

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2008
Marriott Resort, Palmetto Dunes
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. Williams called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Neal Williams, President
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash, Vice President
Dr. Furman Mason Smith

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT / Excused:

Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Member
Dr. William W. Spearman

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT: Angie M. Combs, Administrator

The Agenda for the December 4, 2008 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 24, 2008 minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded and passed.

REPORTS

Administrative Reports / Information: Ms. Combs reported there are 675 South Carolina licensed optometrists; 442 are in state and 233 are out of state licensees. Recently completed **license renewals** were processed for the first time online.

A **branch office application** was reviewed for Dr. Ronald Locklear #905. **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the branch office location application.

A list of the **2009 Board meeting dates** was provided to the Board.

The S.C. **Jurisprudence Examination** will be available online to qualified candidates early in 2009.

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) 90th Annual Meeting: ARBO's Annual Meeting is being held in National Harbor, Maryland (Washington, D.C. area) June 21-23, 2009. Ms. Combs will request approval from LLR to attend.

Complaints: Ms. Combs informed the Board there are five complaints under investigation.

REPORTS / INFORMATION CONTINUED:

Board Member Election: A notice of two upcoming Board member vacancies with an election being held December 5, 2008 (tomorrow) was sent to all South Carolina licensed optometrists. Ms. Combs and Board members will conduct the election immediately following the Optometric Association Business meeting.

Training on New State Immigration Law: With the signing of the S.C. Illegal Immigration Reform Act on June 4, 2008, LLR had been given the task of investigating companies for compliance beginning in 2009. Ms. Combs announced training sessions have been scheduled at technical colleges across the state in December and January to help employers know how to comply with the new state immigration law. A Web site www.llr.state.sc.us/immigration is available to assist employees, employers, and others affected by the law. The training schedule was provided.

Continuing Education Course Approval: No courses presented for review.

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. Ms. Combs is continuing to gather information concerning fees charged for branch offices; an update will be provided at the March 11, 2009 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominate Board Officers / Review Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Members: The Board agreed that Dr. Robert Neal Williams will continue to serve as President and Dr. Kenneth M. Nash to continue to serve as Vice President; Dr. Timothy Stafford and Dr. Wayne Cannon will continue as IRC Members.

Regulations Review: Ms. Combs provided a copy of the South Carolina Optometry Regulations and requested members to begin reviewing the current language for possible need of future legislative changes.

ARBO CE Auditing Questionnaire: Ms. Combs informed the Board that a questionnaire was received from ARBO concerning CE certification, CE Audits, and ARBO's OE Tracker. Discussion followed. The questionnaire will be completed and returned to ARBO.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board will attend the SCOA Business Meeting, December 5, 2008, 11:00 a.m., Marriott Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Board member election to immediately follow.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes transcribed and respectfully submitted by Angie M. Combs, Administrator.