

A wide-angle photograph of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent dome topped by a statue. It is surrounded by a green lawn and several trees. In the foreground, there is a decorative iron fence and a bed of colorful tulips in shades of red, orange, and purple. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 126TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

JUNE 21-24, 2023 | Washington, D.C.



AOA



AOSA

OPTOMETRY'S
MEETING[®]



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AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

HOUSE OF DELEGATES INFORMATION



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION



2023 House of Delegates

Samuel D. Pierce, O.D., Speaker of the House

Committees of the House of Delegates

Credentials Committee

Jeffrey C. Michaels, O.D., Chair
Sandy Hook, VA

Randall J. Kempfer, O.D.
Fergus Falls, MN

Matt S. Valdes, O.D.
San Antonio, TX

Nominating Committee

Amanda K. Dexter, O.D., Chair
Del Mar, CA

Jeremy M. Fast, O.D.
Nevada, MO

Piper G. Groppel, O.D.
Martinsville, VA

Randall J. Kempfer, O.D.
Fergus Falls, MN

Steve N. Nguyen, O.D.
Dallas, TX

Jeanne M. Perrine, O.D.
Atlanta, GA

Harvey B. Richman, O.D.
Manasquan, NJ

Greg Smith, O.D.
Havre, MT (AFOS)

Kyle N. Tate, O.D.
Glenpool, OK

Resolutions Committee

Robert M. Theaker, O.D., Chair
Hollister, CA

Andrew J. Mackner, O.D.
Golden Valley, MN

Thomas W. Moore, O.D.
Dunbar, WV

Stephen M. Montaquila, O.D.
Warwick, RI

Jon F. Pederson, O.D.
Centennial, CO

Maria S. Richman, O.D.
Manasquan, NJ

Annabelle M. Storch, O.D.
Newport Beach, CA

Sergeant-at-Arms Committee

Hayden Matz, O.D., Chair
Nashville, TN

Piper G. Groppel, O.D.
Martinsville, VA

Adam D. Sauls, O.D.
Wendell, NC

Officers

President

Ronald L. Benner, O.D.
Laurel, MT

Vice President

Steven T. Reed, O.D.
Magee, MS

Secretary-Treasurer

Jacquie M. Bowen, O.D.
Greeley, CO

Immediate Past President

Robert C. Layman, O.D.
Toledo, OH

Trustees

Teri K. Geist, O.D.
Omaha, NE

Terri A. Gossard, O.D., M.S.
Cincinnati, OH

Curtis A. Ono, O.D.
Seattle, WA

Belinda R. Starkey, O.D.
Rogers, AR

Marrie S. Read, O.D., MBA
Burke, VA (AFOS)

Paul M. Barney, O.D.
Anchorage, AK

William T. Reynolds, O.D.
Richmond, KY

Staff

Executive Director

Jon F. Hymes
Alexandria, VA



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

THE OPTOMETRIC OATH

With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

I WILL practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I WILL uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I WILL provide professional care for the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I WILL work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

I WILL place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I WILL hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I WILL advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I WILL strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I WILL share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow doctors of optometry and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I WILL do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as a doctor of optometry.

I HEREBY commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES INFORMATION

March 22, 2023

The 126th Annual Congress of the American Optometric Association is scheduled to be held June 22-24, 2023, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C., with the first meeting of the House of Delegates called for Thursday, June 22, 2023. The Credentials Desk will open outside the House of Delegates room 30 minutes prior to the start of the House of Delegates each day.

CREDENTIALS

Credentialing materials to be completed and signed by the affiliated association president and secretary will be sent under separate cover. Once you receive them, please complete and return the credentialing materials to the AOA St. Louis office no later than May 31, 2023, so that the secretary-treasurer and the Credentials Committee may examine and verify credentials of all delegates and alternates for the purpose of seating delegates.

Each affiliated association shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for each 50 of its members and optometric educator members, except that student, honorary, associate or provisional members shall not be counted at all, and any members, except optometric educator members, who pay less than the full active member dues (not considering the reductions in dues permitted under Paragraphs C.8., F and G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws) shall be counted as one-half (1/2) member. A member shall only be eligible to be counted in the foregoing calculation if the proper amount of dues owed by that member for all financial quarter periods ending not less than 60 days before the first day of the annual congress, and all prior periods, have been paid and received at this Association not more than 30 days (said 30 days to be deemed to be a grace period for submitting such dues) after the last business day of the last financial quarter ending not less than 60 days before the first day of the annual congress, which excludes any Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday (and such dues must be actually received by said date and not just be postmarked by said date); provided, however, that an affiliated association having less than 50 such members shall nonetheless be entitled to one (1) regular delegate. Any member who receives any dues waiver pursuant to the process described in Paragraph G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws shall not be counted for credentialing purposes during the year following the year in which the waiver applied (Article II, Section 3).

VOTING

Each affiliated association shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter coming before the House for each ten (10) of its members and optometric educator members, except that student, honorary, associate or provisional members shall not be counted at all, and any members, except optometric educator members, who pay less than the full active member dues (not taking into account the reductions in dues permitted under Paragraphs C.8., F and G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws) shall be counted as one-half (1/2) member. A member shall only be eligible to be counted in the foregoing calculation if the proper amount of dues owed by that member for the last quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11) and all previous financial quarters have been paid and received (not merely postmarked) at this association by the credentialing deadline (as defined in Article II, Section 11). Any member who receives any dues waiver pursuant to the process described in Paragraph G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws shall not be counted for credentialing purposes during the year following the year in which the waiver was applied. However, each affiliated association shall be entitled to at least one (1) vote. The voting strength of the delegations representing each affiliate association shall be determined from the records of this association as of the last business day of the last quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11). The

delegation representing the student members shall be entitled to three (3) votes on any matter coming before the House. The total vote of each delegation may be cast by its delegate or delegates present when the vote is called.

RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions submitted by affiliated associations and delivered to the AOA secretary-treasurer at least 15 days prior to the first day of the annual congress are automatically submitted to the resolutions committee. (Any resolution not submitted at least 15 days prior to the first day of the congress shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote by the House in order to be received and referred to the resolutions committee.) Resolutions should be submitted in typewritten form, double-spaced, with source of origin of the resolution clearly indicated on the first page. Please refer to upcoming Resolutions Committee bulletins for more information.

DECEASED MEMBERS

During a session of the House of Delegates, tribute will be paid to all of our departed practitioners who were members of the American Optometric Association. You will receive from AOA Dues Accounting a list of AOA members who were affiliated through your association and who have passed away between the close of the most recent 2022 AOA Annual Congress and April 30, 2023. You will be asked to make corrections to the list and return it to AOA.

DELEGATE SEATING

The House of Delegates will be composed of delegates representing members of the affiliated associations. Past presidents, members of the AOA Board of Trustees and the delegates representing sections are privileged to participate in all matters before the House but do not vote in such capacity.

An alternate delegate may be selected for each delegate. If a delegate is unable to attend the congress or is absent from a session of the House, the delegation may designate any of its alternate delegates to act in the place of the absent delegate. After being so designated, the alternate should inform the credentials desk, receive a delegate's ribbon and then be seated with the delegation.

An electronic handbook designed to serve as a reference aid for those members who participate in meetings of the House of Delegates will be available in advance of the meeting. The parliamentarian also lends counsel to individual delegates and assists the speaker of the House as a source of information on parliamentary matters.

Should you have specific questions regarding these procedures, I will be happy to respond to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacquie Bowen" followed by a small mark.

Jacquie Bowen, O.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

OFFICES TO BE FILLED BY ELECTION

March 22, 2023

TO: To the Presidents and Secretaries of
 All Affiliated Associations

Pursuant to the guidelines governing nominating procedures leading to the election of officers and trustees for the American Optometric Association, I herewith advise you of the offices to be filled by election during the 126th Annual Congress of the Association in Washington, D.C., June 22-24, 2023.

The offices are as follows:

President-Elect
Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer
Two Trustees – Three-year term
One Trustee – One-year term

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacquie Bowen O.D.", with a small circular mark at the end.

Jacquie Bowen, O.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

CLARIFICATION: OFFICES TO BE FILLED BY ELECTION

I would like to clarify the reference to the “Offices to be Filled by Election” that is referenced in Bulletin No.1, Volume 81, dated March 22, 2023.

In addition to the office of President-Elect, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, there are currently two three-year trustee positions that will be filled by election during the 126th Annual Congress of the American Optometric Association. Currently, Teresa Gossard, O.D., and Curtis Ono, O.D., hold trustee positions with terms that expire this year. Both of these doctors have announced their candidacies to seek reelection for trustee positions. Tad Kosanovich, O.D., of Florida, and Karoline Munson, O.D., of Kentucky, have also announced their candidacies to seek election for a Trustee position.

Teri Geist, O.D., who is currently serving a three-year Trustee office, with that term to expire in 2024, has announced her candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer. It is only after the Secretary-Treasurer election has taken place in Washington, D.C. and assuming that Dr. Geist has been elected as Secretary-Treasurer, that the office for the one-year unexpired term will become vacant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jacquie Bowen O.D.", with a small circular mark at the end.

Jacquie Bowen, O.D.
Secretary-Treasurer



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

HOUSE OF DELEGATES CALL

March 22, 2023

To the Presidents and Secretaries of
the Associations Affiliated with the
American Optometric Association

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Optometric Association, the Board of Trustees has fixed June 22-24, 2023, as the dates of the meeting in Washington, D.C. here the 126th Annual Congress of the American Optometric Association will be held.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Ron Benner, O.D., on behalf of the Board of Trustees do hereby call a meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Optometric Association to be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C., starting on Thursday, June 22, 2023, to transact such business as may come before it.

Important additional information

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Benner".

Ron Benner, O.D.
President

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquie Bowen O.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jacquie Bowen
Secretary-Treasurer



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

HOUSE OF DELEGATES PROCEDURES

2023 HOUSE OF DELEGATES PROCEDURES

The AOA House of Delegates is in session from the opening gavel until adjournment sine die, and the Speaker can call the House into session at any time.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The handbook includes a copy of the agenda, the current Constitution and Bylaws, any proposed amendments, Summaries of Actions of the Board of Trustees, financial report, reports of AOA and AOA-related entities, and reports of other optometric organizations.

The House Procedures are designed to serve as a reference aid for the meetings of the House of Delegates. As a guide of procedural rules, this handbook assists the Speaker and the delegates in the determination of the will of the House, providing an interpretative clarification concerning matters not specifically treated in the AOA Constitution and Bylaws. The Speaker's rulings are subject to appeal to the House, which makes the final decision on any question. For additional information, consult the AOA Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition, which control the proceedings of the House. (Article II, Section 6.C. of the Bylaws.)

The House of Delegates is the legislative and policy-making body of the American Optometric Association and is the supreme authority of the AOA. (Article II, Section 9.D. of the Bylaws.) It is composed of delegates representing members of the affiliated associations.

Distinguished members (past presidents) of this Association and current members of the Board of Trustees are ex officio delegates. As such, they may attend sessions of the House and shall be entitled to participate in debate and to make motions but are not entitled to vote unless they are certified as delegates representing an affiliated association.

Each delegate representing a section is entitled to participate in debate and make motions but not vote.

Any requests for the list of delegates/alternates of the House of Delegates shall not be granted because of the possible revisions to this list during the entire Congress.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials of the delegates and alternates must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer of the AOA not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Annual Congress. (Article II, Section 3.A.4. of the Bylaws.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE – AUTHORITY

The authority for the establishment of this committee is Article II, Section 4 of the Bylaws:

Credentials Committee

No later than thirty (30) days before each annual congress, the president shall appoint a credentials committee composed of at least three (3) members. The credentials committee

shall verify the credentials of all delegates to the congress and report to the congress for the purpose of seating the delegates and their alternates. Any dispute as to the number of delegates to which an affiliate is entitled or as to which delegates or alternate delegates are eligible to serve as delegates or alternate delegates shall be determined by the Credentials Committee, whose decision shall be final and not appealable.

RESPONSIBILITIES & GUIDELINES

1. Throughout the sessions of the House of Delegates, a credentials table will be maintained by members of the committee. All committee members should be present at a reasonable time before each session of the House convenes.
2. It is suggested that the Credentials Committee be present prior to the opening of the House for the purpose of examining and verifying credentials of all delegates and alternates. This will expedite the seating in the House of Delegates.
3. All credentials forms are examined in accordance with the Bylaws and the AOA Membership Department count to determine the number of authorized delegates and alternates to which each delegate group is entitled. (Article II, Section 3.A.2. of the Bylaws.)
4. Each delegate group (except the student members) is entitled to one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) paid-up members, excluding student, honorary, and associate members as certified to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer. Except for optometric educator members, members who pay less than their full active member dues are counted as one-half member. The delegate strength of each delegate group for the Annual Congress shall be determined from the records on April 30 unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. (Article II, Section 3.A.1. and 2. and Section 11. of the Bylaws.)

The student members at each school or college in the United States accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education are entitled to one (1) delegate and alternate, and the affiliated association representing the student members is entitled to three (3) delegates and alternates. (Article II, Section 3.B.1. and 2. of the Bylaws.)

5. When verified by the Credentials Committee, each delegate group will receive the appropriate number of ribbons for the delegates and alternates.
6. Seating in the delegate area of the House of Delegates itself is reserved for certified delegates representing members of the affiliated associations, distinguished members, the Board of Trustees, and section delegates. Alternates are to be seated in the area reserved for alternates. The Sergeants-At-Arms are responsible for monitoring the proper seating.
7. The Credentials Committee shall report to the House periodically.

An appropriate initial motion is:

“Mr. Speaker, as a delegate, and on behalf of the Credentials Committee, I move that all certified delegates as recorded be seated.”

Supplementary reports shall be given as needed during subsequent business sessions.

An appropriate subsequent motion is:

“Mr. Speaker, as a delegate, and on behalf of the Credentials Committee, I move that the revised listing of delegates as recorded be the official delegate roll of this House.”

NOTE: A motion made on behalf of a committee does not require a second. (Roberts, p. 31.)

8. The Credentials Committee Chair shall call the roll for roll call votes. The other members of the Credentials Committee shall tally the votes on roll calls in the House of Delegates. Official results of a vote are announced by the Speaker.

Each affiliated association (except for the association of student members) is entitled to one (1) vote for each ten (10) paid-up members, excluding student, honorary, and associate members as certified to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer. Except for optometric educator members, members whose dues are less than their full active member dues are counted as one-half member. (Article II, Section 5.A. of the Bylaws.)

The delegation representing the student members shall be entitled to three (3) votes on any matter coming before the House. (Article II, Section 5.A. of the Bylaws.)

9. The final action of the committee shall be to give written comments to the Speaker of the House evaluating the effectiveness of the committee and making recommendations for changes in these guidelines.

All members of the Credentials Committee must be listed as either a delegate or alternate from their respective affiliate.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The President may preside at the House of Delegates or a member may be designated by the President to preside as Speaker of the House. The Immediate Past President, because of past experiences and knowledge of the Association, is a logical choice to serve as Speaker. It is the obligation of the Speaker to sense the will of the House, to preside accordingly, and to hold the rulings ever subject to challenge from, and reversal by, the House.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE (ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER)

As provided for in Article II, Section 6.C. of the Bylaws, deliberations of the House of Delegates shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition, when not in conflict with the AOA Constitution and Bylaws.

QUORUM

Certified delegates representing a majority (27 of 53) of the affiliated associations shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any session of the House of Delegates. (Article II, Section 6.A. of the Bylaws.)

MAJORITY

A majority is one vote more than half of the votes cast, a quorum being present. (Robert’s, §44:1)

ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSE CHAMBER

Entrance to the AOA House of Delegates Chamber is limited to delegates and other persons presenting proper credentials. By virtue of their membership, all members of the AOA are entitled to observe sessions of the House of Delegates. Non-members and guests may enter at the pleasure of the Speaker or the House.

ORDER AND DECORUM

Order and decorum will be maintained in the House by the Speaker with the assistance of the Sergeants-At-Arms. It shall be the responsibility of the Sergeants-At-Arms to monitor access to the delegates’ areas of the House of Delegates and to assure that the delegates are properly seated. Other areas are provided for the seating of alternates, members, staff, representatives of other organizations, press and guests.

When the House of Delegates is in session, individuals wishing to conduct personal business are requested to step out of the House Chamber. To preserve the decorum of the House, no audio or video recordings are allowed, except for ceremonial events, as authorized by the Speaker.

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

The Sergeants-At-Arms shall assure that all individuals admitted to the House area present proper credentials and are seated in the proper areas for delegates, alternates, members, staff, representatives of other organizations, press and guests. All members of the Sergeant-At-Arms Committee must be listed as either a delegate or alternate from their respective affiliate.

SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

Only individuals who are properly certified to the Secretary-Treasurer and whose credentials have been verified by the Credentials Committee may be seated as delegates or alternates. Delegates

who have been certified will receive the appropriate ribbon and must wear it in order to be seated in the House of Delegates. Each delegate group may select one alternate for each delegate.

Seating in the delegate area of the House of Delegates is reserved for certified delegates representing members of the affiliated associations, sections, distinguished members (past presidents) and the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director may be seated near the Board of Trustees. If required due to occupancy limitation, seats will be allocated to all delegations proportionate to the relative size of their delegations.

If a seat within a delegation is unoccupied by a delegate, an alternate from that group may be certified and then seated in the delegate's place. Arrival of a delegate, who has priority, will necessitate an alternate leaving the delegates' area. Affiliate association delegations will be responsible for determining which of their own delegates will be granted a seat when there are not enough seats available for all of the affiliate's delegates who would like to attend a session of the House of Delegates.

A staff table is provided for other AOA staff. They are admitted by a staff badge.

A press table is provided for the optometric press. They are admitted by a press badge.

Additional seating is provided outside the delegates' area for alternates, members, representatives of other organizations and guests.

NOTE: The House of Delegates may authorize the seating of the executive directors of affiliated associations with their delegations in the House of Delegates area.

PRIVILEGES OF NON-DELEGATES

A delegate may request permission for a non-delegate member of the American Optometric Association to address the House of Delegates (Article II, Section 5.E. of the Bylaws.). If permission is granted by the Speaker, the member must confine any remarks to the specific matter under consideration and debate. A similar request may also be made on behalf of a guest by an officer of this Association. Also, the Speaker may permit a member or guest to address the House.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

During a Non-Public Session, only Delegates, AOA Board of Trustees, AOA Past Presidents, Alternates, Other AOA Member doctors of optometry, AOA Executive Director, AOA Legal Counsel, AOA House Staff, AOA Staff, and Executive Directors of Affiliated Associations will be permitted to attend.

ACCESS TO THE FLOOR

Subject to restrictions on the total number of delegates allowed in the room at one time due to COVID-19 pandemic occupancy limitations, each delegate shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor and to participate in debates on any matters coming before the House.

A delegate wishing to secure the floor shall go to the nearest microphone and address the Speaker. The Speaker will acknowledge the person by identifying the microphone position. The delegate must then clearly announce his or her name and the delegate group represented. The Speaker shall repeat the name and the delegate group before the delegate may proceed.

DISCUSSION, DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS

In order to facilitate discussion and debate, wherever possible, written copies of any lengthy or complicated amendment(s) should be provided to the Speaker before the motion sought to be amended is considered by the House.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is authorized to begin on-site deliberations two days in advance of the convening of the House, depending on the number of resolutions submitted. It may begin deliberating off-site at its discretion at any time.

AUTHORITY

The authority for the establishment of the Resolutions Committees is in Article II, Section 8 of the Bylaws:

Resolutions Committee

- A. The president shall, no later than sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the annual congress, appoint one (1) or more resolutions committees as the president may deem necessary or appropriate. Each committee shall be composed of at least five (5) members of this Association, one (1) of whom shall be designated as chair by the president.
- B. Each resolutions committee shall consider such proposed resolutions as may be referred to it in accordance with subparagraph C of this section and shall report to the House of Delegates those resolutions which it has approved either in the form referred to it or as modified or changed by the committee. If the committee makes significant substantive modifications or changes to a resolution, it shall consult the originator prior to reporting the resolution to the House of Delegates.
- C. Resolutions may be proposed by an affiliated association, by a section, by the House of Delegates, or by the Board of Trustees. An affiliated association or section shall deliver to the secretary-treasurer, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the annual congress, one (1) typewritten copy of all resolutions which such affiliated association or section proposes for adoption by the House of Delegates, and the secretary-treasurer shall deliver one (1) copy thereof to the chair of the appropriate resolutions committee. The Board of Trustees may at any time submit a proposed resolution to the secretary-treasurer who shall refer it to an appropriate resolutions committee, and the House of Delegates by

a two-thirds (2/3) vote may similarly do so. Proposed resolutions which have not been referred to an appropriate resolutions committee in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph shall not be considered by the House of Delegates.

- D. Each resolutions committee shall report to the House of Delegates all proposed resolutions which it has approved, and a copy of each such proposed resolution, as approved by the committee, shall be made available to each delegate at least four (4) hours prior to its consideration by the House of Delegates. In the event that a resolutions committee does not report to the House of Delegates with approval a proposed resolution that has been referred to it, any delegate may, at the appropriate time, offer, from the floor, a motion that the House consider the proposed resolution, and if the House of Delegates shall approve the motion by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the House of Delegates shall thereupon give consideration to the proposed resolution.

GUIDELINES

Pre-Congress Activities

- a. It is suggested that each committee member should be aware of the Judicial Council actions on the resolutions of the previous year including any resolutions referred back to the House of Delegates by the Judicial Council.
- b. Appointment of the committee in advance of the Congress is made by the President of AOA in order to provide time for familiarization with proposed issues. Each committee member should thoroughly review and become familiar with any materials provided.
- c. Copies of the extant (current) resolutions passed by the House of Delegates are available through the Resolutions Committee staff.
- d. If a stand-alone meeting is required and approved, the regular AOA reimbursement policies will apply (these expenses will be charged to the House of Delegates' budget).

RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions properly submitted and delivered to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Annual Congress are automatically referred to the appropriate resolutions committee. (Article II, Section 8.C. of the Bylaws.)

Resolutions should be submitted in typewritten form, double-spaced, with source of origin of the resolution clearly indicated on the first page.

Any resolution, except those submitted by the Board of Trustees, which is not received at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Congress shall require a two-thirds (2/3)

affirmative vote by the House in order to be referred to the resolutions committee. (Article II, Section 8.C. of the Bylaws.)

The Resolutions Committee shall send a bulletin to Affiliates including all submitted resolutions no less than 10 days prior to the opening of House of Delegates.

In accordance with Article II, Section 8.C. of the Bylaws of the Association, a resolutions committee may not initiate resolutions on its own. The committee has the discretion, however, to modify or change a resolution in an appropriate manner. Any significant or substantive modification shall be brought to the attention of the entity which introduced the resolution, prior to the report to the House. (Article II, Section 8.B. of the Bylaws.)

Resolutions approved by a resolutions committee shall be reported to the House of Delegates at least four (4) hours prior to its consideration. (Article II, Section 8.D. of the Bylaws.) Those not approved need not be reported, but the entity which introduced the resolution should be informed. After consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, the report should include the financial implications, if any, of the proposed resolution.

NOTE: A motion made on behalf of a committee does not require a second. (Robert's, p. 36.)

However, if the committee fails to approve and report any resolution submitted to it, any delegate has the right to make a motion from the floor to request that the House consider the resolution. If the House by 2/3 vote approves the motion, the resolution then will be considered by the House. (Article II, Section 8.D. of the Bylaws.)

Information on Proposing Resolutions and the Process is on page 24.

RESPONSIBILITIES AT CONGRESS

1. Chair:

- a. The chair may call a meeting of the committee to be held one or two days prior to the first official day of the House.
- b. The chair shall set the time schedule for the advance committee meetings at the Congress, as well as the time schedule for the committee meetings during the Congress. The chair shall consult with the House of Delegates staff on the setting of this time schedule to coordinate with the Congress schedule.
- c. The chair of the Resolutions Committee shall make reports to the House of Delegates. The chair will be notified by the Speaker as to when these reports are expected. The first report should include a listing of those resolutions being considered by the committee and introduction of the committee members and staff.
- d. The chair shall establish a schedule of "hearing times" and of "appearances" with the Resolutions Committee for the benefit of anyone interested in contributing to the deliberations of the committee on any resolutions being considered by it. This

schedule shall be announced to the House of Delegates. The chair shall request the Resolutions Committee staff to make arrangements for posting the schedule of such meetings or notifying the parties directly.

- e. The chair shall appoint a member of the committee to serve as secretary.
 - f. Each resolution committee member will receive three days' lodging and three days' per diem reimbursement in conjunction with the meeting held during Congress each year. (These expenses will be charged to the House of Delegates' budget.) Registration fees, airfare and incidentals will remain the responsibility of each committee member.
 - g. The Resolutions Committee staff shall obtain AOA legal counsel review of each resolution before the resolution is presented to the House of Delegates.
 - h. An appropriate number of copies of resolutions to be presented to the House of Delegates will be placed in the delegates' boxes or distributed electronically.
 - i. The chair shall present all recommendations from the Resolutions Committee to the House of Delegates at the times designated by the Speaker.
2. Committee Members:
- a. Committee members should attend all meetings of the committee, including meetings prior to the official opening of the House.
 - b. The final action of the committee should be to give written recommendations to the chair evaluating the effectiveness of the committee and making recommendations for changes in procedure.

All members of the Resolutions Committee must be listed as either a delegate or alternate from their respective affiliate.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

The House or the Speaker may, when appropriate, appoint special committees of the House of Delegates. (Article II, Section 9.C. of the Bylaws.) A special committee may hold an open hearing for interested delegates, at which time the chair shall preside. Following the open hearing, the committee shall then retire and deliberate.

Reports of a special committee are presented to the House by the chair, unless the Speaker directs otherwise.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

AUTHORITY

The authority for the establishment of this committee is in Article II, Section 7 of the Bylaws:

Nominating Committee

- A. There shall be a nominating committee composed of nine (9) members of this Association, one (1) of whom shall have served the previous year and shall be designated as chair. No affiliated association shall be represented on the nominating committee more often than once every two (2) years, provided, however, that in any year, one (1) member of the nominating committee of the previous year shall have been elected by that committee as chair for the next year. The nominating committee shall also select two alternates to serve in the event the new chair is unable to serve for the next year. The election for the next year's chair and alternates shall be the last action of the nominating committee for each year. No affiliated association shall have more than one (1) member on the nominating committee at the same time. Any affiliated association with a candidate for an officer or trustee position shall not be represented on the nominating committee.

The names of eight (8) affiliated associations, other than that of the member of the previous year, shall be randomly selected in the manner determined by the House of Delegates. The names of eight (8) additional affiliated associations shall then be randomly selected in a similar manner as alternates for the eight (8) affiliated associations originally selected.

No later than January 1st of each year, the president of each of the eight (8) affiliated associations originally selected and the president of each of the eight (8) additional affiliated associations shall notify the Secretary-Treasurer of this Association in writing the name of the member selected by such affiliated association to serve as a member or alternate member of the nominating committee. After such notification, if such an individual is unable to serve, an individual from an affiliated association selected as an alternate, in order of such selection, shall replace the individual unable to serve.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES CONSISTENT WITH BYLAWS:

The Nominating Committee should have committee members in place early enough to allow for communication to discuss the process, review the candidates' questionnaires, and evaluate the need for recruitment of candidates when appropriate.

Article II, Section 7 of the Bylaws:

- B. The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for election to office in this Association which it shall present to the House of Delegates no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the election. The report of the nominating committee shall not preclude any delegate from making a nomination for any office from the floor of the House of Delegates.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES CONSISTENT WITH BYLAWS:

A “single” slate is defined as a nominee for each office. A “multiple” slate is defined as more than one nominee for each office. The AOA Bylaws allow the Nominating Committee to use either of these methods to submit a “slate” to the House of Delegates. The decision regarding which option will be used is at the discretion of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may also decide to use a combination of these methods, such as submitting one name for each of the officer positions and multiple names for the trustee positions.

GUIDELINES

1. Each affiliated association shall be notified at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Congress of the offices to be filled by election during the Congress.
2. No person shall be appointed to the Nominating Committee from a delegate group with an announced candidate.
3. For proper consideration by the Nominating Committee, written notifications of candidacies by or on behalf of candidates should be received by the Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty (30) days prior to the Congress. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the members of the nominating committee and the Board of Trustees of all such candidacies. Candidates are also encouraged to make their qualifications known to the delegate groups prior to the Congress.
4. The Nominating Committee is required to consider those candidates who have met the above recommendations and who have completed and timely returned any preliminary questionnaire submitted by the nominating committee. The Nominating Committee has the prerogative to seek additional candidates if it desires.
5. Any delegate has the right to make a nomination for any office from the floor, without meeting the above recommendations. A “second” to such nomination, while not required, is permitted. (Robert’s, §46:6)
6. Each candidate for office shall be invited to appear before the House of Delegates prior to the election at a time certain as established by the Speaker. Each candidate

shall address the House for three minutes.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair of the Nominating Committee should submit an appropriate preliminary questionnaire to each reported candidate, which reply should be received by the chair no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the Congress. Immediately upon receipt, the chair shall distribute all such responses to the committee.

At the Congress, the chair shall:

1. Ensure the committee conducts meetings and personal interviews enabling the committee to present a slate of nominees.
2. Preside over all committee meetings.
3. Appoint a member of the committee to serve as secretary.
4. Prepare and post the appointment schedule in a conspicuous place on a bulletin board at the AOA Congress and on the door of the meeting room where the committee will hold its interviews.
5. Contact the members of the Board of Trustees and other delegates as deemed appropriate and invite them to express their views before the committee, if they so desire.
6. In the opening remarks to the committee, clearly state to the members that it is absolutely imperative that all comments and deliberations of the committee be kept in absolute confidence. Emphasis placed on the confidential nature of the meetings will remove any hesitancy to bring out information which could have important bearing on ultimate decisions. The chair should also encourage candid answers to the straightforward line of questioning of those being interviewed and assuring them that their answers will be kept in strict confidence by the committee. The confidentiality of the committee interviews and deliberations shall be continued even after the announcement of the slate and the conduct of the election. Each member of the Nominating Committee shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before he/she will be permitted to serve on the Nominating Committee.
7. The committee's principal obligation is to select candidates based on personal qualifications, demonstrated achievements, potential for service to the profession without consideration of political, regional, personal or other influences.
8. Encourage the committee to obtain all appropriate information necessary to determine the qualifications of a candidate. If some question has arisen during the course of an interview, it may be necessary to interview some candidates more than once. It is improper for the committee to discuss personalities or capabilities of candidates with any member of the

staff. Staff members shall only assist in making meeting room arrangements and other non-partisan activities and shall not be involved in the decision-making process of the Nominating Committee in any way.

9. When the interviewing process has been completed, the committee should review the entire course of deliberation to determine if there has been any item which needs further attention. If not, the committee should enter into a voting process to determine the slate.

When the slate has been determined, the chair shall personally take a copy to the Speaker and thereafter post a copy on the bulletin board and on the door of the meeting room. Obviously, no other person should be told of the committee's recommendations until the slate is officially posted.

While such report must be presented "to the House of Delegates no later than 48 hours prior to the election," as provided for in Article II, Section 7.B. of the Bylaws, the committee is encouraged to make such report as early as possible to the House.

10. The Nominating Committee recognizes the importance of disseminating information about each candidate for the AOA Board of Trustees to the AOA House of Delegates. It will be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to provide the affiliates with as much information as possible regarding the candidate's qualifications and experience in advance of the election. Therefore, following the Report of the Nominating Committee to the AOA House of Delegates, a copy of each candidate's questionnaire and curriculum vitae will be distributed to each affiliate via the delegate mailboxes.
11. Obtain from the committee members their written recommendations evaluating the effectiveness of the process, making recommendations deemed appropriate, which the chair should submit with the committee's report to the Speaker and the Board of Trustees.
12. As a final action of the committee, elect a member as the chair of the Nominating Committee for the following year and a first and second alternate. (Article II, Section 7.A. of the Bylaws.)

MANDATORY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE QUESTIONS

In an effort to be consistent each year in gathering information from the candidates, the following questions must always be included on the Candidate Questionnaire:

1. Where is the candidate licensed and what work experience has the candidate had as an optometrist?
2. What experience has the candidate had as an AOA volunteer and for how long? List all positions held in the AOA.
3. What experience has the candidate had in service with an AOA affiliate and for how long? List all positions held in an AOA affiliate.
4. Has the candidate completed the required candidate's disclosure statement and has the committee received a copy of that statement to review?

5. Each candidate will be required to submit curriculum vitae along with his/her questionnaire.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

As a guide to, and for the assistance of, the Nominating Committee, the following suggested categories of questions have been developed. These four categories are stated in general terms to cover the major areas of interest in considering candidates. While these categories are intended to be comprehensive, they are not all inclusive. Questions may be asked in person or in advance as part of a candidate questionnaire. A single, well-crafted question may address several of these topics and subtopics.

The Nominating Committee should feel free to add any additional questions to cover any other categories which may arise in interviewing a candidate.

The Nominating Committee may need to verify certain information by conducting interviews with individuals who know the candidate in order to satisfy the Nominating Committee that the candidate is indeed qualified for office.

QUESTION TOPICS FOR CANDIDATES

1. Personal:
 - a. Why do you want to serve (or continue to serve) as an AOA officer or trustee?
 - b. How will you manage the significant time and travel commitment that will be required of you as an officer or trustee of the AOA?
 - c. Do you aspire to eventually be the President of the AOA?
 - d. How would your colleagues describe you?
2. Organizational, Experience, and Attitudes:
 - a. How would you describe your leadership style?
 - b. How do you handle conflict and criticism that can arise when working with a team of diverse individuals?
 - c. What steps do you take when making decisions?
3. Professional Status:
 - a. Please describe your practice experience.
 - b. What is the biggest challenge you have faced so far in your career?

- c. What accomplishment are you most proud of?
- 4. Professional Views:
 - a. What do you perceive to be the purposes and functions of the AOA?
 - b. In your opinion, what are the two most important issues which confront optometry today?
 - c. How do you feel you can best personally contribute to your profession as a leader of the AOA?
 - d. What do you feel is the biggest strength and the biggest weakness of the AOA, i.e., what do you feel AOA is doing well? What does it need to improve upon?

NOMINATIONS

A candidate for election to office shall be permitted the opportunity to have one nominating speech, not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, and one seconder. The presentation of a slate of nominees by the Nominating Committee made in accordance with Article II, Section 7.B. of the Bylaws, shall not constitute a nominating speech for any candidate so presented.

VOTING

The Credentials Committee Chair shall call the roll for roll call votes. The other members of the Credentials Committee shall tally the votes on roll calls in the House of Delegates. Official results of a vote are announced by the Speaker.

Each affiliated association (except for the association of student members) is entitled to one (1) vote for each ten (10) paid-up members, excluding student, honorary, and associate members as certified to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer. Except for optometric educator members, members whose dues are less than their full active member dues are counted as one-half member. (Article II, Section 5.A. of the Bylaws.)

The delegation representing the student members shall be entitled to three (3) votes on any matter coming before the House. (Article II, Section 5.A. of the Bylaws.)

The total vote of each delegation may be cast by its delegate or delegates present when the vote is called.

The method of voting in the House of Delegates is determined by the Speaker of the House. The speaker may call for a voice vote or a roll call vote.

Except as otherwise required by statute, the Constitution and Bylaws or by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition, no action can be taken by the House of Delegates except upon a majority of the vote cast, a quorum being present. (Article II, Sections 6.B. and C. of the Bylaws.)

Voice Vote: The Speaker of the House determines the result of the vote by the volume of voices. If a delegate feels the vote was reported incorrectly by the Speaker, the delegate may request a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: The roll call vote is utilized when the voice vote is inconclusive. The Speaker may order a roll call vote on any issue, or a roll call vote shall be directed upon the request from delegates of five affiliated associations. The Credentials Committee Chair will call the roll. Roll call votes are used in contested elections. Article II, Section 6.D. of the Bylaws provides that “Whenever a vote is to be taken by roll call, the order of such voting shall be on an alphabetical basis beginning from a randomly selected affiliated association in the manner determined by the House of Delegates.” Thus, before each roll call vote, the Credentials Committee Chair shall determine the order of the vote by randomly drawing by lot the name of the affiliated association that will be called first.

ELECTIONS

To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast for the office, a quorum being present.

As provided in Article III, Section 1.E. of the Bylaws, in any election where there is more than one office of trustee open for the same term, each delegation shall have the right and obligation to cast a total vote, consisting of the regular voting strength, multiplied by the number of offices of trustee open. However, no single candidate may receive a vote greater than the regular voting strength.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 1.D. of the Bylaws, the balloting in the House for terms having different lengths shall be conducted separately, beginning in the order of the longest duration of the term of office.

NOTE: Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition (at page 419) does not permit consideration of a motion to drop from the balloting the candidate(s) receiving the fewest number of votes.

Information on the Election Sequence is on page 22.

CLARIFICATION OF TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCEDURE

Because Article III, Section 1.E. of the AOA Bylaws requires that balloting for the two trusteeships be conducted at the same time with the regular vote count doubled, where there are more than two candidates, the “majority” (in accordance with Article II, Section 6.B. and C. of the Bylaws) amount needed for election to a trusteeship position shall generally be a majority of the amount of votes available to any one candidate (the regular vote count as cast).

Where only one candidate receives a majority of the regular vote count cast in the election, that candidate shall be declared elected to a trusteeship position.

Where only two candidates receive a majority of the regular vote count cast in the election, those candidates shall be declared elected to two trusteeship positions.

Where three candidates each receives a majority of the regular vote count cast in the election-a mathematical possibility, but a result which cannot yield a valid election-then the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to a trusteeship position, and the two other candidates who received a majority of the regular vote count cast in the election shall compete in a “runoff” election where the vote count shall revert to the regular amount.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Constitution and the Bylaws of the American Optometric Association may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at any annual or special congress in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article VI of the Constitution and in Article IX of the Bylaws.

Proposed amendments may be submitted by affiliated associations to the Secretary-Treasurer not later than one hundred (100) days before the House convenes. Amendments are distributed to the affiliated associations at least ninety (90) days prior to consideration by the House. (Article VI of the Constitution; Article IX of the Bylaws.)

Information on Amending the Constitution and Bylaws is on page 24.

AGENDA

The agenda lists the specific items to be considered by the House. Its purpose is to provide a systematic plan so that items of business may be considered carefully and handled expeditiously. The agenda and the established order of business can be revised or suspended by the Speaker or by the House.

Items generally included on the agenda are as follows:

Call to Order

Reports of the Credentials Committee

Organization of House of Delegates: Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of the Handbook for Delegates as a guide of procedural rules, Seating of the Executive Directors of the Affiliated Associations, Ratification of Actions of the Board of Trustees

Report of the Nominating Committee

Reports of the Resolutions Committee

Report of the American Optometric Association President

Report of the American Optometric Student Association President

Report of the Executive Director
Reports of the Secretary-Treasurer
Consideration of Constitution and Bylaws Amendments
Report on Congress Geographical Location Selection
Recognition of Special Guests
Calls for Substantive Motions (New Business)
Presidential Inaugural Address
Election of Officers and Trustees
Good and Welfare
Adjournment

Questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided by the Speaker with the consent of the House or upon action by a majority vote of the House.

TIME CERTAIN

Although all items on the agenda are important to the operation of the Association, some items are scheduled for a time certain.

“Time Certain” is a fixed time for a special item of business, report, or presentation. The Speaker may suspend any other business under discussion to observe a time certain.

OPEN FORUMS

One or more open forums may be conducted during the Annual Congress. The forums are scheduled for a time certain and usually follow the formal recessing of the House of Delegates. An open forum offers an opportunity for the members of the House, without the formality of parliamentary procedure, to discuss major issues that are before the profession. The President of the Association may preside or may appoint another member to preside. No substantive motions can be made during open forums.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS (NEW BUSINESS)

A call shall be made for the introduction of substantive motions each day prior to the last day of the House session. In order to facilitate discussion and debate, written copies of any substantive motion should be provided to the Speaker before the substantive motion is introduced. No substantive motions can be made on the last day of the House session.

Information on Proposing Substantive Motions and the Process is on page 24.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

The House of Delegates may direct that Letters of Appreciation (formerly “Thank You” resolutions) be sent by the Secretary-Treasurer on non-controversial matters, such as to note important anniversaries, to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments and to express appreciation upon retirements. Any requests for such letters shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker to review for presentation to the House. If approved by the Speaker as being non-controversial, and as not expressing a policy of the Association, the Speaker will set a time for this request to be made during a Good and Welfare agenda item. After due presentation of information and the request (no motion is necessary), the Speaker, without calling for a vote, declares the referral to the Secretary/Treasurer: “So ordered.”

GOOD AND WELFARE

Good and Welfare comes just before recess or adjournment and provides an opportunity for delegates to make comments or announcements, but no substantive motions can be made.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

No printed matter such as pamphlets, charts, notes, etc., shall be distributed to the delegates in the House chamber unless permission has been first obtained from the Speaker of the House.

All campaign literature and other promotional materials should be placed in the delegates’ boxes which are located outside the House entrance.

AOA POLICY

Any delegate wishing to review existing policy on any subject should contact AOA staff for assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Announcements and information, such as additional names of deceased members for inclusion in the Minutes, should be given, in writing, to the Speaker or to the staff at the staff table in the House of Delegates or in the House office when the House is not in session.

ASSISTANT TO THE SPEAKER

An AOA staff member is assigned by the Executive Director to assist the Speaker in developing the agenda and maintaining the schedule to help assure an efficient reporting and decision-making process in the House of Delegates.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

In advance of, and during the sessions of the House, the Parliamentarian serves as an aide to the Speaker of the House as a source of information on parliamentary matters. The Parliamentarian is also available to provide assistance to individual delegates regarding parliamentary procedure.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE INFORMATION SHEET

An information sheet based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition originally prepared by retired AOA Legal Counsel Thomas E. Eichhorst, AOA Parliamentarian, 1967-2002 & 2009-2014, and subsequently revised by AOA staff, is on page 21.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED (12th Edition)
Simplified Table of Rules Relating to Motions

		May Interrupt	Must Be Seconded	Is Debatable	Is Amendable	Vote Required	Can Be Reconsidered
P R I V I L E G E D	Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn	No	Yes	(1)	Yes	M	Yes
	Adjourn	No	Yes	No	(2)	M	No
	Recess	No	Yes	(3)	Yes	M	No
	Raise a Question of Privilege	No	No	No	No	Chair Rules	No
	Call for the Orders of the Day	Yes	No	No	No	2/3 to set aside	(4)
S U B S I D I A R Y	Lay on the Table	No	Yes	No	No	M	(5)
	Previous Question (Stop Debate)	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	(6)
	Limit or Extend Limits of Debate	No	Yes	(7)	Yes	2/3	(8)
	Postpone to a Certain Time	No	Yes	(9)	Yes	M	Yes
	Refer or Commit	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	M	(10)
	Amend	No	Yes	(11)	(12)	M	Yes
	Postpone Indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	M	(13)
M A I N	MAIN Motion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	M	Yes
I N C I D E N T A L	Objection to Consideration of Question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3 against consideration	(4)
	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules	No
	Suspend the Rules	No	Yes	No	No	M	No
M I S C E L L A N E O U S	Take from the Table	No	Yes	No	No	M	No
	Reconsider (14)	(15)	Yes	(11)	No	M	No

Notes:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| M: Majority | (4) only negative vote sustaining objection | (9) only on time |
| (1) No if business pending
Yes if no business pending | (5) only negative vote | (10) if committee hasn't started consideration |
| (2) No ordinary
Yes to a future time | (6) if before action | (11) if motion is |
| (3) No if business pending
Yes if no business pending | (7) No if pending
Yes general | (12) maximum of 2 |
| | (8) only on unexecuted part | (13) only affirmative vote |
| | | (14) only on same day or following day |
| | | (15) if no one is speaking |

**AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ELECTION SEQUENCE**

1. Election of President-Elect

- A. Nominating Speech for the person(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee
- B. Second
- C. Speaker calls 3 times for other nominations from the floor (For each candidate nominated from the floor, there will be a Nominating Speech and a Second)

If more than one candidate:
Random drawing of first
delegation to be called in roll call.
ROLL CALL ELECTION
Majority required to elect

OR:

If only one candidate:
SPEAKER DECLARES ELECTED BY
ACCLAMATION

2. Election of Vice-President

- A. Nominating Speech for the person(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee
- B. Second
- C. Speaker calls 3 times for other nominations from the floor (For each candidate nominated from the floor, there will be a Nominating Speech and a Second)

If more than one candidate:
Random drawing of first
delegation to be called in roll call.
ROLL CALL ELECTION
Majority required to elect

OR:

If only one candidate:
SPEAKER DECLARES ELECTED BY
ACCLAMATION

3. Election of Secretary-Treasurer

- A. Nominating Speech for the person(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee
- B. Second
- C. Speaker calls 3 times for other nominations from the floor (For each candidate nominated from the floor, there will be a Nominating Speech and a Second)

If more than one candidate:
Random drawing of first
delegation to be called in roll call.
ROLL CALL ELECTION
Majority required to elect

OR:

If only one candidate:
SPEAKER DECLARES ELECTED BY
ACCLAMATION

4. Election of 2 Trustees, 3-Year Terms Each

- A. Nominating Speech for a person nominated by the Nominating Committee
- B. Second
- C. Nominating Speech for person(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee

D. Second(s)

E. Speaker calls 3 times for other nominations from the floor. (For each candidate nominated from the floor, there will be a Nominating Speech and a Second)

F1. If more than two candidates:

Random drawing of first delegation to be called in roll call.

