

**GEORGIA BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
CONFERENCE CALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES * May 13, 2015**

A conference call meeting of the Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians was held Wednesday, May 13, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m. in the office of the Secretary of State at the Professional Licensing Boards Division at 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia.

Board Members Present:

Diane Drake, Chair
Glenn Morris, Vice-Chair
Lurue Lord
Dave Meldrum

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Reed

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director HC-1
Amanda Allen, Licensure Analyst
Hope Harrison, Licensure Analyst
Chrissy Lewis, Complaints/Licensure Analyst

Attorney General's Office Representative:

Wylencia Monroe, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Drake, Chair established that a quorum was present and called the Conference Call meeting to order at 8:22 a.m.

Agenda: Mr. Meldrum moved, Mr Morris seconded and the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented with one late agenda item added. None opposed, motion carried.

- J.A. – Compliance with Board Order

Board Meeting Minutes:

- February 11, 2015

Mr. Morris motioned, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2015 as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

- April 13, 2015

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Ms. Lord seconded and the Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2015 as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Correspondence from Piedmont Technical College – Opticianry Program
- Correspondence form OAG

Mr. Morris motioned, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted for the administrative staff to contact the College as directed. None opposed, motion carried.

Petition for Variance of a Board Rule:

- Fielder, Julia A. – Rule 420-9-.01 CE Hours

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Mr. Morris seconded and the Board voted to deny the Petition request on the basis a substantial and verifiable hardship was not proven or verified. None opposed, motion carried.

Board Rules Discussion:

420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience

In order to be admitted to the examination pursuant to that provision of O.C.G.A. § 43- 29- 7(b)(4) which provides "practical training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board for not less than two years under the supervision of a dispensing optician, a licensed physician, or a licensed optometrist: Provided, however, that any time spent in a recognized school as defined in 420-5-01(d) shall be considered as a part of the apprenticeship period provided herein", the applicant must submit documentation to the Board with his/her application to establish the satisfaction of such provisions, the satisfaction of which will be determined under the following standards:

(a) Effective July 1, 2008, any person wishing to qualify under the apprenticeship statute shall make application to register with the Board prior to beginning the apprenticeship along with the application fee as determined by the Board. The registration shall identify the supervising licensed physician, licensed optometrist, or licensed dispensing optician and the mailing address and telephone number of the primary location where the apprenticeship training shall occur; provided, however, that in addition to the primary location, such training may be furnished at other locations under proper supervision.

(b) "Practical training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board for not less than two years" means two (2) calendar years and shall include, at a minimum, 3,000 hours experience engaged in apprenticeship functions and studies which shall include (but not be limited to) instruction in ophthalmic optics, optical laboratory materials and techniques, eye anatomy and physiology, related laws and regulations, ophthalmic dispensing theory and application, and basic contact lens theory.

(c) Instruction may also be evidenced by certificates from recognized schools of opticianry with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or formal home study programs through the Career Progression Program with the National Academy of Opticianry or other programs approved in advance by the Board.

(d) "Under the supervision of licensed dispensing optician, licensed physician or a licensed optometrist" means that the appropriate licensed practitioner(s) must be on the premises where the practical training and experience is being acquired for every hour of apprenticeship sought to be considered in fulfillment of this requirement.

(e) There may be no more than three (3) apprentices under a supervising sponsor at any given time. Apprentices must cause a current supervising sponsor to submit to the Board in writing that they are no longer the apprentices sponsor, and the reason for the disassociation in order for an apprentice to obtain a new supervising sponsor.

In order for an apprentice's hours earned under a prior supervising sponsor to be counted, the apprentice must cause the prior supervising sponsor to sign off on a board approved form to be submitted with the application for licensure.

The forms for supervising sponsors are available on the Board's website, www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians.

(f) Upon completion by the applicant, such training and experience shall be certified by the supervising licensed dispensing optician, licensed physician or licensed optometrist to the board.

(g) Applicants who have received practical training and experience in the trade or occupation of dispensing optician prior to July 1, 2008, shall receive credit toward the practical training and experience requirements if they register with the board in accordance with the provisions of this rule no later than August 31, 2008 and such training and experience is deemed satisfactory by the board.

(h) The date that the application is received by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians will designate the actual commence date of the apprenticeship pending approval of the application.

420-9-.01 Continuing Education for License Renewals

(1) Continuing Education courses totaling at least ten (10) hours shall be required for the biennial renewal of licenses. Of the ten (10) hours, a minimum of two (2) hours shall be in the area of contact lenses. Of the ten (10) hours, no more than five (5) hours may be obtained via the internet- and must be from a

recognized provider that is approved by the board. No more than eight (8) hours of continuing education may be obtained in one twenty-four hour day.

(2) With his/her application for license renewal, each licensed dispensing optician must submit an affidavit of course hours completed as proof that his/her education requirements have been satisfied.

(3) No duplicate courses will be accepted during the same renewal period. No courses under the same title, by the same instructor, will be accepted for renewal purposes.

420-9-.03 Continuing Education Program Approval

(1) The Board shall give credit for any course given by any recognized national, regional or state dispensing society or association if such courses are made available to all licensed opticians on a reasonably nondiscriminatory fee basis. No credit will be given for duplicate courses by the same title, by the same instructor, during the same renewal period.

(a) Some examples, non-inclusive, of such recognized national or regional dispensing society or association are:

- Opticians Association of America (OAA)
- National Academy of Opticianry (NAO)
- South Eastern Opticians Conference (SEOC)

(b) Some examples, non-inclusive, of such recognized state dispensing society or association are:

- Opticians Association of Georgia (OAG)
- Professional Opticians of Florida (POF)
- North Carolina Opticians Association (NCOA)
- Tennessee Dispensing Opticians Association (TDOA)
- South Carolina Association of Opticians (SCAO)

(2) Any group of ten or more licensed opticians may arrange for an education program and they must request prior Board approval.

