

Chairman's Message

By Marc Berson, O.D., M.B.A.

On behalf of the State Board of Optometry, we present this newsletter to all of our licensees. Many issues come before the board, and we have found that proper communication is essential for their resolution. The members of the board are committed to assuring that government regulations serve to protect the health, safety and welfare of every citizen of the commonwealth.

If there are any questions regarding licensure issues, please feel free to contact the board. Your input is always welcome and appreciated.

As you are now aware, the Department of State has eliminated the paper version of the newsletter. It will now only be available by accessing the board's Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa. By communicating with our licensees in this manner, it will allow for a much more rapid, cost-effective means of disseminating important information. Please bookmark this on your browser and visit the site regularly.

May this newsletter find you well, and having continued success in your optometric careers!

The Right-to-Know Act and Home Addresses

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs is sensitive to its licensees' concerns about personal privacy. However, the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq*, mandates release of information contained in a "public record" stored by that agency if a member of the public requests it.

The bureau will take all reasonable steps to safeguard personal information contained in your licensure records. We realize that many of you use your home addresses on the licensure records maintained by the bureau. However, given the uncertainty over what the Right-to-Know Act requires, neither the bureau nor the board that issues your

license can guarantee the confidentiality of the address shown on your licensing record. Therefore, if you have a personal security concern, we recommend that you consider what many our licensees have already done: use a business address or box number as the official address on licensure records.

Also, with the License 2000 computer system, you may indicate to the board an address for release to the public that may be different from your home address.

To further protect your privacy and identity, the bureau will only accept a request to change a licensee's address if it is submitted in writing and includes the licensee's Social Security number, license number and the old and new addresses.

Board Meeting Dates

- May 14, Harrisburg
- July 8, Harrisburg
- Sept. 10, Harrisburg
- Nov. 12, Harrisburg

The board's online [meeting schedule](#) has the latest location information.

Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)

Governor's Newsletter

[Sign up now](#) to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.