

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
Board Meeting Teleconference Minutes
Friday, December 20, 2019 - 8:30 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via teleconference on Friday, December 20, 2019. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dr. Leonard La Russa, DPM, Chair
Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice Chair
Ms. Judy Sanders, Consumer Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

Board Members Not Present

Dr. Sarvepalli Jokhai, DPM, Board Member

Office of Attorney General

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

No visitors present.

Call to Order Dr. La Russa established that a quorum of the Board was present and the meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes

1. September 18, 2019 Board Teleconference Minutes

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 18, 2019 open session teleconference minutes as amended.

Licenses to Ratify September 6, 2019 – December 13, 2019

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Discussion – Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB)

1. 2019 Q3 Newsletter
2. 2019 Q4 Newsletter
3. Annual Correspondence 2019-2020

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FPMB, as information.

4. Request for Information – Responses

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Dr. Giovinco to research the scope of practice for podiatric assistants in regards to O.C.G.A. § 43-35-11(d) and report any findings to the Board during the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Program Update – Georgia Department of Public Health – Sheila Pierce Division – Former Director, Strategic Partnerships and Health Policy

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the PDMP Program Update, as information.

Discussion - Rule 500-4-.01. Renewal of License

The Board entered into a discussion regarding amendments to Rule 500-4-.01. Renewal of License. in regards to the submission of supplemental documentation necessary for renewal. Applications must be complete to be submitted for Board review which allows them to determine the applicant meets all requirements for the renewal of their license and is able to operate with reasonable skill and safety. The rule amendments also include a change due to the Joint Secretary Rules of the Professional Licensing Boards Division in the General Provisions regarding the late lapsed renewal period.

Dr. La Russa motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Board Rule 500-4-.01. Renewal of License, to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority and if no objections, vote to post.

Rule 500-4-.01. Renewal of License

- (1) Renewal: All podiatrists licensed in the State of Georgia shall submit to the Board of Podiatry Examiners ("Board") a license renewal application prior to the date of license expiration every two (2) years.
 - (a) Each renewal application shall include a nonrefundable license renewal fee payable before the first day of September of the odd number year;
 - (b) Each renewal payment must be accompanied by a statement about having completed a minimum of fifty (50) approved continuing education hours as defined within the Board's continuing education rules; and
 - (c) Each renewal application may be subject to an audit of continuing education hours.
 - (d) [Each renewal application must be complete, to include any supplemental documents that the application requires.](#)
- (2) Late Renewal:
 - (a) ~~If the applicant files for renewal of license after the date the license is expired and~~ during the late renewal period, ~~which begins on the first day of September and ends on the last day of November of the odd year, established by the Joint Secretary Rules of the Professional Licensing Boards Division,~~ the late renewal application must be accompanied by:
 1. A late renewal application fee of \$300.00;
 2. A signed letter of explanation to include any supporting documentation which supports the reason the application was not submitted timely; and
 3. Proof of completion of the continuing education requirements as outlined within the Board's rules.
 - (b) The renewal of a license during the late renewal period may be subject to a consent order for licensure renewal that contains terms and conditions for renewal as determined by the Board.
- (3) [A failure to submit a complete renewal application and any supplemental documents required of the application will result in the revocation of the license by operation of law for failure to demonstrate that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the renewal of the license.](#)
- (34) Reinstatement: The license of any podiatrist who fails to meet all of the requirements for license renewal before the end of the late renewal period shall be lapsed, the effect of which shall be the same as revocation of licensure. The lapsed license may be reinstated at the discretion of the Board after the applicant completes all reinstatement requirements as provided in the statute and the Board's rules.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 500-4-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-4](#), [43-1-7](#), [43-1-19](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-35-9](#), [43-35-15](#), and [43-35-16](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Fees" was filed on June 19, 1979; effective July 9, 1979.

Amended: Rule repealed and a new Rule of same title adopted. Filed May 1, 1985; effective May 21, 1985.

Amended: Filed June 12, 1985; effective July 2, 1985.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jun. 24, 1991; eff. Jul. 14, 1991.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Renewal of License" adopted. F. May 15, 1995; eff. Jun. 4, 1995.

Amended: F. Sep. 4, 2015; eff. Sep. 24, 2015.

Discussion – 2020 POD Meeting Dates

All meetings are scheduled for Fridays.

January 24, 2020	1:00 p.m.	Teleconference
April 24, 2020	1:00 p.m.	Teleconference
July 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.	Teleconference
October 30, 2019	1:00 p.m.	Teleconference

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt the 2020 Board meeting dates as amended.

Board Member Elections

1. Board Chairperson

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Leonard La Russa as the Board's Chairperson.

2. Board Vice Chairperson

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Joseph Giovinco as the Board's Vice Chairperson.

3. Applications and Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Joseph Giovinco as the Board's Applications and Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant.

Executive Director's Report – A. Price

Executive Director's report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, complaints/compliance matters and the status of renewal applications, to include the number of licenses that were lapsed. In addition, she addressed the following topic with the Board:

- Reorganization of Boards Due to Workflow

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Board President's Report – L. La Russa, DPM

Dr. La Russa reiterated the importance of Board member attendance on scheduled meeting dates.

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board President's Report as presented.

Miscellaneous Discussion – 2020 Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FARB, as information.

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present: Dr. La Russa, Dr. Giovinco and Ms. Sanders.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Friday, December 20, 2019, Dr. La Russa declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.

OPEN SESSION

Executive Minutes

1. September 18, 2019 Executive Session Teleconference Minutes

Dr. La Russa motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 18, 2019 executive session teleconference minutes as amended.

Attorney General's Report – B. Cohen

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Legal Services MEMO – Case for Closure – POD190043

Dr. Giovinco motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close the case.

Cognizant Report – J. Giovinco, DPM

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

1. **POD200002** Table pending additional information.
2. **POD200003** Close the case, resolved. Dr. Giovinco recused himself from the vote.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

Dr. La Russa motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

1. **POD190024** Amend the previous motion to accept a voluntary surrender of license. If does not surrender, offer a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure to include two (2) years of probation, a Public Reprimand, five (5) hours of Board approved continuing education in ethics within six (6) months and a fine of \$500 within six (6) months from the docket date of the order. If does not agree to the terms of the order, deny renewal of license.
2. **POD160007** Accept CE and close the case.
3. **POD190035** Close the case.
4. **POD190036** Close the case.

PDMP Registration Compliance Report

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the PDMP Registration Compliance Report, as information.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: January 24, 2020

LEONARD LA RUSSA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR