

BOARD FOR OPTICIANS

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Board for Opticians met on Friday, January 9, 2004 at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 3600 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The following members were present:

Jon D. Bright, Chair
E. Carter Lowry
Gerald W. Shell

The following members were absent:

Marcia D. Carney, M.D.
Helen O'Connor Darby

The DPOR staff present for all or for portions of the meeting included:

Sandra Whitley Ryals, Chief Deputy Director, DPOR
Karen W. O'Neal, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
William H. Ferguson, II, Executive Director
Zelda W. Dugger, Board Administrator
Earlyne Perkins, Legal Assistant
Sharon Sweet, Director of Education and Examination
Rashaun K. Minor, Administrative Assistant

Also in attendance was: Shelby B. Powers

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was not in attendance.

Mr. Bright, Chair, determined there was a quorum and called the Call to Order meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Lowry made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Shell seconded the motion. The members voting "yes" were Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowry and Mr. Shell. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked for any public comment. There was no public comment. Public Comment

Mr. Shell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board for Opticians meeting September 12, 2003. Mr. Lowry seconded the motion. The members voting "yes" were Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowry and Approval of Minutes – September 12,

Mr. Shell. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

2003 Board Meeting

Mr. Shell left the meeting.

Mr. Shell leaves

In the matter of **File Number 2002-02989, Board v. Deborah Jan Weston**, the Board reviewed the record, which consisted of a Consent Order signed by the respondent. The respondent was not present.

File #2002-02989
Deborah Jan Weston

Upon a motion by Mr. Lowry and seconded by Mr. Bright, the Board voted to accept the Consent Order and the recommendation of the presiding board member. The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Lowry and Mr. Bright. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shell, as the presiding Board member at the IFF, was not present during the discussion or vote.

Mr. Shell returned to the meeting

Mr. Shell returns

Ms. Sweet reported that Mr. Bright, Ms. Dugger, and she met with Carol Cash, Principal of Hanover High School and the Optical teacher. Ms. Dugger prepared brochures for the career day which included information about the profession of opticianry as a career choice.

Examinations

Ms. Sweet reported that Robert Flippen, an examiner for the practical exam at Wytheville Community College and Anne Marie Tibbin, an Optician volunteered and attended the career day at Hanover High School on Monday, January 5, 2004 answering questions about the profession of opticianry.

Ms. Sweet stated that Mr. Flippen recommended an interactive booth that would entice students to find out more about the Optician profession.

Ms. Sweet reported that the program at Hanover High School is a dual credit program and she has information available for those who are interested in developing the same curriculum program

The Board reviewed its examination statistics for informational purposes.

Examinations Statistics

The Board recessed at 10:55 am and reconvened at 11:03 am

Break

Ms. Dugger handed out a copy of the press release dated October 15, 2003 warning the public against the dangers of cosmetic contacts lens

Press Release

being distributed without a prescription or without proper fitting by a licensed eye care professional.

Ms. Dugger stated that the press release was also done with the Department of Health Professions Board of Optometry.

Ms. Dugger handed out the previous and current outline of the Volunteer Network presentation. Ms. Dugger stated she worked with Mr. Shell on updating the list of volunteers and the material used for presentations.

Volunteer Network

Ms. Dugger stated that individuals applying to the Volunteer Network will have a criminal history background check. Ms. Dugger stated that training is required and the volunteer must follow a very strict script to avoid miscommunication of information.

Mr. Shell stated that the Opticians Association of Virginia offers the Board a booth at no cost and the Board could have information and applications to join the Volunteer Network available at the Association's state meeting to promote and increase participation in the program.

The Board reviewed the brochure created by Ms. Dugger and requested that the brochure focus on the salary potential in Virginia, a licensed state, include the potential of owning a small business and other career opportunities in and around the profession.

Brochure

The Board reviewed House Bill No. 160 Optometrists; grounds for revocation or suspension of license. of the 2004 General Assembly.

Legislation

Upon a motion by Mr. Lowry and seconded by Mr. Shell the Board voted to oppose House Bill 160 of the 2004 General Assembly; the Bill is not across the eye care industry in that it unduly restricts one section of the eye care industry in that it allows for access between an optometry practice and opticianry practice if the optician is an employee of the optometrists and restricts access if the optometrist and optician practices operate under separate ownerships, restricts the public's choices and accessibility to eye care services or prescription devices, and the Board is unaware of any consumer protection that the proposal would provide. The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowry and Mr. Shell. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board is currently working and exploring the possibilities of continuing education in conjunction with seeking assistance from the

Continuing Education

continuing education in conjunction with seeking assistance from the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) **Education**

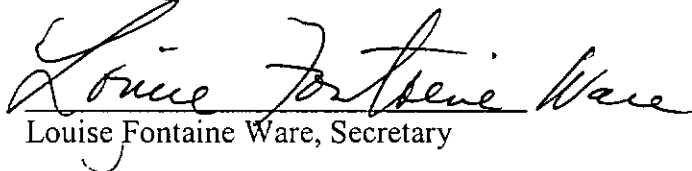
The Board reviewed its quarterly statistics for informational purposes. **Quarterly Board Statistics**

Mr. Bright and Mr. Lowry reported on their attendance at the National Committee of State Opticianry Regulatory Boards Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida October 24-26, 2003. Mr. Bright reported that he was re-elected to Chair and the main topic of the conference was creating a regional practical exam in association with the national written exam; 12 out the 19 licensing states agreed with the proposal of a regional practical exam. Mr. Bright reported that ABO offered a \$10,000.00 grant to work on developing a regional practical exam. **Other Board Business**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m. **Adjournment**



Jon D. Bright, Chair



Louise Fontaine Ware, Secretary

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