

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

This annual performance report is presented in accordance with
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the
past and present needs of the licensing program.

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
FY 2016 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Identification of the Board **Page 1**

Identification of the Staff **Page 2**

Narrative Statement **Page 3**

Budget Recommendations **Page 4**

Proposed Legislative Recommendations **Page 7**

Regulatory Recommendations **Page 8**

Goals and Objectives **Page 9**

Sunset Audit Recommendations **Page 11**

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
FY 2016 Annual Report**

Identification of the Board

Board Member	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Paul Barney OD Optometrist	Mar 01, 2011	Mar 01, 2019
Eric Lingle Public Member	Mar 01, 2014	Mar 01, 2018
Damien Delzer OD Optometrist	Mar 01, 2014	Mar 01, 2018
Stephen Stralka OD Optometrist	Nov 25, 2014	Mar 01, 2017
Pamela Steffes OD Optometrist	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 01, 2020
Forrest Messerschmidt OD Optometrist	Mar 01, 2012	Mar 01, 2016

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
FY 2016 Annual Report**

Identification of Staff

Connie Petz – Licensing Examiner

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2580

Sher Zinn – Licensing Supervisor

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-3262

Jasmin Bautista – Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 W 7th Ave, Ste 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-
(907) 269-8160

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

FY 2016 Annual Report

Narrative Statement

Board of Examiners in Optometry

FY 2016 Annual Report

Two face to face meetings were held during fiscal year 2016:

October 30, 2015 - Anchorage, AK

April 9, 2016 - Juneau, AK

Public trust and protection remains the primary mission of the Board as well as primary concern of the meetings. Extensive licensure applications were carefully reviewed through electronic means, however those requiring special attention and discussion were reviewed during these live meetings.

Licensure renewal, continuing educational requirement reviews, as well as investigative reports were also reviewed and dispositions made during these live meetings. All correspondence requiring Board attention, input, and decision were also carefully reviewed.

The Board welcomed a new professional member, Dr. Pam Steffes from Sitka, AK.

There were no open investigations requiring Board action during FY 2016.

During FY 2016, two regulation projects were initiated. The first involved clarification and modification of regulation for requirement of licensure by examination. Due to evolving professional educational trends regarding timing of portions of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry testing series, regulation modification is necessary to allow well-qualified applicants to be granted Alaska licensure.

Additionally, clarification and modification of continuing educational requirements and exemptions for members of the Armed Forces are felt to be in the best interest of public trust and protection, and the Board has thus initiated review and has begun research regarding regulation modification.

Continued Board recommendations to the Division regarding nonrefundable new applicant fees remain an issue of importance. This restructured fee schedule will help achieve a revenue neutral status, and reduce existing deficits. More importantly, it will begin to address the marked amount of staff time devoted solely to the process of new applications and relieve a portion of this financial burden from current licensees.

The Board is pleased however with the general direction of deficit elimination that has been achieved over the past two years.

The Board also carefully analyzed and reviewed Senate Bill 55, and felt it would, with continued Board oversight, be in the best interests of public access and protection. This modernization of Statute would be similar to the the boards of nursing, dentistry, and medicine. SB55 would allow the Board to regulate the profession within the same framework of laws and regulations that govern these other professions. It is clearly noted that regardless of SB 55 or a similar legislative change to Optometric statutes that services may only be performed that are determined by the Board with oversight from the Attorney General to be within the scope of licensees training, education, and experience.

Emergence of on-line and kiosk based refractions may become a significant threat to public protection and will require close monitoring and may require regulation projects, possibly in a coordinated manner with the board of medicine.

Damien R. Delzer, O.D.
Secretary- Alaska State Board of Optometry

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2017

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Oct 28, 2016	Anchorage, AK	5	a
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,500.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$700.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$300.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$500.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,000.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Apr 07, 2017	Juneau, AK	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,500.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$1,000.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$300.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$500.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,300.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jun 01, 2017	Washington, D.C	1	0
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:			
The ARBO meeting, AOA national meeting and AOA sponsored courses reflect national trends which the board should be proactive in attendance so they have the opportunity to glean the knowledge and requirements to meet future demands in maintaining required national standards. Each year NBEO holds a conference for state regulators and boards. NBEO is the National Board of Examiners in Optometry that oversees the educational requirements and testing of Optometrists in the U.S. During the annual conference a variety of issues facing Optometrists and requirements for licensure are discussed. It is critical for the Optometry Board to stay current with national educational training and testing requirements as well as new and updated practices or challenges facing the profession.			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,500.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$800.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$150.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:		\$200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$400.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
Net Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,050.00

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Membership	ARBO	\$750.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

ARBO is a national organization that links regulators and Optometrists together to maintain national standards of care, practice and licensing requirements.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Teleconference	GCI	\$200.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Potential for teleconferences, average 2 per year with an average cost of \$100.00 each. Dates to be determined.

Summary of FY 2017 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	\$6,300.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel	\$3,050.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training, Teleconferences	\$750.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets	\$0.00
Other:	\$200.00
Total Requested:	\$10,300.00

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Recommendations for Proposed Legislation for FY 2017

No Recommendations
The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations
The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Regulation Recommendations for FY 2017

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

- The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

The Board has asked the Division to increase the nonrefundable new applicant application fee per authority of AS 08.01.065 and AS 08.72.191.

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2016's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

- 1) Regulation and statutes were reviewed, and regulation projects to further the protection and access to care for the public were initiated.
- 2) During two well attended AKOA meetings of membership, Board reports were provided to attendees regarding amendments to regulation.
- 3) Two face to face meetings were held.
- 4) Due to State of Alaska budgetary crisis, the Board determined that attendance at ARBO this FY was not determined to be critical to the mission of public protection.
- 5) The Board reviewed and issued supportive documentation of SB 55, and no federal legislation required Board attention.
- 6) There were no significant non-discrimination legislative issues requiring Board action.
- 7) Board Certification has been discussed during meetings and no Board action has been determined to be necessary at this time.
- 8) SB 55 would have directed impacted standards of care at highest levels of training and was thus supported by the Board.
- 9) The Board monitored the use of pharmaceuticals, with particular careful attention to Scheduled Controlled Substances, and was pleased that there were no concerns regarding concerning this issue.
- 10) Contact lens dispensing was followed with no specific complaints.
- 11) Budget deficit issues were discussed extensively and progress made on this issue as well as proposed fee scheduled changes that will have a beneficial effect on the deficit should the department determine this to be appropriate.

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives

Part II

FY 2017's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

All those of 2016 plus:

- 1) Improve regulation to improve application requirement for license by examination**
- 2) Improve regulation for continued education requirement and exemption for military license holders**

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 6/30/2013
Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2022

Audit Recommendation: DCBPL's Director should continue efforts to improve the investigative case management system's integrity and confidentiality.

Action Taken:

Next Steps:

Date Completed: