

TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 5, 2023
TIME: 9:00 A.M. CST
LOCATION: Health Related Boards
Poplar Room
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Kurt Steele, O.D.
Linda Tharp, O.D.
James Venable, O.D.
Kenneth Young, O.D.

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Tonya Reynoldson, O.D.
Consumer Member – Vacant

STAF

PRESENT: Kimberly Wallace, Regulatory Board Administrative Director
Maria Johnston, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant
Eric Winters, Senior Associate General Counsel

Call to Order

Dr. Steele, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. CST. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present.

Ms. Kimberly Wallace introduced herself as the Executive Director for the Administrative Office, Ms. Maria Johnston, Board Administrator, and Mr. Eric Winters, Board Advisory Attorney.

Discuss and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 5, 2023, Board Meeting

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp.

Mr. Winters did see a few corrections that need to be made on page four (4) under Consent Orders that should be moved down to Agreed Orders and anything that mentions Consent Orders should be Agreed Orders regarding Dr. Sams; references to be updated for T.C.A. 63-8-120 for rule to read .05 instead of .01.

Ms. Wallace noted these changes.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp to approve the Minutes and the corrections from the April 5, 2023, Board Meeting, as written. A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Receive Reports and/or Request from the Office of Investigations

Report of Complaints & Currently Monitored Practitioners

Barbara Granum, Intake Coordinator from the Office of Investigations, was present to provide the investigative reports to the Board.

PERIOD: 2023 Calendar Year Complaints

New Complaints	Number of Complaints
Total # New Complaints	4
Total Closed Complaints	6
Closed – No Findings	1
Complaint Closed	5
Malpractice/Negligence	1
Unprofessional Conduct	3
Total Newly Opened Complaints	4

Receive Reports and/or Requests from the Division of Health Licensure and Regulation

Ms. Keeyona Love, Fiscal Manager, presented the FY23 Projected Report to the Board, with highlights as follows:

- Total Expenses: \$162,536.44
- Board Fee Revenue: \$198,672.00
- Current Year Net: \$36,135.56
- Cumulative Carryover: \$1,777,939.21

Dr. Tharp asked when the fee reduction will go into effect. Mr. Winter’s confirmed the fee reduction previously approved is in Internal Review.

Discuss and take action as necessary regarding Legislation

There were no legislative items for the Board to review.

Receive Reports and/or Requests from the Board Administrative Office

Administrative Report

Ms. Johnston presented the Administrator’s report to the Board, as follows:

PERIOD: As of March 30, 2023

Total # Currently Licensed Optometrists	1,363
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LICENSE STATUS SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING PERIOD:

January 3, 2023, to March 30, 2023

New Licensed	9
Reinstatement	1
Retirement	5
Paper Renewals	41
Online Renewals	125

Ms. Johnston also presented the Travel and Lodging rates, as follow:

- The current mileage rate is \$0.655 cents per mile
- The current meals and incidentals rate is \$59.25 per day for an overnight stay

The current maximum reimbursement rate for hotel lodging in Nashville for upcoming meetings dates is as follows (rate re-sets each October)

- July \$207.00

Upcoming dates for the 2023 Board Meetings, as follow:

- October 11, 2023

ARBO Inquiries of the Administrative Office

CE for Controlled Substances

In reference to the Board’s “Policy Statement for CE in Controlled Substances” and Rule 1045-02-.05(1)(a):

With the Board’s change to this policy in January 2023 - from accepting only those prescribing courses as offered by SCO and TAOP, to accepting all COPE-approved courses - ARBO now needs clarification as to how they will know which COPE-approved pharmacology courses meet “the Department’s treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics approved by the Board” as it is written in the rules.

ARBO has noted that in 2022, there were three hundred and nine (309) Pharmacology courses qualified by COPE. Ninety-six (96) Pharmacology courses have been submitted to COPE so far in 2023. ARBO cannot determine if the content of these courses meets the TN-specific guidelines noted in the Rules and asks if the Board then, will accept any, and all, COPE-approved pharmacology courses as meeting this CE requirement?

In addition, ARBO has stated that, historically, the Board approved just SCO and TAOP as the Board had reviewed and approved their content as meeting the TN Rules. With the recent approval for Dr. Gregory Caldwell’s course, the Board could possibly start getting multiple requests from others seeking approval for offering courses as well if they return to a specific list of Board-approved courses. The current Policy for Continuing Education in Controlled Substance reads as follows:

"TN BOARD OF OPTOMETRY"

Policy for Continuing Education in Controlled Substances

As part of the continuing education requirements to maintain licensure in the State of Tennessee, optometrists shall complete two (2) hours of Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) approved continuing education in controlled substance prescribing pursuant to Rule 104502-.05(1)(a).

Approved by the Board on January 5, 2022

Amended by the Board on January 12, 2023

Dr. Venable noted that when the Board changed the policy in January, it was under the belief that ARBO would be able to review and determine what courses meet the TN rule requirement, however, ARBO has stated that is not the case. Dr. Venable is afraid that many of the COPE-approved courses would not meet the TN requirements. He believes the Board will have to review and approve courses on a provider-by-provider basis.

Dr. Young noted, we either go back to the old way with just two or it opens the door to the Board having to review every course for acceptance.

Dr. Venable doesn't think there will be a great influx of proposed prescribing courses. He referenced the DEA rule changes for courses, but their changes do not match all the requirements for TN.

Dr. Venable confirmed with Mr. Winters, since the policy changes discussed will not restrict the providers for the course, it does not present a conflict of interest for him to participate in a vote on this matter.

The Board discussed amendments to the policy to include that the Board will review the content of courses for controlled substance prescribing, and courses will require COPE approval after receiving review with approval by the Board.

The Board agreed to add "**Approved Providers List**" to the Board's CE Website page. The current approved providers include Southern College of Optometry (SCO) and Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians (TAOP). Dr. Gregory Caldwell's course will be listed by the entity, the course title, the COPE approval number and the date the COPE ID number expires.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to accept the policy as drafted during the meeting and read into the record by Mr. Winters, as follows:

"TN BOARD OF OPTOMETRY"

Policy for Continuing Education in Controlled Substances

As part of the continuing education requirements to maintain licensure in the State of Tennessee, optometrists shall complete two (2) hours of continuing education in controlled substance prescribing pursuant to Rule 1045-02-.05(1)(a). Submissions for course approval must be submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to a scheduled board meeting pursuant to Rule 104502-.06(3).

Courses will be initially approved by the Board, at a regularly scheduled meeting, to ensure course content meets the State requirements regarding controlled substance prescribing. The course then must be subsequently reviewed and approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE). If the State's requirements, or the provider's course content changes, continuing education providers must resubmit the course for Board and COPE approval."

With a second made by Dr. Tharp. Discussion: The policy language was read into the record. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-COPE CEs

In reference to the Board's rule 1045-02-.05(2)(a)2, with the list presented on the Board's website of 6 providers not needing COPE-approval for acceptance of CE hours:

ARBO has received a CE submission from a licensee who has obtained NON-COPE approved credits through the Lonesome Pine Optometric Society, which appears to be a subsidiary of the Virginia Optometric Association.

Does the acceptance of credits from the 6 approved vendors include the trickle down to subsidiaries of those vendors, or only from those six (6) organizations specifically named?

The language as it appears currently on the Board's CE page of their website for Approved Vendors is as follows:

CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVED VENDORS LIST

Course(s) sponsored by an Optometry College accredited by the American Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).

Course(s) sponsored by the American Optometric Association (AOA) or an affiliate of the AOA.

Course(s) sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians (TAOP) or an affiliate of TAOP.

Course(s) sponsored by the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) or an affiliate of the AAO.

Course(s) offered at Southern Educational Congress of Optometry (SECO)

Course(s) offered at Tennessee Academy of Optometry

The Tennessee Board of Optometry reserves the right to amend this list as necessary. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Secretary of the Tennessee Board of Optometry.

The current rule reference for the list of approved vendors reads:

Rule 1045-02-.05 CONTINUING EDUCATION

(2) Approval of Continuing Education

(a) For those courses requiring Board approval, the information required by subparagraph (2)(d) must be submitted to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the actual date of the course.

