

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 11, 2023 at 9:00 am**

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Opticianry Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80.

**BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:**

Mr. Keith Hayes, Chairman  
Mr. Grant Brown, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Emily Mikell  
Mr. Daniel Gosnell  
Mr. James Rhodes  
Mr. John Inabinet

**SCDLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel  
Tracy Adams, Administrator  
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

**PRESENT:**

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter  
Brian Diger, Optical Training Institute  
Grant McClure, Optical Training Institute  
Wesley Scott, South Carolina Association of Opticians  
Josh MacNamara, Optical Training Institute  
Ron Harbert, South Carolina Association of Opticians  
James Morris, Esq., ABO/NCLE

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Hayes, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

**Motion:** To call the meeting to order.  
Brown/Rhodes/Approved.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.  
Rhodes/Mikell/Approved.

**BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS:**

The mission of the Board of Examiners in Opticianry is to promote the health, safety and economic well-being of the public through regulation and licensing of opticians, contact lens dispensing opticians and registered apprentices. The Board also investigates complaints and conducts application and disciplinary hearings in accordance with statute and regulation.

At this time there is one vacant seats: the public member. There are three expired seats: the public member seat and two optician seats.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

The Board members introduced themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

No members were absence.

## **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

**Motion:** To approve Board Meeting minutes.

Gosnell/Brown/Approved.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report Statistical Report

On behalf of Mr. Sanders, Ms. Adams reported for the period from February 10, 2023 to April 26, 2023.

As of date, there were (2) active investigations, (1) closed case and (2) complaints received.

### Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

On behalf of Ms. Sutusky, Esq., Ms. Adams reported as of May 2, 2023, there were (0) open cases, (0) pending hearings and agreements, (0) pending closure, (0) appeals, (0) closing since last report of February 22, 2023. There have been (0) closed cases since January 1, 2023.

## **REPORT**

### Administrator's Report

Ms. Adams reported to date, the Board has (544) active in-state optician licensees, (55) active out-state optician licensees, (8) select inactive in-state optician licensees, (16) select inactive out-state licensees, (271) active in-state contact lens dispensing licensees, (22) active out-state contact lens dispensing licensees, (3) select inactive in-state contact lens dispensing licensees, (10) select inactive out-state contact lens dispensing licensees and (141) registered apprentices.

The Board's current cash balance as of March 31, 2023 is \$129,078.27.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a. ABO/NCLE: James Morris, Esq.

Mr. Morris provided an overview of the Basic Examination given to applicants. The Basic Examination was updated in 2022 and are updated every five to seven years. Applicants needing accommodations, may submit a form with the requested modifications. Once approved, applicants will proceed with testing. At this time, there are no critical issues to report.

Mr. Morris did voice concerns regarding the possibility of new training programs being approved by the Board.

### b. SCAO – Wesley Scott & Ron Harbert

1. Examinations – The association representatives requested clarification as to some of the questions on the ABO Practical. Mr. Morris provided answers to the representatives' questions.

- ii. Voting Methods – The association expressed the desire to have both an online and mail-in ballot options. Ms. League, Esq., explained that only one option could be available for licensees to vote. The Board chose to place the options on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. Optical Training Institute – Joshua MacNamara

Mr. MacNamara reported the Optical Training Institute program has been approved in Alaska, Arizona and Tennessee. The timeline to finish the program is an average of two years. At the end of the program, the apprentice would be ready to take the ABO/NCLE. All the final examinations are online and the apprentices’ sponsors are required to monitor them, during the examination. After the completion of the program, licensees are welcome to enroll for refresher courses.

**Motion:** To enter an executive session for legal advice.  
Gosnell/Brown/Approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
Rhodes/Brown/Approved.

**Motion:** To add Optical Training Institute to the listing of approved training courses for opticians.  
Gosnell/Mikell/Approved.

Mr. Hayes requested a tracking of students who enroll in the program.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**ANNOUNCEMENT** – Next meeting Thursday, August 3, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn.  
Mikell/Grant/Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.