

*Ohio State Board of Optometry
77 S. High St., 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108*

ANNUAL REPORT



Calendar Year 2013

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Ohio State Board of Optometry
77 S. High St., 16th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6108 (614)466-5115

January 31, 2014

Governor John Kasich
State of Ohio
77 S. High St., 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich and Members of the 130th General Assembly:

On behalf of the Ohio State Board of Optometry, we are pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2013. This annual report highlights the work of the six-member Board, supported by a staff of three employees.

All activities have been directed towards fulfillment of the Board's mission, 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.

This report reflects the efforts made by the Board to ensure that all persons licensed by the Board are properly qualified to provide the appropriate care to the citizens of Ohio. In addition to providing information on the financial picture of the Board, this report summarizes licensure activities and enforcement activities undertaken during the previous year.

We thank you for your on-going support of the Board's efforts to enforce Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Stanley Warn in black ink.

Stanley Warn, O.D.
Board President – 2013

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey W. Greene in black ink.

Jeffrey W. Greene
Executive Director

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President's
Letter

It has been a pleasure to serve as Board President and to work with the Board and administrative staff. The calendar year 2013 proved to be another interesting and challenging year for the State Board of Optometry. Budgetary, regulatory and staff issues have demanded much of our time. Jeff Greene has completed his second year as our Executive Director. Nancy Ott, Administrative Assistant, and Brian Landis, our new Investigator, have proven to be an effective, responsible, and caring administrative team that works well together to serve the needs of the citizens and optometrists of Ohio. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with them as Board President.

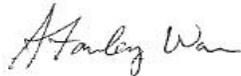
It has been equally gratifying to work with our dedicated and capable Board Members. Dr. Cheryl Archer was appointed in 2013. We are delighted that she has been appointed to a five year term. We look forward to her insight and leadership. The Board reviewed our rules and policies and many changes were considered. With our Executive Director Jeff Greene's leadership we have begun to realize the many advantages and efficiencies of computer technology. We have continued to utilize ARBO's OE Tracker to help keep track of CE credits and improve the efficiency of auditing 100% of education submitted to the State Board. The Board is also following the debate concerning board certification and continuing competency that is occurring within our profession at the state and national levels.

The Board and staff continued to maintain our website, publish the Board newsletter, investigate consumer complaints, monitor licensure issues, approve continuing education courses and respond to optometrists' inquiries. We value our positive relationships with the Ohio Optometric Association, the Ohio State University College of Optometry, and the Ohio Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Karen Riccio completed her five-year term on the Board in 2013. Karen was well respected by our Board and staff, providing good insights and promulgating good values. She will be missed by the Board and staff. Jeff May retired in the summer of 2013. He was a great asset and a quiet leader, and will be greatly missed as well.

As I have stated previously the mission of the Board is to serve the citizens of the State of Ohio. That is, and will continue to be, the primary focus of our thoughts and decision making.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley Warn, O.D.

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 fifty 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.

2013 Highlights

- Dr. Thomas Bobst and Executive Director Jeff Greene represented the Board at the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry 2013 Annual Meeting in San Diego in June. Meeting highlights included discussion on Board Certification, OE Tracker, Citizen Advocacy, accreditation of continuing education, new legislation and optometry accelerated programs.

- Our Investigator, Jeff May, retired in July after 12 years of serving the Board and the public. His replacement, Brian Landis, joined the Board staff on August 26th.
- Mr. Greene attended the East/West Eye Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in October as well as other optometry functions in Columbus during the year.
- Our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Nancy Ott, received the prestigious Friend of Optometry Award from the Ohio Optometric Association for her more than 32 years of self-less service to the Board and the public.
- In reference to the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force, all of our licensees received information regarding the available training video and Human Trafficking Policy. Both were placed on our website and all Board members and staff completed the training.
- In response to the Governor’s Executive Order 2013-05K, Streamlining the Occupational Licensing Process for Veterans, the Board updated our application to include military status for veterans and their spouse to identify and expedite the application process when possible.
- Mr. Greene was a member of the Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team, who developed a policy statement on Guidelines for Prescribing for the Treatment of Pain Optometry Practice. The policy statement was forwarded to all licensees and all optometrists were encouraged to utilize the OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.)

Board
Members

Stanley Warn, O.D.

President 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.

Thomas Bobst, O.D.

Secretary Term 6/1/11 – 9/24/15

Dr. Bobst, licensed since 1983, currently practices in North Olmsted, Ohio and resides in Rocky River, Ohio.

Michael R. Everhart

Public Member Term 11/16/12 – 9/24/17

Mr. Everhart is the former Executive Director of the Ohio State Board of Optometry and is also retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Jeffrey Fogt, O.D.

Member Term 10/27/11 – 9/24/16

Dr. Fogt, licensed since 1989 currently practices and resides in Defiance, Ohio.

Thomas Nye, O.D.

Member Term 10/10/12 – 9/24/17

Dr. Nye has been licensed since 1987. He currently practices and resides in Hamilton, Ohio.

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.

