

GEORGIA BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
Conference Call/ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024 8:30 A.M.

The Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians met via teleconference/Webex on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

Please Note: A committee of the Board met at 8:00 a.m., prior to the start of today’s scheduled full Board meeting, to conduct an Investigative Interview. The following members and staff were present for the committee meeting. The members will report their recommendations to the full Board during the Executive Session portion of the meeting to be conducted later today.

Investigative Interview Conducted: 8:00 a.m.

- DISP230002/230003

Ms. Stowers moved, Mr. Morris seconded, and the Board committee voted to enter Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-19(h)(2) and 43-1-2(k) to conduct an Investigative Interview.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Ms. Stowers declared the committee 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 in the closed session.

Board Members Present:

Amy Stowers, Vice-Chair
Glenn Morris

Assistant Attorney General:

Anna Scartz AAG

Administrative Staff Present:

Amanda Allen, Executive Director
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Carmen Beecher, Licensing Analyst

Full Board Meeting - 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Gloria Ethridge, Chair
Amy Stowers, Vice-Chair
Glenn Morris
Angelic Moore, Consumer Member
Dave Meldrum

Administrative Staff Present:

Amanda Allen, Executive Director
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Jalaina Fuller, Licensing Supervisor
Ann Shiver, Licensing Analyst

Board Members Absent:

(VACANT – Disp Opt)

AG’s Office Representative:

Anna Scartz AAG

Ms. Ethridge, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with one additional item:

- Online Purchasing Dispenser Requirements– Amy Stowers

Meeting Minutes:

- July 17, 2024 C.C. Board meeting

Recommendations:

Approve as presented

Ms. Stowers moved, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the July 17, 2024 C.C. Board meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Issued Date: 07/18/2024 – 10/15/2024

license No	Licensee
LDO003010	Sophia Avia Potter
LDO003011	Maribel Juarez Coronado
LDO003012	Lorna Despuig Gonzalez
LDO003013	Caitlin Brook Bowling
LDO003014	Rayna A Pearson
LDO003015	Deborah Michelle Norris
LDO003016	Lindsay Rachel Benefield
LDO003017	Brent Russell Stoker
LDO003018	Zina Aujae Robinson
LDO003019	Anna Victoria Knight
LDO003020	Andrea M Daniels
LDO003021	Megan Kathleen Walker
LDO003022	Akeia Danique Clay
LDO003023	Cedric Stephen Gould
LDO003024	Nicholas Austin Haddock
LDO003025	Houng Que Ha
LDO003026	Sharina Camille Carter
LDO003027	Shelly Ann Weaver
LDO003028	Jonathan David Mullins
LDO003029	Samuel Travis Massingill
LDO003030	Gracie Ellen Massingill
LDO003031	Esteban Guillermo Diaz

LDOA002586	Rachel Bret Mann
LDOA002587	Edward Eunjin Lee
LDOA002588	Jayden Michael Hamilton
LDOA002589	Adilene Chavez
LDOA002590	Maria L Garcia
LDOA002591	Dianady Monteagudo
LDOA002592	Karla Isela Uribe
LDOA002593	Luis A Figueroa Sanabria
LDOA002594	Christen Michelle King
LDOA002595	Danielle Denise Fritz
LDOA002596	Aviana Alexis Murray
LDOA002597	Garrett Dean Shefstad
LDOA002598	Amber Rozier Walton
LDOA002599	Angela Dawn London
LDOA002600	Whitney Hawkins
LDOA002601	Jeffrey Wayne Todd
LDOA002602	Cleopatra Alexis Cross
LDOA002603	Brittany Danielle Mitchell
LDOA002604	James Vaughn Crawford
LDOA002605	Carlyn Marie Matos-Ramos
LDOA002606	Ella K Truitt
LDOA002607	Quonisa Bailey
LDOA002608	Arturo Antonio Martinez

Ms. Ethridge moved, Ms. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted to approve the ratified listing of licenses issued between meetings administratively as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

CE Program Application Approval Request:

- Costco – 2024 Optical Managers Conference
- Optical Training Institute (44 courses)

Recommendation:

Approve as presented
Approve as presented

Ms. Stowers motioned, Mr. Meldrum seconded, and the Board voted to approve the CE program application approval request for Costco 2024 Optical Managers Conference as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Ethridge motioned, Mr. Morris seconded, and the Board voted to approve the CE program application approval requests for the 44 courses provided by Optical Training Institute as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Moore moved, Ms. Stowers 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.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 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.

Misc. Discussion Item:

- Reciprocity Requirements – Board Rule 420-5-.01/O.C.G.A. 43-29-9

Following discussion, the Board voted to refer the matter of reciprocity requirements outlined in Board Rule 420-5-.01/O.C.G.A. 43-29-9 to the AG’s office for official legal review/advice to determine all avenues for applicants applying by reciprocity in Georgia.

Ms. Moore motioned, Ms. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted to refer the matter of licensure by reciprocity to the AG’s office for official legal review/advice as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Applications:

- K.M.
- J.K.
- S.S.
- R.W.

Recommendation:

Does not meet requirements for reciprocity; withdraw application
Approve for licensure
Approve for licensure
Approve for reinstatement

Mr. Meldrum motioned, Ms. Ethridge seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendations on all applications as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Cognizant/Enforcement Complaint Report:

- **Recommend Closure:** DISP230003/DISP230002 – (Companion Cases - Same C)

Ms. Stowers motioned, Ms. Moore seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Cognizant Enforcement report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Attorney General’s Report:

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

Ms. Moore motioned, Ms. Ethridge seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Assistant Attorney General’s report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes:

- July 17, 2024 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented.

Ms. Stowers motioned, Mr. Morris and the Board voted to approve the July 17, 2024 Conference Call Board Meeting Executive Session minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Late Agenda Discussion Items:

- Online Purchasing of Products. What are the Dispenser Requirements/Responsibilities? This was a general discussion. No Board action required.

2025 Board Meeting Dates:

All meetings are conducted via Webex beginning at 8:30 a.m.

- January 15, 2025
- April 09, 2025
- July 16, 2025
- October 15, 2025

Ms. Ethridge moved, Mr. Morris seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minute recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Amanda Allen, Executive Director

GLORIA ETHRIDGE

Chair

AMANDA ALLEN

Executive Director, HC1

Meeting minutes were approved **January 15, 2025**

**State of Georgia
County of Bibb**

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 16, 2024** 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)	O.C.G.A. Sect. 50-18-72(G)(2)
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)

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

Gloria Ethridge
(Presiding Officer)

with Express Permission
Amanda Allen, Executive Director

Sworn and subscribed before me,

This 16 day of October 2024

Linsey Joiner
Notary Public

