

## Dear Colleague,

I want to keep this newsletter short and focused. As the 2023-2024 biennium comes to an end and the 2025-2026 biennium begins, I am challenging you with a call to action. Specifically, please consider doing two things:

First, I am asking you to write an old-fashioned snail-mail letter to the governor, send him an email, AND leave a voicemail for him. In each of these communications I would encourage you to encourage him to appoint more members to the Board of Opticianry so that it is comprised of what is supposed to be: five opticians and two lay people.

For a long time, the Board has only had four members (three opticians and one lay person) instead of seven. That means if only three of them show up for a meeting that makes a quorum. I don't think it is healthy or in the best interest of right and wrong to have an environment in which three people (or even four) can make decisions and craft rules that affect 3,900 opticians, 1,400 apprentices, and most importantly, 22 million Floridians. With seven members discussing issues and cases, common sense and reason will usually win out. With only three or four...who knows?

If you accept this challenge, here is the contact information for Governor DeSantis:

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis  
Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

(850) 717-9337 (Monday through Friday 9:00-5:00)

[GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com)

Second, I also challenge you to "attend" all the Board meetings. There are usually four per year. These days they are mostly just teleconferences.

As this newsletter is being written, the next meeting is Friday, December 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm. You may join by telephone by phoning a few minutes before. The number is 850-792-1375. You will be asked to enter an Access Code. The code is 784-883-694#.

For future meeting schedules, simply go to [floridasopticianry.gov](http://floridasopticianry.gov) and click on the meetings tab. You may also join the meetings with Microsoft Teams, by following the link. Go to [floridasopticianry.gov](http://floridasopticianry.gov) and click on the Meetings tab. Follow the link there.

I think it is important for you to attend for a few reasons:

1. It keeps you abreast of what's going on in your profession
2. It makes you more confident if you ever must appear before the Board.
3. It lets the Board members know that more opticians are actively paying attention to their decisions.

## **In Optical Seminars World:**

We just posted the entire schedule of events at [www.opticalseminars.com](http://www.opticalseminars.com). If you have never attended any of our classes, why not take a chance at what many have called “the best CE hours they have ever attended.” Not only that, our current fee structure makes the cost about \$7.95/hour!

What most opticians like is that they can get all their hours and never leave their home-town areas. Next biennium we will be presenting classes in Sarasota, Pasco County, Tampa, Miami, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Ocala, Ft. Myers, Orlando, Dania, and Hernando County.

Thanks for all your support and attendance all these years. As summer fades and fall approaches, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a healthy and Happy New Year.

