

MINUTES L.S.B.O.E.-- FEB. 22, 2019
MARRIOTT HOTEL-- NEW ORLEANS, LA.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:15 PM

The roll was called and a quorum was present. Present were Drs. Avallone, Anastasio, Roy, Sandefur, Wroten, and Mr. Dale Benoit.

Dr. Jason Wonch was present and discussed the possible use of telemedicine in his offices. A lengthy discussion was held with the Board explaining to Dr. Wonch that they were unable to give him an answer at this time as the Board would have to further explore the telemedicine issue as it pertains to Optometry, but would give him an answer as soon as possible.

There was a discussion of how the agenda for the meetings is written and upon motion by Dr. Wroten/Anastasio the agenda was rewritten and adopted. Passed unanimously.

Upon motion by Dr. Sandefur/ Wroten the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as corrected. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Sandefur pointed out that the latest set of Rules to be promulgated will be delayed as the state has formed a new committee which must review and approve any proposed Rules and we must wait for their approval before the proposed Rules can enter the normal promulgation process.

Dr. Anastasio gave a lengthy description of the new additions to the licensing examination that the task force has been working on regarding testing for Advanced Procedures. They will have a test run soon and will report the results to the Board.

Dr. Sandefur reported on the situation with Vieth and the current web master, the license renewal form deficiencies, and the difficulty Hope is having with license renewal as the process has become more complicated and time consuming. Hiring temporary help was suggested and Dr. Sandefur will look into this.

Dr. Sandefur also discussed finances, reporting on the balance in the checkbook and the fact that the Board is no longer receiving a fee from insurance companies for license verification since online verification was instituted. It was pointed out that this should not be the case and that the insurance companies should be paying the fee. Dr. Avallone will try to contact the current webmaster to see if this can be corrected.

Dr. Sandefur then informed the Board that he had just received information regarding telemedicine laws that the legislature has passed that he and the Board were unaware of. It appears that the law may allow the Board to promulgate rules regarding defining telemedicine in the practice of Optometry. The Board instructed Dr. Sandefur to contact Mr. Theus to have him investigate the laws and report to the Board.

The Stanton Optical case was discussed. The Board has received a memo from Mr. Theus regarding Stanton's responses to the Board's subpoenas, and the opinion of Mr. Theus, at this point, that Stanton has violated the law. Dr. Avallone asked if a 'Temporary Restraining Order' might be obtained to stop Stanton from further business until the issue is settled. The possibility of a fine was discussed also. The Board instructed Dr. Sandefur to bring these ideas to Mr. Theus for his opinion on the best way to proceed with this issue.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 PM.