

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF OPHTHALMIC DISPENSERS AND OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

May 21, 2003

The May meeting of the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians was convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, the Bergen Record, the Trenton Times, the Courier Post and the Star Ledger and was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

President Robert Troast convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded for these minutes.

PRESENT:

Theodore Bucon
Linda Cohen
Michael Higgins
Robert Kubick
Norman Schleiffer
John Valeri, Esq.
Jane Kenny
Robert Troast, President

ABSENT:

NONE

Public Attendees:

NONE

Also in Attendance:

Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director; Rhonda Pope Stephens, Deputy Attorney General; Linda Goba and Monica Perkins, Staff.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Public Session Minutes of March 12, 2003. Redactions were made as follow:
IV. New business: item "a" and "d" were moved to Executive Session.

On a motion by John Valeri seconded by Jane Kenny, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as redacted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. I/M/O/ Rose Meyers - Ms. Meyers submitted a request for a extension for the March 2003 examination at the April meeting. The extension was granted but the Board requested an official copy of Ms. Meyers transcripts. Also, a review of Board records show that Ms. Myers will be eligible to sit for examination no sooner that March 2004 because she must take Principles of Optics and pass Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab II.. **On a motion by Linda Cohen seconded by Jane Kenny, the Board**

unanimously granted Ms. Meyers the extension to March 2004, with proof that she passes Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab II.

b. Proposed Rule: N.J.A.C. 13:33-1.42, Identification Tags - Chuck Manning, Regulatory Analyst attended the Public Session Meeting to discuss Identification tags to be worn by all licensed opticians, licensed technicians, permit holders, and apprentices. A previous discussion by the Board revealed that certain permit holders do not receive wallet size identification cards. In addition, the Board determined that such identification tags negated the branch office license which currently requires payment of a fee and a separate branch office license. **On a motion by Linda Cohen seconded by Robert Kubick the Board voted as follows to terminate the pending rule. Board members in favor: Linda Cohen, Robert Kubick, Jane Kenny, and Ted Bucon. Opposed: Michael Higgins and Norman Schleiffer. Abstained: John Valeri**

III. APPRENTICE MATTERS

a. The Board reviewed a letter submitted by **Jessica Stewart** requesting approval of her apprenticeship though she failed to provide proof of enrollment (September,2000) to the Board as required and did not follow proper procedure in registering with the Board. She requested approval of apprenticeship so that she might sit for the Qualifying Technical Examination in September 2003. **On a motion by Linda Cohen seconded by John Valeri, the Board unanimously denied her request for approval of prior apprenticeship time, therefore she will not be eligible to sit for the September 2003 examination. Ms. Stewart will be so advised.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. The Board reviewed information from **Dr. David Hamilton, Executive Director of the New York State Board of Ophthalmic Dispensing** regarding multiple jurisdiction examinations administered by Capitol Hill Testing. In part, the letter indicated that where the New York model did not meet the requirements of a given State, Capitol Hill Testing would complete a task analysis and develop testing for a subset of skills and tasks not required in all participating jurisdictions.

On a motion by Linda Colon seconded by Norman Schleiffer, the Board unanimously declined the invitation to participate, at this time. Dr. Hamilton will be so advised.

b. The Board reviewed a letter from **Barbara Getz** requesting consideration of her 25 years experience in the optical field and requesting that the Board waive the requirement of a three-year apprenticeship. **On a motion by Norman Schleiffer seconded by Jane Kenny, the Board unanimously denied her request. She must register with the Board and complete her apprenticeship before she is eligible to sit for the State Board Examination or obtain an Associate Allied Science degree in Ophthalmic Science which would require a four month apprenticeship. Ms. Getz will be so advised and a copy of the statutes and regulations will be provided to her..**

c. The Board reviewed a letter from **Randolph Rogers** requesting that the courses he took at Vision Expo be accepted by the Board. The courses were reviewed and it was determined that none of the courses had been approved by the Board. **On a motion by Norman Schleiffer seconded by John Valeri, the Board unanimously denied the request for approval of the courses. Mr. Rogers will be advised that the courses were not approved and in the future, he may contact the board office for a listing of approved courses.**

d. The Board reviewed a letter from **Jane Zalkin** requesting an extension to obtain continuing education credits for the period ending December 31, 2001 and the current 2002-2003 licensure period. **On a motion by John Valeri seconded by Michael Higgins, the Board unanimously determined to grant the extension until 12/31/03 and to advise Ms. Zalkin that she must submit 9 continuing education credits for the 2000-2001 renewal period and 12 continuing education credits, three of**

which must be contact lens credits, for the 2002-2003 licensure period.

e. The Board reviewed a letter from the **ANSI Committee Z80 requesting that the Board** consider the use of the current version of ANSI Z80.1 for prescription dress eyewear and the current version of ANSI Z87.1 for industrial safety eyewear rather than the New Jersey regulations governing prescription eyewear as covered in N.J.A.C. 13:33-1.38. The Committee offered a comparative analysis of the New Jersey and ANSI Z80.1 standards . **It was the consensus of the Board to thank the ANSI Committee for its interest in New Jersey standards and to request to be kept apprised of any future developments regarding its standards.**

f. The Board reviewed the Board of Optometrists April 16, 2003 Public Session Agenda **as informational.**

g. The Board reviewed the Board of Optometrists February 19, 2002 Public Session Minutes **as informational.**

h. The Board reviewed the March 25, 2003 Examination results **as informational.**

i. The Board reviewed the contract for use of Raritan Valley Community College facilities for the March 18, 2004 examination. **It was the consensus of the Board to reagendaize this matter upon receipt of information regarding liability insurance.**

There being no other business to come before the Board in Public Session, on a motion by John Valeri seconded by Michael Higgins, the meeting was adjourned. The Board convened into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel, to review one consumer complaint, to hold one investigative inquiry, to review three inspections, and to review three matters involving old business.

The Board reconvened in Public Session. The next scheduled meeting will be June 18, 2003. There being no other business to come before the Board in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director