

ALABAMA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
December 5, 2020  
Teleconference as Allowed by Governor's Proclamation of March 18, 2020

Members present:

Doug Clark, O.D.	Norman Johnson, O.D.
Mazen Sahawneh, O.D.	Tim Nichols, O.D.
Ashley Williams, O.D.	Rob Svensen, O.D.
	Bill Tillman, O.D.

Members absent:

None

Others present:

Fred Wallace, O.D., Executive Director

The Alabama Board of Optometry is statutorily created by the Alabama legislature and delegated with the authority to regulate the optometry profession in the interest of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. With necessary oversight by the government, the board enforces standards and criteria set forth in statute and adds specificity through the promulgation of regulations. An administrative regulatory system provides consumers with an assurance of the qualifications of licensees along with a means of enforcement for the benefit of the public.

The board met via teleconference at 9:00 AM on December 5, 2020, as allowed by Governor Ivey's emergency proclamation of March 18, 2020. Prior notice of this special meeting was given in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. All persons participating in the meeting could hear one another at the same time. President Clark called roll, noted that all members were present, and then called the meeting of the Alabama Board of Optometry to order. He reminded the board members that all deliberations or actions taken during the meeting would be limited to matters within the board's statutory authority necessary to respond to COVID-19 or necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the board.

Requests for Continuing Education requirement waivers were reviewed. After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Svensen, seconded by Dr. Nichols: Continuing education requirements for the 2020-2021 license renewal period are granted for the following doctors:

Dr. David Floyd  
Dr. James S. Pack  
Dr. Patti Palmer  
Dr. Michael Pitner

The motion passed unanimously with affirmative roll call votes from Drs. Clark, Sahawneh, Williams, Johnson, Nichols, Svensen, and Williams.

A discussion was held concerning required continuing education during the present public health emergency. A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Dr. Williams to extend the temporary suspension of three (3) hour online CE limit through June 30, 2021. President Clark proceeded with a roll call vote and received unanimous approval of the motion.

Dr. Clark noted that the Southern Educational Conference of Optometry has been rescheduled to April 30 through May 2, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. He directed the Executive Director to seek out-of-state approval for those board members and staff that plan to attend. A board meeting will be called if necessary.

Dr. Clark noted the recent passing of optometrist and former board member Dr. Ollie Powe. Dr. Powe practiced optometry in Alabama for over 40 years and served as vice-president of the Alabama Board of Optometry in 2014 and 2015, and president of the Alabama Board of Optometry in 2016. He was also past president of the National Optometric Association. He will be missed by all who knew him.

President Clark reminded the Executive Director that, per Governor Ivey's proclamation, a summary recounting these deliberations must be posted on the board's website within twelve (12) hours.

There being no further business the special meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Wallace, O. D.  
Executive Director

Doug Clark, O.D.  
President