

GEORGIA BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
Conference Call/ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023 8:30 A.M.

The Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians met via teleconference/ZOOM on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. The Board's Executive Director hosted the meeting remotely.

Board Members Present:

Gloria Ethridge, Chair
 Amy Stowers, Vice-Chair
 Dave Meldrum
 Glenn Morris
 Angelic Moore, Consumer Member
 (VACANT – Disp Opt)

Visitors Present:

Brian Diener, OTI
 Josh MacNamara, OTI
 Brianna, OTI
 Jim Morris

Attorney General's Office Representative:

Anna Scartz AAG
 Max Changus, AAG

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director HC-1
 Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
 Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor
 Sarah Collett, Licensing Analyst
 Deshauna Thornton, Licensing Analyst

Ms. Ethridge, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with no additional items.

Meeting Minutes:

- July 19, 2023 C.C. Board meeting
- August 9, 2023 C.C. Board Meeting – Cancelled

Recommendations:

- Approve as presented
- Approve as presented

Mr. Morris moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the July 19, 2023 C.C. Board meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the cancelled August 9, 2023 C.C. Board meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Issued Date: 7/19/2023 - 10/10/2023

License No.	Licensee
LDO002966	Renita Lynn Johnson
LDO002967	Brandesha Tanae Robinson
LDO002968	Ashtyn M Buquoi
LDO002969	Laura Ruth Pinner
LDO002970	Nicholas Casey King
LDO002971	Chadan Richard Joseph
LDO002972	Shanel LaShaye Wells
LDO002973	Hunter Wilder Wilson
LDO002974	Heejung Kim
LDO002975	Debrina Iyeshea Michelle Webb
LDO002976	Rabia Mehboob Panjwani
LDO002977	Kelly Jean Dexter
LDO002978	Saleema Mohamed

LDO002979	Joseph James Hilton
LDO002980	Sven Hadzic
LDO002981	Omar Allauddin Abdulhafiz
LDOA002469	Emily Alice Hopkins
LDOA002470	Georgia A Watkins
LDOA002471	Edward Bertrand Parker, V
LDOA002472	Nicholas Gibran Emory
LDOA002473	Gamaliel Omar Tosado
LDOA002474	Caesar Zabala
LDOA002476	Lonnie Lynn Shea
LDOA002477	Hyun Jung Kim
LDOA002478	Anna Marie Charlovich
LDOA002479	Jessica Briceno
LDOA002480	Tania Lynn Miller

LDOA002481	Melanie Sharon Gonzalez
LDOA002482	Zehor Ait Aider
LDOA002483	Asher Thomas Bell
LDOA002484	Brenda Malone-Yarbrough
LDOA002485	Albert Rene Wroten
LDOA002486	Trisha L O'Brien
LDOA002487	Brennah Hollene Cochran
LDOA002488	Michelle Tolia Teyf
LDOA002489	Taylor Alexandra Dykes
LDOA002490	Maria De la Salud Acosta

LDOA002491	Damien Anthony Franchi
LDOA002492	David Miguel Domingo
LDOA002493	Shatamiun Nakiz Rosser
LDOA002494	Amber Lynn Driggers
LDOA002495	Sandra Gomez
LDOA002496	Hilary Marie Cammarata
LDOA002497	Hilarie Blaire Cook
LDOA002498	Ashley Elizabeth Gore
TOTAL:	45

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

Misc. Discussion Items:

- Wiregrass Optician Program – A. McDuffie – *Board Information Only*

Mr. Morris moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to enter 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 Ethridge, Stowers, Morris, Meldrum and Moore.

Applications: *No applications presented during today's meeting*

Cognizant/Enforcement Complaint Report: *No report presented during today's meeting*

Attorney General's Report:

Mr. Max Changus, AAG and Ms. Anna Scartz, AAG, provided a status and activity report to the Board for review and discussion.

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

Executive Session Minutes:

- July 19, 2023 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented.

Ms. Stowers moved, Mr. Morris and the Board voted to approve the July 19, 2023 Conference Call Board Meeting Executive Session minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Ms. Ethridge 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 the Executive Session.

Ms. Moore moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to enter 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 and discuss the OTI program review/approval. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present Ethridge, Stowers, Morris, Meldrum and Moore.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Ms. Ethridge 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 the Executive Session.

Optical Training Institute: Optician Development Program Overview: Following discussion with the Board's legal counsel, in executive session, the Board voted to approve the ODP home study program **pending** submission of the necessary changes recommended by the Board, including but not limited to this program's equivalency and availability to all applicants/licensee's as well as authorized sponsorship. Once the changes have been completed and submitted to the Board, the program is approved. .

Ms. Ethridge moved, Ms. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted to approve the OTI – ODP pending receipt of a revised program overview to include the recommendations of the Board as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Ethridge moved, Mr. Morris seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Minute recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

GLORIA ETHRIDGE

Chair

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director, HC1

Meeting minutes were approved **January 10, 2024**

Affidavit Supporting Closing of Public Meeting

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions an identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question:

Comes now, **Gloria Ethridge**, the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the **Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians**
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On **October 11, 2023** this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was §§§ 43-1-2(k), 43-1-19(h), and 50-14-2(1).
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:

SUBJECT DISCUSSED:	LEGAL AUTHORITY
Investigations including reports and deliberations	O.C.G.A. Sect. 43-1-19(h)(2)&(4)
Applications	O.C.G.A. Sect. 43-1-2(k)(1)(2)
Exams (including questions, materials and deliberations)	O.C.G.A. Sect. 43-1-2(k)(3)(4)
Attorney General's Report (certain matters of attorney/client privilege)	O.C.G.A. Sect. 50-14-2(1)
Investigative Interviews if part of disciplinary	O.C.G.A. Sect. 43-1-19(4)
Probation Report (employer and self report)	
Probation Reports (medical information)	O.C.G.A. Sect. 50-18-72(G)(2)
Executive Session Minutes	O.C.G.A. Sect 50-14-4
Cognizant Member's Report	O.C.G.A. Sect. 43-1-2(k)(4)
Voting	None (must be in open session)

Gloria Ethridge
 (Presiding Officer) **FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT**

Sworn and subscribed before me,

This 22 day of January 2023

Heather Criggs
 Notary Public

