

# STATE OF NEVADA



## Board of Dispensing Opticians

### Minutes of Public Meeting:

December 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

**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  
Ms. Jennifer Letten began the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and called roll. There were no members of the public present.
2. Public comment  
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes  
**October 10, 2019** Board Meeting  
**Motion:** Mr. Myers moved to approve the minutes as presented.  
**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.
4. Announcement of newly licensed Ophthalmic Dispensers:  
**710 Kathleen Freitas**
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations by assigned board member on atypical applications and requests; review and approval of Apprenticeship Extension Request Form:
  - a. **Rios, Juan**  
**Discussion:** Ms. Letten noted the apprentice had submitted documentation supporting his

personal statement and she believes the circumstances warrant an extension. Ms. Sternod disagreed, noting the applicant has been licensed 48 months; she believes the same deadlines should be applied to everyone. Ms. Sedran stated the regulations allow for one extension of the license, provided there are extreme extenuating circumstances and the request is made at least 90 days before the expiration of the license. Mr. Ott explained the Board should always strive for consistency in its decisions when determining whether to grant an extension. If the Board has granted extensions under similar circumstance in the past, it should do so again. Factual differences between requests will be important if the Board makes a different decision in the future.

**Motion:** Ms. Sternod moved to deny the request.

**Vote:** The motion did not receive a second.

**Motion:** Mr. Myers moved to grant the applicant a 12-month extension of his apprentice license.

**Vote:** The motion passed with a vote of 3 in favor and 1 opposed.

b. **Vega, Luis (This item was discussed prior to item 5a.)**

**Discussion:** Ms. Letten asked whether any supporting documentation had been supplied with the applicant's request. Ms. Sedran stated no further documentation had been provided. Ms. Sternod said the circumstances detailed in the request do not constitute a reason for an extension and the 40-month timeline should be imposed in this case. Mr. Myers stated he is not opposed to having another conversation on the item, provided the applicant sends further documentation.

**Motion:** Ms. Letten moved to deny the request.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

c. Review and approval of Apprenticeship Extension Request Form

**Discussion:** Ms. Letten said it was a good idea to have a standard form for extension requests with the deadline clearly stated so people are not confused about how to apply. The board members agreed the new form should be used going forward. Mr. Ott stated this item does not require a vote.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations by Committee on License Equivalence  
The Committee Chair had no items to report.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Proposals and discussion of Board statute/regulation changes  
Ms. Sedran reviewed previous proposals. The board members had no further items to add.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Financials  
Review and acceptance of **September and October 2019** financial reports

**Motion:** Ms. Sternod moved to approve the reports as presented.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

**Administrative Items:**

a. Review of licensing numbers and exam statistics

Ms. Sedran reviewed current licensing numbers and exam statistics with the board. The number of apprentices stands at 162 and opticians at 372 as of the meeting date. Licensing numbers have increased each year with the board granting a record high of 31 new optician licenses in 2019. The exam pass rates continue to range between 50% and 75%, for the Basic ABO/NCLE Exams, between 40% and 70% for the Practical Exams, and between 35% and 50% for the Advanced Exams.

b. State-required reporting updates

Ms. Sedran apprised the board of required reports submitted to various state agencies since the

last meeting.

c. Discussion and updates on SCR6 Interim Legislation

Ms. Sedran stated there are no updates on this legislation at this time. The legislation addresses qualifications for hearing officers as well as various concerns about the lack of operating uniformity amongst the licensing boards. The board will need to keep an eye on any action the Legislative Committee takes on this resolution in upcoming months.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

d. Review and approval of proposed contract with Neena Laxalt for 2020-21 lobbying services

**Motion:** Ms. Letten moved to approve the contract as presented, pending receipt of bids from other potential lobbyists.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Board member comment and future agenda items

Mr. Myers stated he would like to research other educational opportunities for apprentices. Mr. Ott advised that Mr. Myers was free to research various options so long as he does not correspond with other board members regarding his research outside of meetings. Any options will need to be reviewed and approved by the full board at a public meeting. Ms. Sedran stated she will add any suggestions for programs to a future meeting agenda.

11. Public comment

There was no public comment. Ms. Letten adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.