Organizational
Chart

GOVERNOR
JOHN R. KASICH

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SIX MEMBERS
BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER I
Stanley Warn, O.D. President
Thomas Bobst, O.D., Secretary
Mr. Michael Everhart
Jeff Fogt, O.D.
Thomas Nye, O.D.
Karen Riccio, O.D.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeffrey W. Greene

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR 2
Nancy L. Ott

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INVESTIGATOR
Brian W. Landis

Board
Member
Responsibilities

Dr. Warn	Supervision of patient complaints and other investigations
Dr. Bobst	Liaison to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
Dr. Fogt	Supervision of continuing education matters
Dr. Riccio	Legislative matters
Mr. Everhart	Budgetary issues
Dr. Nye	Monitor drug induced incident cases and report to the Board on pharmacology matters

Board Meetings

March 13, 2013	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
June 12, 2013	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
September 18, 2013	Columbus, Ohio	Board Meeting
December 11, 2013	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 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, be a graduate of an accredited College of Optometry and pass the required testing.

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 12/31/12:	2,199
Optometrists deceased in 2013:	2
Optometrists filing for inactive status for 2013:	67
Delinquent optometrists in 2013:	10
New optometry licensees issued:	71
Licensure reinstatements:	9
Licensure by endorsement:	4
Licensed optometrists as of 12/31/13:	2,204

Licensees by
license type

Optometrists holding therapeutic certification:	2,154
Optometrists holding diagnostic certification:	25
Optometrists licensed in general optometry only:	25

Licensees by
location

Optometrists practicing in Ohio:	1,922
Optometrists licensed in Ohio, but practicing out of state:	273
Optometrists on active military duty:	9

Continuing Education

During 2013 all licensed optometrists were required to submit proof of attendance for twenty five hours of annual continuing education or inform the Board to audit their hours on OE Tracker. 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. Applications for renewal are not processed for licensees until the required hours of continuing education are submitted to the Board. Failure to complete continuing education by September 30th and/or submit continuing education by October 20th each year results in a \$125.00 penalty fee unless a time waiver has been approved by the Board. In 2013 there were two various waiver requests approved.

During 2013 the Optometry Board members reviewed a total of 238 proposed continuing education programs.

The Board Staff continued to expand the use of the OE Tracker Program for auditing of the continuing education. The OE Tracker Program is a highly recognized program developed by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry. This program can be utilized by the Board Staff at no additional cost and will save optometrists from having to forward all certificates to the Board, thus saving time, paper and costs associated with our 100% auditing of continuing education. Although not mandatory, most optometrists are participating and we continue to receive extremely favorable feedback regarding the change in policy.

Financial
Report

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

FY 2013 Revenues

Licensure/renewal fees	\$382,300.00
Late/reinstatement fees	17,100.00
Miscellaneous fees	<u>1,440.00</u>
	\$400,849.00

FY 2013 Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits (Board & Staff)	\$284,506.86
Purchased Personal Services (Hearing officer, court reporter, Insurance, dues, etc.)	1,600.00
Expendable Goods & Services (Staff & Board travel, lodging, parking, conference fees, expendable office supplies)	59,029.61
Equipment (Computers, furniture, etc.)	1,009.00
Refunds	<u>.00</u>
	\$346,145.47
Unspent funds	\$ 1,132.53
<u>FY 2013 Budget</u>	\$347,278.00

Historical Revenues and Expenditures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unspent Funds</u>
2012	\$356,914	\$404,745	\$326,716	\$30,198
2011	\$346,185	\$307,549	\$336,517	\$ 9,667
2010	\$346,185	\$300,025	\$317,928	\$28,257

Investigations

The role of the Investigator for the Ohio State Board of Optometry is clearly defined as a position created to serve the 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 & Rules relating to licenses, name display, equipment requirements, and other Board regulations. The Board Investigator also enforces laws concerning advertising by Ohio optometrists and conducts Laws & Rules training sessions for newly licensed optometrists.

During 2013, the Board forwarded 40 sets of complaint forms to patients who had contacted the Board regarding problems with optometrists. Patients filed a total of 22 formal complaints in addition to 1 complaint initiated by the Board for investigation. During the year 21 complaints were investigated and finalized. Additionally, 109 on-site inspections were performed statewide. Advertising violation notification letters to optometrists were sent in regard to 6 separate advertising matters. In all advertising issues, responses were received that proper corrective action was taken to correct the matters. Additionally, the Investigator handled 7 office complaints with satisfactory resolution in each case.

The Board Investigator presented Laws & Rules training sessions to 99 licensees at 25 different dates throughout the year.

There were no formal disciplinary actions taken by the Board for the year. However, one optometrist was recommended to focus their continuing education hours in an area which aligned with a patient complaint at the direction of the Board President after conferring with the Assistant Attorney General on the matter.

Investigator's
Activity

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Complaints Investigated	13	23
Miscellaneous Investigations (office inquiries, office complaints)	15	11
Advertising Violation Investigations	2	6
Total Investigations	30	40
On-Site Inspections	182	109