August 15, 2024

Before the meeting was called to order, Dr. Beatrice Reed, Board President, presented a special award to Dr. Bryant Ashley for his 10 years of great service to the Arkansas State Board of Optometry. An award well deserved.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Board President, Dr. Beatrice Reed. Members present were Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. James Hertzog, Dr. Matt Jones, and Dr. Beatrice Reed. Also present were Amber LeClerc, Dr. Allie Hall, Dr. Johanna Purcell, Suzette Weast, and Matt Burns, ArOA Executive Director. New board member Dr. James Hertzog was introduced.

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented by Dr. Robert Fitzhugh. Dr. A motion was made by Dr. DeBlack and seconded by Dr. Hertzog to accept minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Executive Director, Suzette Weast presented the financial report. A motion was made by Dr. DeBlack to accept it as presented and seconded by Dr. Hertzog. The motion passed. The State Board Update, including the financial report was presented by Mrs. Weast. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to approve the financial report. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

She also stated that the fee reduction was now in effect. The criminal justice audit revealed no defaults. This audit should occur every two years.

Under Old Business:

Regarding Botox, either cosmetic or therapeutic volumes of solution can be ordered. Also, there was nothing to report regarding the complaint committee.

Under New Business:

Johanna Purcell, O.D. gave a detailed presentation of Acthar and the possibility of it being incorporated into optometric practices in Arkansas. The board will take this under advisement and determine if it is in our advanced procedure scope of practice.

Dr. DeBlack gave a report on the ARBO meeting. It was attended by Dr. DeBlack, Dr. Reed, and Suzette Weast. Suzette reported that Arkansas optometrists have obtained 100% C.E. for 2024. It was stated that other states were not as accurate.

Background Checks:

We only administer background checks on endorsement candidates. The question was raised if the process should be opened to all candidates. This will be discussed further at a later meeting.

Non-Cope Course Requests:

- (1) Laster of Fort Smith: Dr. Seth Laster presented on September 10, 2024, for 2 hours C.E. A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. DeBlack to approve. The motion passed.

Non-Cope C.E. at Fall Convention:

- A. Jurisprudence
- B. Medicaid
- C. Lumps and Bumps

A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Hertzog for approval at ArOA Fall Convention. The motion passed.

Licensing Request Inquiry:

- Optometric course professor at Western University, not an Optometry School graduate inquired as to obtaining an honorary license. The request was denied as the issue would require licensing rule changes.

Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates:

- A. February 20
- B. April 24
- C. June 19
- D. August 21
- E. October 16
- F. November 20

A motion was made by Dr. Hertzog and seconded by Dr. DeBlack to accept the meeting schedule. The motion passed.

The next meeting scheduled on October 17, 2024, was cancelled because a quorum would not be present. The next meeting date is November 21, 2024.

Jurisprudence will be presented November 9, 2024, at Fall Convention.

Direction for jurisprudence was presented by Dr. Reed.

- Dr. DeBlack – Testing in General
- Dr. Fitzhugh – Complaint Committee
- Suzette Weast – Directors Report
- Dr. Reed – Introduction of the Board
- Dr. Jones – Protecting the Public on the National Scale
- Jamie Turpin – Arkansas Drug Monitoring

Dr. DeBlack made a motion for per diem and mileage. Dr. Hertzog made a second. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. DeBlack. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Dr. Beatrice Reed, President

Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Secretary-Treasurer