

OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



Board Newsletter

November 2016

Welcome Dr. Stephen Tronnes to the OBO Board

Serving on a Board isn't easy. It takes time, thoughtfulness and a willingness to learn. The Oregon Board of Optometry welcomes Dr. Stephen Tronnes of Roseburg to the Board. Dr. Tronnes has been licensed with the Board for 38 years and has served his profession by serving as President of OOPA, as well as President of the Eastern Oregon Optometric Society. Dr. Tronnes likes to stay active. In his spare time he enjoys running, is a pilot and serves on the Board of the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. Dr. Tronnes also served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves—thank you Dr. Tronnes for your service to our country.

We welcome Dr. Tronnes and his input into the important work of the Board.

Avoiding trouble with your licensing board

This content is based on a newsletter published in March 2001 and an article written by then Board President Joan Ploem Miller and updated with current information.

1. Practice in a location without registering that address with the Board

Oregon law requires that the Board be notified of every practice address prior to practicing there. You can email or fax the information to the Board. If you email information to the Board to update your record, please use our e-signature requirements, which are listed below.

2. Renew your license late or don't report CE on time

License renewal forms are emailed/mailed about 45 days before the due date. Be sure that your renewal form doesn't end up in your junk mail or spam folder. You'll need to print out the renewal form, make any changes, answer the questions and then sign and date it. You'll also need to complete the COE reporting form. Please include the COPE numbers (if they are COPE approved courses) so that the Board's staff can do a complimentary review of the courses and calculate your carryover hours. Late fees are: \$50 for the first one in a 7 year period, \$100 for the second one in a 7 year period and \$200 for the third or subsequent late renewals in the 7 year period. Your renewal is late if any portion of your renewal isn't received or postmarked by the due date.



Courtesy of Weston Eye Center's website

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- How to avoid trouble with your license
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E-signature requirements: 1) full name, 2) license number and 3) last 4 digits of your SSN



Avoiding Trouble (continued from page 1)

3. Perform inadequate or inappropriate examinations

The Board's responsibility is patient safety. Failing to detect or follow up on signs and symptoms of ocular disease are cause for discipline. You must examine thoroughly and either refer pathology to another doctor or provide appropriate management and follow up. If you have an assistant do fields, you must look at the results and respond to the findings with an appropriate plan. Be sure to document every patient visit.

4. Inadequate doctor-patient communications that lead to misunderstandings.

The majority of complaints received at OBO arise from mis-communication. It's important to maintain composure and finding common ground with patients. Be sure that patients understand office policies before rendering services. With fee disputes, be sure to listen and find a win-win situation if possible.

5. Fail to release a prescription

Oregon law requires ODs to release prescriptions immediately after the exam—when you would provide spectacles. Contact lens prescriptions are due after any trial, when there will be no additional exams—prescriptions are to be given even if the patient doesn't request them. (OAR 852-020-0031).

6. Fail to maintain thorough and legible documentation of all appropriate testing.

If you fail to record a clinical finding from a patient visit, the Board will conclude that the testing was not done. Your records need to be in a condition that another doctor filling in or consulting them, would fully understand the treatment to date and there would not be any adverse impact to patient care. (OAR 852-010-0051)

Board Survey: An email or letter was sent on November 9th regarding Board meetings. Please take a minute to complete and return to us.

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

Did you remember that you can attend one hour of an OBO Board meeting to earn your law/ethics credit? Here is our 2017 Board meeting schedule. Please come and observe your licensing board.

February 10, 2017

May 19, 2017

September 8, 2017

November 3, 2017

Special meetings may be called. If you'd like to be on the list to be notified of special meetings or administrative rule changes, please call or email the Executive Director. Meetings head at the 1st floor conference room at the Board office building.



COE Reminder

The Oregon Board of Optometry doesn't accept these COPE categories:

Practice Management PM

Public Health PB

Ethics/Jurisprudence EJ

Board Members

Molly Cardenal, OD
President, Portland

Douglas Walker, OD
Brookings

Derek Louie, OD
Portland

Steven Tronnes, OD
Roseburg

Catherine Webber
Salem

Staff Members

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Avoid a penalty & license discipline by responding to the CE/CPR audit on time and with original CE documents. Read the audit letter carefully.

Avoiding Trouble (continued from page 2)

7. Fail to keep patient records for 7 years or until the patient turns 21.

Oregon law requires patient records to be kept in an accessible format controlled by an Oregon-licensed optometrist. Records must be kept at least seven years from the last office visit or clinical notation. Minor patient records must be kept seven years or until the patient turns 21, whichever is longer. (OAR 852-010-0051)

8. False or misleading advertising

ORS 676.110 discusses using the title of doctor in advertising. If you use the title of doctor, you must be sure that you use the term “doctor of optometry” or “optometric physician.” ORS 683.140 makes advertising optometric services or treatment or advice which is untruthful, improbably, misleading or deceitful grounds for discipline. The same law makes advertising that a licensed optometrist is working at a location, when they are not, a disciplinary offense. Advertising professional methods or professional superiority can also be grounds for discipline. Using the term “board certified” without defining the board that is providing certification can also be cause for discipline.

9. Habitual or excessive use of intoxicants, drugs or controlled substances or have a mental health issue.

If you have a substance abuse or mental health problem, please consider getting professional help. If there are issues related to your optometric practice, the Board may get involved and it could cause discipline on your record. The Board is then involved in monitoring your treatment, and has a say in your treatment provider. Take action before the Board gets involved.

10. Fail to report a colleague for illegal actions

ORS 683.340 and 676.150 require licensed optometrists to report prohibited or unprofessional conduct to the Board. If you or a colleague is arrested, that arrest needs to be reported to the Board within 10 working days. If you or a colleague have engaged in unprofessional conduct (as defined in Oregon law), you have a duty to report that within 10 working days as well.

CE Audit Results

No original CE documents are due at renewal. Each month the Board randomly selects a percentage of licensees to send in their original CE documents. Please keep the original documents in your file, in case you are selected for audit or required to report to the Board. Here are the CE audit results to date:

April 100% on time May 86% on time June 100% on time

July 86% on time August 100% on time September 86% on time

Administrative Rule Changes

The Board has recently published several proposed rule changes. The first were changes that involved: 1) business ownership for optometry practices, 2) work that recent optometry graduates can perform without a license, 3) that licensees can earn 1 hour of CE for taking the Oregon law/rules exam, and 4) updated background check rules in compliance with HR 3168 (2013) and House Bill 2250 (2015). Public comment closed on 11/1/16 on those changes

The second set of rules includes public records fees and returned check fees. Public comment is open on those rule changes until 12/2/16 at 11 am.

All Board rule changes are published in the Oregon Bulletin and on the Board's homepage of the website. If you'd like to be added to our rules mailing list, please call or email the Executive Director.

Budget rule change coming

The Board is required to file its biennial budget with the Governor's office, House Speaker and Senate President by February 1st. The budget will be published soon and all licensees notified for comment.

Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since 1905

Oregon Board of Optometry

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