(3) Any program other than those sponsored by a national, regional or state society or association must submit said program approval by the Board ninety (90) days prior to the program date. The request shall include the following documents or information:

- (a) Letter of request;
- (b) Copy of proposed promotional material showing the name and date of the program;
- (c) Location and time of program;
- (d) Names of instructors and vitae;
- (e) Number of credit hours applied for;
- (f) Method of notifying attendees; and
- (g) Copy of attendance certificates to be used.

(4) The certificate of attendance shall not be issued until the program is completed and the method of monitoring must be reported to the Board prior to the program date.

(5) Credit will be allowed on the basis of an hour for an hour. To receive one hour credit, an optician must attend a class for one full hour. However, the Georgia Board will accept no more than eight (8) hours of continuing education obtained in one twenty-four (24) hour day.

(6) Post-approval of continuing education courses will not be granted.

Following discussion of the above three rules, the Board removed the proposed change to 420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience, leaving the rule as it currently stands, no amendments proposed. Rules 420-9-.01 and 420-9-.03 regarding continuing education were changed from the originally proposed versions with the final result agreed upon by the full Board during this meeting posted above.

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Mr. Morris seconded and the Board voted to refer the above proposed rule amendments to 420-9-.01 CE's for License Renewal; and 420-9-.03 CE Program Approval to the Attorney General's office for a Memo of Statutory Authority, and to post said rules for the required thirty days for public view before conducting a hearing on the amendments. None opposed, motion carried.

Ratify List - February 3, 2015 to May 5, 2015:

LDO002629	Brandstrom, Jennifer R	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002630	Collins, Graxi Wells	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002631	Diaz, Ezequiel	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002632	Fulton, Sammie J	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002633	Jones, Sabrina Shanta	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002634	Parrish, Ansleigh Elisabeth	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002635	Vu, James Xuan	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002636	Wall, Natasha Michelle	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002637	Dorminey, Ashlie Dawn	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002638	Baldemor, Livita Reyes	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001230	Kennedy, Rita Melisa	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001231	Burke, Chelsee Vandora	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001232	Davis, Stefanie Monique	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001233	Johnson, Jeannie L	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001234	Senatus, Brenor	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001235	Semmler, Megan Estelle	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001236	Brooks, Yolandria Evette	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001237	Jeffers, John Paul McCormick	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001238	Johnson, Vivika A	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001239	Allen, Matthew Ray	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001240	Pethel, Kellie Randell	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001241	Tate, Barri Lynn	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001242	Pelfrey, Joyce Velda	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001243	Kendrick, Yvette Charmaine	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001244	Montes, Carolina	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001245	Peacock, Krystal Marie	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001246	Hatcher, Logan Eugene	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001247	Washington, Nicole Tamara	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001248	Syphrit, Priscilla Leigh	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001249	Ploof, Jessica D	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001250	Carson, Heather Amy	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001251	Decuir Shy, Yolanda	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001252	Hackett, Veronica Lynne	Dispensing Opticians

OPTA001253	Truitt, Teredter Coreder	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001254	Holloway, Tashiba Mamique	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001255	Underwood, Evita Denee	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001256	Marker, Toffee L	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001257	Granade, Joshua Lee	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001258	Stallion, Terrance LeKeith	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001259	Whitmire, Salisa Ann	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001260	Velez, Madelene Marie	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001261	Moon, Carrie L	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001262	Thorne, Veronica Lynn	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA001263	Foremen, Elaina J.	Dispensing Opticians

Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Lord seconded and the Board voted to approve the Ratify Listing of licenses issued between meetings as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris moved, Ms. Lord seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C. G. A. 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), 43-1-2(k) (3) (4) , 43-1-2(k) (4) and 50-14-4(b) to review applications, receive the Cognizant’s complaint report and to receive information and report from the Assistant Attorney General. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Drake, Meldrum, Lord and Morris.

Applications:

Recommendation(s):

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| • E.R.S. | Refer to the AG’s office |
| • J.B. | Approved for Reinstatement |
| • G.R.G. | Pending - CE Hours |
| • C.W.H. | Pending - CE Hours |
| • B.L.J. | Pending – National Certification |
| • T.N. | Approved to sit for Exam |
| • J.R. | Approved |
| • S.V.R. | Pending - CE Hours |
| • M.J.T. | Approved for Reinstatement |

Cognizant Report – Complaints:

Recommendation:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • DISP150010 | Refer to Investigations |
| • DISP150011 | Refer to Investigations |
| • DISP150012 | Refer to Investigations |
| • DISP150013 | Close (Board Member J. Reed is Recused) |
| • DISP150014 | Refer to Investigations |

Executive Session Minutes:

Recommendation:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| • February 11, 2015 | Approve |
| • April 13, 2015 | Approve |

Attorney General’s Report – Ms. Wylencia Hood-Monroe, Esq.

Assistant Attorney General, Wylencia Hood-Monroe provided the Board with a verbal status report which included information on any matters referred for action.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Ms. Drake declared the meeting back into “open” session pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Ms. Lord seconded and the Board voted to direct the AG to respond accordingly to the proposal made by the Opticians Association of Georgia (OAG). None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris motioned, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted to approve the recommendations on all applications presented, for staff to move forward with actions as directed. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Lord motioned, Mr. Morris seconded and the Board voted to accept the recommendations on complaints as presented and for staff to move forward with actions as directed. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Lord motioned, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted to accept the AG’s report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Mr. Morris seconded and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes recorded, reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

DIANE DRAKE

Chair

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director, HC1

Date Approved: **June 24, 2015**