

# STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF OPHTHALMIC DISPENSERS AND OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS

## PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

September 10, 2003

The September 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  
Jane Kenny  
Norman Schleiffer  
John Valeri, Esq.  
Robert Troast, President  
Michael Higgins  
Robert Kubick

**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 July 9, 2003. On a motion by Linda Cohen seconded by Robert Kubick, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as submitted.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

a. The Board reviewed an explanation of budget procedures relative to the Division of Law Billing from Darlene Kane, Budget Analyst, of Division of Consumer Affairs as informational.

## **III. APPRENTICE MATTERS**

a. Diana Blanco submitted a letter requesting an extension for the September 2003 examination due to her wedding and reservations for her honeymoon trip. On a motion by Linda Cohen seconded by Norman Schleiffer, the Board granted Ms. Blanco an extension until the March 2004 examination.

b. Eric Shenenberger submitted a letter requesting an extension for the September 2003 examination due to insufficient educational requirements. It was the consensus of the Board to deny his request for

the September 2003 at this time until he can show proof of enrollment. The Board will schedule an investigative inquiry for Mr. Shenenberger and his preceptor.

c. Mary Balkie is requesting to sit for the Ophthalmic Dispensers Examination on September 2003, instead of the Qualifying Technical Exam which she is eligible for due to educational requirements. On a motion by Norman Schleiffer seconded by Ted Bucon, the Board unanimously denied her request to sit for the Ophthalmic Dispensers Exam, because she does not have the 3-year apprenticeship time. She must also challenge courses at Raritan Valley Community College. Ms. Balkie will be so advised.

d. Sarah Passero was notified that she passed the written and neutralization portion of the State Examination and failed shop. A review of records show she passed shop and failed the other two parts. Ms. Passero should have been scheduled to sit for the written and neutralization examination. It was the consensus of the Board to grant Ms. Passero an extension until the March 2004 examination.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

a. The Board reviewed a letter by Gary Iavarone requesting to become a member of the State Licensing Board to which appointments are made by the Governor. This matter was referred to the Division of Consumer Affairs.

b. Shawn Shahbahrami submitted a letter requesting a permit until he is eligible to sit for the next scheduled exam. On a motion by Norman Schleiffer seconded by Ted Bucon, the Board unanimously determined that more information was needed before a determination can be made. The Board requested that Mr. Shahbahrami provide the name of the preceptor to be approved, proof of enrollment and proof of 30 credits. Mr. Shahbahrami will be so advised. This matter will be reagendized upon receipt of information.

c. The Board reviewed the Board of Optometry Regular Session Agenda for July 16, 2003 as informational.

d. The Board reviewed the Board of Optometry Regular Session Minutes for May 21, 2003 as informational.

e. The Board reviewed the 2003 Final Budget Report as informational.

#### **V. STATUTES AND REGULATIONS**

a. The Board reviewed the Bill Analysis for Senate Bill 1033 - N.J.S.A. 14A:17-3 - Professional Services as informational.

There being no other business to come before the Board in Public Session, on a motion by John Valeri, seconded by Robert Kubick, the meeting was adjourned. The Board convened into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel to hold nine (9) investigative inquiries, to review two consumer complaints, to review two matters of new business and eight (8) matters involving old business.

The Board reconvened in Public Session. The next scheduled meeting will be October 8, 2003. There being no other business to come before the Board in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorcus K. O'Neal  
Executive Director