ROLL CALL ELECTION.

Regular votes doubled

(example: entitled to 16 votes, becomes 32 votes for this specific election). Maximum vote for any candidate will be regular votes (example: 16).

Must vote all (example: 32) of the doubled votes allocated among the various candidates.

OR:

F2. If only two candidates:

SPEAKER DECLARES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Majority of regular vote required to elect.

- CONTINUE ROLL CALLS UNTIL 2 CANDIDATES RECEIVE MAJORITY OF REGULAR VOTE AND ARE ELECTED
- WHEN 1 CANDIDATE RECEIVES A MAJORITY AND IS ELECTED, THE NUMBER OF VOTES RETURNS TO REGULAR AMOUNT
- ROLL CALLS CONTINUE UNTIL A SECOND CANDIDATE RECEIVES A MAJORITY AND IS ELECTED
- CANDIDATES CAN WITHDRAW AT ANY TIME, BUT CANNOT BE FORCED TO WITHDRAW, NOT EVEN IF THEY RECEIVE ZERO VOTES.

5. Election of Trustee for Unexpired Term (Two-year Term and/or One-year Term, in that order)

A. Nominating Speech for person(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee

B. Second

C. Speaker calls 3 times for other nominations from the floor (For each candidate nominated from the floor, there will be a Nominating Speech and a Second)

If more than one candidate:

Random drawing of first delegation to be called in roll call.

ROLL CALL ELECTION

Majority required to elect

OR:

If only one candidate:

SPEAKER DECLARES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO AMENDING AOA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, AND PROPOSING HOUSE OF DELEGATES RESOLUTIONS AND SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS

AOA Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

Who Can Propose: 1) Any AOA Affiliate
2) AOA Board of Trustees

When Must Constitution and Bylaws Proposal Be Made: Not less than 100 days before the day the AOA Congress commences, the proposal from an AOA Affiliate must be submitted in writing to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer.

How Are AOA House of Delegates Members and Others Notified: Not less than 90 days before the day the AOA Congress commences, a written notice of all proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes is sent out to all affiliate Presidents and Secretaries. House of Delegates members receive copies of the proposals in their Congress materials.

Does Constitution or Bylaws Proposal Require AOA Board of Trustees Approval: No.

Does Constitution or Bylaws Proposal Go to Resolutions Committee of the House of Delegates: No.

What Vote Is Required for House of Delegates to Pass: 2/3 vote of House of Delegates.

Can Constitution or Bylaws Proposal Be Amended by the House of Delegates: Yes, but only if the amendment is germane to the original proposal. For example, a proposal to amend the dues could not be amended to alter the nominating process for officers because the latter topic has nothing to do with the original proposal nor can the amount of the increase be raised to larger than that indicated in the 90-day notice. The 90-day notice requirement cannot be evaded by floor amendments that are not germane or go beyond what was sent out.

Resolutions to the AOA House of Delegates

Who Can Propose: 1) Any AOA Affiliate
2) AOA Board of Trustees
3) Any AOA Section
4) AOA House of Delegates

When Must Resolution Be Made: 1) AOA Affiliate must do so at least 15 days prior to the first day of the AOA Congress
2) AOA Board of Trustees may do so at any time
3) AOA Section must do so at least 15 days prior to the first day of the AOA Congress
4) AOA House of Delegates may do so at any time (2/3 vote required)

How Are AOA House of Delegates Members and Others Notified: Resolutions from AOA Affiliates and AOA Sections must be submitted in writing to the AOA Secretary-Treasurer at least 15 days before the first day of the AOA Congress. They are then referred automatically to the Resolutions Committee of the House of Delegates. The Resolutions Committee determines which resolutions are then sent to the floor of the House of Delegates. Copies of resolutions going to the floor of the House of Delegates must be provided to delegates at least 4 hours before they are to be considered by the House.

Does Resolution Require AOA Board of Trustees Approval: No.

Does Resolution Go to Resolutions Committee of the House of Delegates: Yes. The Resolutions Committee can approve, modify, or reject the resolution by holding it in the Resolutions Committee. The House of Delegates, by a 2/3 vote, can consider a resolution that the Resolutions Committee has held in committee.

What Vote Is Required for House of Delegates to Pass: Majority vote of House of Delegates.

Can Resolution Be Amended by the House of Delegates: Yes, but only if the amendment is germane to the original proposal. For example, a resolution to adopt a policy on glaucoma treatment could not be amended to alter the policy on horizontal gaze nystagmus because the latter topic has nothing to do with the original resolution. In other words, you cannot evade the Resolutions Committee process by floor amendments that are not germane.

Review by the Judicial Council: Resolutions are subject to review by the Judicial Council before becoming effective. A four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Judicial Council is required to return a resolution to next year's House for reconsideration.

Substantive Motions to the House of Delegates

Who Can Propose: Any delegate to the AOA House of Delegates.

When Must Substantive Motion Be Made: During the meeting of the AOA House of Delegates, but not after the last call for substantive motions from the Speaker of the House. No substantive motions can be made on the last day of the House of Delegates.

How Are AOA House of Delegates Members and Others Notified: Although there is no advance notice requirement, prior notice to the Speaker is helpful to facilitate discussion and debate. Substantive motions occur on the floor of the House of Delegates.

Does Substantive Motion Require AOA Board of Trustees Approval: No.

Does Substantive Motion Go to Resolutions Committee of the House of Delegates: No.

What Vote Is Required for House of Delegates to Pass: Majority vote of House of Delegates.

Can Substantive Motion Be Amended by the House of Delegates: Yes, but only if the amendment is germane to the original motion. For example, a substantive motion to fund a program could not be amended to create a committee to study an entirely unrelated topic because the latter topic has nothing to do with the original motion. In other words, you cannot evade normal parliamentary procedure by floor amendments that are not germane. You could, of course, just make a separate, new substantive motion. Substantive motions can be made on any subject that does not require a Constitution or Bylaws amendment but are usually not made for major policy determinations because they do evade the Resolutions Committee deliberative process. For that reason, substantive motions that are major policy issues are often referred to a Resolutions Committee for study, often at the recommendation of the Speaker of the House.

Review by the Judicial Council: Substantive Motions are subject to review by the Judicial Council before becoming effective. A four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Judicial Council is required to return a substantive motion to next year's House for reconsideration.



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
APRIL 7-9, 2022
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

- Appointed individuals to positions on the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification.
- Voted to grant the Missouri Department of Transportation a temporary construction easement at 243 N. Lindbergh Boulevard and to authorize AOA staff to execute all documents required to effectuate the easement.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
MAY 9, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING**

- The Board directed that AOA should develop a site visit program for AOA Affiliate staff in preparation of AOA+ in 2023.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
JUNE 8, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING**

- The Board approved an affiliate membership pilot program.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
JUNE 13-15, 2022
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

- Approved changes to Board travel policy.
- Approved 2023 Annual Operating Plan.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
JUNE 18, 2022
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

- The Board approved appointments to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 11-13, 2022
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

- Approved proposed changes to the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Approved resolution to renew Line of Credit.
- Approved Advocacy Foundational Principles.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 5-8, 2022
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

- Appointed Jill Scullion, O.D., to a second three-year term on the Optometry Cares®—The AOA Foundation Board of Directors.
- Adopted new provisions to the Board Code of Conduct.
- Approved entering into a memorandum of understanding with the American Diabetes Association to help promote the ADA's new eye care protocol.
- Endorsed revised AOA telehealth policy presented by the AOA Telehealth Council, to include new section on artificial intelligence.
- Approved changes to the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Approved updates to the AOA Whistleblower Policy.
- Approved updates to the AOA Antitrust Policy.
- Approved updates to the policy on volunteer/staff speaking and publishing activity.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 12, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING**

- The Board gave advice and consent to President Robert C. Layman, O.D., to fill positions on the ACOE.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 19-21, 2023
NAPLES, FLORIDA**

- The Board voted to name Ronald L. Benner, O.D., as acting President, pursuant to provisions of the AOA Bylaws.
- Approved for publication the revised AOA Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline: Comprehensive Adult Eye and Vision Examination (2nd Edition).
- Directed staff to develop a pilot concept for school and faculty outreach, including fiscal impact.
- That pursuant to AOA House of Delegates Resolution 491, the Board of Trustees confirms that, having provided opportunity for comment to interested individuals, groups and institutions, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) may publish the revised Substantive Changes Policy and Procedure Manual. It is also confirmed that the content of the Policy and Procedure Manual is within the authority of the ACOE as set forth in the AOA Bylaws and is within the ACOE's scope and function.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2-3, 2023
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

- To contract with Austin, Texas for 2026 Optometry's Meeting® and seek House of Delegates approval for same.*

**AOA was informed by Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau in May 2023 that the center would be under construction in 2026 and was no longer available to hold a meeting.*



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

ELECTIONS AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Effective June 18, 2022

OUTLINE

(NOTE: This Outline is for informational purposes only and is not a part of the Constitution and Bylaws.)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I — NAME

ARTICLE II — OBJECTS

ARTICLE III — ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. Affiliated Associations
- Section 2. Membership
- Section 3. Sections

ARTICLE IV — GOVERNMENT

- Section 1. House of Delegates
- Section 2. Board of Trustees
- Section 3. Officers

ARTICLE V — CONGRESS

ARTICLE VI — AMENDMENTS

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I — MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Classification and Qualifications
 - A. Affiliate Membership Qualifications
 - B. Membership Rights
 - C. Affiliate Membership Classifications
 - 1. Active Members
 - 2. Partial Practice Members
 - 3. Federal Service Members
 - 4. Optometric Educator Members
 - 5. Distinguished Members
 - 6. Student Members
 - 7. Post-Graduate Members
 - 8. Retired Members
 - 9. Life Members
 - 10. Honorary Members
 - D. Associate Membership Classifications and Qualifications
 - 1. International Members
 - 2. Paraoptometric Members
 - 3. Public Members
 - E. Provisional Membership Classification and Qualifications
- Section 2. Dues
 - A. Adjustments in Dues
 - B. Payment of Dues
 - C. Affiliate Member Dues
 - 1. Active Members
 - 2. Partial Practice Members
 - 3. Federal Service Members
 - 4. Optometric Educator Members
 - 5. Distinguished Members
 - 6. Student Members
 - 7. Post-Graduate Members
 - 8. Retired Members
 - 9. Life Members
 - 10. Honorary Members
 - D. Associate Member Dues
 - 1. International Members
 - 2. Paraoptometric Members
 - 3. Public Members
 - E. Provisional Member Dues
 - F. Ascending Dues

G. Waived or Reduced Rates

H. Proration and Miscellaneous Requirements

Section 3. Termination of or Changes in Membership

- A. Expulsion of Members by Affiliates
- B. Expulsion of Members for Cause
- C. Changes in Membership Classification

ARTICLE II — HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Composition

Section 2. Congresses

- A. Annual
- B. Special

Section 3. Delegates

- A. Representing Affiliated Associations
- B. Representing Student Members
- C. Representing Sections
- D. Special Congresses

Section 4. Credentials Committee

Section 5. Voting and Debates

- A. Voting
- B. Debates
- C. Alternate Delegates
- D. Distinguished Members and Members of Board of Trustees
- E. Other Members

Section 6. Quorum and Procedures

- A. Quorum
- B. Majority Votes Required Generally
- C. Robert's Rules of Order
- D. Random Roll Call Voting

Section 7. Nominating Committee

- A. Composition
- B. Nominations

Section 8. Resolutions Committee

- A. Composition
- B. Considerations of Resolutions
- C. Resolutions, Manner of Proposal
- D. Reports on Resolutions

Section 9. Powers

- A. Enact, Amend, or Repeal Constitution and Bylaws
- B. Grant, Amend, or Revoke Affiliate Status
- C. Create Special Committees
- D. Supreme Policy-Making Body

Section 10. Duties

- A. Elect Officers and Trustees
- B. Approve Budget
- C. Approve Location of Annual Congress
- D. Receive and Act Upon Reports

Section 11. Definitions

- A. Last Quarter
- B. Credentialing Deadline
- C. Business Day

ARTICLE III — BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Election, Term of Office and Vacancies

- A. Composition
- B. Terms of Trustees
- C. Vacancy, How Filled
- D. Separate Balloting for Different Terms
- E. Balloting, Trusteeships
- F. Balloting, Unexpired Terms

Section 2. Meetings and Quorum

- A. Meetings
- B. Quorum

C. Majority Votes Required Generally

Section 3. Powers and Duties

- A. Responsibility Within Policy and Budget
- B. Organizational Structure
- C. Annual Audit
- D. Make and Establish Policies

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Term of Office and Vacancies

- A. Listing
- B. Manner of Selection
- C. Term of Office
- D. Vacancy, How Filled

Section 2. Duties

- A. President
- B. Immediate Past President, President-Elect, Vice President
- C. Secretary-Treasurer

ARTICLE V — COUNCILS

Section 1. Accreditation Council on Optometric Education

- A. Composition
- B. Appointment of ARBO and Educator Members
- C. Term of Office
- D. Vacancy, How Filled
- E. Duties

Section 2. Judicial Council

- A. Composition
- B. Vacancy, How Filled
- C. Review of Resolutions
- D. Referral of Resolutions
- E. House of Delegates Reconsideration
- F. Advisory Opinions
- G. Five Year Review of Resolutions and Substantive Motions

Section 3. Council on Research

- A. Composition
- B. Appointment of Members
- C. Vacancy, How Filled
- D. Duties

ARTICLE VI — SECTIONS

ARTICLE VII — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ARTICLE VIII — MISCELLANEOUS

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- Section 1. Reimbursement for Expenses
- Section 2. Procedures for Contracts
- Section 3. Removal of Officer or Trustee
- Section 4. Indemnification of Officers and Trustees
- Section 5. Method of Notice

ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization, established as a not for profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, is the American Optometric Association.

ARTICLE II OBJECTS

The objects of the Association are to improve the vision care and health of the public and to promote the art and science of the profession of optometry.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Affiliated Associations

Affiliated associations shall be those optometric associations of states, the District of Columbia, commonwealths, territories or possessions of the United States, and such other optometric organizations as may be designated by the House of Delegates as an affiliated association, which are, or may hereafter be, recognized by this Association as constituents of and affiliated with the American Optometric Association. Application to the House of Delegates for designation as an affiliate of this Association shall be filed in the form of a resolution with the secretary-treasurer, in compliance with all requirements of Section 8 of Article II of the bylaws, and shall require a majority vote of the House of Delegates for approval.

Section 2. Membership

The membership of this Association shall consist of optometrists and other persons whose classifications, qualifications, privileges and obligations shall be as established in the bylaws of this Association.

Section 3. Sections

Members can unite in the formation of a special section upon petition to the House of Delegates in compliance with Article VI of the bylaws of this Association. The governing of each section shall be determined according to rules and regulations established in the bylaws of this Association.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNMENT

Section 1. House of Delegates

The legislative and policy-making body of this Association shall be the House of Delegates, which shall be established and function as provided in the bylaws.

Section 2. Board of Trustees

The administrative body of this Association shall be the Board of Trustees, which shall implement the policies established by the House of Delegates and perform such duties as are prescribed in the bylaws.

Section 3. Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a president, president-elect, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and an immediate past-president. Their qualifications, duties and terms of office shall be as provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE V CONGRESS

A meeting of the House of Delegates shall be called a "congress". The House of Delegates shall meet at an annual congress and may meet at such other times as provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by the House of Delegates by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at any congress, provided that the proposed amendment had previously been recommended by a convention or the governing board of an affiliated association, or by the Board of Trustees of this Association, and that one (1) copy of the proposed amendment had been received by the secretary-treasurer of this Association not less than one hundred (100) days before the commencement of the congress which is to consider and act on the proposed amendment. Not less than ninety (90) days before said congress, the secretary-treasurer of this Association shall deliver to the president, secretary, and official office of each affiliated association a copy of the proposed amendment with a notice stating that the proposed amendment will be submitted for consideration at the said congress. At the discretion of the secretary-treasurer of this Association, delivery of the proposed amendments under this Article may be made by any written means, whether physical, electronic, digital, or otherwise provided that such means provides the secretary-treasurer with documentation of verifiable receipt of such notice, which shall be maintained with the Association's records. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all amendments to the constitution adopted by the House of Delegates shall become effective on January 1 of the calendar year which immediately follows the House of Delegates which approved such amendment.

BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classification and Qualifications

No person who is a member of the American Optometric Association as of June 25, 2005, or who joins an affiliate of the American Optometric Association on or after June 25, 2005, shall be allowed to be a member of the affiliate but not the American Optometric Association. Members of the American Optometric Association shall be classified as follows:

A. **Affiliate Membership Qualifications.** No person who is a member of the American Optometric Association (the "Association") as of June 25, 2005, or who joins an affiliate of the Association on or after June 25, 2005, shall be allowed to be a member of the affiliate but not the Association. Additionally, except as expressly provided otherwise in these Bylaws, all Affiliate Members of the Association must:

1. Be an "optometrist," which shall mean an individual who has earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from a school or college that has been accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or by an accrediting body that the Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, determines to be equivalent;

2. Be a member in good standing of one of the following:

- (a) the affiliated association where the member resides;
 - (b) the affiliated association where the member has his or her principal place of optometric-related employment;

- (c) the affiliated association of the state where the school or college of optometry is located, provided that the Affiliate Member qualifies as an Optometric Educator Member at that school or college;

- (d) the Armed Forces Optometric Society ("AFOS"), provided that the Affiliate Member is (i) on active duty or retired from service in the armed services of the United States, the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service; or (ii) a full-time, part-time, or retired employee of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal governmental entity;

- (e) the American Optometric Student Association provided that the Affiliate Member qualifies as a Student Member; or

- (f) the American Optometric Student Association or any affiliated association provided that the Affiliate Member qualifies as a Post-Graduate Member; and

3. Pay all dues required for the Affiliate Member pursuant to these bylaws so that such dues are timely received by this Association.

B. **Membership Rights.** All members shall have full membership rights as set forth in these Bylaws, except that Retired Members electing not to pay dues, Honorary Members, Associate Members, and Provisional Members shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed as officers, trustees, or delegates of this Association.

C. **Affiliate Membership Classifications.** Members of the American Optometric Association shall be classified as follows:

1. **Active Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A shall be eligible for classification as an Active Member of this Association.

2. **Partial Practice Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A who works sixteen hours or less per week in compensated, optometrically related activities shall be eligible for classification as a Partial Practice Member of this Association. A Partial Practice Member may affiliate

through AFOS provided that the member meets the requirements under Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.2(d).

3. **Federal Services Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.2(d) shall be eligible for classification as a Federal Services Member of this Association.

4. **Optometric Educator Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A who is a full-time educator primarily engaged in school related activities such as teaching, research and administration at a school or college in the United States, accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, and who is directly compensated by such school or college shall be eligible for classification as an Optometric Educator Member of this Association.

Such optometric educator members are permitted to engage in the practice of optometry for no more than 16 (sixteen) hours per week.

5. **Distinguished Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A shall automatically be classified as a Distinguished Member on January 1 the year following completion of a term of office of president of this Association.

6. **Student Members.** A student of optometry in a program at a school or college accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education who is (a) a member in good standing of the affiliated association for such students and (b) of another affiliated association (provided; however, the requirement in (b) shall not apply to students attending a program outside of the fifty United States and the District of Columbia) shall be eligible for classification as a Student Member of this Association. Student Members shall meet all the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1.A, except that a Student Member is not required to be an "optometrist" as defined in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.1. Membership classification as a Student Member shall immediately cease and convert to the appropriate Affiliate Membership Classification (Active Member, Federal Services Member, Optometric Educator Member or Post-Graduate Member) when an individual receives the degree of Doctor of Optometry. This automatic change in member classification shall not be counted for purposes of applying Article I, Section 3, Paragraph C, which limits changes in member classification to one per year.

