

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 consumer protection.

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

Gary A. Hyde, O.D.

President 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.

Beth A. Workman, O.D.

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

Dr. Workman has been licensed since 1975. She is currently in private practice. Dr. Workman has also practiced in a clinical setting at the Cleveland Clinic.

Lawrence J. Barger, O.D.

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

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.

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 currently practices with two other optometrists 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, 2002. She resides in Toledo, Ohio.

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. I want to thank our board members and appreciate their efforts, especially in their areas of responsibility listed below:

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

We were pleased to have Ms. Patricia Scharf reappointed to her second five year term as our consumer member on the board.

A special thanks is extended to our Assistant Attorney General, Aaron Epstein. Aaron joined us this year and his attendance at our meetings and advice regarding details 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 Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO.) We have continued to work in this area with Drs. Barger, Hyde and Workman and Mr. Everhart are involved with ARBO. Our board is currently working with ARBO in their development and implementation of the O.E. Tracker program which is a national system of monitoring doctor's attendance at continuing education meetings. We are also encouraging our board members and other interested optometrists to become reviewers for the Council of Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE). Reviewers approve or disapprove continuing education courses for optometric C.E. credit nationwide.

We are 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 both the public and the profession.

Thanks in part to the cooperation and influence of these groups, two important pieces of legislation affecting Ohio's optometrists and citizens were passed by the Ohio legislature and signed into law by Governor Strickland during 2007. Sub HB 149 expands the scope of practice for Ohio optometrists and HB 104 provides for increased background checking including fingerprinting of initial applicants for an Ohio optometry license. These pieces of legislation will insure that continued high quality of eyecare will be available to all Ohioans and preserve the high level of integrity of Ohio's optometrists.

Our board will be busy developing new rules for the implementation of the new legislation as well as conducting our five year review of all rules and policies affecting Ohio optometrists.

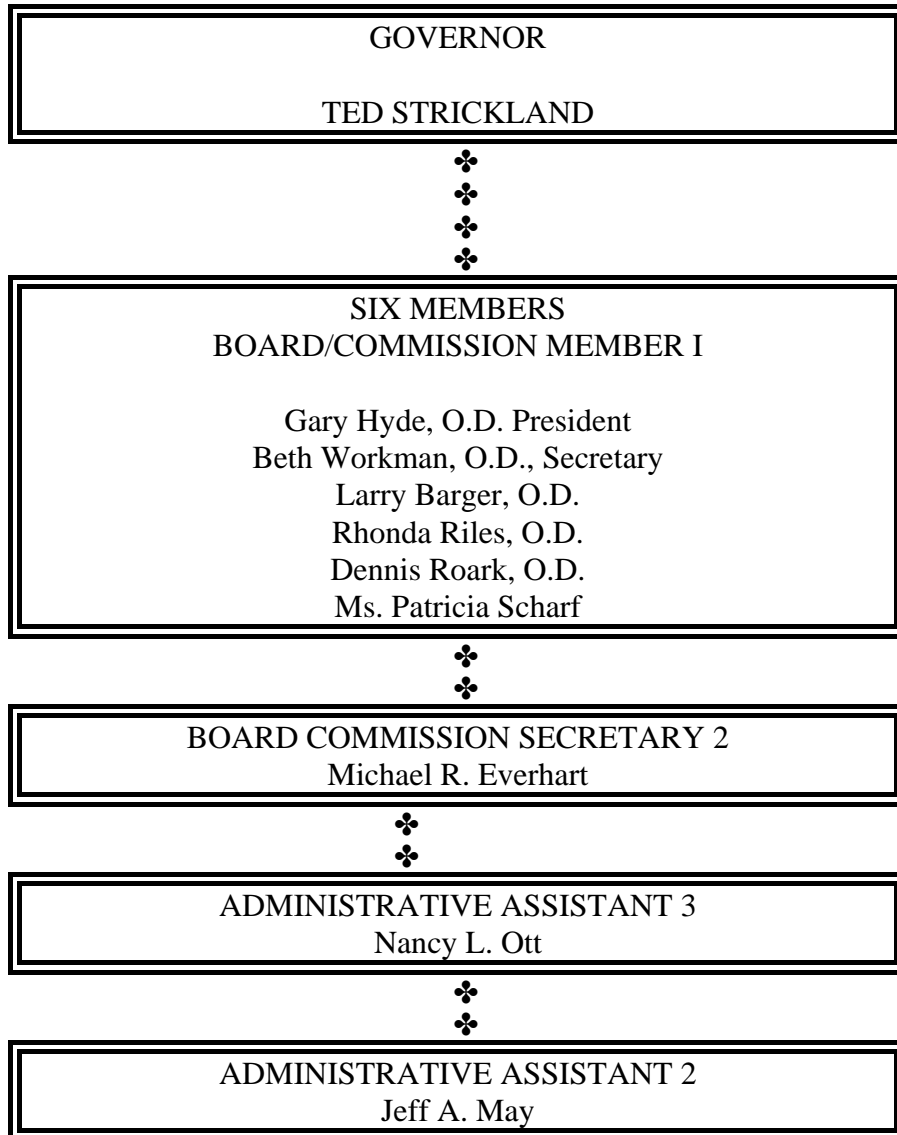
Ohio continues to be a national leader and model for the concept of licensure by endorsement. This means that Ohio will accept applicants for licensure who are currently licensed elsewhere at Ohio's level of licensure.

