

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2004
The Westin Resort – Port Royal Plantation
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Board office and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times. Dr. Parfitt called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m..

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Vaughn D. Parfitt, President
Dr. Timothy P. Burrell, Vice President
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash
Dr. David W. Hamill
Dr. Robert Neal Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Pauline N. DeBerry, Public Board Member
Mr. Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Board Member

The absent members, in light of current budget issues, decided not to attend this meeting.

PRESENT:

Dr. Wayne M. Cannon – Investigative Review Committee Member

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Angie M. Combs, Administrator

The Agenda for the December 2, 2004 Regular Board Meeting was presented for review and approval.

A **motion** was made to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

A **motion** was made to accept the September 15, 2004 minutes as mailed.

Dr. Parfitt welcomed Dr. Cannon to the meeting. Dr. Cannon is a former Board member and a current Investigative Review Committee (IRC) member. Dr. Cannon provides professional knowledge of optometry along with recommendations as part of the complaint process.

REPORTS

Administrative Reports and Information: Ms. Combs reported licensee totals for each type of license as 481 TPA, 60 DPA, and 55 Basic with 596 total licensees. In South Carolina there are 374 TPA, 11 DPA, and 16 Basic licenses for a total of 401 licensees. A list of lapsed licensees was presented to the Board for their review. Nine in state and fifty-seven out-of-state licenses lapsed due to non-renewal. Two licensees retired, Dr. Arthur H. Spitz License #280 and Dr. Robert Turbeville License #303.

New branch office location applications were reviewed for Dr. James K. Anderson #648 and Dr. Jeremy Anderson (2) #1321. **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the branch office location applications.

A list of the 2005 Board meeting and examination dates was provided to the Board.

There are ten candidates to date scheduled for the January 12, 2005 S.C. Jurisprudence Examination.

Continuing Education Course Approval: None presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

National Board's Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) Examination Information: Ms. Combs presented information concerning the TMOD Examination with respect to providing assistance to licensees interested in upgrading their license to TPA Certification. Dr. Parfitt and Dr. Hamill will review the information provided. Dr. Parfitt suggested the assistance the Board provides to be designed as a self-help tutorial. The Board concurred.

Continuing Education Policy / Online CE: Dr. Hamill presented a proposal for approval of online continuing education. This proposal includes information concerning current online CE validation processes, courses available, and acceptance among optometrists and licensing boards. This proposal states that online CE should be accepted as a valid form of continuing education that can be used for renewal of a license. Online CE will be classified as non-accredited and the number of hours accepted will be limited. A **Motion** was made by Dr. Nash to accept online continuing education with restrictions as presented in Dr. Hamill's proposal. The motion received a second. The motion carried.

Newsletter: Dr. Parfitt requested the newsletter be sent out to licensees after the outcome of House Bill 4821, rewrite of the Optometry Practice Act, has been determined. This Bill has been sent to the Governor awaiting his signature, a veto, or the new legislative session to begin for action to be taken. The updated continuing education policy, as discussed above, will be included in the newsletter.

S.C. Optometry Practice Act Legislation Update: Dr. Parfitt announced House Bill 4821 was ratified by both the House and Senate and was sent to the Governor awaiting his signature, a veto, or action to be taken as the new legislative session begins.

NEW BUSINESS

Request Approval to Certify Continuing Education: Ms. Combs presented a letter from The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education requesting to be approved to certify attendance of South Carolina optometrists attending educational seminars co-sponsored by the Society of Professional Optometrists, Inc. Discussion followed. The Board denied this request.

Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act Questions:

1. The Federal Trade Commission states that state law determines liability, responsibility or resolution in situations not addressed by federal law. How would a state board handle this? This would not be handle by the state board but by state courts.
2. Are optometrists required to provide a prescription more than once to a patient? It is not mandatory by law, it is also not prohibited by law. The Board recommends that licensees be accommodating to their patients.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 3, 2004, 7:45 a.m., The Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The Board will meet with the South Carolina Optometric Association.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Parfitt adjourned the December 2, 2004 meeting at 1:45: p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie M. Combs
Administrator