

**GEORGIA BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS**  
**Conference Call/ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 15, 2020 10:00 A.M.**

The Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians met via teleconference on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Secretary of State at the Professional Licensing Boards Division at 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217.

**Board Members Present:**

Glenn Morris, Vice-Chair  
Dave Meldrum  
Amy Stowers  
Gloria Ethridge  
Mary Ramsey

**Board Members Absent:**

Consumer Member (Vacant Seat)

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director HC-1  
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

**Attorney General's Office Representative:**

Melissa Tracy, AAG

**Mr. Morris, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.**

**VISITORS PRESENT: (Open Session)**

Jim Morris, Executive Director, NBO/NCLE  
Shannon Harper  
M.A. Assani

**Agenda:** Approved as presented

**Emergency Rule Proposal: 420-9-.01 Continuing Education for License Renewals**

The Board discussed the proposed language for an emergency rule regarding the in-person required CE hours for the next renewal cycle, March 31, 2020 and decided to schedule an additional conference call for July 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to further discuss and adopt the emergency rule to be sent to Governor's office as required, for approval.

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Stowers seconded and the Board voted schedule an additional conference call to review and adopt the proposed emergency rule as presented. None opposed, motion carried**

**Meeting Minutes:**

- April 29, 2020 Conf. Call

**Recommendations:**

Accept as Presented

**Ms. Ethridge moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted to approve the meeting minutes from the April 29, 2020 C.C Board meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Application Ratify List:** Issued Date: 4/29/2020 - 7/14/2020

<b>license No</b>	<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Profession name</b>
LDO002815	Scott Paul Rice	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002816	Amanda Leigh Combs	Dispensing Opticians

LDO002817	Brittany Marie Matthews	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002818	Sonya Rozier Ferrel	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002819	Aide Galvan	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002820	Audrey R Reed	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002821	Ayesha Ahmad Byrd	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002822	Amber LaNone Sisk	Dispensing Opticians
LDO002823	Natalie Jayne Wood	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002000	Kendall Rebekah Gahan	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002001	Kelsi Faye Ard	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002002	Stacey Lauren Putnam	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002003	Rick S Bynum	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002004	Stephanie Matos Williams	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002005	Erin Elizabeth Richardson	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002006	DeBrina Melody Boyer	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002007	Damean Maurice Harris	Dispensing Opticians
OPTA002008	Celina Gabrielle Norton	Dispensing Opticians

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Stowers seconded and the Board voted to approve the ratify listing of licenses issued between meetings administratively. None opposed, motion carried.**

**CE Program Approval Requests:**

- Vision Expo and Conference West 2020
- CEDO’s North Georgia Seminar – Summer 2020
- EyeCare Partners, LLC – Troubleshoot like a Pro

**Recommendation:**

(Conference has been cancelled)  
 Tabled  
 Tabled

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Stowers seconded and the Board voted to table to review/approval of the above CE Program Approval Requests until the July 22, 2020 conference call Board meeting. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Ethridge 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, the AG report, complaints and prior meeting executive session minutes. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present: Morris, Meldrum, Ethridge, Stowers and Ramsey.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, Mr. Morris 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.**

**Applications:**

- S.P.

**Recommendation:**

Tabled; Pending receipt of additional information

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Ethridge seconded and the Board voted to accept the Assistant Attorney General’s report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Cognizant/Enforcement Complaint Report: - Tabled for further review/discussion.**

**Attorney General’s Report**

Melissa Tracy, Esq. and provided the Board with a verbal status report.

**Ms. Stowers moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded and the Board voted to accept the Assistant Attorney General's report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Executive Session Minutes:**

- April 29, 2020 Conf. Call

**Recommendation:**

Accept as Presented

**Mr. Meldrum moved, Ms. Ethridge seconded and the Board voted to approve the Executive Session minutes from the April 29, 2020 Conference Call Board meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Changes to the Dispensing Opticians Practice Act (Georgia Laws):**

Executive Director Zimmerman discussed with the Board their statutory prohibitions for anyone licensed in another state or jurisdiction to become licensed in Georgia by reciprocity (endorsement). The law requires each and every other state or jurisdiction to agree in writing to accept Georgia licensees by reciprocity (endorsement) and the Board has not pursued this obtained by method, just too cumbersome to attempt.

A change to their law could be made to make this obtained by method easier. Right now the only option for a licensee in another state to apply for and be granted licensure in Georgia is by Education. They cannot apply by experience (or a combination of experience and education) due to the "experience" component. The current law requires registration as an apprentice with the Georgia Board first before any experience can be counted. This is keeping a lot of individuals who are licensed in other states from becoming licensed in Georgia, unless they are willing to start over as an apprentice (for a two year minimum period).

Any further discussion of the matter was tabled by the Board, may be addressed at a later date.

**Mr. Morris moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 p.m.**

Minute recorded by:

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

**GLENN MORRIS**

Chair

**BRIG ZIMMERMAN**

Executive Director, HC1

Meeting minutes were approved on: **October 14, 2020**