7. **Post-Graduate Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A who is a resident or intern in a program accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or by an accrediting body that the Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, determines to be equivalent and/or full-time enrollee in a graduate program shall be eligible for classification as a Post-Graduate Member of this Association. Membership classification as a Post-Graduate Member may continue until the end of the calendar year in which an eligible Post-Graduate Member has completed the qualifying program.

8. **Retired Members.** An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A who is at least 55 years old on January 1 of any membership year and who no longer receives compensation for optometrically related activities shall be eligible for classification as a Retired Member of this Association for that membership year provided that the optometrist is a member in good standing of the Association at the time he or she first becomes eligible for classification as a Retired Member. A Retired Member may affiliate through AFOS provided that the member meets the requirements under Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.2(d).

Individuals eligible for classification as a Retired Member have the option to pay dues as set forth in Article I, Section 2, Paragraph C.8. Retired Members electing to pay dues (known as Retired Members with Membership Benefits) will receive membership benefits and will be entitled to membership rights as set forth in these Bylaws. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, Retired Members electing not to pay annual dues (known as Retired Members without Membership Benefits) will be members of this Association in name only, ineligible for membership benefits and rights, and will not be counted among the members used to determine delegates for affiliated associations under Article III, Section 3, Paragraph A.

9. Life Members. An optometrist meeting the qualifications set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A who has been a member of this Association for 45 years shall be eligible to continue membership as a Life Member of this Association in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees. In addition, when an affiliate designates an affiliate member as a life member of the affiliate, and the member is also a member of this Association, then this Association may also designate that member as a Life Member of this Association. Classification as a Life Member shall become effective upon approval by the Secretary-Treasurer or his or her designee. A Life Member may affiliate through AFOS provided that the member meets the requirements under Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.2(d). Notwithstanding the requirements set forth in this Paragraph, any member of this Association who is classified as a Life Member as of September 30, 2012, shall retain Life Member status.

Members who provide medical certification of terminal or other serious debilitating illness may request that years of membership requirements be waived for life membership. All such requests for waiver must be made and approved through the member's affiliate and approved by the Board of Trustees or the Secretary-Treasurer as the Board's designee.

10. Honorary Members. An individual who has rendered outstanding service to the profession of optometry may be eligible for membership in this Association as an Honorary Member. Honorary Members shall be excused from the requirements that they be an "optometrist" as defined by Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.1.

Written nomination for membership as an Honorary Member shall be made by an affiliated association to the Board of Trustees, which shall submit the nomination to the House of Delegates with a recommendation for approval or disapproval. Membership under this subparagraph shall become effective upon approval by the House of Delegates.

D. Associate Membership Classifications and Qualifications. Individuals meeting the qualifications of this Paragraph may apply directly to this Association for membership as an Associate Member. Such membership shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the Secretary-Treasurer or his or her designee, and may continue as long as the individual continues to satisfy the qualifications of subparagraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this section below. Membership is dependent upon the Associate Member paying all dues required for the Associate Member pursuant to these bylaws so that such dues are timely received by this Association. The following individuals shall be eligible for membership in this Association in one of the following classifications of Associate Members:

1. International Members. An optometrist as defined by the World Council of Optometry who resides in a foreign country or in a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States where there is no affiliated association shall be eligible for membership as an International Member of this Association.

2. Paraoptometric Members. A paraoptometric who is and continues to be sponsored by an optometrist who is a member of this Association shall be a Paraoptometric Member of this Association.

3. Public Members. An individual who is not an optometrist but has a substantial interest in the profession of optometry and contributes to the advancement of the interests of this Association – as determined in the sole judgement of the President and Secretary-Treasurer – may be eligible for membership as a Public Member of this Association. The affiliated association in the state of the applicant's principal place of business or residence shall be given 30 days notice to object to any application prior to the granting of Public Member status by this Association.

4. Research Scientist Members. An individual who is not an optometrist but who holds a PhD degree or is a PhD student and is employed by a school or college of optometry that is accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall be eligible for membership as a Research Scientist Member.

E. Provisional Membership Classification and Qualifications. An individual meeting the requirements of Article I, Section 1A, Paragraph 1 and this paragraph, who contacts the American Optometric Association seeking membership, and who completes an application and pays the applicable dues, may be immediately granted membership in the Provisional membership classification. The Provisional Member's application shall be submitted to the appropriate affiliated association for action by that affiliate. The affiliated association shall promptly notify AOA when they have taken action on any Provisional Member's application. If the application is approved by the affiliate, the Provisional Member shall cease to be classified as a Provisional Member and will immediately become an Affiliate Member in the appropriate classification. If the application is not approved by the affiliated association, the Provisional membership will immediately expire. If AOA does not receive notice of an affiliated association's action within one hundred-twenty (120) days from submission of the Provisional Member's application to the affiliate, the Provisional Member will immediately become an Affiliate Member.

Section 2. Dues

A. The Board of Trustees may increase the annual dues in any one year in an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the previous year's annual dues, and the Board of Trustees shall report to the House of Delegates the amount of the increase. A special dues assessment of \$85 per year shall additionally be imposed each year commencing in 2009, with such special dues assessment funds dedicated to funding the costs and expenses of the Association related to running a public relations and public affairs campaign, and such assessment shall terminate the year next succeeding the year the public relations and public affairs campaign terminates.

B. Payment of Dues. Dues are assessed on an annual basis but may be remitted on a quarterly basis. Dues paid quarterly shall be attributed equally and proportionally among the four quarters beginning with the first quarter of the year, which ends March 31, and progressing chronologically to the last quarter of the year, which ends December 31.

Each quarter shall contain three (3) deadlines, a Due Date, a Delinquent Date, and a Termination Date. Quarterly dues shall be paid according to the following schedule of deadlines:

1. First Quarter Dues:

- (a) the Due Date shall be March 31;
- (b) the Delinquent Date shall be April 30; and
- (c) the Termination Date shall be May 31.

2. Second Quarter Dues:

- (a) the Due Date shall be June 30;
- (b) the Delinquent Date shall be July 31; and
- (c) the Termination Date shall be August 31.

3. Third Quarter Dues:

- (a) the Due Date shall be September 30;
 - (b) the Delinquent Date shall be October 31; and
 - (c) the Termination Date shall be November 30.
4. Fourth Quarter Dues:
- (a) the Due Date shall be December 31;
 - (b) the Delinquent Date shall be January 31; and
 - (c) the Termination Date shall be the last day of February.

Any preceding quarterly dues deadline that falls on a weekend or federal holiday shall be extended to the following Business Day. For purposes of these Bylaws, "Business Day" shall mean any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is not a federal holiday.

Membership shall be terminated at the discretion of the AOA Secretary-Treasurer for any member whose dues for a quarter have not been received in full by this Association by that quarter's Termination Date following notification to the affiliate's official office within ten business days.

C. Affiliate Member Dues. Annual dues for Affiliate Members Classifications shall be as follows:

- 1. Active Members shall pay 100% of annual dues.
- 2. Partial Practice Members shall pay 60% of annual dues.
- 3. Federal Service Members shall pay 100% of annual dues.
- 4. Optometric Educator Members shall pay 50% of annual dues.
- 5. Distinguished Members shall not be required to pay annual dues to this Association.
- 6. Student Members shall pay \$.00 as annual dues for this Association.
- 7. Post-Graduate Members shall pay \$35.00 as annual dues for this Association.
- 8. Retired Members must pay annual dues of \$100.00 to be eligible for membership benefits and rights as set forth in these Bylaws and to be counted among the members used to determine delegates for affiliated associations under Article III, Section 3, Paragraph A.
- 9. Life Members shall not be required to pay annual dues to this Association.
- 10. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay annual dues to this Association.

D. Associate Member Dues. Annual dues for Associate Member Classifications shall be as follows:

- 1. International Members shall pay dues as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon data from the World Bank regarding the country where the member resides.
- 2. Paraoptometric Members shall pay \$.00 as annual dues for this Association.
- 3. Public Members shall pay dues as determined by the Board of Trustees.
- 4. Research Scientist Members shall pay dues as determined by the Board of Trustees.

E. Provisional Member Dues. Annual dues for the Provisional Member classification shall be as follows:

- 1. Each affiliated association will provide AOA with a list of its membership categories mapped to the Affiliate Membership Classification as defined in Article I, Section C and that affiliated association's annual dues for each category not later than December 1, 2015 and thereafter on an ongoing basis at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any dues change.
- 2. Provisional Members shall pay 100% of the combined annual dues of the affiliated association and AOA, with proration, for the affiliated association membership classification as determined by AOA's reasonable interpretation of the information supplied on the applicant's application.
- 3. Dues collected by AOA from any Provisional Member shall be promptly remitted to the affiliated association.

4. Dues collected from a Provisional Member shall be refunded to that individual if his or her Affiliate membership application is denied.

F. Ascending Dues. An active member or federal services member shall not be required to pay any dues during the calendar year in which the individual earns a Doctor of Optometry degree as defined in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A.1 of these Bylaws. The dues for each of the first, second, third, and fourth calendar year thereafter shall be equivalent to ten percent (10%), twenty percent (20%), fifty percent (50%), and seventy-five percent (75%), respectively, of the annual dues otherwise applicable. A member shall only be eligible for the above schedule of reduced dues once, no matter how many times the individual may transfer from one membership classification to another membership classification or from one affiliated association to another. A member who works sixteen hours or less per week shall not be eligible under this section, but shall pay dues according to the schedule contained in Paragraph C.2 of this section. For Post-Graduate Members, the ascending dues schedule shall begin the calendar year following the year the individual completes the post-graduate program, as set forth in Article I, Section 1, Paragraph C.7.

G. Waived or Reduced Rates. In a case where an affiliated association has waived or reduced its dues requirement for a member because of the member's economic misfortune or partial or total disability, or as part of a special pilot program endorsed by the Board of Trustees, and requests in writing that such member's dues to this Association be waived or reduced in similar proportion, the Board of Trustees or the Secretary-Treasurer as the Board's designee may waive or reduce in like proportion such member's dues obligation to this Association, and for a similar period of time. In a case where a member holds direct membership in this Association without membership in an affiliated association, the Board of Trustees or the Secretary-Treasurer as the Board's designee may, in appropriate cases, upon written application of such member, waive or reduce such member's obligation to this Association because of such member's economic misfortune or partial or total disability. In an emergency circumstance such as a natural disaster, war, or terrorist attack, or other similar disastrous occurrence, this Association may independently waive any affected member's dues for up to one year only after consultation with the member's affiliated association.

H. Proration and Miscellaneous Requirements. All dues categories are subject to proration. Proration shall only be done on a monthly basis based on the date the member joined the Association. No other proration method shall be allowed. Proration shall not be permitted when a member terminates membership and is reinstated to membership in the same calendar year, except that proration shall be permitted if such change is due to a change in membership from one affiliate to another.

Section 3. Termination of or Changes in Membership

A. Any member of this Association who is suspended or expelled from membership in an affiliated association shall, upon receipt by the secretary-treasurer of this Association of notice of such suspension or expulsion duly certified by the secretary of the affiliated association, automatically be terminated until such time as such member may be readmitted to membership in an affiliated association.

B. The Board of Trustees may, in appropriate cases, suspend or expel any member because of the revocation or suspension of the member's license to practice optometry, the violation of any federal, state, local or other applicable law, rule or regulation relating to the practice of optometry, or the violation of the code of ethics of this Association, as

the case may be. In such cases, the Board shall send to such member, by registered mail, a statement of the charges against him, and such member shall have fifteen (15) days after receipt thereof to respond to such charges by mailing a copy of this response, by registered mail, to the secretary-treasurer of this Association. The Board, or a subcommittee of the Board, may thereafter hold a hearing at which such member shall be given reasonable opportunity to present evidence and to be heard in the member's own defense, and the Board may request other persons to testify at the hearing. Such member may be suspended or expelled by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership of the Board of Trustees.

C. Changes in Membership Classification. Members will be allowed to change classification only once per year. Applications for a change in membership classification submitted between January 1 and April 30 will be retroactive to the beginning of that calendar year. Applications submitted between May 1 and December 31 will be effective January 1 of the following year. No changes in classification will be accepted for prior periods or prior years.

ARTICLE II HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Composition

The House of Delegates shall be composed of delegates representing members of affiliated associations, certain student members, and members of sections. In addition, each distinguished member and each member of the Board of Trustees shall be entitled to be a delegate, ex officio. A distinguished member or a member of the Board of Trustees may also be selected as a delegate or an alternate representing members of affiliated associations, or certain student members. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be members of this Association who have paid the proper amount of dues owed for the Last Quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11) and all previous financial quarters to this Association by the Credentialing Deadline (as defined in Article II, Section 11).

Section 2. Congresses

A. An annual congress shall be held each year between the 1st of June and the 31st of July, or at such other time as is deemed appropriate, at a specific geographical location approved by the House of Delegates in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The exact facility, time and duration of such annual congress shall be designated by the Board of Trustees. Should circumstances arise which would make the designated time and place unavailable or impracticable, the Board may select another time or place for such annual congress and shall give notice of such change to the affiliated associations and to the representatives of the other delegate groups as soon thereafter as reasonably possible.

B. A special congress shall be called by the Board of Trustees upon the written application of twelve (12) or more affiliated associations setting forth the purpose or purposes for which the special congress is being requested. In addition, the Board of Trustees may call a special congress on its own initiative. The Board of Trustees shall determine the time and place for holding a special congress, and written notice thereof shall be given to each affiliated association and to representatives of the other delegate groups no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time selected. The notifications shall specify the purpose or purposes of the special congress, and the business of such special congress shall be limited to such purpose or purposes

except as may be otherwise approved by unanimous vote of the House of Delegates at such special congress.

Section 3. Delegates

A. Delegates Representing Affiliated Associations.

1. Each affiliated association shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) of its members and optometric educator members, except that any student, honorary, associate, or provisional members shall not be counted at all, and any members, except optometric educator members, who pay less than the full time active member dues (not taking into account the reductions in dues permitted under Paragraphs C.8., F and G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws) shall be counted as one-half (1/2) member. A member shall only be eligible to be counted in the foregoing calculation if the proper amount of dues owed by that member for the Last Quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11) and all previous financial quarters have been paid and received (not merely postmarked) at this Association by the Credentialing Deadline (as defined in Article II, Section 11). Any member who receives any dues waiver pursuant to the process described in Paragraph G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws shall not be counted for credentialing purposes during the year following the year in which the waiver applied. However, an affiliated association having less than fifty (50) members under the foregoing calculation shall nonetheless be entitled to one (1) regular delegate.

2. The delegate strength of an affiliated association for the annual congress shall be determined from the records of this Association as of the last Business Day of the Last Quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11).

3. Each affiliated association may also select one (1) alternate delegate for each delegate to which it is entitled under this section.

4. The president and secretary of each affiliated association, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the annual congress, shall certify to the secretary-treasurer of this Association the names of the delegates and alternate delegates who shall represent the affiliated association at the congress. The certification shall also state that all attributable quarterly dues of this Association collected by the affiliated association have been remitted to this Association by the Credentialing Deadline (as defined in Article II, Section 11).

B. Delegates Representing Student Members.

1. Student members at each school or college of optometry in the United States, accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education as of May 31 of each year, shall be entitled to select one (1) delegate, and the affiliated association representing student members shall be entitled to three (3) delegates selected by such affiliated association.

2. Such student members and the affiliated association representing student members shall be entitled to select one (1) alternate delegate for each delegate to which they are entitled under this section.

C. Delegates Representing Sections.

Each section is permitted one (1) delegate. Each section shall elect from its membership one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate.

D. Delegates at Special Congresses.

Each affiliated association, student members, and sections shall be entitled to the same number of delegates and alternate delegates at a special congress as at the immediately preceding congress. Delegates and alternate delegates at a special congress shall be selected from among those members eligible to serve as delegates or alternate delegates at the immediately preceding annual congress.

Section 4. Credentials Committee

No later than thirty (30) days before each annual congress, the president shall appoint a credentials committee composed of at least three (3) members. The credentials committee shall verify the credentials of all delegates to the congress and report to the congress for the purpose of seating the delegates and their alternates. Any dispute as to the number of delegates to which an affiliate is entitled or as to which delegates or alternate delegates are eligible to serve as delegates or alternate delegates shall be determined by the Credentials Committee, whose decision shall be final and not appealable.

Section 5. Voting and Debates

A. Each affiliated association shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter coming before the House for each ten (10) of its members and optometric educator members, except that any student, honorary, associate, or provisional members shall not be counted at all, and any members, except optometric educator members, who pay less than the full active member dues (not taking into account the reductions in dues permitted under Paragraphs C.8., F and G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws) shall be counted as one-half (1/2) member. A member shall only be eligible to be counted in the foregoing calculation if the proper amount of dues owed by that member for the Last Quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11) and all previous financial quarters have been paid and received (not merely postmarked) at this Association by the Credentialing Deadline (as defined in Article II, Section 11). Any member who receives any dues waiver pursuant to the process described in Paragraph G of Section 2 of Article I of these Bylaws shall not be counted for credentialing purposes during the year following the year in which the waiver applied. However, each affiliated association shall be entitled to at least one (1) vote. The voting strength of the delegations representing each affiliate association shall be determined from the records of this Association as of the last Business Day of the Last Quarter (as defined in Article II, Section 11). The delegation representing the student members shall be entitled to three (3) votes on any matter coming before the House. The total vote of each delegation may be cast by its delegate or delegates present when the vote is called.

B. Each delegate shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor and to participate in debates and make motions on any matter coming before the House.

C. In the event that a delegate is unable to attend a Congress or is otherwise absent from a session of the House, the delegation shall designate any of its alternate delegates to act in place of such absent delegate. A distinguished member or a member of the Board of Trustees who is an ex officio delegate shall not be entitled to designate an alternate delegate to act in the delegate's place.

D. Distinguished members and members of the Board of Trustees who are ex officio delegates and delegates representing sections shall not be entitled to vote, but may attend sessions of the House and shall be entitled to participate in debates and make motions on any matter coming before the House.

E. All members who are not delegates may attend sessions of the House as observers, but shall not be entitled to participate in debate unless granted permission therefor by the presiding officer at the request of a delegate.

Section 6. Quorum and Procedures

A. Certified delegates representing a majority of the affiliated associations, shall constitute a quorum for the

transaction of business at any session of the House of Delegates.

B. Except as may be otherwise required by statute or by the constitution or bylaws of this Association disposition of all matters coming before the House of Delegates shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast.

C. Except as may be otherwise required by the constitution or bylaws of this Association, all congresses shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the then current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

D. Whenever a vote is to be taken by roll call, the order of such voting shall be on an alphabetical basis beginning from a randomly selected affiliated association in the manner determined by the House of Delegates.

Section 7. Nominating Committee

A. There shall be a nominating committee composed of nine (9) members of this Association, one (1) of whom shall have served the previous year and shall be designated as chair. No affiliated association shall be represented on the nominating committee more often than once every two (2) years, provided, however, that in any year, one (1) member of the nominating committee of the previous year shall have been elected by that committee as chair for the next year. The nominating committee shall also select two alternates to serve in the event the new chair is unable to serve for the next year. The election for the next year's chair and alternates shall be the last action of the nominating committee for each year. No affiliated association shall have more than one (1) member on the nominating committee at the same time. Any affiliated association with a candidate for an officer or trustee position shall not be represented on the nominating committee.

The names of eight (8) affiliated associations, other than that of the member of the previous year, shall be randomly selected in the manner determined by the House of Delegates. The names of eight (8) additional affiliated associations shall then be randomly selected in a similar manner as alternates for the eight (8) affiliated associations originally selected.

No later than January 1st of each year, the president of each of the eight (8) affiliated associations originally selected and the president of each of the eight (8) additional affiliated associations shall notify the Secretary-Treasurer of this Association in writing the name of the member selected by such affiliated association to serve as a member or alternate member of the nominating committee for that year's annual congress. After such notification, if such an individual is unable to serve, an individual from an affiliated association selected as an alternate, in order of such selection, shall replace the individual unable to serve.

B. The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for election to office in this Association which it shall present to the House of Delegates no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the election. The report of the nominating committee shall not preclude any delegate from making a nomination for any office from the floor of the House of Delegates.

Section 8. Resolutions Committee

A. The president shall, no later than sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the annual congress, appoint one (1) or more resolutions committees as the president may deem necessary or appropriate. Each committee shall be composed of at least five (5) members of this Association, one (1) of whom shall be designated as chair by the president.

B. Each resolutions committee shall consider such proposed resolutions as may be referred to it in accordance with subparagraph C of this section and shall report to the House of Delegates those resolutions which it has approved either in the form referred to it or as modified or changed by the committee. If the committee makes significant substantive modifications or changes to a proposed resolution, it shall consult the originator prior to reporting the resolution to the House of Delegates.

C. Resolutions may be proposed by an affiliated association, by a section, by the House of Delegates, or by the Board of Trustees. An affiliated association or section shall deliver to the secretary-treasurer, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the annual congress, one (1) typewritten copy of all resolutions which such affiliated association or section proposes for adoption by the House of Delegates, and the secretary-treasurer shall deliver one (1) copy thereof to the chair of the appropriate resolutions committee. The Board of Trustees may at any time submit a proposed resolution to the secretary-treasurer who shall refer it to an appropriate resolutions committee, and the House of Delegates by a two-thirds (2/3) vote may similarly do so. Proposed resolutions which have not been referred to an appropriate resolutions committee in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph shall not be considered by the House of Delegates.

D. Each resolutions committee shall report to the House of Delegates all proposed resolutions which it has approved, and a copy of each such proposed resolution, as approved by the committee, shall be made available to each delegate at least four (4) hours prior to its consideration by the House of Delegates. In the event that a resolutions committee does not report to the House of Delegates with approval a proposed resolution that has been referred to it, any delegate may, at the appropriate time, offer, from the floor, a motion that the House consider the proposed resolution, and if the House of Delegates shall approve the motion by a two-thirds (2/3) vote the House of Delegates shall thereupon give consideration to the proposed resolution.

