

# OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



Board Newsletter

February 2016

## Rule changes

### Why do the rules keep changing?

The Board exists to enforce Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 683 and Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 852. Statutes are designed to give general direction in areas of agency or board operations. Rules are used to clarify processes and programs to support and activate statutes. As we mentioned in November, change is happening. With more affordable technological advances, the Board is moving to more electronic systems. These changes have created opportunities for the Board to change systems and procedures.

At the February 12, 2016 Board meeting, several rule changes were approved:

As of April 1, 2016, licensees who renew their licenses will report completed pre-approved CE courses, but licensees will not submit CE certificates with their renewal form. Each month, the Board will select a percentage of licensees to audit. If you're selected, you will be notified and will be required to submit original CE documents to verify your completion. Be sure to keep your original CE documents at least three years.

CPR dates will also be reported and then licensees will be selected for audit and required to submit a copy of your CPR card and verify there was no gap in certification.

### National Background Checks

Doing Oregon background checks was new to OBO a few years ago. As of April 1, 2016, new applicants and licensees under investigation, and required by the Board, will go through a national background check process. There is a fee required and locations across the nation to submit fingerprints. If you are selected for a national background check, more information will be provided to you. Applicants will be provided information on their application form about the new \$45 fee and how to schedule to submit their fingerprints.

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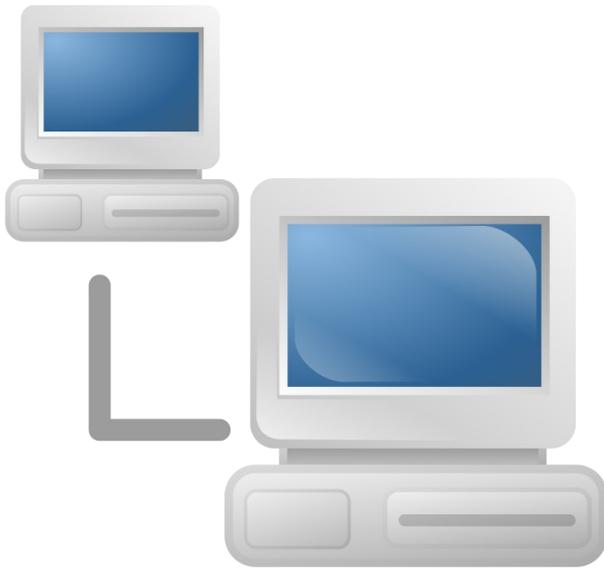
*"The Board exists to ensure patient safety. Licensing and continuing education requirements ensure that Oregon optometrists are well trained in best practices."*

*- Shelley Sneed,  
Executive Director*

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## In This Issue

- License Renewal
- Thank you Dr. Pelson
- Board meeting update
- Cathy Boudreau's Retirement
- Board statistics



## Thank you Dr. Pelson

Dr. Pelson from Grants Pass, Oregon began serving on the Oregon Board of Optometry in March 2013. Each Board term is three years and Board members can serve up to two terms, which Dr. Pelson has done.

In 2015, Dr. Pelson was elected to serve as the Board President and has done an excellent job. On behalf of the Board and staff, we'd like to thank Dr. Pelson for his diligent, thoughtful service and for his leadership.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, here is the link to the Governor's Office: [http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/How\\_To\\_Apply.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/How_To_Apply.aspx)



Jeffrey Pelson, OD

*"It's been a pleasure to serve on the Oregon Board of Optometry. I invite other Optometrists to join the Board and engage in the licensing and enforcement process."*

*- Jeffrey Pelson, OD*

## License renewal

Our process for renewing your license has stayed pretty consistent until Fall 2015. Our goal is to give licensees more options to easily renew your license, while meeting our legal requirements.

In Fall 2015 we began emailing your renewal form. In the body of the email is a link to a fillable pdf CE reporting form as well as a link to a credit card processing website. For those of you with inactive licenses, your renewal became very quick and easy. Click the payment button and pay by credit card, print out the renewal form, make any changes, sign it and then fax, mail or email it back to us. For those of you with active licenses, you have the option to pay online but still must mail in your CE reporting form, original CE verification documents, your CPR card and your renewal form. The main advantage of the new system for active licensees is the option to pay via credit card.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the next upgrade will allow licensees to renew your license online and pay via credit card. For those of you who want to continue with paper renewal, that will be an option as well.

Staff have begun testing the new system and beginning the customization process. Once the system has been fully customized for our unique agency needs, staff are fully trained and the system has been tested, online renewal will begin. We anticipate either the May or June renewals will happen with the online system—if your license renews with the first implementation, we will be in touch and let you know when to expect your renewal system access and how to renew your license.

## We need your help

If you have questions or concerns with the new system, please reach out to us. You may experience things on your end that don't come up in our testing. We want to make the system user friendly and helpful for all of our licensees.

## Board Members

**Molly Cardenal, OD**  
President, Portland

**Jessica Lynch, OD**  
Vice President, Hillsboro

**Jeffrey Pelson, OD**  
Grants Pass

**Douglas Walker, OD**  
Brookings

**Catherine Webber**  
Salem

## Staff Members

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Specialist  
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# BOARD MEETING

The OBO Board met Friday February 12, 2016

## Board Activities

As of January 31, 2016 the Board had the following licensee counts:

Active Licenses	797	Inactive Licenses	444
2015 new applications to date	15		
2015 new licenses issued	19		

Discipline Cases for 2015:

New complaints	11	New complaints reviewed	15
Complaints resolved & closed	7		
Complaints resolved with no discipline	7		

## Board Actions:

New Board officers were elected at the February meeting. Molly Cardenal, OD was elected President and Jessica Lynch, OD was elected Vice President. Congratulations!

## The Board discussed the following agenda items at their meeting:

- There was a request by a licensee to attend a Board meeting via conference call. The Board directed the Executive Director to research conference call and video conferencing options for consideration at the May meeting.
- The biennial financial review was completed. The Board reviewed the report and the Executive Director's response. Both were approved.
- In order to implement recommended changes in the financial review, the Board approved changes to the financial policies. The Board's records retention policy was updated to ensure the Board maintains records for investigation purposes.
- There was a discussion about the use of contract investigators for complaints. The Board determined they would be used as needed, and retired OD's would be used for complex cases.
- Legislation requires all new Board members attend mandatory online and classroom training. The Board determined that the agency will pay for Board members time and travel expenses for the classroom component of the training.

# Cathy Boudreau bids adieu

March 1, 1996 was a fateful day for the Oregon Board of Optometry. Little did Cathy or the Board know that they would end up with such an efficient, caring, long-term employee. Cathy will be leaving the Board on April 29th to embark on her retirement journey. Although she will be deeply missed, we all wish her well and are grateful for all of her hard work and commitment to the Board.

## Mark your Calendar—Farewell Reception

We'd like to invite you to drop by the Board office for a farewell reception for Cathy. Here are the details:

When: Friday April 29, 2016

Time: 1 to 4 pm

Where: 1500 Liberty St Se, Suite 210, Salem, OR 97302



Refreshments will be provided



Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since (DATE)

**Oregon Board of Optometry**  
1500 Liberty St SE, Suite 210  
Salem, OR 97302