

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Alaska State Legislature

REP. MAE TISCHER
CHAIRMAN



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3777

House of Representatives
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 18, 1984

The Honorable Joe Hayes
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The House Standing Committee on Health, Education and Social Services has reviewed the qualifications of the following named individuals who have been nominated by the governor to serve on the Board of Examiners in Optometry:

John A. Demske, D.O., of Soldotna; and
Robert D. O'Connell, D.O., of Kenai.

Members of the HESS Committee have signed below indicating their individual recommendations to the House concerning these individuals' confirmations.

Members Recommending
To Confirm:

Members With Other
Recommendations:

<u>Mae Tischler</u>	_____
<u>Rich Clehner</u>	_____
<u>J. H. Marshall</u>	_____
<u>Sam Pestinger</u>	_____
<u>Mike Davis</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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4/16/84

STAFF REVIEW

The Board of Examiners in Optometry, created in 1949 and substantively restructured to its present form in 1980, is authorized by AS 08.72.010 and is therein given the responsibility "to regulate and control the practice of optometry and to protect and promote the public health, welfare, and safety."

The principle powers of the board are enumerated in AS 08.72.050: "The board shall adopt rules and regulations

- (1) necessary for the proper performances of its duties;
- (2) governing the applicants and applications for licensing;
- (3) for the registration of optometrists;
- (4) necessary to govern the practice of optometry;
- (5) prescribing requirements which a person licensed under this chapter must meet to demonstrate continued professional competency."

The five members of the Board of Examiners in Optometry are appointed by the governor and serve staggered terms of four years each (AS 08.72.020). Members of the board may be removed from office by the governor for cause (AS 08.72.025). The board is composed of four licensed, practicing optometrists who have been residents for at least three years; and one public member (AS 08.72.040).

Members of the Committee have copies of the applicable statutes in their packets.

RESUME

I. HEALTH RELATED EXPERIENCE:

- March 1978 - Present: Employed by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) in Bethel, Alaska as department head of eye care program. Duties include: supervision of one associate optometrist and three assistants; providing full scope optometric care in the eye clinic of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital; supervision of optical dispensary; organizing and providing field clinics to the 48 villages in the YKHC service area; and providing didactic and clinical training for the community health aides of the area. Emphasis is placed on primary care optometry in this rural practice. Preventative care is also practiced with Periodic Glaucoma and Pre-school screening clinics.
- November 1977 - Feb. 1978: Part-time employment with the Optometric Center of Seattle, Washington. The Center provided vision care for the indigent population of Seattle. The short stay in Seattle was due to my anticipated move to Alaska.
- January 1977 - June 1977: Volunteer work in Puerto Cabezas Nicaragua. Program was initiated by unified efforts of Lions Club International, Partners of Americas and the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Duties were to train paramedical personnel in the skills necessary to provide rudimentary eye care with the expectation that they would carry on after my departure. Included with the training was the organization of thousands of eye glasses donated by the Lions Club International. Once organized, field clinics were held in outlying communities. I returned in August of 1978 to learn that all personnel had departed and the clinic was closed, so our objective had failed.
- November - December 1976: Organization and planning work in Nicaragua.
- Feb. - June 1976: Employed by the Billings Area Indian Health Service on contract to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. The contract was to provide optometric care for the student population of the reservation. Clinics were held in all schools and in the Ft. Washakie Health Center for adult referrals.
- Sept. 1973 - August 1975: Served as itinerant optometrist in the Commissioned Corporations of the U.S. Public Health Service for the Billings Area Indian Health Service. Provided optometric care for the Ft. Belknap, Ft. Peck and Rocky Boys Reservations in Montana and the Inter-mountain Indian School in Brigham City, Utah. Annual clinics were held in all schools and health centers at each reservation.

June - August 1972 - Part time employment as optician/optometric assistant at the Willamette Valley Migrant Clinic Stayton, Oregon.

Sept. - December 1970-71 - Part-time laboratory instructor for ophthalmic optics at Pacific University College of Optometry, Forest Grove, Oregon.

June - August 1970 - Employed as optician by Dr. Corliss Schanel, Madison, Wis.

Time intervals not included were dedicated to travel in the western United States, Mexico and Central America.

II. EDUCATION:

1973 - Present - Various post - graduate courses sponsored by Pacific University College of Optometry, the Native Health Service and the Alaska and Washington Optometric Associations.

Sept. 1969 - May 1973 - Pacific University College of Optometry, Forest Grove, Oregon. Emphasis on public health optometry. Elective clinics in cross - cultural settings.

Degrees received: Bachelor of Science in Psychology,
Doctor of Optometry.

Sept. - May 1967-68, 1968-69 - Undergraduate - University of Wisconsin - Madison.

June - August 1968 - Part-time student at University of Wisconsin - Green Bay.

September - May 1966 - 67 - Under graduate - University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

September 1962 - June 1966 - DePere High School, DePere, Wisconsin.

III. LICENSES:

Optometrist, Alaska - 1978 - present. Optometrist, Washington 1973 - present.

IV. ASSOCIATIONS

Professional: Alaska Optometric Association
American Optometric Association

Service : Bethel Lions Club

Other : The Wilderness Society

V. HOBBIES, INTERESTS:

Cross-country Skiing, Boating, Backpacking, Out-door activities, Photography, Carpentry.

VI. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

My birthdate is August 3, 1948, I am married and have lived in Bethel for over three years. My wife, Guadalupe, and I have a daughter, Adinda, and we are expecting our second child any day now, we own our home in Bethel, are registered voters and we enjoy the lifestyle of rural Alaska.

Dennis A. Swarner, O.D.
Robert D. O'Connell, O.D.

Doctors of Optometry
Drawer 4370
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Telephone (907) 283-7575

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APR 21 '82

GOVERNORS OFFICE

April 15, 1982

Resume

Robert D. O'Connell, O.D.

Born January 2, 1947, Chicago, Illinois. Moved to Eugene, Oregon at age 6 months. Moved to Albany, Oregon at age 2½ years, moved to Gresham, Oregon at age 4 years. Moved to Reno Nevada at age 6. Attended Veterans Memorial Elementary School; E. Otis Vaughn Junior High School and Earl Wooster High School for 1 year. Moved to Kent, Washington and finished last two High School years at Kent Meridian Senior High School, graduating in 1965. Attended Green River Community College at Auburn, Washington for 1 year. Moved to Gresham, Oregon and attended Mount Hood Community College for 1 year.

Joined United States Army, serving three years as Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat Specialist; honorably discharged in 1970.

Attended Portland Community College, Portland, Oregon for 1 year. Attended Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon for 6 years; receiving B.S. Degree in 1975 and Doctor of Optometry Degree in 1977. (Slaved my summers away in Kodiak during this time working in shell fish canneries.)

Licensed in four states:

Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska

Moved to Alaska August 1977. Became partners in Kenai Vision Center in 1978. I'm Presently the Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop #357, Kenai. I'm a registered Republican. Wife: Annette and 1/3 children.



Robert D. O'Connell

RDO/lr

Article 1. Board of Examiners in Optometry.

<p>Section 10. Creation and purpose of board of examiners 20. Membership of board and terms of office 25. Removal of board members 30. Vacancies</p>	<p>Section 40. Qualifications 50. Power of board to adopt regulations 60. Miscellaneous powers and duties of board 70-100. [Repealed]</p>
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Sec. 08.72.010. Creation and purpose of board of examiners. There is created the Board of Examiners in Optometry to regulate and control the practice of optometry, and to protect and promote the public health, welfare, and safety. (§ 35-3-132 ACLA 1949; am § 2 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment added "to regulate and control the practice of optometry and to protect and promote the public health, welfare, and safety."

Sec. 08.72.020. Membership of board and terms of office. The board consists of five persons, appointed by the governor. Members serve staggered terms of four years. (§ 35-3-132 ACLA 1949; am § 22 ch 102 SLA 1976; am § 3 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "four" for "three" and deleted the former third sentence, which read: "The terms of the public members of the board shall be set so that they do not expire, at the same time."

Sec. 08.72.025. Removal of board members. A member of the board may be removed from office by the governor for cause. The board may by regulation provide that unexcused absences from meetings constitute cause for removal. (§ 4 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Sec. 08.72.030. Vacancies. The governor shall fill vacancies on the board by appointment for the unexpired term. (§ 35-3-132 ACLA 1949)

Sec. 08.72.040. Qualifications. Four board members shall be licensed, practicing optometrists who have been residents for at least three years. One board member shall be a public member. A person who has served two successive complete terms may not be reappointed until four years from the expiration of the second term that the person served. (§ 35-3-132 ACLA 1949; am § 23 ch 102 SLA 1976; am § 5 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "Four" for "Three," and the material beginning, "One board member" and ending "term that he served" for the former second sentence, which read: "Two shall be persons who have no direct financial interest in the health care industry."
Editor's notes. — This section was redrafted by the revisor of statutes to

remove personal pronouns in conformity with AS 01.05.031(c) and § 4, Chapter 58, SLA 1982.

Sec. 08.72.050. Power of board to adopt regulations. The board shall adopt rules and regulations

- (1) necessary for the proper performances of its duties;
- (2) governing the applicants and applications for licensing;
- (3) for the registration of optometrists;
- (4) necessary to govern the practice of optometry;
- (5) prescribing requirements which a person licensed under this chapter must meet to demonstrate continued professional competency. (§ 35-3-133 ACLA 1949; am § 6 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment added paragraph (5).

Sec. 08.72.060. Miscellaneous powers and duties of board. (a) The board or a member designated by the board, may issue subpoenas, administer oaths and take testimony concerning any matter within its jurisdiction.

- (b) The board may
 - (1) adopt a seal;
 - (2) define professional conduct and adopt rules of professional conduct.

- (c) The board shall
 - (1) elect a president and secretary from among its members;
 - (2) order a licensee to submit to a reasonable physical examination if the licensee's physical capacity to practice safely is at issue.
 - (d) Repealed by § 3 ch 59 SLA 1966.
 - (e) Repealed by § 23 ch 75 SLA 1980.
 - (f) Repealed by § 3 ch 59 SLA 1966. (§§ 35-3-133, 35-3-140 ACLA 1949; am § 3 ch 59 SLA 1966; am §§ 7, 8, 23 ch 75 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment rewrote subsections (b) and (c), and repealed subsection (e), which read: "The board may define professional conduct and adopt rules of professional conduct"

Editor's notes. — This section was redrafted by the revisor of statutes to remove personal pronouns in conformity with AS 01.05.031(c) and § 4, Chapter 58, SLA 1982

Sec. 08.72.070. Applicability of Administrative Procedure Act. Repealed by § 29 ch 75 SLA 1980.

Sec. 08.72.080. Compensation of board and secretary. Repealed by § 3 ch 59 SLA 1966.