

# West Virginia Board of Optometry Visionary



## Special points of interest:

- License Renewal
- New Board Office
- 2008 License Exam
- CE Audit Results
- Contact Lens Rx Release
- Legislative Audit
- Update Address

## Board Website

[www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org)

## License Renewal Deadline is July 31, 2008

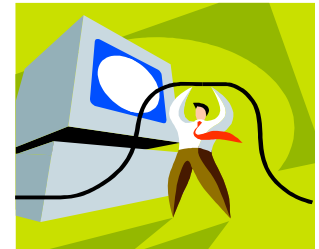
All optometrists' licenses must be renewed by July 31, 2008. Only the Board of Optometry Web Site will be used for the 2008-10 License Renewal. Our Web Site address is [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org). Payment may be made credit card check or electronic check.

The License Renewal feature will be activated on May 1, 2008. Begin to use the site now by taking the steps to update the information contained in your file.

Follow these simple steps to access your information:

- Log onto your Internet browser (often using [Internet Explorer](http://Internet Explorer)).
- Go to [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org).
- Select "On Line

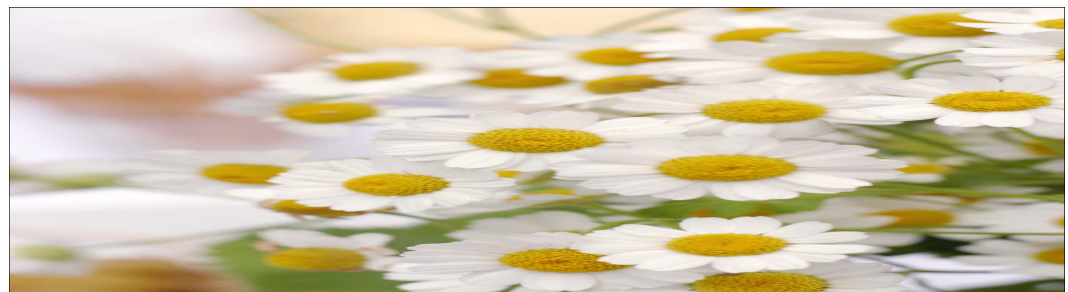
- Address Change."
- Click the mouse on "Member Account Manager." A screen will appear asking for your "user name" and "password."
- The screen will ask you to enter a "User ID" that you have chosen for yourself.
- The screen will also ask you to enter your "Password."
- Select "Forgot Your Password?" if you have forgotten your password or the "New User link" if you are a first time user.
- The site will ask you to enter the other personal information to verify your identity.



- Follow the instructions on the screen.
- You may update your file as appropriate.

If you have established an account on the site with your user name and password you may use the **Biennial License Renewal** tab on the right of the home screen to renew your license. Use the "Forgot Your Password?" link if needed.

*David Gomez of Daniels West Virginia has voluntarily had his license suspended and then restored. Congratulations to new licensees: Benjamin Fisher, Bradley Lane, Elecia Smith, Peter Dernas, Steven Hosman, William Pugh, Carolyn Ormes, Mary Payton, Simi Bhardwaji, and Edward Crum.*



## Board Office Moved to Peoples Building

The Board office has been moved to the Peoples Building at 179 Summers Street, Suite 231, Charleston, WV 25301. There was a fire at the Board office's old location at the Union Building on Kanawha Boulevard. The fire was arson. No one was charged for the crime. There

was smoke damage to the Board's equipment. A subsequent OSHA inspection found that the Union Building was in violation of safety laws. The narrow single stairwell was not sufficient to allow quick escape from the Building's eighth floor.

The new office is cleaner and

more safe. There is more room for guests in the Board conference room. There is also a reception area for a more comfortable and efficient waiting area for exam candidates.

Please make note of the Board's new address in your files.



## West Virginia Optometry License Exam On July 13



The license examination will be given on July 13 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board Office at 179 Summers Street, Suite 231, Charleston.

