

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION COMMITTEE
June 8, 2005**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, 6606 W. Broad Street, 5th Floor, Room 3, Richmond, Virginia.

CHAIRMAN: Paula H. Boone, O.D., Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Ernest Schlabach, Jr., O.D.
David H. Hettler, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.
Carol Stamey, Administrative Assistant
Emily Wingfield, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Charles Holt, Enforcement

OTHERS PRESENT: Betty Graumlich, NAOO
M. E. Jackson, VOA

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bruce Keeney, Executive Director, Virginia Optometric Association presented comment regarding professional designations. He informed the Board that the Association had received numerous calls and questions regarding the use of professional designations. He further stated that professional designation titles should contain the licensee's name to ensure patient/consumer protection. Mr. Keeney proposed that additional education for licensees and organizations may resolve the various issues regarding the professional designation regulatory requirements. Also, Mr. Keeney stated that the current regulations are adequate, maintains public protection and enhances competition.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: The agenda was amended to reflect the addition of the following topic: consideration to remove the professional designation regulations. The topic of "multiple PD titles with "Vision Source" was removed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: **Consideration to Remove the Professional Designation Regulations (PD)**
The Committee discussed the feasibility of removing the professional designation regulations. It was noted that PD titles are considered advertising; therefore, could be regulated by statute. Also, it was noted that professional designation issues are complaint driven and removal of the PD regulations would place the burden on the licensees to comply with the advertising statute.

The following agenda items were discussed; however, no action was taken:

- Request from Capital Eye Consultants, P.C.,
- Hybrid practices
- Consider amendment of the regulations
- Failure to renew permits or use of PD's without Proper registration.

The following agenda items were discussed and it was the Committee's recommendation that each be reviewed on a case by case basis:

- PD titles registered by separate owners but advertised for each other
- PD titles used as "office locators".

CLOSED SESSION:

On properly seconded motion by Dr. Schlabach, the Committee convened a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel in the matter of professional designations.

OPEN SESSION:

On properly seconded motion by Dr. Boone, the Committee certified that the matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion for closed session were heard, discussed or considered during the closed session just concluded.

◆Action On properly seconded motion by Dr. Schlabach, the Committee voted unanimously that the feasibility of removing the professional designation regulations be presented to the full Board for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned 10:25 a.m.

Paula H. Boone, O.D., Chair

Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director