

## Introduction, Mission Statement & The Board

### Introduction

The Ohio State Board of Optometry is a state government Agency established by the legislature in 1919 to regulate the practice of optometry and to protect consumers.

The Board is responsible for examining and licensing optometrists and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Revised Code as adopted by the Ohio General Assembly and Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Administrative Code as adopted by the Board.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Ohio State Board of Optometry is to assure professionally competent optometrists in the State of Ohio by regulating examinations and licensure, enforcing continuing education compliance, monitoring continuing education quality, renewal of licensure and enforcement of the Ohio Optometry Laws and Administrative Rules as found in Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Optometry Board is dedicated to handling public concerns in a timely fashion and providing prompt, friendly service to the citizens of Ohio and licensees.

### The Optometry Board

The Board is composed of six members, five of whom shall be persons actually engaged in the practice of optometry for five years preceding appointment and one of whom shall be a member of the public at least sixty years of age. Terms of office shall be for five years. No person shall serve as a member for more than two terms. Board members are compensated hourly only for time devoted to the Board's affairs, and are reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Board  
Members

Ronald L. Detwiler, O.D.

President                      Term 9/25/93 - 9/25/03

Dr. Detwiler licensed since 1975 is the President of the Optometry Board. He also served as President in 1997. He has served as the chair of three national committees for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry and is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Detwiler has a private practice in E. Liverpool, Ohio.

Beth A. Workman, O.D.

Secretary                      Term 9/25/99 - 9/25/04

Dr. Workman licensed since 1975 is currently in practice with another optometrist in Lorain, Ohio. Dr. Workman has also practiced in a clinical setting at the Cleveland Clinic.

Lawrence J. Barger, O.D.

Member                      Term 3/2/01 - 9/25/06

Dr. Barger licensed since 1968 is currently in private practice in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Barger is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association.

Rhonda B. Riles, O.D.

Member                      Term 9/25/00 - 9/25/05

Dr. Riles licensed since 1982 is currently in practice at a LensCrafters Optical with her husband, Holbrook Riles, O.D. in Mansfield, Ohio.

Susan G. Quinn, O.D.

Member                      Term 9/25/92 - 9/25/02

Dr. Quinn licensed since 1982 served as the President of the Optometry Board in 1996 and 2001. Dr. Quinn also serves as the chair on a committee of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. She is currently in

practice with her husband, Thomas Quinn, O.D. in Athens, Ohio. A ten year veteran of the Board her term expired in September.

Mr. Mel Dettra

Member                      Term 9/25/92 - 9/25/02

Mr. Dettra is a retired hospital administrator and is still involved in charitable ventures in his hometown of Akron, Ohio. He served two terms as Secretary of the Optometry Board. A ten year public member of the Board his term expired in September.

Dennis O. Roark, O. D.

Member                      Term 10/25/02 - 9/25/07

Dr. Roark licensed since 1970 is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association and also served as an optometrist in the U.S. Army. He is currently in practice with another optometrist in Springfield, Ohio.

Ms. Patricia M. Scharf

Member                      Term 10/25/02 - 9/25/07

Ms. Scharf who is a retired educator was appointed to the Board as the public member in October. She resides in Toledo, Ohio.

## President's Letter

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of the Ohio State Board of Optometry during this past year. The primary mission of the Ohio Board has always been to protect the public in matters involving the practice of Optometry in Ohio. We work diligently at resolving patient complaints in a timely fashion. The Board's goal has always been to promptly resolve patient complaints in a fair and friendly fashion. This past year patient complaints have been completed at an average rate of just over thirty days from the day the complaint is filed until it is completed.

We, as a Board have always operated in a pro-active manner. When we learn of problems or potential problems within the optometry profession we take the appropriate action to inform practitioners. The Board produces a newsletter twice yearly and the staff works daily to resolve problems by contacting or corresponding with optometrists. While we are a true consumer Board this positive interaction with optometrists leads to better relationships and quality service to patients.

The Board is also proud of information that is now contained on our web site. This site is beneficial to both consumers and practitioners. All laws and rules are posted on the web site along with

specific links for consumers such as Prescription Releases and Patient Vision Records. Consumers can also access information on any Ohio licensed optometrist by accessing the web site. We have added down loadable forms such as complaint forms and application forms. Optometrists can also access the web site to obtain information on upcoming continuing education courses.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my fellow Board members for their support and dedication this past year. I would especially like to thank Dr. Susan Quinn and our public member, Mr. Mel Dettra for their dedication to the Board over the past ten years. Both their terms expired in September and their expertise will be greatly missed. I would also like to welcome two new Board members who were appointed in October, Dr. Dennis Roark of Springfield and Ms. Patricia Scharf of Toledo.

