

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.

Members

Dennis O. Roark, O.D.

President 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.

Secretary 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.

Lawrence J. Barger, O.D.

Member Term 3/2/01 - 9/25/11

Dr. Barger, licensed since 1968, is currently in private practice in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Barger is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Barger was reappointed this year to a second five year term.

Rhonda B. Riles, O.D.

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

Dr. Riles, licensed since 1982, is currently in practice at a WalMart Optical with her husband, Holbrook Riles, O.D. in Mansfield, 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, 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 private practice in Lorain, Ohio. Dr. Workman has also practiced in a clinical setting at the Cleveland Clinic.

President's Letter

The State of Ohio and its' citizens were once again well served by the Ohio State Board of Optometry. Special thanks go to Executive Director, Mike Everhart; Investigator, Jeff May and Administrative Assistant, Nancy Ott. Nancy was recognized and applauded for her 25 years of wonderful and dedicated service to the board at our May meeting. I want to thank board members and appreciate their overall efforts, especially in their areas of responsibility:

Investigation of Complaints, Dr. Hyde; ARBO, COPE, NBEO Liaison, Dr. Barger & Dr. Workman; Continuing Education, Dr. Barger; Legislation, Dr. Workman & Dr. Roark; Budget, Ms. Scharf & Dr. Barger; OSU Senior Class/law review, Dr. Riles and Pharmacology matters, Dr. Workman.

We were pleased to have Dr. Larry Barger reappointed to his second five year term.

A special thanks is extended to our Assistant Attorney General, Todd Newkirk. His attendance at our meetings and attention to the detail of our law is very much appreciated.

While our main focus points are the citizens of Ohio and Ohio licensed optometrists, it is important for us to stay connected with other state boards of optometry and our national association, ARBO (Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.) We have done well in this area with Drs. Barger, Hyde and Workman and Mr. Everhart being involved with ARBO. Our board is currently working with ARBO in their development of the O.E. Tracker program. This is a national system of monitoring doctor's attendance at continuing education meetings.

We are also unique in our positive relationships with the Ohio Optometric Association, the American Optometric

Association, the Ohio State University College of Optometry and the Ohio Ophthalmological Society. Continued cooperation with these groups has been beneficial to all. We endorsed the Ohio Optometric Association and American Optometric Association's efforts in opposition to changes in the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumer Act.

Significant changes have been proposed in our budget regarding the increase in the penalty fees for late submission of continuing education and license renewal fees. These fees have not been increased since 1995.

The citizens of Ohio should be comforted in the knowledge that the vast majority of violations of the state law are very minor in nature. Significant disciplinary action, however, was taken against 4 Ohio optometrist who had their licenses permanently revoked or suspended for a lesser period of time.

Ohio is a national leader and model for the concept of licensure by endorsement. This means that Ohio will accept applicants for licensure who are currently licensed elsewhere at Ohio's level of licensure.

Finally, the legislature and the citizens should be comforted in knowing that the State of Ohio is one of a very few states that audits every doctor's continuing education and licensure renewal applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Roark, O.D.

Organizational
Chart

GOVERNOR
BOB TAFT



SIX MEMBERS
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I
Dennis Roark, O.D. President
Gary Hyde, O.D., Secretary
Larry Barger, 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. 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. Barger	Supervision of continuing education matters
Dr. Workman, Dr. Roark	Legislative matters
Ms. Scharf, Dr. Barger	Budgetary issues
Dr. Riles	OSU senior class laws and rules
Dr. Workman	Monitor drug induced incident cases and report to the Board, pharmacology matters

Board Meetings

January 18, 2006	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
March 15, 2006	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
May 17, 2006	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
July 12, 2006	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
October 18, 2006	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 complete at least six years of college and 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 12/31/05:		2,068
Optometrists deceased in 2006:		6
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2006:	50	
Delinquent optometrists in 2006:	10	
Revocation		1
Suspension		1
New optometry licensees issued:		81
Licensure reinstatements:	8	
Licensure by endorsement:	10	
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/06:		2,099

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:		1,978
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:		58
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	63	

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:		1,789
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	292	
Optometrists on active military duty:		18

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 2006 there was 1 waiver request approved.

During 2006 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 264 proposed continuing education programs; 251 were granted full approval, 9 were approved in part and there were 4 courses, totaling 12½ hours, that were denied continuing education credit. The courses approved in part contained a total of 48 hours of continuing education that were not approved for credit.

Financial

Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

FY 2006 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$280,980
Late/reinstatement fees	14,850
Miscellaneous fees	<u>931</u>
	\$296,761

FY 2006 Allotments and Expenditures

	<u>Original</u> <u>Allotment</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent</u> <u>Funds</u>
Board member payroll	\$ 13,880	\$ 7,271	\$ 6,609
Staff payroll	259,324	239,495	19,829
Maintenance fund	50,267	45,364	4,903
Equipment fund	4,000	195	3,805
Board members' travel	9,000	7,913	1,087
Refund account	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>
	\$336,771	\$ 300,238	\$ 36,533

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2005	\$324,391	\$286,870	\$301,155	\$ 23,236
2004	306,140	289,231	297,358	8,782
2003	306,051	284,995	266,134	39,917
2002	289,600	287,286	251,434	38,166

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 2006, the Board forwarded 44 sets of complaint forms to patients who had contacted the Board regarding problems with optometrists. Patients filed a total of 18 formal complaints in addition to 4 complaints initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 21 of the 22 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with the remaining 1 pending either further investigation, a hearing or final review. Additionally, 156 on-site inspections were conducted statewide. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in 8 advertising matters. In all instances, responses were received that proper corrective action was being taken to address the problems. The Board Investigator made 26 laws and rules presentations with 91 licensees in attendance.

Discipline taken by the Board in completed investigations during the year included one licensee's optometric and therapeutic certificate license being revoked for being addicted to the use of alcohol, stimulants, narcotics or other substances. Also 3 licensees were given 30 day license suspensions which were held in abeyance for practicing without a valid license. The doctors were also placed on 2 year probations by the Board. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$210.00 for 2006.

Investigator's

Activity	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Complaints Investigated	19	22
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	19	35
Advertising Violation Investigations	30	8
Total Investigations	68	65
On-Site Inspections	173	156