

Email sent to NC-Licensed Opticians – November 12, 2019

It's almost mid-November again and that means **license renewal time is coming** – your optician's license expires on December 31st and **renewals must be IN the Board office by close of business on the last day of the year.**

During the Board's rulemaking process earlier this year, revisions to six rules were approved with an October 1 effective date. At the end of this e-blast is a summary of those rules' changes, but what may be **the one most significant to licensees is 21 NCAC 40 .0320 LICENSE RENEWAL INFORMATION, because it establishes the Inactive License status.**

You may be considered for the status change if the following applies:

- you have a current (2019) license;
- you are not actively practicing opticianry (part- or full-time, including filing in and volunteering) anywhere in NC;
- you understand that once approved, you will not have to attend ConEd hours but you will have to continue paying the annual license renewal fee; and,
- you acknowledge that if you are found in practice, you will be required to bring the license into current status (submitting updated ConEd hours to the Board), pay a Restoration Fee, and be subject to Board disciplinary action.

Each licensee must determine if they meet qualifications for Inactive status, or if they must renew like every previous year. The bottom line ... if you are working, filling in occasionally, or helping as a volunteer at a community health center or organization, you are actively practicing with your license and will not qualify for Inactive status.

When the 2020 renewal mailings are issued at the end of this week, each licensee will be mailed a 'regular' renewal form. At the same time of the mailings, the Board will also post a 'regular' form AND an Application for License Status Change on its website www.ncopticiansboard.org. If you want to be considered for the Status change YOU will be responsible for printing the Application for License Status Change from the website and submitting it in place of the 'regular' form.

ONLY ONE of these forms – either the 'regular' renewal form, or the Application for Inactive Status Change – SHOULD BE MAILED BACK to the Board on or before December 31. If you use the 'regular' form, your ConEd hours and \$150 renewal fee must also be submitted. If a decision is made instead to apply for Inactive status, print and send in *that* application and the \$150 renewal fee.

(Be truthful about your employment status or your qualification to be an Inactive licensee - employers *do* access the Board website. And the consequences for being determined Inactive when you're actually not are greater than getting out of paying for and attending ConEd hours.)

PLEASE take the time to read ... and re-read ... this eblast before you call the office with questions – I'm banking that the answers to your questions ARE in the above information!

Now...for the rest of the approved Rule changes to 21 NCAC 40, effective October 1:

.0101 *Location*

Updates the Board's current (physical) address

.0108 *Fees*

Rule repealed since GS 90-246 was amended to set the exact amount of fees to be charged

- .0212 *Direct Supervision* Adds business entity into responsibility for ensuring licensed supervision is present in optical businesses
- .0302 *License Exam Fees* Eliminates carry-forward of Exam fees
- .0303 *License Exam Process* Refines Exam process for adoption of national Exam

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