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 of optometry's continuing education and licensure renewal applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Hyde, O.D.

Organizational
Chart



Board
Member
Responsibilities

Dr. Workman, Dr. Riles	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. Riles	Supervision of continuing education matters
Dr. Hyde, Dr. Roark	Legislative matters
Ms. Scharf, Dr. Barger	Budgetary issues
Dr. Roark	OSU senior class laws and rules
Dr. Barger	Monitor drug induced incident cases and report to the Board, pharmacology matters

Board Meetings

January 17, 2007	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
March 21, 2007	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
May 16, 2007	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
July 11, 2007	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
October 17, 2007	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 12/31/06:	2,099
Optometrists deceased in 2007:	5
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2007:	55
Delinquent optometrists in 2007:	16
New optometry license issued but later withdrawn:	1
New optometry licensees issued:	76
Licensure reinstatements:	5
Licensure by endorsement:	2
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/07:	2,105

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	1,996
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	52
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	57

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,816
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	276
Optometrists on active military duty:	13

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 2007 there were 4 waiver requests approved.

During 2007 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 242 proposed continuing education programs, 232 were granted full approval and 10 were approved in part. The courses approved in part contained a total of 23 hours and 45 minutes of continuing education that was either practice management or not optometry related subjects.

Financial
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

FY 2007 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$282,100
Late/reinstatement fees	12,975
Miscellaneous fees	<u>770</u>
	\$295,845

FY 2007 Allotments and Expenditures

	<u>Original</u> <u>Allotment</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Allotment</u> <u>Adjustment</u>	<u>Unspent</u> <u>Funds</u>
Board member payroll	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,383	\$ -3,575	\$ 42
Staff payroll	262,000	248,835	-11,625	1,540
Maintenance fund	50,267	51,560	+11,000	9,707
Equipment fund	2,880	1,693	+2,000	3,187
Board members' travel	8,324	9,860	+2,500	964
Refund account	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	-300	<u>0</u>
	\$336,771	\$321,331		\$15,440

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2006	\$336,771	\$296,761	\$300,238	\$36,533
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

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 2007, the Board forwarded 46 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 9 of the 19 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with the remaining 10 pending either further investigation, a hearing or final review. Additionally, 185 on-site inspections were conducted statewide. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in 3 advertising matters. In all instances, responses were received that proper corrective action was being taken to address the problems. The Board Investigator made 25 laws and rules presentations with 90 licensees in attendance.

During 2007 no discipline had been taken by the Board in the completed cases. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$39.00 for the year.

Investigator's
Activity

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Complaints Investigated	22	19
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	35	28
Advertising Violation Investigations	8	3
Total Investigations	65	50
On-Site Inspections	156	185