

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

June 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Dr. Bryant Ashley at 1:30 p.m.

The following board members were present: Dr. Bryant Ashley, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. Matthew Jones, Dr. Beatrice Reed. Also in attendance were: Suzette Weast, Board Director; Amber DeClerc, Fiscal Support Specialist; Dr. Alex Bell, ArOA President; Matt Burns, ArOA Exec. Director; Dr. Allie Hall; Debbie Henley. Julie Chavis, Senior Asst. Attorney General and Board Counsel, joined via video-conference.

Dr. Ashley introduced the new Board member, Dr. Matthew Jones.

Dr. Reed presented the minutes from the April 25, 2024 Board Meeting. Dr. DeBlack made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. 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.

Dr. Ashley presented the Botox issue of Arkansas optometrists having trouble receiving the product Botox Cosmetic. Discussion ensued. Dr. Jones made the motion that it is the official position of the Arkansas State Board of Optometry that the use of Botox Cosmetic is within the scope of practice of Arkansas optometrists. Dr. Reed made a second. Dr. Fitzhugh made a friendly amendment that the scope of practice which includes injections is authorized under Act 579 A.C.A. 17-90-101(a)(3)D. The motion passed.

Mrs. Weast gave the complaint committee update. No additional information has been received since the last Board meeting. Mrs. Weast will send a letter to relevant parties notifying them they have 2 additional weeks to respond to the prior requests. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion that for all future complaints, the Board must receive requested information within 30 days. Dr. Jones made a second. The motion passed.

Mrs. Weast presented the licensure information. Thirteen new optometrists were licensed by examination. Nineteen optometrists completed requirements for Advanced Procedures Certification. No licenses by endorsement have been issued since the last meeting.

Election of Officers: Dr. Ashley ended his term as current President. Dr. Reed was elected as President. Dr. DeBlack was elected as Vice-President. Dr. Fitzhugh was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Meeting Dates:

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Meeting: June 16-18, 2024 Nashville, Tennessee.

Arkansas State Board of Optometry Meeting: August 15, 2024

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

Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to adjourn. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer