



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

## In This Issue

### Quick Links

[Board Members](#)

[Welcome New Licensees](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Eyeglass Prescription](#)

[Release](#)

[Cultural Competency and](#)

[Military Cultural Course](#)

[Offerings](#)

[Vision Mission Goals](#)

[FAQ's](#)

[Scope Expansion and](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

[Changes](#)

[Tint Waiver](#)

## [Patient Bill of Rights](#)

Several years ago, the Board adopted this document. It was posted on the Board's website. The points are as pertinent now as they were when originally drafted. The Board encourages all licensees to not only review the document but post it conspicuously in your practice locations. [Click here to review and print a copy.](#)

## 2020 Online License Renewal

Licensees whose last

## Ring Out the Old... Ring in the New!

This is a popular and age old adage that is touted as one calendar year ends and another one commences. This New Year, 2020, marks not only a new calendar year, but also the dawning of a new decade. During the Board's election process in November, 2019, a new slate of officers was selected and their terms of office begin this month. The Board Officers for 2020 - 2022 are as follows:

Mesheca Bunyon, O.D., President  
Kelechi Mezu Nnabue, O.D., Secretary  
Rona Pepper, Treasurer

The Board extends well wishes to its new leadership team and looks forward to seeing its vision accomplished and its goals realized.

This new year also marks the end of an era of service by current President, Andrew J. Doyle, O.D. In May 2020, Dr. Doyle's eighth year and final term as Board member will come to an end. He is not eligible for re-appointment. During his tenure, Dr. Doyle has served the Board and the citizens of Maryland illustratively. Under his leadership, the consumer members as well as the practitioner members have learned and now fully understand the importance that each Board member plays as a "public member". This is the legacy that he leaves the Board. In their role as regulator, each Board member's primary charge is the protection of the public and not the advocacy or advancement of the profession.

On behalf of the members and staff of the Board, I take this opportunity to salute Dr. Doyle for a job well done and the Board will continue to ensure that every decision that is made is done so in light of its charge to protect the vision health and safety of the citizens of this State.

Pat Bennett, Executive Director

## President's Farewell Address

One more time for the last time. This represents my last President's Report for the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry. I have served as a Board member since 2012 and I am looking forward to my second four-year term coming to an end this upcoming May. But, before I go I would like to inform the readers of this newsletter of the goings on at the Board and reinforce the Board's true role. [\(click here for more\)](#)



Dr. Andrew Doyle, O.D.

## New President's Message

name begins with the letters A-L, your licenses will expire on June 30, 2020. You will receive a reminder via email from the Board about the renewal process, fees and other requirements. Therefore it is important that the Board has a current email address on file for all licensees. The online renewal system will be available April 30, 2020 and will close on June 30, 2020. Licensees can renew from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020 by paying an additional \$100.00 late fee.

## Board Meetings

The Regular Session of Board meetings are open to the public and held at the Metro Executive Building, at 9:30 a.m. The schedule is as follows:

Wed. Feb. 6, 2020

Wed. Mar. 25, 2020

Wed. May 27, 2020

Wed. July 29, 2020

Wed. Sept. 30, 2020

Wed. Nov. 18, 2020

Licensed optometrists can attend public meetings of the Board and receive continuing education credit.

The Board accepts continuing education programs that are either Maryland Board approved or COPE approved. Programs are categorized as either general or therapeutic.

The following COPE codes are accepted as therapeutic: GL, PO, RS, AS, PS, NO, PH, PD, SD, OP, IS, LP, SP.

Review the full text of regulation, COMAR 10.28.02- Continuing Education Requirements.

## 20/20 Perfect Vision

Hello Maryland Doctors of Optometry

Happy New Year and greetings from the members and administrative team at the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry. I am the proud new President of the Board and I am looking



[Dr. Mesheca Bunyon, O.D.](#)

forward to serving as the leader for the next two years. When I was appointed to the Board in 2015 by Governor Larry Hogan, I never imagined all the work that we would accomplish work that directly impacts you, the doctors, and most importantly, the citizens of Maryland. I come to you with a background in leadership, as the past President of the Central Maryland Optometric Society, past Regional Trustee and Recording Secretary of the National Optometric Association and a past member of the American Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee. I believe that these roles have well prepared me for this challenging new role. ([Read article](#))

## Board Member Vacancy- May 31, 2020

Applications and nominations for the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry are being accepted through March 27, 2020

1 licensed optometrist Member which will be vacant May 31, 2020.

1 consumer Member which will be vacant May 31, 2020.

### Criteria

The criteria for members are outlined in the Board statute, Health Occupations §11-202 11-202 (c), 1,2,3,4,5,6 (d). All Interested candidates must be licensed optometrists. Each optometrist member shall have resided in the State and practiced optometry actively and continuously in this State for at least 5 years before appointment. Terms are for four years and members may not serve more than 2 consecutive full terms.

### Board member duties

- Attend six Board meetings per year which are held generally on the last Wednesday of odd numbered months, *i.e.* January, March, May, July, September and November. The meetings, (held at the Board office in Baltimore), begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon. The meeting includes a public (open) session, and a quasi-judicial session, and members receive a stipend of \$150 per meeting plus mileage. Board members receive documents in advance of the meeting for review. There are attendance requirements in order to remain a board member.
- Serve on Board committees including budget, credentialing, executive, discipline, legislation, continuing education, rehabilitation and ARBO (Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry). Committees meet as needed either in person or via teleconference.
- Participate in disciplinary hearings and case resolution conferences.
- Testify before the General Assembly regarding legislation that affects consumers and/or licensees.
- File an annual financial disclosure with the State Ethics Commission and be subject to the State Ethics Law.

All interested applicants are required to submit a formal application through the Governor's Appointment Office website at [www.govappointments.maryland.gov](http://www.govappointments.maryland.gov) no later than March 27, 2020.

Please be aware that one of the application documents, Appointee Exemption Disclosure (AED) form, is required by the Maryland State Ethics Commission (SEC) to document any potential conflicts of interest. On the AED form, applicants should request an employment exemption for all current employment.

Applicants who are self-employed, own or co-own a business should also request a financial exemption on the AED form.

If an applicant is serving in an official capacity with Board/Association, the applicant should list their role and note their willingness to resign immediately if

Delivery	hours
Journal or Online with a Post Test	30 hours
Clinical Observation	8 hours
CPR	3 hours
Ethics	4 hours
Practice Management	4 hours
Pro Bono Work	6 hours
Published Papers	12 hours
Public Meeting	4 hours
Cultural Competency	4 hours

appointed to the Health Occupation Board. Applicants may contact the SEC at 410-260-7770 with questions or to request guidance.

Any additional questions regarding applications or nominations may be addressed to Kim Bennardi at [kim.bennardi@maryland.gov](mailto:kim.bennardi@maryland.gov).

The Governor appoints the optometrist members with the advice of the Secretary of the Department of Health from a list submitted to the Secretary by the Maryland Optometric Association. Please note that all applicants are thoroughly vetted and may be interviewed by a subject matter expert.

## Thank You Letter to the Board

Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Room 307  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

15 December 2019

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing this letter for two reasons: The first reason is to express my gratitude. Second, I want to share with other Maryland optometrists my brief experience working with you. ([read more](#)).