The West Virginia Board of Examiners of Optometry will hold its 2008 license exam on July 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Board office at 179 Summers Street, Suite 231. The deadline for applications to be received in the Board office is June 13, 2008.

The exam is oral and includes questions on pharmacology, laboratory procedure, ocular manifestations of systemic diseases, and ophthalmic science (e.g.: optics). There is a written multiple choice exam on jurisprudence administered simultaneously.

The requirements for an application are listed in West Virginia Code, §14-1. Some important requirements to remember are:

- A certified, sealed transcript from the applicant's undergraduate and optometry school must be sent to the Board office.
- The applicant must take and successfully pass the exam from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), Parts I, II, and III. A copy of the exam results must be sent to the Board office.
- Two 2"x2" color photographs must accompany the application.

- The fee for application is \$300.00.

An application may be requested from the Board Office at 1-800-250-4150 or downloaded from the Board's web site, [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org). A copy of §14-1 on the Board's application procedure may be downloaded from the site under "Laws and Regulations Governing Optometry."

Some optometrists are interested in contacting the applicants to seek associates. These optometrists should send a message with contact information to the Board. The Board will send the information to the candidates.

## Continuing Education Requirements and Audit

The Board's continuing education requirements are listed in 14-1-8.

The requirements are:

- A **minimum** of twelve hours of studying pharmacology or therapeutic courses;
- A **maximum** of six hours of study in practice management;
- A **maximum** of ten hours of optometric study may be taken by correspondence or via the Internet;

- All continuing education study must be sponsored by one of the organizations listed in subsection 8.4 of this section or pre-approved by the Board as outlined in subsection 14-1-8.6.

Remember that all CE must be COPE approved or be an educational meeting of one of the approved organizations e.g.: West Virginia Optometric Association, Regional Optometric Extension Programs, National Contact Lens Congress, listed in 14-1-8.4. All

other programs must be approved in advance by the Board.

The 40 required hours are to be acquired during each two year renewal period.

The Board conducted a random audit of proof of CE hours for 40 optometrists in Summer 2007. There were no violations of CE requirements for optometrists in the sample. Please retain the current and previous renewal period proof of CE for audit.

*A CE Tally Sheet has been developed by the Board to help optometrists record their CE hours.*

*Go to our web site at [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org) or call 1-800-450-2150.*

## Release Of Contact Lens and Eye Glass Prescriptions



The "Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act," H.R. 3140, became effective on February 4, 2004. The Federal law requires an optometrist to give a copy of a patient's contact lens prescription to him/her once the contact lenses have been fitted to the patient's eyes. The law also states that a contact lens prescription shall expire not less than one year after the issue

date of the prescription unless sooner for medical reasons to be listed in the patient's medical record.

The rule leaves the date of expiration for a contact lens prescription up to the laws of each state. West Virginia has no prescription expiration in its laws. Therefore the expiration date goes back to the Federal law which is no

shorter than one year. The prescription expiration date may be shorter than one year for medical reasons documented in the patient's file.

It is up to an optometrist to use his best professional judgment in establishing an expiration date for a contact lens prescription (as long as it meets the Federal requirement).

## Board Successfully Completes Legislative Audit

West Virginia law requires each state agency to be audited by the Legislature's office of post audit. The Board began the process with the Legislative Auditor's office in October 2006. It began with presenting evidence on state mandated processes for operation of a licensing board as required in West Virginia Code 30-5.

Some of the processes examined are the register of licensees for required information, the Board's complaint procedures and processing of complaints over the previous years and its register of applicants. The auditor reviews the last three years

of financial records to be sure that the board is self sustaining. The auditor also reviews the boards last three years of Annual Reports for compliance with statutory requirements.

The auditor also reviews all disciplinary cases for the last three years to ensure that the Board has protected the public and followed proper due process procedures. The auditor reviews all office procedures.