Section 9. Powers

A. The House of Delegates shall have the power to enact, amend, and repeal the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

B. The House of Delegates shall have the power to grant, amend, suspend, or revoke affiliate status in the Association for any other association or group.

C. The House of Delegates shall have the power to create special committees of the Association.

D. The House of Delegates shall be the supreme policy-making body of the Association, and shall have the power to approve, amend, or rescind any policies established by the Board of Trustees.

Section 10. Duties

A. It shall be the duty of the House of Delegates to elect the elective officers and the trustees of the Association.

B. It shall be the duty of the House of Delegates to approve a budget for the Association.

C. It shall be the duty of the House of Delegates to approve the location of the annual congress.

D. It shall be the duty of the House of Delegates to receive and act, as deemed appropriate, upon reports of any committees established by the House of Delegates.

Section 11. Definitions

A. For purposes of Article II of these Bylaws, "Last Quarter" shall mean the following for any given year:

1. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in January or February, the third financial quarter of the previous year.

2. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in March, April, or May, the fourth financial quarter of the previous year.

3. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in June, July, or August, the first financial quarter of such year.

4. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in September, October, or November, the second financial quarter of such year.

5. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in December, the third financial quarter of such year.

B. For purposes of Article II of these Bylaws, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean the following for any given year:

1. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in January or February, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean 5:00 p.m. Central Time on October 31 of the previous year unless October 31 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it shall mean the following Business Day.

2. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in March, April, or May, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean 5:00 p.m. Central Time on January 31 of such year unless January 31 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it shall mean the following Business Day.

3. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in June, July, or August, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean 5:00 p.m. Central Time on April 30 of such year unless April 30 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it shall mean the following Business Day.

4. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in September, October, or November, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 31 of such year unless July 31 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it shall mean the following Business Day.

5. If the first day of such year's annual congress is in December, "Credentialing Deadline" shall mean 5:00 p.m. Central Time on October 31 of such year unless October 31 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it shall mean the following Business Day.

C. For purposes of Article II of these Bylaws, "Business Day" shall mean any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is not a federal holiday.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Election, Term of Office, Removal, and Vacancies

A. The Board of Trustees shall be composed of eleven (11) members, five (5) of whom shall be the officers of this Association, and six (6) of whom shall be elected as trustees by the House of Delegates. No person shall be a member of the Board of Trustees who is not a licensed optometrist who is a member in good standing of this Association. A member in good standing shall mean a member who is not delinquent in paying dues to this Association, as required by these Bylaws.

B. Two (2) trustees shall be elected by the House of Delegates at each annual congress for three (3) year terms.

No person shall be eligible for election to more than two (2) successive three (3) year terms as trustee.

C. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board of Trustees from among the elected members, the next junior available past-president after the immediate past-president shall become a trustee, to hold such position until the next annual congress, at which time a trustee shall be elected for the remainder of the term.

D. The balloting in the House of Delegates for trusteeships having different terms shall be conducted separately.

E. The balloting for all nominees for the two (2) trusteeships to be filled under subparagraph B hereof shall be conducted at the same time. Each delegate shall be entitled to twice the number of votes to which the delegate would otherwise be entitled, and each delegate, who votes, must vote for two (2) candidates, casting no more than the vote to which the delegate would otherwise be entitled for any one (1) candidate.

F. In the event that there are two (2) trusteeships having the same remaining term open under subparagraph C, hereof, the balloting for such trusteeships shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in subparagraph E hereof.

G. An officer or trustee may, in accordance with the procedure set forth in this paragraph, be removed from his or her position by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Board of Trustees (not including the officer or trustee under consideration) for a serious or repeat violation of the policies or procedures of the Association or other serious failure to fulfill the obligations of the office to which that individual has been elected. Notice of the meeting at which a vote to remove an officer or trustee will be held must be given to the Board of Trustees at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice must specify that a vote to remove a named officer or trustee will be held at the meeting. An officer or director who is subject to a removal vote must be given the opportunity to present his or her position to the Board of Trustees before a vote is taken. Any removal of an officer or trustee shall take place immediately and must be promptly reported to the House of Delegates, along with the reasons therefor. There shall be no appeal from a decision of the Board of Trustees under this paragraph.

Section 2. Meeting and Quorum

A. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once each year at a time determined by the president and at such other times as are determined to be necessary by the president or Board of Trustees. Meetings of the Board may be called by the president, and the president shall call a meeting at the written request of three (3) members of the Board of Trustees. Such meetings shall be held at such times and places, to be fixed by the president, as shall be convenient for the transaction of the business for which the meeting is called.

B. At all meetings of the Board six (6) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

C. Except as may be otherwise required by statute or by the constitution or bylaws of this Association, disposition of all matters coming before the Board shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast.

Section 3. Powers and Duties

A. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the management of the business and affairs of this Association in accordance with general policy and within the budget established by the House of Delegates. In carrying out its

functions, the Board shall have such rights and perform such duties as are prescribed by law governing directors of corporations or as may be provided in the constitution of this Association or in these bylaws.

B. Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or in the constitution of this Association or in these bylaws, the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish such organizational structure of the Association as it deems necessary or desirable for the performance of the activities of the Association.

C. The Board shall select a certified public accountant to audit annually the books and accounts of this Association.

D. The Board shall make and establish policies, as deemed necessary, for the operation and management of the Association, and such Board of Trustee actions shall be subject to the review of the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Terms of Office and Vacancies

A. The officers of this Association shall be a president, a president-elect, a vice-president, a secretary-treasurer, and the immediate past-president.

B. Except for the president and immediate past-president, officers shall be elected annually by the House of Delegates at the annual congress. At the completion of the president's term of office, the president shall automatically become the immediate past-president, and the president-elect shall automatically become the president.

C. Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are installed. No individual, shall be elected to the same office for more than one term.

D. If the office of immediate past-president becomes vacant for any reason, the next junior available past-president shall act as immediate past-president. Any vacancy occurring in any other office by reason of death, resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Board of Trustees, and any officer so appointed may serve until the next election. If the vacancy is in the office of president-elect, the person designated by the Board of Trustees to serve as president-elect shall not automatically succeed to the presidency. At the next election, the office of president shall be deemed to be open, and the House of Delegates shall elect a person to serve as president.

Section 2. Duties

A. The president shall be the official representative of this Association in its contacts with governmental, civic, business and other professional organizations. The president may attend to these matters personally or may designate a representative to do so. In addition to such other duties as may be provided in the constitution or elsewhere in these bylaws, the president shall preside at all congresses, or may designate a member of the Association to act as presiding officer; shall preside at meetings of the Board of Trustees, or may designate a member of the Board to act as presiding officer; except as may otherwise be provided in these bylaws, the president shall appoint the chair and the members of all subordinate bodies and shall fill any vacancies that may arise in such position; the president may, for the period of the administrative year of such presidency, establish, prescribe the functions and appoint the members of such special or ad hoc committees or project teams or task forces as deemed necessary or desirable; the president shall be an ex officio

member of all subordinate bodies; and the president may, either alone or together with the secretary-treasurer when appropriate, certify to official acts of the Association.

B. The immediate past-president, the president-elect, and the vice-president shall perform such functions as may be assigned them by the president or the Board of Trustees.

C. The secretary-treasurer shall: be responsible for the keeping of accurate records and minutes of the House of Delegates and meetings of the Board of Trustees which shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval; shall give proper notice of meetings of both bodies; within thirty (30) days after the first day of each month shall deliver to members of the board a statement showing in detail monies received and disbursed during the preceding month, the financial activities of the various subordinate bodies, and such other information as is necessary for the proper conduct of the business and affairs of this Association; shall be the custodian of the funds of this Association and shall be responsible for the deposit of all monies received in the name of the Association in institutions approved by the Board; shall be responsible for the disbursement of monies only upon vouchers signed by a duly authorized person; shall keep an accurate account of all financial transactions of the Association and make a report of the same at the annual congress to the House of Delegates; shall at the expiration of the term of office turn over and deliver to the successor, or to any person whom the board may designate, all funds, books, records and property of the Association, in the custody or under the control of the secretary-treasurer; shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in these bylaws; and may, either alone, or together with the president, when appropriate, certify to official acts of the Association.

ARTICLE V COUNCILS

Section 1. Accreditation Council on Optometric Education

A. The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall be composed of thirteen (13) members, eleven (11) of whom shall be members of this Association. With respect to the members of the Council who are members of this Association: Four (4) members shall be optometrists of outstanding professional experience who are not compensated administrators, faculty or consultants of, or affiliated with the governance of any school or college of optometry and who are not members of a state board of optometric examiners; two (2) shall be members of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry ("ARBO") at the time of their initial appointment; two (2) shall be optometrists associated with optometric educational programs accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education; two (2) shall be optometrists with expertise in optometric residency education, each of whom is either a graduate of an accredited residency program, director of an accredited residency program or a faculty member who is teaching in an accredited residency program; and one (1) shall be associated with an optometric technician program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or a graduate of such a program. With respect to the members of the Council who are optometrists, all must be consultants of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education in good standing at the time of their initial appointment. The members of the Council who are not members of this Association shall be public members who meet the requirements specified by the agencies that formally recognize the Council as an accrediting body.

B. All members of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Trustees. The two (2) ARBO members shall be appointed from a list of four (4) nominees for each appointment submitted to the president by ARBO, and the two (2) educator-members and the two (2) residency program-related member shall be appointed from a list of four (4) nominees for each appointment submitted to the president by the optometric educational programs accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

C. The members of the Council shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. No person shall serve more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms.

D. In the event of a vacancy on the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, the president, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, shall appoint in accordance with the provisions of subparagraphs A and B of this section, a successor to complete the unexpired portion of the term of office. If an educator-member ceases to be associated with an accredited optometric educational program, that position on the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall automatically be deemed vacant.

E. The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall concern itself with the quality of optometric and paraoptometric education including, but not limited to, counseling, advising, and acting in matters relating to residency programs, the type and amount of educational training, admission requirements, curricula, faculty, equipment, and matters of similar nature. It shall have the authority to inspect and accredit schools and colleges of optometry, programs of residency optometric education, and programs of paraoptometric education.

Section 2. Judicial Council

A. The Judicial Council shall be composed of five (5) members of this Association. The immediate past-president of the Association shall be a member and the chair of the Council, and at least two (2) other members shall be past-presidents of this Association. All members of the Council, other than the chair, shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Trustees. All members of the Council shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

B. In the event of a vacancy on the Judicial Council, the president, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, shall appoint a successor to complete the unexpired portion of the term of office.

C. The Judicial Council shall study and review all resolutions and substantive motions adopted by the House of Delegates at a congress. Resolutions and substantive motions adopted by the House of Delegates shall be mailed to the Judicial Council within thirty (30) days after the close of the congress. Within sixty (60) days after receipt thereof, the Judicial Council shall, with respect to each resolution and substantive motion, determine whether it shall become effective, or whether it shall be referred back to the House of Delegates, without alteration or amendment, for reconsideration at the next annual congress.

D. It shall require a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Judicial Council to refer a resolution or substantive motion back to the House of Delegates for reconsideration. In the absence of a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Judicial Council to refer a resolution or substantive motion back to the House, or if the Council fails to act on a resolution or substantive motion within sixty (60) days after receipt thereof, the resolution or substantive motion shall become effective.

E. If the Judicial Council refers a resolution or substantive motion back to the House of Delegates for reconsideration, the action of the House at the next annual congress on such resolution or substantive motion shall be final, and that resolution or substantive motion shall not be resubmitted to the Judicial Council.

F. The Judicial Council shall also, in appropriate cases, render advisory opinions interpreting the Code of Ethics of this Association, The Optometric Oath, and the AOA Standards of Professional Conduct.

G. The Judicial Council shall in 1980 and every five (5) years thereafter study and review all resolutions and all substantive motions expressing the policy of this Association adopted by the House of Delegates then in effect and shall recommend to the House of Delegates, with respect to each such resolution and substantive motion, whether it should continue in effect, whether it should be deleted, or whether it should be modified or amended, and if so, in what form.

Section 3. Council on Research

A. The Council on Research shall be composed of five (5) members, all of whom shall be members of this Association.

B. All members of the Council on Research shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Board of Trustees. The members of the Council shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

C. In the event of a vacancy on the Council on Research, the President, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, shall appoint a successor to complete the unexpired portion of the term of office.

D. The duties of the Council on Research shall be to facilitate and assist in the coordination of optometric research; to provide a central source of information relating to such research to the profession; to maintain an inventory of pertinent research; to develop research objectives; to provide assistance in the development of research proposals; to develop guidelines for the evaluation of research proposals; to identify sources of funding; to be an advocate for optometric research; to foster cooperation between and within the research communities, the profession, and scientific bodies; to assist in the development of research resources; and other functions relating to research, as appropriate.

ARTICLE VI SECTIONS

Section 1.

A. The House of Delegates, by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast may create a new section, combine existing sections, change the name of sections, or discontinue sections after a report by the Board of Trustees on the proposal. At least one hundred twenty (120) days before the meeting of the House of Delegates at which action on the proposal is taken, the proponents must file with the secretary-treasurer a statement setting forth:

- (1) The need for the proposed section.
- (2) The contemplated purpose of the section which must be within the objects of the Association and must not substantially conflict with the purpose of any existing section or committee of the Association.
- (3) The proposed bylaws of the section, including a description of its scope and function, which must not be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association.

(4) The proposed budget for the section for the first year of its operation.

(5) A list of present or prospective members of the Association who sign statements that they will apply for membership in this section.

B. Notice must be given to the members of the Association at least ninety (90) days before the meeting of the House of Delegates at which a proposal to establish, combine, discontinue, or change the name of a section is to be considered.

C. Members of sections must be members of the Association and must meet the requirements of the bylaws of the respective sections.

D. Each section shall elect its own officers in the manner provided for in its bylaws.

E. Amendments to the bylaws of a section shall not become effective until approved by the House of Delegates upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

F. Each section shall establish an annual budget, and annual dues to cover the activities of the section. The establishment of the budget and dues of a section shall not become effective until approved by the House of Delegates upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

G. A meeting of each section shall be held at least once a year.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1.

The Board of Trustees may engage the services of a person to act as executive director of the Association. Such person need not be an optometrist or a member of this Association.

Section 2.

The Board shall determine the compensation of the executive director and may, on behalf of the Association, enter into a contract of employment with such executive director for a term not to exceed three (3) years; provided, however, that successive contracts may be entered into with the same person.

Section 3.

The executive director shall administer the business and affairs, and supervise the operation, of the Association under the general policy guidance of the Board of Trustees. The executive director shall perform such duties as are ordinarily performed by persons in similar positions and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS

Section 1.

All officers, trustees, and chair and members of subordinate bodies of this Association, shall, when away from their homes on authorized official business of the Association, be reimbursed for transportation expenses and other expenditures as defined and fixed by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2.

No person shall, on behalf of the Association assume or incur any expenses or liability, or enter into any contract or agreement involving the expenditure of money, except in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.

Any officer or trustee of this Association may be removed by the House of Delegates at any congress by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the votes cast.

Section 4.

The Association shall indemnify and hold harmless each officer and trustee, now or hereafter serving the Association, from and against any and all claims and liabilities to which the individual may be or become subject by reason of now or hereafter being or having heretofore been an officer or trustee of this Association, or by reason of the individual's alleged acts or omissions as an officer or trustee as aforesaid, and shall reimburse each officer and trustee of this Association for all legal and other expenses reasonably incurred by the officer or trustee in connection with defending against any such claims or liabilities, provided, however, that no officer or trustee shall be indemnified against or be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in defending against any claim or liability arising out of the officer's or trustee's own negligence or willful misconduct. The foregoing rights of officers and trustees shall not be exclusive of other rights to which they may be entitled lawfully.

Section 5.

Whenever these Bylaws require that notice be given to any person or organization, such notice may be given by any written means, whether physical, electronic, digital, or otherwise.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by the House of Delegates by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at any congress, provided that the proposed amendment had previously been recommended by a convention or the governing board of an affiliated association, or by the Board of Trustees of this Association, and that one (1) copy of the proposed amendment had been received by the secretary-treasurer of this Association not less than one hundred (100) days before the commencement of the congress which is to consider and act on the proposed amendment. No less than ninety (90) days before said congress, the secretary-treasurer of this Association shall deliver to the president, secretary, and official office of each affiliated association a copy of the proposed amendment with a notice stating that the proposed amendment will be submitted for consideration at the said congress. At the discretion of the secretary-treasurer of this Association, delivery of the proposed amendments under this Article may be made by any written means, whether physical, electronic, digital, or otherwise provided that such means provides the secretary-treasurer with documentation of verifiable receipt of such notice, which shall be maintained with the Association's records. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all amendments to the Bylaws adopted by the House of Delegates shall become effective on January 1 of the calendar year which immediately follows the House of Delegates which approved such amendment.



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

American Optometric Association 2023 Budget by Category

	2023 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
Revenues		
Membership Dues	\$ 18,600,080	\$ 18,309,952
Contributions / Industry Support	3,317,000	2,635,500
Registration Income	1,892,885	1,545,600
ACOE Site Visits/Fees	805,836	792,078
Sales - Printed Materials	264,000	357,000
Exhibit Booth / Meeting	1,101,000	1,095,200
Advertising	325,000	305,000
Rental Income	9,492	78,572
Other Revenue	431,800	430,920
Total Revenues	\$ 26,747,093	\$ 25,549,822
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,370,377	\$ 10,050,020
Phone, Copy & Supplies	398,006	377,680
Software, Purchases & Printing	956,314	977,690
Rent, Utilities, Insurance & Property Taxes	676,406	697,607
Consultant, Legal & Professional Fees	5,817,989	5,844,137
Travel Expenses	3,705,831	2,067,304
Meeting	2,355,879	1,710,880
Food Functions	1,649,515	1,038,547
Stipends, Honorariums, & Payments to Affiliates	1,378,737	1,328,019
Advertising & Promotions	95,676	35,500
Awards, Grants & Contributions	573,000	404,228
Other Expenses	778,340	919,904
Total Expenses	\$ 28,756,070	\$ 25,451,516
Investment Income	960,000	900,889
Depreciation and Amortization	(635,477)	(707,226)
Interest Expense	(199,072)	(239,852)
Subtotal	\$ 125,451	\$ (46,189)
Total Earnings	\$ (1,883,526)	\$ 52,117

**American Optometric Association
2023 Budget by Group**

	REVENUE	EXPENSE	NET
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PAC	955,000	4,805,902	(3,850,902)
STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	95,000	1,176,052	(1,081,052)
THIRD PARTY CENTER	0	353,777	(353,777)
CLINICAL CARE	0	165,989	(165,989)
ACOE	805,836	862,394	(56,558)
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING	2,129,775	3,937,556	(1,807,781)
AFFILIATE RELATIONS & MEMBERSHIP	20,000	1,100,580	(1,080,580)
EDUCATION & PARAOPTOMETRIC	648,400	932,331	(283,931)
ADMINISTRATIVE	1,264,800	(338,800)	1,603,600
ED & LEGAL	170,000	1,778,579	(1,608,579)
FINANCE & DUES ACCOUNTING	16,955,005	1,755,049	15,199,956
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	0	1,184,173	(1,184,173)
ALX & STL RENT	9,492	1,368,237	(1,358,745)
MAIL & MARKETPLACE	264,000	353,163	(89,163)
HUMAN RESOURCES	0	36,462	(36,462)
IT	90,000	2,252,018	(2,162,018)
RESEARCH AND INFORMATION	0	254,553	(254,553)
INDUSTRY RELATIONS	0	446,608	(446,608)
CONFERENCES	170,000	577,263	(407,263)
OM®	4,129,785	6,588,733	(2,458,948)
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$ 27,707,093</u>	<u>\$ 29,590,619</u>	<u>\$ (1,883,526)</u>

American Optometric Association

Independent Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021



American Optometric Association

December 31, 2022 and 2021

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Trustees
American Optometric Association
St. Louis, Missouri

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of American Optometric Association, which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of American Optometric Association as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of American Optometric Association and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about American Optometric Association's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that these consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of American Optometric Association's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about American Optometric Association's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

FORVIS, LLP

St. Louis, Missouri
June 2, 2023

American Optometric Association
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2022 and 2021

Assets

	2022	2021
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 3,683,362	\$ 2,618,042
Investments	23,048,931	19,709,147
Dues receivable, net of allowance; \$600,202 in 2022 and \$471,015 in 2021	2,016,810	2,262,718
Accounts and other receivables, net of allowance; \$18,730 in 2022 and \$578 in 2021	942,372	793,673
Contributions receivable, net of allowance; \$12,125 in 2022 and \$14,302 in 2021	120,778	199,449
Printed materials for resale	35,460	36,606
Other current assets	847,940	756,506
Total current assets	30,695,653	26,376,141
Contributions Receivable - Long-Term	12,908	32,842
Property and Equipment, At Cost		
Land	978,647	978,647
Buildings and improvements	11,051,995	7,519,792
Furniture and equipment	4,164,150	4,218,728
	16,194,792	12,717,167
Less accumulated depreciation	8,434,334	5,873,611
	7,760,458	6,843,556
Right-of-Use Assets	75,196	-
Building Held-For-Sale	-	1,511,837
Dividend on Deposit	4,332,803	8,832,803
Interest Rate Swap Agreement	245,434	-
Other Long-Term Assets	13,370	13,361
Total assets	\$ 43,135,822	\$ 43,610,540

Liabilities and Net Assets

	2022	2021
Current Liabilities		
Bank line of credit	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
Accounts payable	1,360,887	776,017
Accrued liabilities	419,937	408,915
Current maturities of long-term debt	533,333	533,333
Deferred revenue - membership dues	407,405	198,608
Deferred revenue - other	988,492	724,586
Current portion of lease liabilities	29,423	-
Total current liabilities	4,739,477	2,641,459
Dividend on Deposit Liability	8,332,385	8,832,803
Long-Term Lease Liabilities	45,773	-
Long-Term Debt, Net	4,242,846	4,773,484
Interest Rate Swap Agreement	-	356,653
Total liabilities	17,360,481	16,604,399
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Designated by board	(4,441,123)	(2,769,307)
Undesignated	28,996,653	28,655,257
Total without donor restrictions	24,555,530	25,885,950
With donor restrictions	1,219,811	1,120,191
Total net assets	25,775,341	27,006,141
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 43,135,822	\$ 43,610,540