However, no prior approval is required for the following:

2. Educational courses sponsored by an organization listed on the Board's website with the Tennessee Department of Health.

Dr. Venable's opinion is that a "trickle down" organizations would not be covered. He would be in favor of removing the language "or an affiliate of" from the list of approved vendors.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve ARBO's request regarding the licensee receiving hours through Lonesome Pine and accept those hours as an affiliate of the American Optometric Association (AOA). A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tharp made a motion to remove the language "or an affiliate" from the website list of vendors effective January 1, 2024. A second was made by Dr. Venable.

Discussion: Mr. Winters noted there may have been licensees taking courses through an affiliate already or registered to take courses through an affiliate that need time to complete the courses before the change takes place.

Discussion continued about the Board's intent to move to all CEs being COPE approved, at which time, the list would become of no effect. Dr. Steele noted it is worth addressing now, as the rule making is in internal effect.

The motion passed unanimously at the conclusion of the discussion.

CELMO PROGRAM

ARBO has a service named the Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO), which they presented to the Board back in 2005. This program charges a fee to licensees for ARBO to gather their license verifications from all states they may be licensed in, and any disciplinary information on a licensee, for presentation to a Board to accompany a license application. In 2005, the Board acknowledged CELMO as a "significant credential" but then noted that they would have to submit it to the Commissioner's Office for review. Upon researching through all Minutes from 2005 and 2006, the Board never took any further action on the CELMO program, however, ARBO lists TN as a participant in this program.

The documents collected through CELMO are all documents that the Board's rules require to be sent to the Administrative Office of the Board directly from the source (other state licensure office, college/university, etc.).

ARBO has noted that they receive very few requests from licensees regarding the CELMO program.

Therefore, the Board is requested to review whether they would like to request ARBO to remove TN from their list of states that accept a CELMO certificate.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to remove ARBO from their participant list of accepting the CELMO certificate. A second was made by Dr. Young.

Discussion: Dr. Tharp is working with ARBO on this program and needs to recuse from the vote, therefore there is not a quorum to vote on it and will be tabled until the next meeting, when there will be a quorum to vote.

Receive Reports and/or Requests from the Office of General Counsel

Mr. Winters presented the OGC Report, as follows:

Conflict of Interest

Mr. Winters reviewed the Conflict of Interest and Open Meetings Act statements with the Board, as follows:

If you have a personal or financial interest in the outcome of any issue or matter before this Board that may suggest a bias on your part, you are asked to state that interest on the record so that a determination

can be made as to whether there exists a need for recusal. You are reminded that it is the duty of this Board to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and that the administration of this solemn responsibility is dependent upon avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.

Open Meetings Act

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Board business may only be discussed by the Board members during the meeting. Members should not discuss the Board's business at any time other than during the open Board meeting. The prohibition applies to phone calls, e-mails, and text messages. Board members should also ensure that all comments during the meeting are stated for all to hear; private conversations between or among members during the meeting are inappropriate.

Rule Activity

There are three (3) rule packets that are in internal review: amendments to Rules .08 (Corporate or Business Names and Advertising), .09 (Spectacles, Contact Lens Prescriptions, and Office Technology), and new rule .19 (Change of Address and/or Name); a fee reduction under .01; and amendments to Rules .05 (Continuing Education) and .07 (Diagnostic and Therapeutic Certification).

Disciplinary Activity

There are currently three (3) licensees being monitored by the Disciplinary Coordinator. There are zero (0) cases in the Office of General Counsel.

Legislation

There is currently no legislation pertinent to the Board to be discussed.

Dr. Venable's asked Mr. Winters to describe the difference between a licensee being monitored for discipline versus a licensee being investigated. Mr. Winters described the difference.

Presentation of Orders, Agreed Citations, and Other Disciplinary Items

Consent Orders

There were no consent orders for the Board to review.

Declaratory Orders

There were no Declaratory Orders for the Board to review at this meeting.

Orders of Compliance

There were no Orders of Compliance for the Board to review at this meeting.

