

# STATE OF NEVADA



## Board of Dispensing Opticians

### Minutes of Public Meeting

**June 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

Board meeting took place via teleconference at:

Office of the Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians:  
4747 Caughlin Parkway, Front Conference Room  
Reno, Nevada 89519

**Board Members Present:**

Jennifer Letten, President  
Mark Myers, Vice President  
Tamara Sternod, Secretary  
Marilyn Brainard, Treasurer

**Board Staff Present:**

Corinne Sedran, Executive Director  
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

1. Call to order  
Board President Jennifer Letten called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:02 p.m.
2. Public comment  
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes  
**April 11, 2019 Board Meeting**  
**Motion:** Marilyn Brainard moved to approve the minutes as presented.  
**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.
4. Announcement of newly licensed Ophthalmic Dispensers:  
**690 Xenia Orozco**  
**691 Maria Remmel**  
**692 Maja Kocovska**
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and updates on ABO/NCLE Exams with ABO President Jim Morris  
**Discussion:** Jim Morris, President of the American Board of Opticianry, gave updates on the exams. He stated there had been a problem with the newest forms of the ABO and NCLE Practical Exams: the exam provider did not inform them of a technological glitch in the exam that affected exams for several agencies and created problems with the virtual keratometers and lensometers. The ABO learned of the issue the first week of May after several exams had already been given; they pulled the exams in response and created a committee to address the issue. The affected exam-takers were contacted and scheduled to retake the exams free of charge. The ABO also just finished analyses and blueprints for a new set of exams. This process takes place every 5 to 7 years and took seven months to complete. Exam administration should now proceed without issue for several years.

Mr. Morris stated the ABO and NCLE Practical Exams are being adopted by several more states as their licensing exams, with Florida and Kentucky being the most recent. Ms. Sedran asked whether other states are currently using the Advanced Exams for licensing purposes. Mr. Morris said other boards had considered adopting those exams but decided against it after reviewing the exam content. He reviewed the current pass rates for the various exams, stating the ABO Basic stands at 65%, NCLE Basic at 62% to 64%, and both practical exams at around 70% nationally. The pass rate for the ABO Advanced Exam is 45% and NCLE Advanced Exam is 30%. Ms. Sternod asked Mr. Morris to verify that persons taking the Advanced Exams, other than Nevada applicants, must wait three years after passing their Basic Exams. Mr. Morris said that is correct except for persons who have graduated from one of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools, which includes 28 schools. He stated the pass rates for Nevada applicants taking the Advanced Exams are higher than the national rate if the first-year statistics are removed, and currently stand at 71% for the ABO Advanced Exam and 43% for the NCLE Advanced Exam.

Mr. Myers stated he reviewed the contents of the Advanced Exams at a closed meeting and did not encounter any material that had not been included on the original Nevada licensing exam. Ms. Letten stated that was her opinion of the exam content as well. Ms. Sedran stated the board needs a more in-depth educational program to offer its licensees as the home-study alternative. Mr. Morris said the

ABO is now offering review courses for the Advanced Exams at VisionExpo. Ms. Letten stated the Board has a Committee on License Equivalence, but at this time it appears no other state has equivalent licensing requirements. Mr. Morris said the current trend is for states to adopt the Basic and Practical Exams, but not the Advanced Exams, so at this time the other states' requirements are not equivalent.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations by Committee on Apprentice Training Requirements  
The Committee Chair did not have any items to report.
7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations by Committee on License Equivalence  
**Discussion:** Mr. Myers said he has been reviewing the interstate portability and equivalence of ophthalmic dispensing licenses since the last meeting. It is difficult to determine if another state's exam content is equivalent to the ABO/NCLE Advanced Exam material without reviewing it in person. Mr. Morris stated there are only three states still administering their own exams at this time: New York and Connecticut administer their own practical exams and New Jersey conducts all its own testing. Ms. Sedran asked Mr. Myers if he was able to determine whether other states had similar training requirements to Nevada's, such as apprenticeship or on-the-job training requirements. Mr. Myers stated it can be difficult to get answers from the other licensing boards and he is often referred to the boards' websites. Mr. Morris suggested speaking to individual members of the boards, rather than board staff. He said he maintains a list of the individual states' requirements that he will share with the Board.
8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and discussion of Assembly Bill 77 with Adopted Amendments  
**Discussion:** Ms. Sedran stated Assembly Bill 77 was adopted with various amendments, including those requested by the Board. Ms. Letten thanked everyone for their contributions in addressing AB 77.
9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Legislative session updates and review of legislative tracking  
**Discussion:** Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott discussed some of the changes that will go into effect now that the 2019 legislative session has ended, including changes to the Open Meeting Law. The changes should not be tremendously onerous to the boards.
10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Proposals and discussion of future statute/regulation changes  
**Discussion:** Ms. Sedran reviewed previously suggested items. Ms. Sternod suggested waiving the licensing exam requirements for persons who have obtained degrees from National Federation of Opticianry schools.
11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Financials
  - a. Review and acceptance of **March and April 2019** financial reports  
**Motion:** Ms. Brainard moved to approve the financial reports as presented. She noted the Board is doing very well financially, with funds being expended where most necessary and beneficial.  
**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Discussion and decision on 2019 COL/pay adjustment for Executive Director  
**Discussion:** Ms. Letten stated the Board granted the Executive Director a cost of living adjustment and performance increase in October 2017 but not in 2018. The mandatory PERS

contribution rate has increased and Ms. Letten suggested a pay increase to cover the difference, plus a retroactive cost of living and performance adjustment, would be appropriate. She proposed a 5% pay increase, to be made retroactive to October 2018.

**Motion:** Ms. Brainard moved to increase the Executive Director's pay by 5%, retroactive to October 2018.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

12. Executive Director's report

Ms. Sedran updated the Board on progress made on the licensing database and online license applications.

13. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Future agenda items

Ms. Letten asked that the Executive Director's pay increase be added as a standing item to the August meeting agendas.

14. Public comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Letten thanked everyone who had attended and closed the meeting at 6:36 p.m.