

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 provide 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, 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

Rhonda B. Riles, O.D.

President 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.

Secretary 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.

Karen A. Riccio, O.D.

Member Term 10/3/08 – 9/25/13

Dr. Riccio, licensed since 1982, is currently in private practice in New Albany, 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.

Stanley Warn, O.D.

Member Term 11/19/09 – 9/24/14

Dr. Warn has been licensed since 1981. He currently practices in Cleveland, Ohio and resides in Beachwood, 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. Dr. Workman has also practiced in a clinical setting at the Cleveland Clinic.

President's Letter

The year 2009 has been a challenging one for the State Board of Optometry due to state budgetary woes and restrictions. Despite rumors of Board consolidations and various other limitations, our dedicated administrators and staff have risen to each challenge. Mike Everhart, our Executive Director, Nancy Ott, our Administrative Assistant, and Jeff May, our Chief Investigator are to be commended for their adaptability, resourcefulness and effectiveness in serving the citizens and optometrists in Ohio. It has been an honor and pleasure to work alongside them and serve in the capacity of Board President this year.

It has been equally gratifying to work with our dedicated and capable Board members. In 2009 our Board interpreted our new scope of practice in light of various new therapeutics and clinical procedures. We worked toward clarifying certain rules that will continue the independence of and preserve the control of professional clinical judgment for optometrists working in corporate settings. We also carefully monitored the development of board certification and the continuing competency debate that is occurring within our profession on the national and state levels.

The Board and staff continued the activities of maintaining a website, publishing the newsletter, investigating consumer complaints, licensing and approving continuing education courses and responding to doctor's inquiries. We are grateful for our excellent relationships and insight from the Ohio Optometric Association, the Ohio Ophthalmological Society, the College of Optometry, and the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry and their liaisons.

Beth Workman, O.D. completed her second term in 2009. Dr. Workman was a consummate Board member and we will truly miss her! We thank Beth for her outstanding ten years of service to the citizens and optometrists of Ohio. We also welcome our newest Board member, Stanley Warn, O.D. from Cleveland, Ohio who will bring valuable input from his vast professional and board experiences.

Again, I thank the Board and staff for their dedication and accomplishments during 2009. I look forward to the opportunities that 2010 will hold and know that the Board will perform admirably under the effective leadership of Larry Barger, O.D.

Respectively submitted,

Rhonda Riles, O.D.

Organizational
Chart

GOVERNOR
TED STRICKLAND

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SIX MEMBERS
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I
Rhonda Riles, O.D. President
Larry Barger, O.D., Secretary
Karen Riccio, O.D.
Dennis Roark, O.D.
Ms. Patricia Scharf
Beth Workman, O.D.

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BOARD COMMISSION SECRETARY 2
Michael R. Everhart

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3
Nancy L. Ott

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2
Jeff A. May

Board
Member
Responsibilities

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

Board Meetings

January 21, 2009	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
February 26, 2009	Columbus, Ohio	Subcommittee Meeting
April 22, 2009	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
July 8, 2009	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
October 14, 2009	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting & Public Hearing

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 12/31/08:	2,110
Optometrists deceased in 2009:	2
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2009:	52
Delinquent optometrists in 2009:	13
Suspension	1
New optometry licensees issued:	86
Licensure reinstatements:	5
Licensure by endorsement:	3
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/09:	2,136

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	2,051
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	43
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	42

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,851
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	273
Optometrists on active military duty:	12

Continuing Education

During 2009 all licensed optometrists were required to submit proof of attendance for twenty five hours of annual 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 fail to 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 2009 there were five various waiver requests approved.

During 2009 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 211 proposed continuing education programs; 209 were granted full approval and 2 were approved in part. The courses approved in part contained a total of 3 hours of continuing education that were either practice management or not optometry related subjects.

Financial
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

FY 2009 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$286,980
Late/reinstatement fees	10,575
Miscellaneous fees	<u>390</u>
	\$297,945

FY 2009 Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits (Board & Staff)	\$281,408
Purchased Personal Services (Hearing officer, court reporter, Insurance, dues, etc.)	0
Expendable Goods & Services (Staff & Board travel, lodging, parking, conference fees, expendable office supplies)	48,508
Equipment (Computers, furniture, etc.)	1,099
Refunds	<u>0</u>
	\$331,015
Unspent funds	\$ 20,056
<u>FY 2009 Budget</u>	\$351,071

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2008	\$344,571	\$295,811	\$325,185	\$19,386

2007	336,771	295,845	321,331	15,440
2006	336,771	296,761	300,238	36,533

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 2009, the Board forwarded 54 sets of complaint forms to patients who had contacted the Board regarding problems with optometrists. Patients filed a total of 16 formal complaints in addition to 2 complaints initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 11 of the 18 formal complaints were investigated and finalized with the remaining 7 pending either further investigation, a hearing or final review. Additionally, 120 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 15 laws and rules presentations with 84 licensees in attendance.

During 2009 discipline was taken by the Board in one case investigation for a felony conviction. Refunds in complaint resolutions to consumers totaled \$205.00 for the year.

Investigator's
Activity

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Complaints Investigated	21	18
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	26	21
Advertising Violation Investigations	4	4
Total Investigations	51	43
On-Site Inspections	180	120