Requests for Order Modifications

There were no requests for Order Modifications for the Board to review at this meeting.

Agreed Citations

Ms. Wallace presented the following Agreed Citations that were issued by the Administrative Office for Continuing Education Violation.

CE Agreed Citation – Dominique Barton, O.D. #3587

Dr. Barton was in violation for continuing education of T.C.A. 63-8-101 and Rule 1045-02-.01. She is deficient for CE cycle December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2022, eleven (11) continuing education hours in Ocular Disease/Related Systemic Disease. She has paid the Civil Penalty in the amount of

two-hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and is required to complete eleven (11) continuing education hours in Ocular Disease/Related Systemic Disease, the amount determined to be deficient, within ninety (90) days of the Agreed Citation.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve the Agreed Citation, as written, for Dominique Barton, #3587. A second was made by Dr. Tharp. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Agreed Citation – James Bondurant, O.D. #2834

Dr. Bondurant was in violation for continuing education of T.C.A. 63-8-101 and Rule 1045-02-.01. He is deficient for CE cycle August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2022, six (6) continuing education hours. He has paid the Civil Penalty in the amount of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) and is required to complete six (6) continuing education hours, the amount determined to be deficient, within ninety (90) days of the Agreed Citation.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve the Agreed Citation, as written for James Bondurant, #2834. A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE- Agreed Citation – Dennis Cosgrove, O.D. #1567

Dr. Cosgrove was in violation for continuing education of T.C.A. 63-8-101 and Rule 1045-02-.01. He is deficient for CE cycle November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2022, one (1) continuing education hour. He has paid the Civil Penalty in the amount of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) and is required to complete one (1) continuing education hour, the amount determined to be deficient, within ninety (90) days of the Agreed Citation.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve the Agreed Citation, as written for Dennis Cosgrove, #1567. A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE- Agreed Citation – Joshua Oliver, O.D. #3686

Dr. Oliver was in violation for continuing education of T.C.A. 63-8-101 and Rule 1045-02-.01. He is deficient for CE cycle December 1, 2020, to November 30, 2022, two (2) continuing education hours. He has paid the Civil Penalty in the amount of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) and is required to complete two (2) continuing education hours, the amount determined to be deficient, within ninety (90) days of the Agreed Citation.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve the Agreed Citation, as written for Joshua Oliver, #3686. A second was made by Dr. Tharp. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Applicant Interviews/File Review/Waivers & Other Request

Ms. Wallace presented the following Applicant Interviews/File Reviews/ Waivers & Requests as follows:

File Review – Randall Thomas, O.D. #1196 Reinstatement

Dr. Thomas was available by phone. Dr. Thomas's TN license was voluntarily retired on September 30, 1994. His TN license did not include injectable certification. He has been practicing in North

Carolina from June 1993 through December 2019, and his NC license was issued in 1981 and remains active in good standing as of the verification letter received for his file. He is credentialed to use injections in North Carolina. He does not have a separate certificate for injectables to present with his file. Information regarding NC's injectable requirements are included in his file. This application is being presented to the Board for a decision on the reinstatement of license.

Dr. Venable discussed Dr. Thomas' experience in surgical procedures and injectable procedures under his North Carolina license. Dr. Thomas discussed the injectable courses he has taken and confirmed he has not used them in his practice and has not completed injectables in his practice. He cited family reasons for wanting to relocate to Tennessee. He retired in North Carolina in December 2019 from full time care, he provides substitute work on a PRN basis. Dr. Venable noted Dr. Thomas's reputation, but also noted the TN rules requiring proof of competence in surgical procedures. He asked Dr. Thomas if he would be willing to sit for and successfully complete the surgical component of the LPSE Exam. Dr. Thomas agreed he would be willing to sit for and successfully complete the surgical component of the LPSE exam. Dr. Venable states he would move that the injectable certification question is confirmed as acceptable, as North Carolina requirements are similar to Tennessee's requirements. Tennessee doesn't have limited degrees for licensure, he should be confirmed as competent in minor surgical procedures.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to accept his documentation of being certified and competent in the area of injections and no further documentation is needed in that area for licensure. A second was made by Dr. Young.

