

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)**  
**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 29, 2007**  
**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. Hamill called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. David W. Hamill, President  
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash, Vice President  
Dr. Robert Neal Williams  
Dr. Deborah A. Long  
Dr. Furman Mason Smith

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:** Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Board Member

**PUBLIC BOARD MEMBER:** One Vacancy

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:** Angie M. Combs, Administrator

The Agenda for the November 29, 2007 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 26, 2007 minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded and passed.

**REPORTS**

**Administrative Reports and Information:** Ms. Combs reported licensee totals for each type of license as 657 TPA, 32 DPA, and 23 Basic with 712 total licensees. In South Carolina there are 446 TPA, 7 DPA, and 6 Basic licenses for a total of 459 licensees.

New branch office location applications were reviewed for Dr. Mark Vinson #789 and Dr. Jason Lee #1245. **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the branch office location applications.

Ms. Combs reviewed with the Board that **license renewals** are due October 1, 2008. For the first time online renewal will be offered; random continuing education audits will be implemented. A renewal notice will be mailed to all licensees in August 2008 with an explanation of the new processes. Licensees will be reminded to maintain proof of education for a minimum period of three years as mandated by Regulations Chapter 95-4(B) of South Carolina Law.

A list of the 2008 Board meeting and examination dates was provided to the Board.

**Complaints:** Ms. Combs informed the Board there are two complaints under investigation and one pending a hearing to be held at the March 26, 2008 meeting.

**REPORTS / INFORMATION CONTINUED:**

**Board Member Election:** A notice of three upcoming Board member term expirations was sent to all South Carolina licensed optometrists. Dr. F. Mason Smith's term will expire March 9, 2008, Dr. David W. Hamill's term will expire April 24, 2008, and Dr. Robert Neal Williams' term will expire June 30, 2008. Dr. Hamill is not seeking reappointment; Dr. William Spearman is the only candidate seeking appointment to fill the Board position currently held by Dr. Hamill. Dr. Smith, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Spearman are the only candidates for the three expiring positions.

**Continuing Education Course Approval:** No courses presented for review.

**Rural Ophthalmology and Optometrists Program Study Committee:** Dr. Hamill reported that a committee has been established to assess the need for optometrists and ophthalmologists in rural areas of South Carolina. The committee has been directed to conduct a study on the establishment of a program that would offer incentives to optometrists and ophthalmologists to practice in rural areas. Dr. David Hamill, Dr. Theodore Newman, Dr. Steven Wearden, and Dr. William Spearman are the optometrists that have committed to serving on this committee. Representatives from optometry schools and medical schools along with others will be a part of the committee. The results of this study are to be reported to the General Assembly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Branch Location Fees:** Per the S.C. Optometry Practice Act every optometrist must display a separate wall certificate in each practice location; certificates of licensure are obtained from the Board by filing an application and paying the prescribed fees. The Board will continue with the fees as currently charged.

**Optometry Websites:** Ms. Combs will review for compliance websites of those practitioners previously notified of the inappropriate use of the term "board certified."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominate Board Officers / Review Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Members:** The Board agreed that beginning with the March 26, 2008 Board meeting Dr. Robert Neal Williams will serve as President and Dr. Kenneth M. Nash to continue to serve as Vice President.

**Motion:** Dr. Nash made a motion to continue having Dr. Wayne Cannon and Dr. Timothy Stafford to serve as IRC Members. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. The motion carried.

**Upgrade to TPA Update:** Ms. Combs reported that in South Carolina there are seven DPA licensees and six Basic licensees. A certified letter will be sent to these licensees reminding them of the deadline date of October 1, 2008 for meeting requirements to upgrade a license to TPA classification. Per South Carolina Law, §40-37-420(B)(2)(c), no Basic or DPA licenses can be renewed past September 30, 2008.

**Reporting of Advertising Misuses:** Ms. Combs reported receiving examples of possible Practice Act advertising violations. The Board directed Ms. Combs to send a letter to the optometrists in violation requesting compliance and submit to the Board office a copy of the corrected advertisement.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**DEA Number Restricted to One Practitioner – Inquiry:** The Board discussed the use of a DEA number being used by more than one practitioner. The Board agreed that a DEA number is assigned to only one person. These numbers are issued by the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 30, 2007, 8:15 a.m., The Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The Board will meet with the South Carolina Optometric Association members.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Hamill adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie M. Combs  
Administrator