American Optometric Association
Consolidated Statements of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Revenues, Gains and Other Support		
Membership dues	\$ 20,038,742	\$ 19,845,051
Contributions and industry support	4,451,103	3,340,824
Contributed services	473,222	499,512
Registration income	1,217,507	1,003,722
Marketing service revenue	1,031,270	1,136,581
ACOE site visits and fees	834,100	669,285
Sale of printed materials	221,447	287,702
Exhibit booths and meetings	1,136,003	808,882
Royalties income	177,071	73,474
Program revenue	509,064	423,334
Advertising	(25,446)	190,530
Rental income	2,988	249,340
Investment return, net	(1,656,120)	2,643,546
Change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement	602,087	304,568
Other revenue	197,667	274,352
Net assets released from restriction	179,959	80,692
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenues, gains and other support	29,390,664	31,831,395
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	10,244,959	10,021,635
Phone, copy and supplies	418,898	380,392
Software, purchases and printing	961,788	985,295
Rent, utilities, insurance and property taxes	709,604	679,574
Consultant, legal and professional fees	7,211,930	5,962,206
Travel expenses	1,908,567	681,558
Meeting expenses	2,547,773	1,025,225
Food functions	1,186,035	364,696
Stipends, honorariums and payments to affiliates	1,081,559	924,663
Advertising and promotions	120,723	49,149
Awards, grants and contributions	685,174	393,983
Federated Campaign Contribution	1,266,500	814,599
Contributed Services Expense	473,222	499,512
Income tax expense	116,666	-
Depreciation and amortization	701,353	814,864
Interest expense	221,685	248,982
Other expenses	864,648	787,373
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	30,721,084	24,633,706
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	(1,330,420)	7,197,689

(Continued)

American Optometric Association
Consolidated Statements of Activities (Continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		
Contributions received	\$ 279,579	\$ 111,810
Net assets released from restriction	<u>(179,959)</u>	<u>(80,692)</u>
Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	<u>99,620</u>	<u>31,118</u>
Change in Net Assets	(1,230,800)	7,228,807
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>27,006,141</u>	<u>19,777,334</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 25,775,341</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 27,006,141</u></u>

American Optometric Association

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Program Expenses						Total
	Membership Services	Advocacy	Communication & Publications	Optometry's Meetings & Conferences	Occupancy Expenses	General Administration	
Expenses							
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 3,206,702	\$ 2,812,011	\$ 852,782	\$ 323,213	\$ -	\$ 3,050,251	\$ 10,244,959
Phone, Copy & Supplies	114,301	90,667	55,690	5,495	16,946	135,799	418,898
Software, Purchases & Printing	581,788	58,465	70,565	8,918	-	242,052	961,788
Rent, Utilities, Insurance & Property	16,495	15,075	-	1,965	649,225	26,844	709,604
Consultant, Legal & Professional Fees	407,909	2,516,779	3,500,972	429,465	73,024	283,781	7,211,930
Travel Expenses	862,859	516,588	21,577	431,402	-	76,141	1,908,567
Meeting Expenses	462,824	415,724	1,401	1,656,692	-	11,132	2,547,773
Food Functions	269,387	330,221	-	556,992	-	29,435	1,186,035
Depreciation and Amortization	81,006	532	-	-	529,054	90,761	701,353
Interest Expense	12,234	-	-	-	209,451	-	221,685
Stipends, Honorariums, & Payments to Affiliates	811,599	34,308	-	205,652	-	30,000	1,081,559
Advertising & Promotions	12,523	102,100	-	6,100	-	-	120,723
Income Tax Expense	-	-	-	-	-	116,666	116,666
Federated Campaign Contribution	-	1,266,500	-	-	-	-	1,266,500
Awards, Grants & Contributions	217,754	444,100	9,136	157	-	14,027	685,174
Contributed Services Expense	473,222	-	-	-	-	-	473,222
Other Expenses	389,239	284,230	6,144	138,961	(1,610)	47,684	864,648
Total expenses	\$ 7,919,842	\$ 8,887,300	\$ 4,518,267	\$ 3,765,012	\$ 1,476,090	\$ 4,154,573	\$ 30,721,084

American Optometric Association

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Program Expenses					General		Total
	Membership Services	Advocacy	Communication & Publications	Optometry's Meetings & Conferences	Occupancy Expenses	Administration		
Expenses								
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 3,162,926	\$ 2,760,141	\$ 859,151	\$ 383,061	\$ -	\$ 2,856,356	\$	10,021,635
Phone, Copy & Supplies	114,790	36,231	50,905	17,314	9,358	151,794		380,392
Software, Purchases & Printing	601,233	36,970	32,729	52,836	-	261,527		985,295
Rent, Utilities, Insurance & Property	23,364	18,740	-	-	611,954	25,516		679,574
Consultant, Legal & Professional Fees	585,133	2,119,920	2,584,699	359,121	94,812	218,521		5,962,206
Travel Expenses	365,456	71,435	11,610	182,625	1,423	49,009		681,558
Meeting Expenses	168,001	132,241	10,034	713,430	-	1,519		1,025,225
Food Functions	96,364	27,217	-	232,980	-	8,135		364,696
Depreciation and Amortization	80,785	982	-	-	616,094	117,003		814,864
Interest Expense	12,178	-	-	-	228,436	8,368		248,982
Stipends, Honorariums, & Payments to Affiliates	774,155	29,445	-	91,064	-	29,999		924,663
Advertising & Promotions	47,761	1,388	-	-	-	-		49,149
Awards, Grants & Contributions	-	814,599	-	-	-	-		814,599
Federated Campaign Contribution	260,712	122,755	7,996	-	-	2,520		393,983
Contributed Services Expense	499,512	-	-	-	-	-		499,512
Other Expenses	445,436	272,418	1,105	53,974	(66,017)	80,457		787,373
Total expenses	\$ 7,237,806	\$ 6,444,482	\$ 3,558,229	\$ 2,086,405	\$ 1,496,060	\$ 3,810,724	\$	24,633,706

American Optometric Association

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ (1,230,800)	\$ 7,228,807
Items not requiring (providing) cash		
Depreciation and amortization	701,351	814,864
Noncash operating lease expense	36,580	-
Gain on disposition of property and equipment	(140)	(270)
Net realized and unrealized losses (gains) on investments	2,106,786	(2,361,986)
Provision (credit) for losses on receivables	145,401	(107,531)
Change in interest rate swap valuation	(602,087)	(304,568)
Proceeds from forgiveness of PPP loans	-	(106,300)
Changes in		
Dues receivable	209,244	751,097
Accounts and other receivables	(1,056,840)	(204,232)
Contributions receivable	70,146	65,142
Printed material for resale	1,146	(11,229)
Other assets	(288,128)	(167,252)
Dividend on deposit	3,999,582	-
Accounts payable	1,042,505	(196,265)
Accrued liabilities	(23,101)	(19,215)
Deferred revenue	1,090,491	(1,186,319)
Operating lease liabilities	(36,580)	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>6,165,556</u>	<u>4,194,743</u>
Investing Activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(120,473)	(179,540)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	140	270
Purchase of investments	(10,765,984)	(6,559,226)
Proceeds from disposition of investments	5,319,414	5,744,964
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(5,566,903)</u>	<u>(993,532)</u>
Financing Activities		
Payments on long-term debt	(533,333)	(533,333)
Borrowings on bank lines of credit agreement	1,000,000	-
Payments on bank lines of credit agreement	-	(3,100,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>466,667</u>	<u>(3,633,333)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	<u>1,065,320</u>	<u>(432,122)</u>
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>2,618,042</u>	<u>3,050,164</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 3,683,362</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,618,042</u></u>
Supplemental Cash Flows Information		
Interest paid	\$ 227,651	\$ 254,952
Transfer of receivable to an equity method investment	\$ -	\$ 100,000
Transfer of building from held-for-sale to operations	\$ 1,511,837	\$ -
Transfer of building used in operations to held-for-sale	\$ -	\$ 1,511,837

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

American Optometric Association (the “Association” or “AOA”) is the national nonprofit professional association of optometrists. The Association’s primary source of revenue is membership dues.

Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation (the “Foundation”) is the charitable arm of the Association which coordinates and sponsors various programs including Infantsee® and Vision USA.

AOAExcel, Inc. (“Excel”) is a wholly-owned for-profit subsidiary of the Association which offers optometry products and services focused on helping member optometrists grow and succeed. AOAExcel GPO, LLC (“GPO”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Excel, provides group purchasing discounts and benefits to optometrists of the Association.

Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety (“HCAPS”) was formed in partnership with key ophthalmic industry supporters to promote and advocate on behalf of patient safety within the United States.

American Optometric Association Political Action Committee (“AOA PAC”) was organized under the *Federal Election Campaign Act* (2 U.S.C. 431), as amended, and is duly registered with the Federal Election Commission as a separate segregated fund of AOA. The Committee is an incorporated (effective January 26, 2012) multi-candidate political action committee, not affiliated with any political party or other political committee. AOA PAC solicits and receives voluntary contributions from the Association’s members to support candidates for federal elective office, federal committees, and political party committees.

Basis of Consolidation

The accompanying financial statements include the accounts of the Association, Foundation, Excel, HCAPS, and AOA PAC, collectively the “Organization.” All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in the consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Cash

Uninvested cash and cash equivalents included in investment accounts and dividends on deposit are not considered to be cash and cash equivalents. At December 31, 2022, the Organization's cash accounts exceeded federally insured limits by approximately \$2,683,000.

Investments

The Organization measures securities at fair value. The Organization considers money market funds and all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less held by the investment manager as part of the investment portfolio and not considered cash and cash equivalents.

Net Investment Return

Investment return includes dividend, interest and other investment income; realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments carried at fair value; and realized gains and losses on other investments, less external and direct internal investment expenses. Gains and losses on the sale of securities are recorded on the trade date and are determined using the specific identification method.

Investment return that is initially restricted by donor stipulation and for which the restriction will be satisfied in the same year is included in net assets without donor restrictions. Other investment return is reflected in the consolidated statements of activities as with or without donor restrictions based upon the existence and nature of any donor or legally imposed restrictions.

During 2022, the Association sold its share of equity held in a company outside of its investment portfolio for an approximate \$1,121,000 gain. The gain has been netted with investment return, net, on the 2022 statement of activities.

Dues and Accounts Receivable

Dues receivable are stated at the amount of consideration from members, of which the Organization has an unconditional right to receive. The Organization provides an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon a review of outstanding receivables, historical collection information and existing economic conditions.

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount of consideration from members or customers, of which the Organization has an unconditional right to receive. The Organization provides an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon a review of outstanding receivables, historical collection information and existing economic conditions. Accounts receivable are ordinarily due 30 days after the issuance of the invoice. Accounts past due more than 120 days are considered delinquent. Delinquent receivables are written off based on the individual credit evaluation and specific circumstances of the customer.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Printed Materials for Resale

Costs for printed materials for sale are determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. FIFO inventories are stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value.

Dividend on Deposit and Dividend on Deposit Liability

The Association administers certain group life and long-term disability insurance policies as a service to its members which include a dividend on deposit. These dividends are owned by the Association; however, can only be paid out for the benefit of the customer related to the policies. As such a dividend on deposit and equal dividend on deposit liability are recorded for the balance of the policy.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and are depreciated over the estimated useful life of each asset. Annual depreciation is computed using the straight-line method.

The estimated useful lives for each major depreciable classification of property and equipment are as follows:

Building and improvements	15-40 years
Furniture and equipment	5-10 years

Building Held-For-Sale

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Association had listed its Alexandria, Virginia property for sale. The property was anticipated to be actively used in operations until a sale occurs. The net book value of the property as of December 31, 2021, was \$1,511,837. No loss was expected on a sale. Due to market conditions, the property no longer qualifies to be classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2022.

Long-Lived Asset Impairment

The Organization evaluates the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets whenever events or circumstances indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If a long-lived asset is tested for recoverability and the undiscounted estimated future cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the asset are less than the carrying amount of the asset, the asset cost is adjusted to fair value and an impairment loss is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of a long-lived asset exceeds its fair value.

No asset impairment was recognized during the years ended December 31, 2022, and 2021.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Net Assets

Net assets, revenues, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Net assets without donor restrictions are available for use in general operations and not subject to donor restrictions. The governing board has designated, from net assets without donor restrictions, net assets for an emergency fund, program working capital fund, scholarships, and memorials.

Net assets with donor restrictions are subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized as the Organization satisfies performance obligations under its contracts. Revenue is reported in an amount that reflects the consideration that it expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. The amount and timing of revenue recognition varies based on the nature of the goods or services provided and the terms and conditions of the member or customer contract. See Note 12 for additional information about the Organization's revenue.

Contributions

Gifts of cash and other assets received without donor stipulations are reported as revenue and net assets without donor restrictions. Gifts received with a donor stipulation that limits their use are reported as revenue and net assets with donor restrictions. When a donor stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Gifts having donor stipulations which are satisfied in the period the gift is received are reported as revenue and net assets without donor restrictions.

Unconditional gifts expected to be collected within one year are reported at their net realizable value. Unconditional gifts expected to be collected in future years are initially reported at fair value determined using the discounted present value of estimated future cash flows technique. The resulting discount is amortized using the level-yield method and is reported as contribution revenue.

Conditional gifts depend on the occurrence of a specified future and uncertain event to bind the potential donor and are recognized as assets and revenue when the conditions are substantially met and the gift becomes unconditional.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Contributed Services

Contributions of services are recognized as revenue at their estimated fair value only when the services received create or enhance nonfinancial assets or require specialized skills possessed by the individuals providing the service and the service would typically need to be purchased if not donated. Contributed services includes Infantsee®, which provides no-cost comprehensive eye and vision assessments to infants. Contribution revenue and expense as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, recognized from contributed services which were utilized during the year and were \$473,222 and \$499,512, respectively.

Deferred Revenue

Revenues from industry funding, accreditation and Optometry's Meeting® exhibit fees are recognized in the period to which they relate. Fees and membership dues billed and collected in advance are recorded as deferred revenue and are recognized over the periods to which the fees and membership dues relate.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan

The Foundation and Excel each received a PPP loan established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* ("CARES Act") and has elected to account for the funding as loans in accordance with ASC Topic 470, *Debt*. Any forgiveness of the loans was recognized as gains in the financial statements in the period the debt is legally released. PPP loans are subject to audit and acceptance by the United States Department of Treasury, Small Business Administration ("SBA"), or lender; as a result of such audit, adjustments could be required to any gain recognized.

Income Taxes

The Association, Foundation, and HCAPS are exempt from income taxes under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code and a similar provision of state law. However, the Association and Foundation are subject to federal income tax on any unrelated business income. Excel is a for-profit organization and is subject to income tax as a "C" Corporation. GPO is considered a disregarded entity for tax purposes and included with Excel for tax filing purposes.

AOA PAC is a political committee subject to taxation under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, AOA PAC is subject to federal and state taxes on interest income. AOA PAC had no income tax liability for 2022 and 2021, and, therefore, paid no income taxes during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

The individual entities file tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs represent costs incurred in connection with the issuance of long-term debt. The Association records these costs as direct deductions from the related debt. Such costs are being amortized over the term of the respective debt using the effective interest method.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of supporting the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the consolidated statements of activities. The consolidated statements of functional expenses present the natural classification detail of expenses by function. Certain costs have been allocated among the program, management and general and fundraising categories based on time spent and other methods.

Reclassification for Change in Accounting Principle

A reclassification of contributed services has been made to the 2021 consolidated financial statements to conform to the 2022 consolidated financial statement presentation for the adoption of ASU No. 2020-07, “*Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – Presentation and Disclosures by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets.*” The new guidance was adopted by the Organization in 2022. The reclassification had no effect on the change in net assets.

Note 2: Contributions Receivable

All contributions receivable are restricted for time or purpose. Contributions receivable consist of the following:

	2022	2021
Contributions receivable		
Due within one year	\$ 132,903	\$ 213,751
Due in one to five years	15,000	36,800
	147,903	250,551
Less allowance for uncollectible contributions	(12,125)	(14,302)
Less unamortized discount	(2,092)	(3,958)
	<u>\$ 133,686</u>	<u>\$ 232,291</u>

The discount rate was 5.50% for both 2022 and 2021.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Note 3: Revolving Lines of Credit

The Association has a \$4,000,000 unsecured revolving line of credit that expires in July 2023. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, \$1,000,000 and \$0, respectively, was borrowed on the line. Interest is payable monthly and varies based on the Bank's Prime ("Index") rate. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the interest rate was 5.62% and 2.25%, respectively.

Excel has a \$1,000,000 revolving line of credit that expires in July 2023. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, no amount was borrowed on the line. The line is collateralized by the Association's assets. Interest is payable monthly at base on the Bank's Prime rate. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the interest rate was 5.62% and 2.25%, respectively. In addition, the Association guarantees the line of credit and may seek reimbursement from Excel of any amounts expended under the guarantee.

Note 4: Long-Term Debt

	2022	2021
Note payable to bank due December 31, 2031; principal payable \$44,444 monthly, in addition to interest at Index plus 145 basis points, interest rate was 1.55% and 1.60% at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively, secured by first lien on building (A)	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 5,333,334
Less unamortized debt issuance costs	23,821	26,517
Less current maturities	533,333	533,333
	<u>\$ 4,242,846</u>	<u>\$ 4,773,484</u>

(A) Unamortized debt issuance cost will be amortized over the 15-year term of the note payable. The effective rates approximate the stated rates on the debt for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Aggregate annual maturities of long-term debt payments at December 31, 2022, are:

2023	\$ 533,333
2024	533,333
2025	533,333
2026	533,333
2027	533,333
Thereafter	2,133,335
	<u>\$ 4,800,000</u>

American Optometric Association

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Note 5: Interest Rate Swap

As a strategy to maintain acceptable levels of exposure to the risk of changes in future cash flows due to interest rate fluctuations, the Association entered into an interest rate swap agreement for its variable rate debt which was effective December 1, 2016. The agreement provides for the Association to receive interest from the counterparty at Index plus 1.45% and to pay interest to the counterparty at a fixed rate of 4.04% on current notional amounts of \$4,800,000 and \$5,333,334 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Under the agreement, the Association pays or receives the net interest amount monthly, with the monthly settlements included in interest expense.

The table below presents certain information regarding the Association's interest rate swap agreement.

	2022	2021
Fair value of the interest rate swap agreement	\$ 245,434	\$ (356,653)
Statement of financial position location of fair value amount	Long-term liabilities	Long-term liabilities
Gain recognized in statement of activities	\$ 602,087	\$ 304,568
Location of gain (loss) recognized in statement of activities	Change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement	Change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement
Net monthly settlements paid	\$ 49,028	\$ 139,602
Location of settlement expense in statement of activities	Interest	Interest

Note 6: Leases – ASC 842

Change in Accounting Principle

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-02, *Leases* (Topic 842). This ASU requires lessees to recognize a lease liability and a right-of-use (ROU) asset on a discounted basis, for substantially all leases, as well as additional disclosures regarding leasing arrangements. Disclosures are required to enable users of financial statements to assess the amount, timing and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. In July 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-11, *Leases* (Topic 842): *Targeted Improvements*, which provides an optional transition method of applying the new lease standard. Topic 842 can be applied using either a modified retrospective approach at the beginning of the earliest period presented or, as permitted by ASU 2018-11, at the beginning of the period in which it is adopted, *i.e.*, the comparatives under ASC 840 option.

The Association adopted Topic 842 on January 1, 2022 (the effective date), using the comparatives under ASC 840 transition method, which applies Topic 842 at the beginning of the period in which it is adopted. Prior period amounts have not been adjusted in connection with the adoption of this standard. The Association elected the package of practical expedients under the new standard, which permits entities to not reassess lease classification, lease identification or initial direct costs for existing or expired leases prior to the effective date. The Association has lease agreements with

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nonlease components that relate to the lease components. The Association elected the practical expedient to account for nonlease components and the lease components to which they relate as a single lease component for all. Also, the Association elected to keep short-term leases with an initial term of 12 months or less off the statement of financial position. The Association did not elect the hindsight practical expedient in determining the lease term for existing leases as of January 1, 2022.

The most significant impact of adoption was the recognition of operating lease ROU assets and operating lease liabilities of \$111,776 each. The standard did not significantly affect the statements of activities or cash flows.

Accounting Policies

The Association determines if an arrangement is a lease or contains a lease at inception. Leases result in the recognition of ROU assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheets. ROU assets represent the right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent the obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease, measured on a discounted basis. The Association determines lease classification as operating or finance at the lease commencement date.

The Association combines lease and nonlease components, such as common area and other maintenance costs, and accounts for them as a single lease component in calculating the ROU assets and lease liabilities for its office buildings.

At lease commencement, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments over the lease term. The ROU asset equals the lease liability adjusted for any initial direct costs, prepaid or deferred rent, and lease incentives. The Association has made a policy election to use a risk-free rate (the rate of a zero-coupon U.S. Treasury instrument) for the initial and subsequent measurement of all lease liabilities. The risk-free rate is determined using a period comparable with the lease term.

The lease term may include options to extend or terminate the lease that the Association is reasonably certain to exercise. Lease expense is generally recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Association has elected not to record leases with an initial term of 12 months or less on the balance sheets. Lease expense on such leases is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Nature of Leases

The Association has entered into the following lease arrangements.

Operating Leases

The Association leases office equipment through agreements that expire in various years through 2025. These leases generally require the Association to pay all executory costs (maintenance and repairs). Termination of the leases is generally prohibited unless there is a violation under the lease agreement.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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All Leases

The Association has no material related-party leases.

