

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 approved by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

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.

New
Legislation

House Bill 149, a bill making significant changes to the practice of optometry in Ohio, was passed by both the House and Senate during the 127th General Assembly. The bill became effective on March 25, 2008 and the following summary provides a synopsis of those changes:

- Modifies the scope of practice of an optometrist holding a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate by doing all of the following: (1) eliminating

the statutory specifications of the particular drugs and dosages that may be administered or prescribed, (2) specifying the classifications of oral drugs that may be used in the practice of optometry, with limitations on the use of analgesics and anti-inflammatories, (3) eliminating the provision that limits the use of drug treatment to conditions involving the anterior segment of the eye, (4) authorizing the use of any topical drug that pertains to the practice of optometry, (5) permitting the administration of epinephrine by injection in emergency situations, (6) allowing the use of glucose-monitoring devices, and (7) authorizing the prescription and dispensing of vision-correcting devices that also deliver drugs.

- Requires the State Board of Optometry to adopt rules governing the use of Schedule III controlled substances in the practice of optometry.
- Permits an optometrist who holds a topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate to use any topical drug or dangerous drug for evaluative purposes.
- Prescribes the manner in which the Board may share information with other investigating boards and agencies.
- Increases the requirement for annual continuing optometric education to twenty-five clock hours each year for ALL optometrists. At least ten of the twenty-five hours of instruction must be in pharmacology.
- Modifies the licensing exemption that applies to optometry students by permitting students from optometry schools in other states to participate in an optometry training program in Ohio.
- Provides that prescriptions for contact lenses must contain all information required by federal law, including an expiration date.
- Expressly requires the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board to regulate the dispensing of contact lenses, regardless of whether they address visual function, and expressly requires that all contact lenses, including cosmetic contact lenses, be dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription.

Board
Members

Beth A. Workman, O.D.

President 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.

Rhonda B. Riles, O.D.

Secretary 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.

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.

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.

Karen A. Riccio, O.D.

Member Term 10/3/08 – 9/25/13

Dr. Riccio, licensed since 1982, is currently in private practice in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Riccio previously practiced at the Veteran's Administration, Cincinnati Eye Institute and the OSU College of Optometry. Dr. Riccio is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association.

Dennis O. Roark, O.D.

Member Term 10/25/02 - 9/25/12

Dr. Roark, licensed since 1970, is a Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association. He currently practices with four other optometrists in Springfield, Ohio.

Ms. Patricia M. Scharf

Member Term 10/25/02 - 9/25/12

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 year 2008 was exciting and filled with many changes for the State Board of Optometry and for the profession of optometry in Ohio. It was my distinct pleasure to serve as the President of the Board during this period of transition. However, it was the combined effort of all Board members that facilitated all the work that we have accomplished. None of these efforts would have been possible without the truly dedicated and capable staff that serves our Board. Mike Everhart as Executive Director coordinates all staff and Board members in an exemplary fashion. Nancy Ott, our Administrative Assistant, and Jeff May, our Investigator, make significant contributions in all that they do. We are indeed fortunate to have such an accomplished staff and Board.

The new scope of optometry bill which was passed at the end of 2007 formally went into effect on March 25, 2008. Though many aspects of our code were changed, among the most important were the elimination of the formulary, the addition of Schedule III drugs, and the increase in continuing education hours required annually for license renewal. All of these changes serve to raise the standards for our profession. Full details of all of the changes made are available on the Board's website at www.optometry.ohio.gov. New rules were written by the Board to allow the implementation of the changes.

The Ohio Optometric Association organized regional meetings to educate Ohio optometrists as to the changes in the law. Mike Everhart and a Board member also attended each meeting to lend Board support and answer any questions attendees had regarding the changes in the law.

The Board completed its mandated five year rule review during 2008. This requires us to carefully evaluate all rules and policies to be certain that they are still relevant to our law and our current scope. If they are not, the Board then makes revisions, eliminations or proposals for new rules to insure that all apply

to the practice of optometry today. Our staff's competent and efficient gathering of information and data allowed us to complete this rule review in June which was well ahead of schedule.