This was the first legislative audit for the Board of Optometry. It was completed very successfully. The auditor found only one violation which had already been self corrected. The Board had misin-

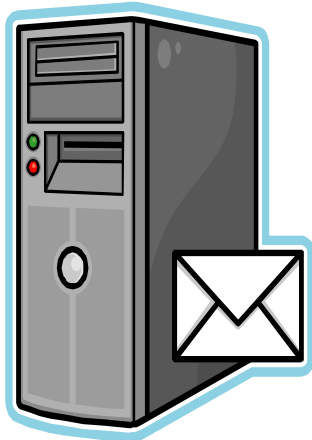
terpreted the posting requirement in West Virginia's Sunshine Law missing the deadline by 1-3 days for filing with the Secretary of State. The Board had discovered the problem and corrected it on its own prior to the audit.

The Board was found in compliance with all other requirements. The audit report was complimentary of the Board's office procedures. The audit report was presented to the Joint Committee on Government Operations. A lobbyist for the AMA commented that the Board must be doing something right to have received such a clean report.

The Legislature continued its



approval by renewing the Board for eleven years, one of the highest total of years among all boards reviewed and scrutinized by the Legislative Auditor and the Legislature's Government Operation committees in 2007.



## Important: Update Your Address

Have you ever written to someone and had your letter returned? The person you tried to contact did not give his new address to you.

The Board needs to contact your office from time to time. We often find that an optometrist has a different phone number or address. Your address is used for many reasons, but the main reason is to get important information to you. Our renewal letters

go to the address listed on our web site.

The Board asks that you update your information regularly. It is easy to update your address phone numbers and email address.

- Log onto [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org).
- Click on "On Line Address Change".
- Select "Account Manager."

- Enter your User ID and Password.
- Click on "Update Profile".
- Enter new address or phone information.
- Go to the bottom of the screen.
- Click on "Update Profile".

The Board thanks you in advance for your help.

## Contact Lens Rx Release and Eye Glass Rx Release (Continued)

Ms. Sherry Cooper is in charge of government relations for the American Optometric Association. She states that it is up to the optometrist to decide the date of contact lens prescription expiration (as long as it meets the Federal standard). However, the standard of care for an eye exam is yearly. Many optometrists use one year from the release of the prescription as the expiration date.

Ms. Christie Utt, Deputy Attorney General, agrees that an optometrist has a right to set an expiration date by using his/her best professional judgment as long as the Federal standard is met. An optometrist also has a right to refuse to fill an expired prescription.

An eye glass prescription is to be given to the patient at the completion of the eye exam. Once again,

the expiration date for an eye glass prescription should be set using the optometrist's best professional judgment.

The expiration date to use could be based on the yearly eye exam standard. The eye glass prescription expiration date could also be longer than one year if it is in the best professional judgment of the optometrist.



The Board answers your questions.



**WV BOARD OF OPTOMETRY MEMBERS:**  
 DR. GLENN BAILEY  
 DR. RICHARD GOELLNER, SECRETARY-TREASURER  
 DR. CLIFTON HYRE, PRESIDENT  
 DR. C. DAVID LAUGHLIN  
 DR. GREGORY MOORE  
 MS. LORI GEMONDO, CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE  
 MS. SHARON RUBIN, CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE  
 MS. PAM CARPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**WVBO has a toll free number in WV!**  
 800/250-4150

Email: wvbdopt@verizon.net  
 Fax: 304/558-5908  
 Phone: 304/558-5901  
 Charleston, WV 25301  
 179 Summers Street, Suite 231  
 West Virginia Board of Optometry



## Change of Address/Name Form

Mail form to: West Virginia Board of Optometry  
 179 Summers Street, Suite 231  
 Charleston, WV 25301

You **MUST** keep this office informed of any address or name changes. Faxed or e-mailed copies are not accepted since we must have your original signature authenticating the change you are wanting us to make to your official records.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS and/or CHANGE OF NAME FORM

NAME OF LICENSEE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CHANGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WV LICENSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME CHANGED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check only one preferred mailing address:

(The preferred mailing address is your address of record and is public information. Telephone numbers are not public information.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Principal Office Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Original Signature of Licensee is Required)  
 Fee for Address Change: \$10.00      Fee for Name Change: \$10.00