The Association's lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants.

Quantitative Disclosures

The lease cost and other required information for the years ended December 31, 2022 are:

Lease Cost		
Operating lease cost	\$	37,717
Other Information		
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities		
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$	36,580
Weighted-average remaining lease term in years for operating leases		2.89 years
Weighted-average discount rate for operating leases		1.26%

Future minimum lease payments and reconciliation to the balance sheet at December 31, 2022, are as follows:

	Operating Leases
2023	\$ 30,132
2024	21,490
2025	19,874
2026	4,969
	<hr/>
Total future undiscounted cash flows	76,465
Less: imputed interest	(1,269)
	<hr/>
Lease liabilities	<u>\$ 75,196</u>

American Optometric Association
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
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Note 7: Net Assets

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions at December 31 consist of:

	2022	2021
Undesignated	\$ 28,996,653	\$ 28,655,257
Internally designated for		
Emergency funds	183,691	183,691
Program working capital funds	(4,751,295)	(3,088,011)
Scholarships	19,075	21,575
Memorials	107,406	113,438
	<u>(4,441,123)</u>	<u>(2,769,307)</u>
	<u>\$ 24,555,530</u>	<u>\$ 25,885,950</u>

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions at December 31 are restricted for the following purposes or periods:

	2022	2021
Galina - educational grants	\$ 17,336	\$ 19,836
Disaster relief	125,137	94,136
Scholarships	16,660	27,019
Infantsee®	950,156	867,191
OCS Pledges	17,372	40,732
Opportunities in Optometry	29,306	14,972
OC Camp Courage	6,304	6,305
Heritage Services Optometric Historical Society	7,540	-
Investment in perpetuity, the income of which is expendable to support educational uses	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	<u>\$ 1,219,811</u>	<u>\$ 1,120,191</u>

American Optometric Association

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Net Assets Released from Restrictions

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors as follows:

	2022	2021
Galina - educational grants	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Scholarships	11,800	10,360
OCS Pledges	23,360	25,418
Disaster Relief	93,500	-
Infantsee®	13,239	35,827
HEHC	-	6,587
Heritage Services Optometric Historical Society	2,485	-
Opportunities in Optometry	33,075	-
	<u>\$ 179,959</u>	<u>\$ 80,692</u>

Note 8: Unconsolidated Entities

The Association has agreements with the American Board of Optometry (“the Company”) and American Optometric Student Association (“AOSA”) in which the Association provides certain staffing, support and facilities for the Company and AOSA. The Association, Company, and AOSA are not financially interrelated organizations.

The Association’s accounts receivable include amounts due from the Company of \$3,720 and \$3,520 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The Association’s accounts receivable from AOSA were \$20,356 and \$24,877 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. In addition, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Foundation had an accounts receivable balances of \$14,849 and \$18,923, respectively, from AOSA.

Note 9: Defined Contribution Plan

The Association has a 401(k) contributory pension plan to which the Association contributes an amount up to 5.5% of eligible (as to age and length of service) employees’ annual compensation, as defined. Expense under this plan was approximately \$435,000 and \$414,000 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Note 10: Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There is a hierarchy of three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

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- Level 1** Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2** Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities
- Level 3** Unobservable inputs supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities

Recurring Measurements

The following tables present the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities recognized in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at December 31, 2022 and 2021:

		Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
		Total		
December 31, 2022				
Assets				
Investments				
Common stocks, diverse industry sectors	\$ 7,696,621	\$ 7,696,621	\$ -	\$ -
Money market funds	205,858	205,858	-	-
Corporate bonds, primarily financial sector	1,581,802	-	1,581,802	-
Government bonds	5,051,950	-	5,051,950	-
U.S. Treasury bills	293,835	-	293,835	-
Certificates of deposit	568,559	-	568,559	-
Mutual funds, diverse types of funds	7,650,306	7,650,306	-	-
Total investments	\$ 23,048,931	\$ 15,552,785	\$ 7,496,146	\$ -
Interest rate swap agreement	\$ 245,434	\$ -	\$ 245,434	\$ -

American Optometric Association
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
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		Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
		Total		
December 31, 2021				
Assets				
Investments				
Common stocks, diverse industry sectors	\$ 9,175,143	\$ 9,175,143	\$ -	\$ -
Money market funds	884,312	884,312	-	-
Corporate bonds, primarily financial sector	1,040,536	-	1,040,536	-
Government bonds	3,458,098	-	3,458,098	-
Certificates of deposit	887,822	-	887,822	-
Mutual funds, diverse types of funds	4,263,236	4,263,236	-	-
Total investments	<u>\$ 19,709,147</u>	<u>\$ 14,322,691</u>	<u>\$ 5,386,456</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Liabilities				
Interest rate swap agreement	<u>\$ (356,653)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (356,653)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies and inputs used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position, as well as the general classification of such assets and liabilities pursuant to the valuation hierarchy. There have been no significant changes in valuation techniques during the year ended December 31, 2022.

Investments

Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, investments are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of investments with similar characteristics, the inputs of which are market-based or independently sourced market parameters, including but not limited to, yield curves, interest rates, volatilities, prepayments, defaults, cumulative loss projections and cash flows. Such investments are classified in Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. In certain cases where Level 1 or Level 2 inputs are not available, investments are classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy.

Interest Rate Swap Agreement

The fair value is estimated using forward-looking interest rate curves and discounted cash flows that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data and, therefore, are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy.

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Note 11: Endowment

The Foundation's endowment consists of the Galina funds established for the purpose of education scholarships. The endowment is made up of a donor restricted fund of \$50,000 which is required to be maintained in perpetuity and a donor restricted fund generated from the return on investment of the original gift amount and subsequent donations made by Galina. This fund is restricted for the purpose of educational scholarships.

As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), net assets associated with endowment funds, including board-designated endowment funds, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Foundation's Board of Directors have interpreted the State of Missouri Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("SPMIFA") as requiring preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, when reviewing its donor-restricted endowment funds, the Foundation considers a fund to be underwater if the fair value of the fund is less than the sum of (a) the original value of initial and subsequent gift amounts donated to the fund and (b) any accumulations to the fund that are required to be maintained in perpetuity in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument. The Foundation has interpreted SPMIFA to permit spending from underwater funds in accordance with the prudent measures required under the law. Additionally, in accordance with SPMIFA, the Foundation considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

1. Duration and preservation of the fund.
2. Purposes of the Foundation and the fund.
3. General economic conditions.
4. Possible effect of inflation and deflation.
5. Expected total return from investment income and appreciation or depreciation of investments.
6. Other resources of the Foundation.
7. Investment policies of the Foundation.

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The composition of net assets by type of endowment fund and changes in endowment net assets as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, was:

	2022	2021
Donor-restricted endowment funds		
Original donor-restricted gift amount and amounts required to be maintained in perpetuity by donor	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Accumulated investment gains	17,336	19,836
Total endowment funds with donor restrictions	<u>\$ 67,336</u>	<u>\$ 69,836</u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ 69,836	\$ 72,336
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 67,336</u>	<u>\$ 69,836</u>

The Foundation has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding for the annual scholarship. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted endowment funds the Foundation must hold in perpetuity, as well as the donor restricted assets generated through subsequent donations and return on investment which must be held for a specific purpose. During 2022 and 2021, the Foundation awarded a \$2,500 scholarship each year from these funds. Under the Foundation's policies, endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to produce results that meet the cost of the annual scholarship while assuming a minimal level of investment risk. This is consistent with the Foundation's objective to maintain endowment asset held in perpetuity, as well as to provide additional real growth through new gifts and investment return.

Note 12: Revenue from Contracts with Members and Customers

Membership Dues

Revenue from contracts with members for annual dues is reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Organization expects to be entitled in exchange for providing membership benefits. These amounts are due from members and others and do not include variable consideration.

Revenue is recognized as performance obligations are satisfied, which is ratably over the membership term using the input method. Generally, the Association bills members annually with payment due quarterly.

Industry Support, Registration Income and Exhibit Booths and Meetings

Revenue from contracts with customers for industry support, registration income and exhibit booths and meetings is reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in exchange for providing goods or services to the customer. These amounts are due from customers and do not include variable consideration.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Revenue is recognized as performance obligations are satisfied, which is at a point in time. Generally, for industry support, registration income and exhibit booths and meetings, the point in time coincides with an event at which time the goods or services are provided to the customer.

Marketing Services

Revenue from contracts with customers for marketing services is reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Organization expects to be entitled in exchange for providing services to the customer. These amounts are due from customers and do not include variable consideration.

The performance obligations include providing marketing services as well as increasing revenues for the customer. Revenue for marketing services is recognized as performance obligations are satisfied, which is ratably over the contract term using the input method. Revenue for increasing revenues for the customer are also recognized over time; however, recognition is based on the output method as the amount of consideration expected from the customer is dependent upon measurable outputs specified in the contract.

Program Revenue

Revenue from contracts with customers for program revenue is reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Organization expects to be entitled in exchange for providing services to the customer. These amounts are due from customers and do not include variable consideration.

Revenue is recognized as the performance obligation is satisfied, which is ratably over the contract term using the input method.

Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Site Visits and Fees

Revenue from contracts with professionals for Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (“ACOE”) site visits and fees are reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in exchange for providing services to the professional. These amounts are due from professionals and do not include variable consideration.

The performance obligations include application processing, site visits and providing annual accreditation status. Revenue is recognized as performance obligations are satisfied, which is at a point in time.

Sale of Printed Materials

Revenue from the sale of printed materials is measured as the amount of consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for transferring the materials to customers. The revenue is reported net of sales discounts offered to customers. The Association recognizes revenue when performance obligations under the terms of contracts with its customers are satisfied, which occurs when control passes to a customer to enable them to direct the use of and obtain benefit from a product which is when the product is shipped.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Advertising Revenue

Revenue from contracts with customers for advertising revenue is reported at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in exchange for advertising. These amounts are due from customer and may include explicit variable consideration based on the amount of advertising space purchased.

Revenue is recognized as performance obligations are satisfied, which is at a point in time and typically at the time the related media is published.

Other Contract Revenue

Performance obligations are determined based on the nature of the goods or services provided by the Organization in accordance with the contract. Revenue for performance obligations satisfied over time is recognized ratably over the period based on time elapsed. The Organization believes this method provides a faithful depiction of the transfer of services over the term of the performance obligation based on the inputs needed to satisfy the obligation.

Revenue for performance obligations satisfied at a point in time is generally recognized when goods or services are provided to customers at a single point in time and the Organization does not believe it is required to provide additional goods or services related to that sale.

Transaction Price and Recognition

The Organization determines the transaction price based on standard charges for goods and services provided, reduced by discounts provided in accordance with the Organization's policy and implicit price concessions provided to customers. The Organization determines its estimates of explicit price concessions based on its discount policies. The Organization determines its estimate of implicit price concessions based on its historical collection experience with this class of customers. The Organizations revenue streams do not have significant financing components or contract costs.

The Organization has determined that the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows are affected by the Organization line of business that provided the service and by customer demand.

For the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Organization recognized revenue of \$21,812,855 and \$21,451,004, respectively, and from goods and services that transfer to the member or customer over time and \$7,332,475 and \$5,599,466, respectively, from goods and services that transfer to the member or customer at a point in time, respectively.

American Optometric Association

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Contract Balances

The following table provides information about the Organization's net receivables and deferred revenue from contracts with customers:

	2022	2021
Dues, accounts and other receivables, net, beginning of year	\$ 3,056,391	\$ 3,471,446
Dues, accounts and other receivables, net, end of year	\$ 2,959,182	\$ 3,056,391
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	\$ 923,194	\$ 2,109,513
Deferred revenue, end of year	\$ 1,994,647	\$ 923,194

Note 13: Significant Estimates and Concentrations

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require disclosure of certain significant estimates and current vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations. Those matters include the following:

Investments

The Association invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect the amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position.

Allowance for Uncollectible Receivables

Estimates of the allowance for uncollectible receivables are described in Note 1.

Note 14: Commitments

The Association has committed to future locations where conferences will be held for various years through 2029. As such, the Association has entered into agreements with hotels and convention centers at each future location which have cancellation penalties. No cancellation penalties were incurred during 2022 or 2021. No liability was recorded or known as of December 31, 2022, and 2021. Should the Association cancel for a reason not allowed under any existing contracts, the approximate maximum penalties associated with commitments through 2029 are approximately \$8,000,000 as of December 31, 2022.

American Optometric Association
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 15: Liquidity and Availability

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2022 and 2021, are cash and investment balances of \$26,732,293 and \$22,327,189, respectively.

The Organization manages its liquidity and reserves following three guiding principles: operating within a prudent range of financial soundness and stability, maintaining adequate liquid assets to fund near-term operating needs and maintaining sufficient reserves to provide reasonable assurance that long-term obligations will be discharged.

Note 16: Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 2, 2023, which is the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

AOA REPORTS

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEASED MEMBERS

**MAY 1, 2022 – APRIL 30, 2023
And Other Members Not Previously Reported**

**HOUSE OF DELEGATES – 126th ANNUAL AOA CONGRESS &
OPTOMETRY'S MEETING®
JUNE 2023
Washington, D.C.**

As reported by the Affiliated Associations

ALABAMA

William D. Allen, O.D.
Lester Caplan, O.D.
Jill K. Meyer, O.D.
Ralph E. Newsome, O.D.
Bradford W. Wild, O.D.

Troy, AL
Baltimore, MD
Birmingham, AL
Huntsville, AL
Tigard, OR

ARIZONA

Arthur B. Epstein, O.D.
Candria E. Krywko, O.D.

Phoenix, AZ
Scottsdale, AZ

ARKANSAS

Henry B. Burton, O.D.
Howard F. Flippin, O.D.
James F. McCoy, O.D.
William D. Simmons, O.D.
Henry C. Watson, Jr., O.D.

Mabelvale, AR
Searcy, AR
Conway, AR
Benton, AR
Paragould, AR

ASSOCIATION OF ARMED FORCES AND FEDERAL OPTOMETRIC SERVICES

Patrick F. Phelan, O.D.
Stuart P. Richer, O.D.
Dwayne D. Young, O.D.

Ocean Springs, MS

CALIFORNIA

Kenneth S. Lawenda, O.D.
Allan S. Moore, O.D.
Gary E. Smith, O.D.

Tulare, CA

COLORADO

Wendell E. Bryan, Jr., O.D.
Howard O. Engeberg, O.D.
Stephen A. Gordon, O.D.
Jay S. Greenstein, O.D.
David C. Lewerenz, O.D.
Richard A. Martinez, O.D.

Morrison, CO
Durango, CO
Denver, CO
Denver, CO
Pueblo, CO

CONNECTICUT

Carl F. Gruning, O.D.
William D. Wachtel, O.D.
Jonas J. Zucker, O.D.

Fairfield, CT
Bristol, CT
Fairfield, CT

DELAWARE

Edwin A. Goldberg, O.D.
Jay D. Paul, O.D.

Wilmington, DE
Wilmington, DE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Amiel W. Francke, O.D.

Washington, DC

FLORIDA

Robert A. Grand, O.D.
William O. Malone, Jr., O.D.
John A. Nabergall, O.D.
Raymond E. Schwartz, O.D.
Jack N. Shorr, O.D.
Lawrence A. Stranch, O.D.

Bradenton, FL
West Palm Beach, FL
Tavares, FL
Live Oak, FL

GEORGIA

Alex C. Nichols, O.D.
William W. West, O.D.

Columbus, GA
Hawkinsville, GA

IDAHO

Stanley Matsuura, O.D.

Blackfoot, ID

ILLINOIS

Charles E. Bedford, Jr., O.D.
John D. Bromley, O.D.
Donald E. Lawson, O.D.
Joseph M. Malee, O.D.
Jason E. McDowell, O.D.

Decatur, IL
Danville, IL
Sarasota, FL
Palos Heights, IL

ILLINOIS (contd.)

Norman S. Patterson, O.D.
Arthur J. Rubin, O.D.
James B. Stafford, O.D.

Frankfort, IL
Peoria, IL

INDIANA

Milton H. Brackmann, O.D.
Charles A. Brizius, O.D.
Kenton F. Byrd, O.D.
John E. Fawcett, O.D.
Paul D. Grossnickle, O.D.
Jack Jaffe, O.D.
Ernest D. Martzell, O.D.
Richard L. Mayer, O.D.
George T. Meisenhelder, O.D.
Robert F. Robb, O.D.
James A. Stieglitz, O.D.

Fort Wayne, IN
Evansville, IN
Union City, IN
Kokomo, IN
Warsaw, IN
Winchester, IN
Connersville, IN
Fort Wayne, IN
Noblesville, IN

IOWA

Joseph W. Johl, O.D.
Richard R. Maas, O.D.
Steven A. Shoup, O.D.
John B. Weaver, O.D.
Francis O. Winjum, O.D.

Winterset, IA
Iowa City, IA
Oskaloosa, IA
Shenandoah, IA
West Des Moines, IA

KANSAS

Cecil B. Kohake, O.D.
Harry F. Liggett, O.D.

Topeka, KS
Edmond, OK

KENTUCKY

Gordon W. Shaw, O.D.

Versailles, KY

LOUISIANA

Lawrence D. Breaux, O.D.

Houma, LA

MARYLAND

Ernest P. Daniels, Sr., O.D.
Wilbur S. Scholl, O.D.
Robert H. Teunis, Sr., O.D.

Aberdeen, MD
Derwood, MD

MASSACHUSETTS

William R. Fountain, O.D.
Edward B. Turner, O.D.
Morris D. Weiner, O.D.

Vero Beach, FL
St. Louis, MO

MICHIGAN

Dan R. Dibble, O.D.
Thomas K. Mithoff, O.D.
John W. Wells, O.D.

Greenville, MI
Trenton, MI
Grand Rapids, MI

MINNESOTA

Philip J. Eckhoff, O.D.

Forest Lake, MN

MISSISSIPPI

Horace L. May, O.D.

Newton, MS

MISSOURI

David J. Luke, O.D.
Nat M. Snider, Jr., O.D.

Centralia, MO
Lincoln, NE

MONTANA

Lawrence O. LaRock, O.D.

Butte, MT

NEBRASKA

Richard L. Powell, O.D.

Lincoln, NE

NEVADA

Harvey A. Ohriner, O.D.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joseph A. Bouchard, O.D.
Richard A. Emery, O.D.
James C. Frangos, O.D.

Claremont, NH
Derry, NH

NEW JERSEY

Robert S. Diamond, O.D.
Richard I. Ellin, O.D.
Arthur J. Feiertag, O.D.
Jean S. Heisman, O.D.
Vincent J. McGlone, O.D.
Charles S. Papier, O.D.
Robert E. Purnell, O.D.
Stanley L. Ravine, O.D.

Margate City, NJ

Bloomfield, NJ
Mullica Hill, NJ
Bernardsville, NJ
Fort Myers, FL
Montville, NJ
Manchester, NJ

NEW MEXICO

Francis J. Duffy, Jr., O.D.

Albuquerque, NM

NEW YORK

Jerome M. Garber, O.D.
Jesse E. Vics, O.D.

Old Westbury, NY

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Donald J. Bailey, O.D.
Joseph C. Bazemore, O.D.
John L. Lewis, O.D.
Timothy C. McGee, O.D.
Diane M. Mincey, O.D.

Goldsboro, NC

Durham, NC
Whiteville, NC
Rutherford College, NC

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Don W. Gunhus, O.D.

Fargo, ND
Fargo, ND

OHIO

George E. Atanasoff, O.D.
Paul W. Gamertsfelder, O.D.
William W. Hill, O.D.
Lowell L. Hone, O.D.
Karl B. Lubitz, O.D.
Robert B. Miller, O.D.
Thomas G. Morand, O.D.
Gilbert E. Pierce, O.D.
Walter W. Sargent, O.D.
Robert L. Sorrell, O.D.
Peter A. Studebaker, O.D.
Tia M. Tucker, O.D.
Charles D. Weaver, O.D.

Jefferson City, MO
Pataskala, OH
Belpre, OH
Bucyrus, OH
Delray Beach, FL
Sheffield Lake, OH

Lewis Center, OH
Chardon, OH
Middletown, OH

OKLAHOMA

Byron A. Bonner, O.D.
James F. Hartin, O.D.
Troy L. Lester, O.D.
Glenn E. Partin, O.D.
Loyd E. Russell, O.D.
Earl P. Schmitt, O.D.
Mack Smith, O.D.
Troy L. Smith, O.D.
Thomas E. Stanton, O.D.
Jerry C. Trotter, O.D.

Oklahoma City, OK
Sapulpa, OK
Ada, OK
Mustang, OK
Walsenburg, CO
Pleasant Hill, TN
Pawnee, OK
Alva, OK
Horseshoe Bay, TX
Ponca City, OK

OREGON

Theron G. Karrick, O.D.
Charles H. Samuel, O.D.

Medford, OR
Bullhead City, AZ

PENNSYLVANIA

David A. Evans, O.D.
Jacob Lipsitz, O.D.
Mark M. Mastervich, O.D.
Gerald B. Stein, O.D.

Harrisburg, PA
Chicago, IL

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Salvatore R. Cesaro, O.D.
Edward F. Chellel, O.D.
Everett J. Federici, O.D.
Earl Kelly, O.D.
Edward F. Richards, O.D.

Smithfield, RI
Barrington, RI
N Providence, RI
Pawtucket, RI
Foster, RI

SOUTH CAROLINA

William D. Breland, O.D.

Walterboro, SC

SOUTH DAKOTA

Douglas E. Torbert, O.D.

Sioux Falls, SD

TENNESSEE

William J. Anderson, O.D.
Orman Campbell, O.D.
Charles Denaburg, O.D.

TEXAS

Thomas G. Beall, O.D.
Ramon Burstyn, O.D.
Troy E. Fannin, O.D.
Meryl L. Harger, O.D.
Grady B. Jolly, O.D.
Peter A. Kolstad, Jr., O.D.
Jerome M. McAllister, O.D.
Spencer V. Moore, O.D.
Terry W. Nelson, O.D.

