

MINUTES

LA. STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS MEETING JULY 17,18, 2020

WILLIS- KNIGHTON EYE CENTER, SHREVEPORT, LA.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by President Mark Roy, O.D.

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

Motion Anastasio/ Wroten to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Passed unanimously.

The board asked Dr. Sandefur to contact the Dept. of Administration for assurance that the board was now in complete compliance with all of their requirements.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Continuing Education requirements and license renewal in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of the discussion motion was made by Sandefur/ Wroten that all year 2020 and 2021 C.E. requirements be due March 1, 2022. Licenses must continue to be renewed annually with payment of the renewal fee. Wording of the motion will be discussed with the board attorney in order to comply with the law. Passed unanimously.

The board discussed the previous fines for Dr. Abbott, Stanton Optical, and Bartholemey Brown. Dr. Sandefur was instructed to ask the board attorney about these and Dr. Diana Lebreton's legal case.

There was a discussion of the budget. The board reviewed the Profit and Loss statement year to date and compared it to the budget. There were no changes made.

It was suggested that the website be configured so that each licensee would be able to download and print their license at any time.

Following this discussion, motion was made by Avallone/Anastasio that all licensees be required to insure that all their C.E. hours annually are uploaded to the O.E. Tracker registry. Passed unanimously.



The board instructed Dr. Sandefur to contact the board attorney for an update on the employment contract Dr. Ta has with Krewe Optical.

Dr. Sandefur informed the board that the board is now required to report to the legislature quarterly whether there have been any complaints regarding the board policy or procedures. There have been none.

Dr. Sandefur then commented on the reporting of laser procedures, informing the board that quite a few licensees have not reported but he is following up on it.

Dr. Sandefur also discussed the possibility of Doctors of Optometry doing surgery in Ambulatory Surgical Centers.

Dr. Sandefur moved/Anastasio that the licenses of all licensees who have not met the renewal requirements be suspended. Passed unanimously.

The complaint against Dr. Bakowski was discussed. Upon motion by Avallone/Wroten the board found no violation of law and instructed Dr. Sandefur to send the appropriate letters. Passed unanimously.

Elections were held and upon motion by Dr. Avallone/Roy, Dr. Wroten was elected President. Upon motion by Dr. Avallone/Roy, Dr. Sandefur was elected Secretary.

There was a lengthy discussion of telemedicine. The suggested policy presented by Dr. Avallone was discussed and several suggested changes were made. The board instructed Dr. Avallone to re-write the policy with the suggested changes and bring it back to the board for further discussion.

The results of the examination were graded and it was determined that all candidates were successful. Licenses will be issued to all who have completed all the requirements for licensure. Those candidates who have not completed all the requirements due to conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic will be issued licenses after their completion of the requirements. The mechanism for this will be discussed with the board attorney.

Elections for the three doctors whose names will be presented to the governor for appointment to the board was discussed. The board attorney suggested holding the election by mail ballot. It was decided that the names of the three doctors who received the greatest number of votes would be sent to the governor.



There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Chris Wroten, O.D.

President

James D. Sandefur, O.D.

Secretary

