

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

3600 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

MINUTES

February 14, 2025

I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda

The roll was called at 9:02 am with the following LSBOE board members present: Drs. Kasovich, Anastasio, Jong, and Mrs. Wicker. Dr. LaPoint, Dr. Gerdes and Dr. Lamar were absent. Also present were Public Guests, OAL Members and Board counsel Mr. AJ Herbert. Executive Director, Anna Cahill, was also present virtually. Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Kasovich called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Kasovich made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Anastasio seconded and it was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kasovich made a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 2024 meeting. Ms. Wicker seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Kasovich made a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 2025 meeting. Dr. Jong seconded and it was unanimously approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

a. **Finance and Budget Report** – Ms. Cahill provided an update to the Board regarding the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss documents.

b. **License Activity**

a. **Renewals** – Ms. Cahill notified the Board that reminders have begun to go out for the March 1, 2025 deadline for renewals.

b. **Applicants/new licensees** - Ms. Cahill informed the Board that inquiries have begun to come in about the 2025 licensing exam.

c. **Endorsement request** – One which will be presented at the next meeting.

d. **Inactive requests** – No new requests.

e. **Hardship requests** – No new requests.

f. **Request for reinstatement** - No new requests.

g. **Complaints** – to be discussed during executive session

c. **Required Training**

a. Ms. Cahill notified the Board that she will get the new link for 2025 training and send an email with the information.

d. **Requests for Guidance**

a. Mr. Herbert informed the Board of a request for guidance from the OAL regarding the practice of providing a free eye exam if the patient purchases glasses. He notified the Board that he was still working on this request and will have a conclusion at the next board meeting.

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OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Kasovich/Anastasio) – A roll call vote was held to go into executive session; the motion passed unanimously. (Entered 9:10am)

V. Litigation

A. By OAL v Heitmeier, et al No C-729018 19th JDC State of Louisiana

B. By LSBOE v OAL et al No. C-729434 19th JDC State of Louisiana

C. Update on Ethics Board Proceedings related to LSBOE/OAL pending litigation

VI. Update on Complaints

a. Pending Complaints

b. New Complaints since last Meeting

VII. Requests for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action

VIII. A.J. Herbert, Esq. Contract

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Exited 9:46am)

XIV. Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session

No items discussed required a motion.

XVI. Legal Discussion

Jacques Roy, legal representation for the OAL, made a presentation regarding litigation. Dr. Anastasio made a motion to approve the 1/28/25 version of the settlement documents presented by the OAL with the exception on page 3 of 14, the third whereas paragraph that states the basis regarding the legislative auditor have language that massages any contentions or just adopts the audit between AJ Herbert, lawyer for the LSBOE, and Jacques Roy, lawyer for the OAL. All of which is based upon the approval by the Attorney General of the settlement itself. Ms. Wicker seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

XVII. Next Meeting - Board members agreed that the next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for March 21, 2025 in Baton Rouge for 9:00am.

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Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Paul Lapoint, O.D.
Secretary LSBOE

Kevin Kasovich, O.D.
President LSBOE