I am proud of our achievements and I feel that the Optometry Board had a very successful year in 2002. Next year promises to be even better under the leadership of Dr. Beth Workman.

*Ronald Detweiler, O.D.*

Organizational  
Chart

GOVERNOR  
BOB TAFT

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SIX MEMBERS  
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I  
Ronald Detwiler, O.D. President  
Beth Workman, O.D., Secretary  
Lawrence Barger, O.D.  
Mr. Mel Dettra  
Susan Quinn, O.D.  
Rhonda Riles, O.D.

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BOARD COMMISSION SECRETARY 2  
Wendell W. Webb

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3  
Nancy L. Ott

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2  
Jeff A. May

Board  
Member  
Responsibilities

Dr. Workman, Dr. Barger, and Mr. Dettra	Supervision of patient complaints and other investigations
Dr. Detwiler and Dr. Quinn	Liaison to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
Dr. Riles and Dr. Workman	Supervision of continuing education matters
Dr. Quinn, Dr. Barger, and Mr. Dettra	Legislative matters
Dr. Quinn and Mr. Dettra	Budgetary issues
Dr. Barger and Dr. Workman	OSU senior class laws and rules
Dr. Workman	Review of licensure
Dr. Barger and Dr. Riles	Monitor drug induced incident cases and report to the Board
Dr. Riles	Pharmacology matters

## Board Meetings

January 9, 2002	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
March 20, 2002	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting Adjudication Hearing
May 22, 2002	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
July 10, 2002	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
November 1, 2002	Cleveland, Ohio	Board Meeting OOA East-West C.E. Conference

## Licensing

Licensing is the process by which an agency of government grants to individuals the right to engage in certain professions, occupations or businesses. Licensure is also an effective tool used for the protection of the citizens of the State of Ohio. This is done by assuring that the persons licensed have the skills, training and qualifications required to practice that profession. In order to be licensed in Ohio, optometrists must have an undergraduate degree and must be a graduate of an accredited College of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry degree.

The State Board of Optometry is granted its authority under Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Revised Code. This chapter determines who may engage in the practice of optometry. The practice of optometry has been greatly enhanced by the use of diagnostic and therapeutic drugs. The laws that provide the authority for the Board to grant licenses also provide the necessary administrative mechanisms whereby such authority to practice can be renewed, suspended, permanently revoked or limited. Fines may also be imposed. Accordingly, persons granted authority by the Board to engage in the practice of optometry also are monitored to determine whether they should be permitted to continue in such activity.

Licensure  
breakdown

Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/01:	2,052
Optometrists deceased in 2002:	7
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2002:	73
Delinquent optometrists in 2002:	24
New optometry licensees issued:	91
Licensure reinstatements:	6
Licensure by reciprocity:	3
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/02:	2,048

Licensees by  
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	1,859
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	81
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	108

Licensees by  
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,712
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	313
Optometrists on active military duty:	23

Miscellaneous  
licensure  
information

Therapeutic certification by previously licensed optometrists:	4
Total optometrists on inactive status (2000 through 2003):	313

## Continuing Education

All licensed optometrists are required to submit proof of attendance for fifteen hours of continuing education annually. Those optometrists who hold either a diagnostic or a therapeutic agents license must obtain an additional five hours of pharmacology continuing education each year. The continuing education programs are directed to patient care, the utilization of new techniques, scientific and clinical advances and the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. The submission of continuing education is closely monitored by the Board. The application to renew optometric licenses is not sent to those licensees who do not obtain the required hours of continuing education and submit such proof of attendance to the Board. Failure to submit continuing education by October 20<sup>th</sup> each year results in a \$75.00 penalty fee unless a time waiver has been approved by the Board. In 2002 the Board approved one waiver request.

During 2002 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 266 proposed continuing education programs; 253 were granted full approval, 11 were approved in part and there were 2 courses, totaling 20 hours, that were denied continuing education credit. The courses approved in part contained a total of 520 1/4 hours of continuing education that were not approved for credit.

Financial  
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures  
July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002

FY 2002 Revenues

Licensure fees	\$272,905.00
Late fees	10,950.00
ARBO refund	500.00
Miscellaneous fees	<u>2,931.44</u>
	<u>\$287,286.44</u>

FY 2002 Allotments and Expenditures

	<u>Original Allotment</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
Board member payroll	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 9,783.02	\$ 2,716.98
Staff payroll	218,808.00	196,387.08	22,420.92
Maintenance fund	45,515.00	39,519.64	5,995.74
Equipment fund	3,725.00	895.00	2,829.62
Board members' travel	8,500.00	4,849.26	3,650.74
Refund account	<u>552.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>552.00</u>
	<u>\$289,600.00</u>	<u>\$251,434.00</u>	<u>\$38,166.00</u>

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2002	\$289,600.00	\$287,286.00	\$251,434.00	\$35,852.00
2001	266,297.00	282,400.00	225,806.00	56,594.00
2000	267,672.00	282,530.00	249,500.00	33,030.00
1999	243,965.00	268,619.00	234,212.00	34,407.00
1998	231,140.00	289,901.00	225,461.00	64,440.00

## Budget Overview

In 1999 legislation was enacted which permitted Ohio licensed optometrists, that were practicing in other states, to go into an inactive status. The inactive status exempted them from paying annual fees and filing continuing education. If those optometrists then wished to be reinstated to practice in Ohio, they could then file a request application form along with a fee and the Board would consider reinstatement based upon their practice status since leaving Ohio.

Since 1999 over 300 optometrists have chosen to go inactive. This created a loss in revenues of over \$40,000 annually. The Board has taken steps to maintain a positive revenue to expenditure rate. From 1999 through FY 02 the Board has accomplished this by staying under budget thus avoiding an increase in licensure renewal fees. During FY 02 optometrists filing for the inactive status decreased greatly and we are now seeing revenues to start to rise (from a drop in revenues to \$268,000 in 1999 to a level of \$287,000 in 2002) with an increase in new licensees each year. It is anticipated that revenues will continue to rise in FY 03 and the Board will meet budgetary guidelines.

Some of the steps taken to hold expenditures in line were increased usage of the web site information and downloadable forms, obtaining an 800 number, increased use of fax machine and E-mail versus using the mail service and in-house processing of renewals rather than paying a bank several thousand dollars to handle this process.

## Investigations

The role of the Investigator for the Ohio State Board of Optometry is clearly defined as a position that was created to serve Ohio citizens through the enforcement of Ohio Optometry Board Laws and Administrative Rules. While the primary function of the Investigator is the investigation of patient complaints, the Investigator also conducts unannounced on-site inspections of optometry offices to check for compliance with Board Laws and Rules relating to licenses and name display, equipment requirements, and other Board regulations. The Board Investigator also enforces laws concerning advertising by Ohio optometrists.

During 2002 the Board forwarded 73 sets of complaint forms to patients who had contacted the Board regarding problems with optometrists. Patients filed a total of 29 formal complaints in addition to 3 complaints initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 28 of the 32 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with four pending either further investigation or final review. Additionally, 131 on-site inspections were conducted statewide. This represents an increase in excess of 11% in inspections from the previous year. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in 64 advertising matters. In all instances, responses were received that proper corrective action was being taken to address the problems. Discipline taken by the Board in completed investigations included a license suspension, two fines, and cease and desist letters for violations of Ohio Optometry Laws and Rules. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$1,376.11 during the year.

### Investigator's Activity

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Complaints Investigated	22	32
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	26	38
Advertising Violation Investigations	50	64
Total Investigations	98	134
On-Site Inspections	118	131

Board  
Activities  
and  
Accomplishments

Year 2002 Highlights and Calendar of Events

*January 2002*

HB 497 - Licensure by Endorsement was formally approved by the Board for consideration by the Ohio House of Representatives and has been submitted to the Ohio Senate. If passed, this legislation would permit optometrists who have taken any state Board tests or tests given by any Canadian Province, prior to 1992, to apply for licensure in Ohio. This would replace the current reciprocity language and make it possible for qualified optometrists licensed in non-reciprocal states to be licensed in Ohio.

The Board approved a Consent Agreement with an Ohio optometrist who had a drug problem. The optometrist's right to practice was suspended for ninety days and he was required to attend formal counseling for two years.

*March 2002*

The Board approved the printing of a Consumer Guide to be distributed to complainants and persons who have questions about the Board's authority and jurisdiction. This will be a great benefit to consumers as a guideline when they have complaints about services provided by optometrists. The Consumer Guides are available in the Board office for anyone who requests a copy.

*May 2002*

All Board operating policies were reviewed and updated to be consistent with directives issued by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. The Board formally approved all new and rewritten operating policies.

*July 2002*

The Board licensed 75 recent graduates of accredited Colleges of Optometry from around the country including 61 graduates from the Ohio State University, College of Optometry.

The Board, after a formal hearing, fined an Ohio licensed optometrist \$500 who failed to renew her license in 2002 but continued to practice.

*November 2002*

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The Board elected the following officers for the 2003 term.

President - Beth Workman, O.D.

Secretary - Rhonda Riles, O.D.

The Board formally added a new CPT code to the scope of optometry, CPT code 92135. This permits optometrists to use and analyze the testing results of the GDx Nerve Fiber Analysis machine. (Used in testing glaucoma patients.)