The Board also continued its normal activities which include: maintaining a website, publishing a newsletter twice yearly, investigating complaints and office inquiries and serving as a resource to the optometrists in Ohio and as a consumer advocate to the citizens of Ohio. We continue to maintain excellent relationships with the Ohio Optometric Association, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, the Ohio State University College of Optometry and the Ohio Ophthalmological Society. These relationships further enhance the efforts of the Board.

Gary Hyde, O.D. completed his term on the Board. His input, perspective and dedication will be missed and I would like to thank him on behalf of all the Board members for his excellent work in the past five years. Our newest Board member is Karen Riccio, O.D. who will bring her own unique experiences and expertise to the Board in the coming years. I look forward to working with her and welcome her to the Board.

I am so proud to be a member of this Board. Their commitment to the citizens of Ohio and their profession are commendable. There will always be new challenges that await us, but I know that our Board and staff are more than able to deal with those challenges with the same competence that has been the tradition of this Board in the past. I look forward to the coming year under the able leadership of Rhonda Riles, O.D.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Workman, O.D.

Organizational
Chart

GOVERNOR
TED STRICKLAND



SIX MEMBERS
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I

Beth Workman, O.D. President
Rhonda Riles, O.D., Secretary
Larry Barger, O.D.
Gary Hyde, O.D.
Dennis Roark, O.D.
Ms. Patricia Scharf



BOARD COMMISSION SECRETARY 2
Michael R. Everhart



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3
Nancy L. Ott



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2
Jeff A. May

Board
Member
Responsibilities

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

Board Meetings

January 16, 2008	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
April 16, 2008	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
June 17, 2008	Columbus, Ohio	Public Hearing Board Meeting
July 9, 2008	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
October 2, 2008	Cleveland, 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 required skills, training and qualifications 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, therapeutic and limited Schedule III 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 12/31/07:	2,105
Optometrists deceased in 2008:	3
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2008:	59
Delinquent optometrists in 2008:	11
New optometry licensees issued:	62
Licensure reinstatements:	9
Licensure by endorsement:	7
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/08:	2,110

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	2,012
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	48
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	50

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,817
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	281
Optometrists on active military duty:	12

Continuing Education

During 2008 all licensed optometrists were 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. 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 2008 there was one waiver request approved.

During 2008 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 206 proposed continuing education programs, 201 were granted full approval, 3 were approved in part and there were 2 courses, totaling 6 hours that were denied C.E. credit. The courses approved in part contained a total of 17½ hours of continuing education that were either practice management or not optometry related subjects.

Financial
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

FY 2008 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$282,495
Late/reinstatement fees	12,225
Miscellaneous fees	<u>1,091</u>
	\$295,811

FY 2008 Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits (Board & Staff)	\$269,643
Purchased Personal Services (Hearing officer, court reporter, Insurance, dues, etc.)	1,860
Expendable Goods & Services (Staff & Board travel, lodging, parking, conference fees, expendable office supplies)	29,913
Equipment (Computers, furniture, etc.)	0
Refunds	<u>0</u>
	\$301,416
Unspent funds	\$ 43,155

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2007	\$336,771	\$295,845	\$321,331	\$15,440
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

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 2008, the Board forwarded 71 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 3 complaints initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 18 of the 21 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with the remaining 3 pending either further investigation, a hearing or final review. Additionally, 180 on-site inspections were conducted statewide. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in 4 advertising matters. In all instances, responses were received that proper corrective action was being taken to address the problems. The Board Investigator made 21 laws and rules presentations with 87 licensees in attendance.

During 2008 discipline was taken by the Board in three completed cases for practicing without a license, alcohol addiction and insurance fraud. The Board also issued three letters of concern. These actions are not formal discipline by the Board but address Board concerns in the areas of scope of practice, standards of care and drug prescribing. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$801.00 for the year.

Investigator's
Activity

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Complaints Investigated	19	21
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	28	26
Advertising Violation Investigations	3	4
Total Investigations	50	51
On-Site Inspections	185	180