Discussion: Dr. Venable clarified that he believes Dr. Thomas does meet the criteria for injectable certification in Tennessee. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to Dr. Thomas to provide to the Board documentation of having successfully completed a course including wet lab in the LPSE Exam or documentation of completion of a course that meets the statutes for the surgical procedures, must be complete within six (6) months, or submit documentation of successful completion of appropriate course in conjunction with his North Carolina license, upon receipt of documentation, the application for reinstatement will be approved. A second made by Dr. Young. Discussion: It was confirmed that Dr. Thomas agreed with the 6 (six) month time frame to obtain the certificate of completion of the minor surgical course completed in North Carolina. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Extension – Rachelle Jackson, O.D. #3351

Dr. Jackson provided supporting medical documentation to the Board and requested a one-week extension to complete her live continuing education hours for her CE Cycle March 1, 2021, to February 28, 2023.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp to approve the one-week extension to complete her live continuing education hours for CE cycle 2021-2023. A second was made by Dr. Venable. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Waiver – Joshua Robinson, O.D. #3433

Dr. Robinson provided supporting medical documentation to the Board and requested a four-day extension to complete his live continuing education hours for her CE Cycle March 1, 2021, to February 28, 2023.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp to approve the four-day extension to 5.25 CE hours, submit to ARBO as soon as possible, for his CE cycle 2021-2023. A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Waiver – Scott Gentry #827

Dr. Gentry provided supporting medical documentation to the Board and requested a waiver for is NON-COPE CE hours that were completed. He is deficient by 18.25 COPE hours for his CE cycle March 31, 2021, to February 28, 2023. A CE Agreed Citation has not been issued.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp to approve 18.25 NON-COPE CE hours for his CE cycle March 31, 2021, to February 28, 2023. A second was made by Dr. Venable, who also attested that Dr. Gentry was a registrant for this past week's CE event. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Waiver – Joseph Lutche #1830

Dr. Lutche requested a waiver or extension to complete January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, CE Cycle. He completed forty (40) COPE CE hours, but he did not meet the required twenty-five live CE hours. A CE Agreed Citation has not been issued. Per his OE tracker he completed twenty-five (25) online CE hours, with fifteen (15) enduring, ten (10) interactive and fifteen (15) in person CE hours.

Dr. Lutche contacted the Administrative Office on January 23, 2023, Zendesk ticket 970833 and informed us that he was attempting to renew his license online and when asked the question about having completed the CE requirements for the renewal period, he was having trouble. He stated that he would not have his CE hours of the online versus live requirements met until after the end of his CE Cycle and wanted to know how to proceed so that he could renew his license. He stated that “no” was the appropriate choice for him to choose on the renewal application form question since he had received the notice from ARBO of being out of compliance.

The licensing system will only allow a licensee to proceed with the online renewal if they select “yes” to meeting the requirements, selecting “no” requires them to stop and contact our office.

Ms. Wallace held a discussion with the Board's attorney, Mr. Winters, after Ms. Johnston's call with Dr. Lutche, asking if an admission by a licensee in this scenario would prompt a “for cause” CE audit for our office, as we now conduct the 5% random audits, and Mr. Winters agreed it would. Further, they discussed that we should attach documentation of the phone call and the licensee's OE Tracker to his account file, to document that he was able to check the “yes” button and proceed to renew his license after contacting our office.

Dr. Lutche has now submitted a request for a waiver of the live hour requirement, or an extension to take the live hours he was deficient.

The Board accepts COPE-approved CE hours under the category as recorded in the OE Tracker and submitted by the course provider.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve and accept the documentation as sufficient evidence of completion of the required forty (40) hours for the January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, CE cycle and therefore waive the in person, live requirement. A second was made by Dr. Young.

