

# BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS

## OPTICIANS EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Opticians Examination Committee met on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Training Room 1A-B, Richmond, Virginia. The following board committee members were present:

Judith M. Canty  
Edward L. DeGennaro  
Teresa Leeper  
June H. S. Rogers

The following board committee members were not present:

Melissa Gill  
Bonnie Mayhew

DPOR staff present for all or part of the meeting included:

Demetrios Melis, Executive Director  
Stephen Kirschner, Regulatory Operations Administrator  
Cathy Clark, Administrative Assistant

Representatives from the DPOR Examinations Section who were present for the meeting included:

Shannon Webster  
Rhonda Starr  
Deborah Ogram

Also present was Michelle Nelms, Executive Director, Opticians Association of Virginia.

Ms. Canty called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Kirschner read email correspondence to the Committee from Michelle Nelms, Executive Director of the Opticians Association of Virginia (OAV), providing recommendations from the OAV regarding criteria to be considered for the optician examination.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Kirschner explained that the statement of purpose for the Committee. Mr. Melis introduced Shannon Webster, DPOR's Director of Examinations, and her staff, and indicated that Ms. Webster will serve on the evaluation

**Statement of Purpose and Exam**

committee for the procurement process.

Mr. Melis provided an overview of the steps involved in the procurement process.

Mr. Kirschner reported to the Committee that there is an average of 70 optician examinees per year. He then outlined the application process for exam candidates.

Mr. Kirschner described concerns about the current examinations collected through informal feedback and experiences administering the examinations by the Examinations section.

Mr. Kirschner provided a handout of Opticians Regulations pertaining to examinations and reviewed the Regulations with the Committee. Included in the review was Regulation 18 VAC 80-30-60. Examinations; and 18 VAC 80-30-70. Content of Optician Examination and Reexamination.

The Committee members discussed several application issues, including verification of the completion of an optician apprenticeship; candidates applying directly with the ABO to take the written exam, and whether or not the practical exam should be a state specific exam or a national exam. The consensus among the Committee members was that the examination should not be state specific, as it would hinder the portability of the license.

The Committee discussed its goals for the written and practical exams, including a way to remove subjectivity in grading the practical, frequency of testing, and annual examination overviews provided by the exam vendor.

The Committee discussed how many Optician board members should be on the procurement evaluation committee. Mr. Melis recommended a maximum of two opticians. By consensus, Mr. Canty and Ms. Rogers were selected to serve on the evaluation committee.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Canty adjourned the committee meeting at 11:55 a.m.

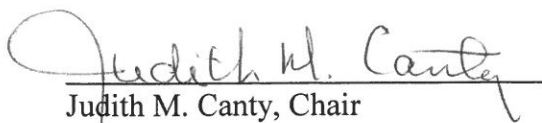
**Procurement  
Overview**

**Regulatory Exam  
Requirements  
and Current  
Exams**

**Comments and  
Concerns About  
Current Exams**

**Discussion –  
Goals for Written  
and Practical  
Exams**

**Adjourn**

  
Judith M. Canty, Chair

Opticians Examination Committee

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Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary