

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, and 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.

Composition of the 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 who is 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

Lawrence J. Barger, O.D.

President 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.

Dennis O. Roark, O. D.

Secretary 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 currently practices with two other optometrists in Springfield, Ohio.

Gary A. Hyde, O.D.

Member Term 12/12/03 - 9/25/08

Dr. Hyde has been licensed since 1968. He served as an Optometry Officer in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Hyde has been in private practice in Warren, Ohio since 1971.

Rhonda B. Riles, O.D.

Member Term 9/25/00 - 9/25/10

Dr. Riles, licensed since 1982, is currently in practice at a LensCrafters Optical with her husband, Holbrook Riles, O.D. in Mansfield, Ohio. Dr. Riles was reappointed this year to her second five year term.

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, 2002. She resides in Toledo, Ohio.

Beth A. Workman, O.D.

Member

Term 9/25/99 - 9/25/09

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

President's Letter

It has been a real pleasure to serve as the Board President for 2005. I would like to thank our secretary, Mrs. Nancy Ott, our Executive Director, Mr. Mike Everhart, and our Investigator, Mr. Jeff May for their outstanding help and support during the past administrative year. I would also like to thank my fellow board members, Dr. Gary Hyde, Dr. Rhonda Riles, Dr. Dennis Roark, Ms. Pat Scharf and Dr. Beth Workman for their cooperation and dedication to the mission and purpose of the State Board of Optometry. We have had a challenging year and have accomplished a lot during the year. Some of our projects are ongoing and will not be completed until 2006.

It was with great pleasure that the board welcomed onboard Mr. Tom Madden, our new Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Madden is new to the Ohio Attorney General's staff and we are glad to have him with our board. Also Dr. Rhonda Riles was reappointed for her second term to the Board and we look forward to utilizing her past experiences and expertise.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing and assessing the legislative proposal to consolidate the 20 regulatory boards into cabinet-level agencies. The legislation would place the Board under the direction of the Ohio Department of Health. The entire Board has worked very hard to ensure these actions would not be detrimental to either the public or the profession. Currently, there is a proposed bill to eliminate this consolidation effort.

The Board expended a great deal of effort clarifying the current law on leasing space from a general corporation

or an unlicensed individual. The policy was meant to emphasize that optometrists are independent primary health care providers and to maintain professional autonomy from corporation or individual owners.

The Board also initiated a complete review of the current rules and policy on continuing education for optometrists. Due to the many factors to be considered during this study, we anticipate its completion during 2006. We believe this undertaking will benefit both the public and the profession once it is fully completed.

The Board began an update and review of the current licensure application and renewal application. Completion of this process will provide more detailed information for the board members to make decisions relevant to licensing matters.

Two board members and the Executive Director attended the national Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry annual meeting in Dallas, Texas this June. They were actively involved with decisions having both state and national implications.

Ongoing projects include the handling of complaints, investigations and on-site inspections under the direction of Mr. Jeff May.

It has been an eventful year and we look forward to another challenging year in 2006 under the leadership of President Dennis Roark.

Larry Barger, O.D.

Organizational
Chart

GOVERNOR
BOB TAFT



SIX MEMBERS
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I
Lawrence Barger, O.D. President
Dennis Roark, O.D., Secretary
Gary Hyde, O.D.
Rhonda Riles, O.D.
Ms. Patricia Scharf
Beth Workman, O.D.



BOARD COMMISSION SECRETARY 2
Michael R. Everhart



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3
Nancy L. Ott



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2
Jeff A. May

Board
Member
Responsibilities

Dr. Roark, Dr. Hyde	Supervision of patient complaints and other investigations
Dr. Barger, Dr. Workman	Liaison to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
Dr. Hyde	Supervision of continuing education matters
Dr. Workman, Dr. Roark	Legislative matters
Ms. Scharf, Dr. Barger	Budgetary issues
Dr. Hyde	OSU senior class laws and rules
Dr. Riles	Monitor drug induced incident cases and report to the Board, pharmacology matters

Board Meetings

January 19, 2005	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
March 16, 2005	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
May 18, 2005	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
July 13, 2005	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
October 19, 2005	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting

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 12/31/04:	2,061
Optometrists deceased in 2005:	2
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2005:	45
Delinquent optometrists in 2005:	17
Revocation	1
New optometry licensees issued:	59
Licensure reinstatements:	9
Licensure by endorsement:	4
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/05:	2,068

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	1,933
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	61
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	74

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,771
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	280
Optometrists on active military duty:	17

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 20th each year results in a \$75.00 penalty fee unless a time waiver has been approved by the Board. In 2005 there were 3 waiver requests approved.

During 2005 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 211 proposed continuing education programs; 194 were granted full approval, 12 were approved in part and there were 5 courses, totaling 22 hours, that were denied continuing education credit. The courses approved in part contained a total of 29 hours of continuing education that were not approved for credit.

Financial
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

FY 2005 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$275,425.00
Late/reinstatement fees	9,975.00
Miscellaneous fees	<u>1,470.00</u>
	\$286,870.00

FY 2005 Allotments and Expenditures

	<u>Original</u> <u>Allotment</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent</u> <u>Funds</u>
Board member payroll	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,564.57	\$ 5,435.43
Staff payroll	243,500.00	235,759.79	7,740.21
Maintenance fund	51,000.00	46,674.05	4,325.95
Equipment fund	4,991.00	1,639.90	3,351.10
Board members' travel	9,600.00	7,517.62	2,082.38
Refund account	<u>300.00</u>	<u>.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	\$324,391.00	\$301,155.93	\$ 23,235.07

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2004	\$306,140.00	\$289,231.00	\$297,358.02	\$ 8,781.98
2003	306,051.00	284,995.00	266,134.56	39,916.44
2002	289,600.00	287,286.44	251,434.00	38,166.00

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 and conducts Laws and Rules sessions for newly licensed optometrists.

During 2005, the Board forwarded 54 sets of complaint forms to patients who had contacted the Board regarding problems with optometrists. Patients filed a total of 13 formal complaints in addition to 6 complaints initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 13 of the 19 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with the remaining 6 pending either further investigation, a hearing or final review. Additionally, 173 on-site inspections were conducted statewide. This represents an increase of 37% in inspections from the previous year. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in 30 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 one licensee's optometric and therapeutic licensure being permanently revoked. A second licensee was placed on 7 years probation with his license suspended for 5 years and 60 days with 5 years stayed and 60 days active suspension, participation in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program and submission to random drug and alcohol testing. Finally, a third licensee was fined \$2,500.00 a suspension of optometric and therapeutic licensure for 60 months with 9 months active and 51 months stayed and placed on probation for 51 months. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$210.00 during the year.

Investigator's
Activity

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Complaints Investigated	35	19
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	19	19
Advertising Violation Investigations	22	30
Total Investigations	76	68
On-Site Inspections	126	173