

**LSBOE MINUTES**  
**1/10/2020**

Meeting called to order by Dr. Roy, at 11:10 am, present Ms. Hope Sonnier, Mr. Graves Theus, Drs. James Sandefur, Christopher Wroten, Gary Avallone, and Jeff Anastasio. Mr. Dale Benoit, arrived at 11:16.

Dr. Sandefur motioned to approve the amended minutes from our previous meeting, was seconded by Dr. Wroten, and the motion passed without opposition.

Website Update: Ms. Sonnier provided an update regarding online license verification and the launch of the new website. A revised section of the website dedicated to applicants for licensure is also under development, with input from Ms. Sonnier & Dr. Wroten.

2020 Budget: After benchmarking license fees for optometrists & other healthcare providers in the region, Dr Anastasio made a motion to promulgate a rule to increase license renewal fees to \$300.00 per year, which was seconded by Dr. Sandefur, & the motion passed without objection. Dr. Avallone made a motion to also change the license delinquency fee from \$300/year to \$500/year while promulgating the new license renewal fee rule. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wroten and passed without objection. The 2020 budget was presented, discussed, and amended, with followup to include further investigation of some small recurring bank charges. Motion made by Dr. Anastasio to accept the revised LSBOE budget, was seconded by Dr. Wroten, and the motion passed without opposition. Ms. Sonnier will benchmark pricing for license verification costs with neighboring states to ensure we are in line & then report back to the board.

A decision was made to seek quotes from at least 2 new accounting firms experienced with state boards to compare to current expenses and level of services received, including timely filing of required reports to other state agencies. Dr. Sandefur will obtain for discussion at our next board meeting.

Mr. Theus will research filings required by the state to insure we are in compliance with all state requirements.

Mr. Theus will submit a request of information to representatives of Krewe.

Mr. Theus followed up with Lyn Savoie and the previous question has been addressed .

The board discussed whether doctors delivering approved continuing education courses would be eligible to obtain the same credit hours as attendees, provided it's from an organization approved the LSBOE. The board unanimously agreed to accept those hours with equal weight as attendees receive.

Board exam timing discussion was postponed until the next meeting.



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Mr. Theus has created a document outlining the board's findings in the Stanton Optical investigation. The board instructed Mr. Theus to forward his findings to the Louisiana Attorney General.

Dr. Avallone and the board discussed telemedicine policies, and Dr. Avallone will begin to draft language for possible rule promulgation in the near future.

A formal hearing was commenced to investigate a complaint received regarding Barthelemy's Optical. Present were all LSBOE members and Mr. Graves Theus, court reporter Renee Billingsley and Mrs. Anastasia Barthelemy Brown. Hearing called to order at 1:35 pm. The hearing concluded at 4:04pm. There was no action taken during the hearing, but further information requested by the LSBOE during the hearing regarding patient encounters to be returned to by Mrs. Brown/Barthelemy Optical within one week of the conclusion of the hearing. Action to be taken at a future meeting if deemed necessary.

Jim D. Sampedro  
SECRETARY

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