Discussion: Dr. Tharpe states it may be opening a can of worms to other requests by not requiring him to re-complete the hours as live. Dr. Venable noted that the rule requirements are in process to change to allow thirty (30) hours for online formats, but awaiting the finalization of the rule change, as his basis for his motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CE Waiver – Stephen Simpson #2428

Dr. Simpson provided supporting Military deployment documentation to the Board and requested a waiver or extension for CE cycle ending August 31, 2023, his license expires September 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Dr. Venable to approve a waiver of the CE requirements due to the theatre of operations in which Dr. Simpson is serving. A second was made by Dr. Tharp. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of Licensure Files – Newly licensed, Reinstatements, and Closed/Withdrawn Files

Ms. Wallace commented that all files on the ratification list have been reviewed and found complete and in good order according to the Rules for new licensure, closure of licensure, and reinstatement of license.

Board of Optometry

Ratification List for 01/03/2023 to 03/30/2023

Newly Licensed

License #	Name	License Expire Date
3794	Appel, Christopher	9/30/2024
3795	Baird, Adam W	6/30/2024
3797	Bolden, Haley Brooke	5/31/2024
3796	Maze, David	3/31/2025
3798	Nguyen, Thu Anh	8/31/2025
3802	Norris, Jacob	1/31/2025
3793	Rasnick, Chelsea Elizabeth	4/30/2025
3800	Stover, Robert	2/28/2025
3792	Taylor, Mia Samantha	8/31/2024

Reinstatement from Retired / Expired

License#	Name	License Expiry Date
2582	Moran, Jason Patrick	12/31/2024

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp to approve the ratification list as written. A second was made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Receive Reports and take action as needed regarding Taskforce/Committee Reports

CSMD Report

Dr. Venable noted he has attended one virtual meeting thus far since his appointment to this committee, which was an approval of the annual report to the General Assembly. The report was approved and submitted by the stated deadline. The project stated for the third consecutive year, the list of opiate prescriptions has declined 3 to 9 % over the last three (3) years.

Review of Correspondence and Notices

Ms. Wallace commented the next three items are informational only and no Board action is required.

Notice – ACOE Call for Comments

No action needed by the Board on this item, it was for notification only.

Notice – ACOE Covid-19 Update

No action needed by the Board on this item, it was for notification only.

Notice – NBEO 2023 Announcements

No action needed by the Board on this item, it was for notification only.

Conference/Event Reports and Upcoming Events Review

Ms. Wallace noted that those who were previously approved to attend the ARBO Annual Meeting will be contacted once the internal approvals have been obtained by the Administrative Office.

Discuss Old & New Board Business

Dr. Tharp Appointment to the ARBO Board

ARBO is comprised of state boards and have several committees. Dr. Tharp has recently been involved with these committees and is requesting the Board's permission to sit as an ARBO Board Member. Dr. Tharp has just recently also been reappointed to the TN State Board.

For today's Board Meeting, there's not a quorum to vote as Dr. Tharp must recuse herself.

The Board believes no motion or vote is required, but the Board acknowledges and agrees to Dr. Tharp's participation on the ARBO Board.

Dr. Tharp will sign a new Conflict of Interest Form if/after appointment by ARBO.

The Board will send a letter to ARBO as follows:

On behalf of Dr. Linda Tharp, the Members of the TN State Board of Optometry acknowledges and encourages her participation on the ARBO Board. Members in attendance at the meeting included, Dr. Janes Venable, Dr. Kenneth Young, and Dr. Kurt Stelle, in addition to Dr. Linda Tharp.

Dr. Winters will print a copy for Dr. Steele to sign today. The Administrative Office will email a copy to ARBO and Dr. Tharp.

Discuss and take action as necessary regarding Rulemaking, Rulemaking Hearings, Rule Amendments, and Policies

There were no Rulemaking, Rulemaking Hearings, Rule Amendments, and Policies for the Board to review at this meeting.

Call for Public Comment

Ms. Wallace announced one final opportunity for the Board to receive Public Comments before the meeting was adjourned.

There were no public comments offered at this time. Ms. Wallace reminded everyone that Public Comments may always be submitted in writing to the TN Board of Optometry, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243 or via email at Unit3hrb.health@tn.gov.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Tharp to adjourn, with a second made by Dr. Young. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m. CST.

These Minutes were Ratified by the Board on July 12, 2023

Kurt T. Stebbins, MD
Board Chair

7/12/23
Date