Plano, TX
Fountain Hills, AZ
Kerrville, TX
Deer Park, TX

Dallas, TX
Waco, TX
Lubbock, TX

TEXAS (contd.)

George W. Payne, Jr., O.D.	Levelland, TX
Sam Quintero, O.D.	
Thurman J. Ray, O.D.	Dallas, TX
Gerald J. Romano, O.D.	Houston, TX
William G. Simpson, O.D.	
Marvin J. Speer, O.D.	
Morris Webb, O.D.	

VIRGINIA

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Charles B. Twigg, O.D.	Berryville, VA
William O. Wills III, O.D.	Fredericksburg, VA

WISCONSIN

John Eberle, O.D.	
Orley W. Jensen, O.D.	Fitchburg, WI
Roger R. Knutson, O.D.	Wales, WI
George R. Leach, O.D.	Naples, FL
Willard E. Lund, O.D.	Madison, WI
Robert L. Savaglio, Sr., O.D.	Sun City, AZ
Joseph J. Schlaefter, O.D.	Hopkins, MN
Paul N. Youngdale, O.D.	

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

Jimmy C. Tumblin, O.D.	Knoxville, TN
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AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Nijewel Holliday	Bayamon, PR
Abigail M. Perry	Davie, FL



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

OTHER ACTIVITY REPORTS

2023 House of Delegates Report from AOAExcel®

AOAExcel® provides personal and professional resources that allow doctors of optometry to practice and flourish with confidence. The products and services offered by AOAExcel's endorsed business partners have been carefully vetted by AOAExcel staff members and a board of AOA member optometrists to meet the unique needs of AOA members nationwide. By taking advantage of the products and services offered by AOAExcel's endorsed partners, AOA members can spend less time researching business resources and focus more energy on providing quality patient care.

AOAExcel Board of Directors

Sam Pierce, O.D., chair

Jacquie Bowen, O.D., member

Bibin Cherian, O.D., member

Steven Loomis, O.D., member

Gabby Marshall, O.D., member

TeShawna Sutton, O.D., member

Chris Wroten, O.D., member

AOAExcel Staff

Ryan Hayes, CPA, chief financial officer, AOA/AOAExcel

Bob Kehm, managing director, AOAExcel

Evan Richards, content writer/marketing coordinator, AOAExcel

Holly Murray, marketing & business development manager, AOAExcel

Mike Stokes, J.D., general counsel, AOA/AOAExcel

Products and Services

Professional Protection

- Malpractice insurance, business owners insurance, cyber liability insurance, employment practices liability Insurance – Lockton Affinity offers guaranteed full-scope malpractice insurance coverage to AOA members. As a member benefit, Lockton Affinity conducts complimentary policy reviews for AOA members to ensure they have adequate coverage under their current malpractice, business owners, cyber liability, and employment practices liability insurance policies. Lockton Affinity also offers malpractice insurance discounts up to 50% for recent graduates who are in their first or second year of practice.
- Disability insurance and life insurance – A.G.I.A., Inc. offers group life and disability insurance policies, including group long-term disability insurance with an own occupation benefit, which covers AOA members if they are unable to continue practicing as doctors of optometry due to a covered illness.

Financial Health

- AOA business card — Mercantile Financial Technologies, Inc. offers a business credit card, which is designed specifically for doctors of optometry to help manage their business(es). The credit card has multiple features, including 2% back in rewards, reimbursement of AOA dues sign-up bonus, and no annual fee.
- Student loan refinancing – Laurel Road specializes in helping doctors of optometry refinance optometry school loans with a no-cost online application process. AOA members in good standing who refinance with Laurel Road receive an exclusive 0.25% rate discount. As an additional member benefit, Laurel Road produces webinars for AOA members regarding student loan repayment options that include, but are not limited to, student loan refinancing.
- Retirement savings planning – Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (Equitable Financial) offers a variety of retirement savings to help best suit the needs of AOA members. As a member benefit, Equitable offers complimentary retirement savings plan reviews to help members identify savings goals and devise retirement savings strategies to meet those goals. Through the complimentary retirement savings plan reviews, AOA members who are practice owners can also identify which retirement plan option(s) might best fit the needs of their practices.

Profitability Maximization

- Vendor discounts – AOA members have the opportunity to join the AOAExcel Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) through Provista to access discounts on practice needs. Vendors offering discounts to AOA members through the AOAExcel GPO include, but are not limited to, Office Depot, Verizon, Medline and Pitney Bowes. There is no registration fee or required minimum spend to participate in the AOAExcel GPO.
- Credit card processing – Chase offers AOA members a simple and secure payment processing solution that accommodates payments from all major debit and credit cards, including EMV chip cards and digital wallets, such as Apple Pay® and Google Pay™. AOA members are eligible for specialized pricing to help save on processing cost. As a member benefit, Chase offers AOA members complimentary contract reviews to help ensure members are getting the best deal on their payment processing solutions.

Career Growth and Transitions

- Career Center – The AOAExcel Career Center serves as the only career center affiliated with the AOA and is exclusive to doctors of optometry. Job seeker accounts are free and easy to set up. AOA members who are employers seeking to fill a position are eligible for posting discounts up to 50% and receive access to a job seeker database with each active posting.
- Practice financing – Bank of America offers AOA members practice financing solutions to assist with practice start up, new equipment purchases, or other business needs. Bank of America offers competitive terms and payment structures and AOA members have access to a dedicated project member and rate lock program.
- Practice transitions – Williams Group provides programs and consulting services to AOA members, ranging from transition advisory solutions, associateships, partnerships, valuations and appraisals. Williams Group is able to provide guidance to AOA members as they transition through changes in their practices.

State Affiliate Revenue Share Program

Through the State Affiliate Revenue Share Program, AOAExcel provides marketing materials promoting the services of Lockton Affinity (malpractice insurance), Laurel Road (student loan refinancing), Mercantile (AOA Business Card), and the AOAExcel Career Center to participating state affiliates. Participating state affiliates then distribute the marketing materials to their members through social media posts, emails, print catalogues, etc., and return examples of all published content to AOAExcel. AOAExcel then provides eligible, participating state affiliates with a predetermined percentage of the net revenue received by AOAExcel in the form of commissions and incentive payments.

Participation in the State Affiliate Revenue Share Program is voluntary, and enrollment is rolling. If you are interested in participating in the State Affiliate Revenue Share Program, please contact AOAExcel and aoaexcel@aoa.org.

2023 House of Delegates

Report from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)

2022-2023 YEAR-END REPORT

As of April 25, 2023

Composition of Council and Staff

Council: G. Timothy Petito, O.D., will complete his first year as chair in June. Stephanie Messner, O.D., former ACOE chair, retired from council after nine (9) years of service. Public member Patricia M. Capone, B.S. COTA/L, also retired from council following the conclusion of her first three-year term. In June 2022, the House of Delegates voted to approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the AOA; specifically, the size of the council was increased from eleven (11) to thirteen (13) members and the requirement added that new optometrist members appointed to council must serve as ACOE consultants as a precondition of appointment to council. The ACOE welcomed four (4) members in 2022, two (2) new members and two (2) replacement members. Susan E. Abbe, R.N., Ph.D., joined as a new public member, Daniel Fuller, O.D., joined as an educator with residency expertise, Geoffrey W. Goodfellow, O.D., joined as an educator, and Larry Henry, O.D., joined as an optometric practitioner with outstanding experience.

The composition of the council is as follows:

Member	Member Type	Initial Appointment
G. Timothy Petito, O.D., Chair	Practitioner	2019
Julie DeKinder, O.D., Vice Chair	Residency Educator	2018
Susan E. Abbe, R.N., Ph.D.	Public Member	2022
Luanne K. Chubb, O.D.	State Board	2018
Jacqueline G. Davis, O.D., M.P.H.	State Board	2020
Mark T. Evely, J.D., Ph.D.	Public Member	2021
Daniel G. Fuller, O.D.	Residency Educator	2022
Geoffrey W. Goodfellow, O.D.	Educator	2022
Larry R. Henry, O.D.	Practitioner	2022
William L. Miller, O.D., Ph.D.	Educator	2020
Janet Millis, AA, CPOT	Optometric Technician	2021
Regan Michelle Welch, O.D.	Practitioner	2020
David N. Yang, O.D.	Practitioner	2015

Staff: Stephanie Puljak, M.S., M.B.A., is in her third year as ACOE director and Tracy Wirth, ACOE associate director, has been with the ACOE for 23 years. Marty Martin, coordinator, rejoined the ACOE as coordinator in 2021, having previously been with the ACOE in various capacities. Kim Mohr, Ed.D., was recently promoted to senior manager, residency programs, and joined the ACOE in 2019. Dena Anderson, M.S., joined the ACOE as the accreditation operations specialist in 2022.

COVID-19 Impact and Actions

Using the flexibilities extended by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), the ACOE conducted a total of 41 virtual visits (four [4] to professional optometric degree programs and 37 to optometric residency programs). Per the guidance from the USDE, all programs for which a virtual visit was conducted in order to enable the ACOE to render an accreditation decision are required to undergo an on-site follow-up visit; the USDE allowed accrediting agencies discretion in determining the scope of these follow-up visits. A total of 40 programs met the criteria requiring an in-person follow-up.

As the country emerged from pandemic-related restrictions, the ACOE resumed conducting full evaluation visits in person in October 2021 and initiated conducting the follow-up visits in September 2022. As of June 2023, all follow-up visits will be complete. The ACOE expresses its sincere appreciation to the programs for hosting these follow-up visits and to the many volunteers who visited the programs on the ACOE's behalf.

In early February 2023, the Biden administration announced its intent to end the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023. The ACOE has aligned its allowances related to externship site visits and use of distance education to the same end date as the USDE—180 days following the date on which the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration is rescinded. During its February 2023 Winter Meeting, the ACOE considered its plans assuming an anticipated end date of Nov. 7, 2023 (180 days after May 11, 2023). On March 20, 2023, the ACOE distributed guidance to programs clarifying that (1) programs should expect to seek substantive change approval associated with the use of distance education above a pre-defined threshold level and (2) the ACOE is proposing a change to its standards to permanently allow programs to continue to conduct some monitoring visits to externship sites virtually.

Accreditation Activities

Evaluation visit activity has been significant, and the council expresses its appreciation to the staff and to the many volunteers supporting the accreditation process.

Zero (0) programs voluntarily withdrew from accreditation or had accreditation withdrawn by the ACOE during 2022-2023. Zero (0) compares with four (4) voluntary withdrawals by optometric residency programs and one (1) withdrawal of accreditation from an optometric residency program by the ACOE over the prior year.

Optometric Degree Programs: Eight (8) programs have undergone an ACOE evaluation visit over the year; three (3) of the eight (8) were narrow scope follow-up visits. Eight (8) compares with seven (7), four (4), and two (2) full evaluation visits over each of the prior three years, respectively.

- University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry underwent a full evaluation visit July 27-29, 2022;
- Southern College of Optometry underwent an on-site follow-up visit Sept. 12, 2022;
- Midwestern University Chicago College of Optometry underwent an on-site follow-up visit Sept. 29, 2022;

- University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry underwent an on-site follow-up visit Nov. 7, 2022;
- Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry underwent a full evaluation visit Nov. 7-9, 2022;
- Indiana University School of Optometry underwent a full evaluation visit Dec. 12-14, 2022;
- Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University underwent a full evaluation visit March 6-8, 2023; and
- University of Houston College of Optometry underwent a full evaluation visit March 8-10, 2023.

One (1) prospective professional optometric degree program was awarded Preliminary Approval and is allowed to begin student recruitment and enrollment and to begin offering the program.

- Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions College of Optometry underwent a full evaluation visit April 6-7, 2022, and was granted Preliminary Approval status at the ACOE's Fall Meeting in October 2022.

Optometric Residency Programs: The ACOE conducted (or is scheduled to conduct prior to June 30) on-site evaluation visits to 71 optometric residency programs, including 37 USDE-mandated follow-up visits and 9 initial visits to new programs. Seventy-one compares with 48, six (6), and thirteen (13) full evaluation visits over each of the prior three years, respectively.

Programs undergoing full evaluation visits:

- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry
- Better Vision Ahead Advanced Eyecare Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry
- Bowersox Vision Center, PSC Residency in Pediatric Optometry with emphases in Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Bright Eyes Vision Clinic Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphasis in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- **Initial visit**-California Eye Specialists/Azul Vision - Inland Empire Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- **Initial visit**-Center for Sight and Dry Eye Institute Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry
- Center for Vision Development Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry with emphases in Vision Therapy & Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Dimock Center Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Community Health Optometry and Primary Care Optometry, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry
- DotHouse Health Inc. Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphases in Community Health and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry

- Georgia Eye Partners Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Cornea & Contact Lenses and Refractive & Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Greenville VA Outpatient Clinic Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Jesse Brown VAMC Chicago/Hines VAH Residency in Ocular Disease / Low Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry
- John D. Dingell VAMC Health Care System Residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry
- Manchester VAMC Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry
- **Initial visit**-Northwest Eye Surgeons Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- **Initial visit**-Phoenix Children's Hospital Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry
- San Diego Healthcare System La Jolla Medical Center Residency in Primary Care Optometry - Department of Veterans Affairs, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care Center Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- **Initial visit**-The Ohio State University College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry
- University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Primary Care Optometry
- University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens
- University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision
- **Initial visit**-University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
- University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease
- VA Hudson Valley Health Care System Residency in Primary Care Optometry and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry
- VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of California, Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science
- VAMC Wilmington Delaware Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Glaucoma and Retina, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
- **Initial visit**-Vance Thompson Vision North Dakota Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Refractive/Ocular Surgery and Glaucoma, which is affiliated with Indiana University School of Optometry

- Vision Northwest Residency in Vision Therapy Rehabilitation and Pediatric Eye Care, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- **Initial visit**-Washington University St. Louis School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lens, which is affiliated with University of Missouri, St. Louis, College of Optometry
- **Initial visit**-Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation, Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation, Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Wilkes-Barre VAMC Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University

Programs undergoing narrow scope USDE-mandated follow-up visits:

- Akron Children's Hospital Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University, College of Optometry
- Albuquerque Indian Health Center Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- BronxCare Health System Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry
- BronxCare Health System Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry
- California Eye Specialists/Azul Vision - Los Angeles Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with University of Missouri, St. Louis, College of Optometry
- Community Health Centers of California Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Crownpoint Health Care Facility Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Dell Laser Consultants Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry
- Doctors Vision Centre Residency in Paediatric/Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Optometry, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- Duke University Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Empire Eye & Laser Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses
- Gainesville Eye Associates Residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- Gallup Indian Medical Center Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University

- Illinois College of Optometry Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care
- Jacksonville VAMC Residency in Primary Care, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry
- Lebanon VA Medical Center Residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- Mid-Atlantic Cornea Consultants Residency in Cornea/Specialty Contact Lens with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
- Moyes Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry
- New England College of Optometry Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Pacific University College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry / Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation
- Parkhurst Nuvision Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry
- Providence Community Health Center Residency in Community Health Optometry, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry
- Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc. Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Low Vision Rehabilitation and Ocular Disease
- Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Vision Therapy
- State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry
- State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation (Brain Injury Rehabilitation)
- Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
- VA Illiana Health Care System Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with IUSO
- VA Portland Health Care System Residency in Primary Eye Care and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics Residency in Primary Eye Care / Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry
- VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry
- Vanderbilt Eye Institute Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with UABSO
- Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Springfield Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with NSUOCO
- Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center Indian Health Service Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University

Optometric Technician Programs: No Optometric Technician programs were evaluated by the ACOE.

Accredited Programs

The ACOE publishes directories of accredited programs on its website, theacoe.org. A summary is provided below.

Program Type	Accredited	Accredited w/ Conditions	Preliminary Approval	Stage 1 or 2 Designation
O.D. Programs	25	0	1	1
Residency Programs	270	1	NA	NA
Technician Programs	2	0	NA	NA

Other Council Activities

USDE Recognition: The ACOE is recognized as an accrediting body by the USDE. Recognition by the USDE enables accredited programs to establish eligibility for federal programs under the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools, the Title VII Public Health Service Act, and to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration education and training program for optometric residency programs.

The ACOE formally submitted its USDE petition for reconsideration July 28, 2021. A representative of the USDE attended as an observer the ACOE's on-site evaluation visit to the Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry in April 2022 and the ACOE's Winter meeting in February 2023. ACOE staff received the draft report from department staff in October 2022 and submitted responses and provided USDE staff access to ACOE files for a file review in April 2023. The ACOE will appear in front of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) in July 2023, where a decision on reaffirmation of recognition from the USDE will be considered. Recognition lasts for five (5) years.

Comprehensive Standards Review Process: The ACOE conducts a comprehensive review of its standards of accreditation at least every five years.

The ACOE's current "Professional Optometric Degree Standards" were effective July 1, 2017, and the comprehensive review process was initiated in December 2021. The ACOE determined it would strive to develop a single set of accreditation standards that address requirements for both currently operational professional optometric degree programs and proposed programs seeking the ACOE accreditation status of preliminary approval, which is a preaccreditation status and required for programs to recruit and enroll students and begin offering the program. The ACOE's current "Standards for professional optometric degree programs seeking preliminary approval preaccreditation status" were effective Jan. 1, 2019.

The comprehensive review process kicked off with the launch of an on-line survey distributed to the communities of interest and the public to gather input on the criticality and clarity of the current ACOE

standards. In October 2022, the ACOE hosted an invitational conference. Representatives of each of the schools/colleges, including those in the developmental stages, and representatives of other critical stakeholder groups in the profession came to St. Louis, reviewed survey results and other research performed by ACOE staff and provided input on changes to the standards.

Following the invitational conference, ACOE staff administered a ‘post conference’ survey with the goal of soliciting additional feedback on the degree to which participants agreed with the recommendations of each of the invitational conference breakout groups.

Considering all input, the ACOE’s Professional Optometric Degree (POD) Committee met in an in-person meeting held Jan. 20-21, 2023, to review and propose modifications to the standards. The committee also met in a virtual meeting on Jan. 31, 2023, to complete its review and recommendations for council consideration.

At its February 2023 Winter meeting, the council reviewed the draft standards and provided additional input. The ACOE accepted the draft to be distributed to the communities of interest in a call for comments. The call for comments closed on April 19, 2023. The POD Committee will consider the comments and prepare a second draft of the standards for the ACOE to consider at its June 2023 Annual meeting. At that time, the council will consider whether the standards are ready to be adopted, or if significant changes are made, a second draft will be distributed in another call for comments.

The ACOE’s current “Optometric Residency Standards” were effective July 1, 2017. An online survey was distributed to the communities of interest and the public to gather input on the criticality and clarity of the current ACOE standards in June 2022. ACOE staff compiled the results and performed additional research on comparative standards promulgated by other accrediting agencies. The ACOE’s Residency Committee met in an in-person meeting held April 15-16, 2023, to review and propose modifications to the standards. The chair of the Residency Committee will present the proposed standards for consideration at its June 2023 annual meeting. At that time, the council will review and revise the standards and a draft will be distributed to the communities of interest and the public in a call for comments.

Updates to Policy and Procedure for Professional Optometric Degree Programs Seeking Accreditation: An initiative undertaken by the ACOE over the past year was to evaluate and improve the process for proposed professional optometric degree programs seeking accreditation. The process involves several ‘checkpoints’ for council review and approval before the proposed program can proceed with the next step in the process. The rigor of the process is intended to ensure only proposed programs with a high likelihood of successfully attaining accreditation are granted the ACOE status of preliminary approval and allowed to enroll students.

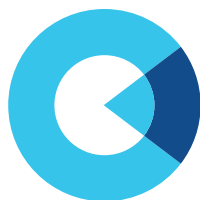
Enhancements to the process include: (1) the expansion and addition of detail around expectations for a program to be granted the ACOE’s “stage one designation”; (2) the addition of an “eligibility” determination prior to application submission for the ACOE’s “stage two designation”; and (3) a requirement that upon being granted the ACOE status of preliminary approval, specified language must

be posted to a prominent location on the program's website informing the public that the program that holds a preliminary approval status is not considered accredited and that accreditation is not a guarantee.

Anticipated Phase-Out of Accreditation of Optometric Technician Programs: The scope of the ACOE encompasses professional optometric degree, optometric residency, and optometric technician programs. The number of accredited technician programs has decreased. In 1986, twelve (12) associate degree optometric technician programs held an accreditation status. In 1996, the ACOE developed standards for the accreditation of one-year technician level programs, and as of that year, five (5) programs, most of which offered an optional associate degree, held an accreditation status from the ACOE. Since 2018, the number of accredited programs has remained at two (2), with none offering associate degrees.

The ACOE most recently considered phasing out the accreditation of optometric technician programs in 2017 and voted to continue accrediting optometric technician programs. Given the continuing lack of demand for ACOE accreditation and in anticipation of a comprehensive standards review process, the council again considered phase-out of accreditation of optometric technician programs. A call for comments was distributed to the communities of interest and the public in July 2022. During the ACOE's Fall Meeting in October 2022, the council reviewed the comments received and voted to proceed with developing a phase-out plan and timeline.

Following additional discussion in the ACOE's Winter meeting in February 2023, the ACOE established an anticipated effective date for the phase out of June 1, 2025, to allow students enrolled during the 2024-2025 academic year to complete an accredited program. In addition, the timeline included additional opportunities for stakeholders to forward new and compelling information that might result in council's reconsideration of its phase-out decision.



American Optometric Student Association

2023 House of Delegates

Report from the American Optometric Student Association

The American Optometry Student Association (AOSA) is committed to empowering students to thrive as doctors of optometry by promoting the optometric profession, enhancing the education and welfare of optometry students, as well as enhancing the vision and ocular health of the public. The AOSA represents nearly 7,100 students attending the 25 schools and colleges of optometry throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Each school is represented on the AOSA Board by a Trustee and Trustee-Elect. These individuals are prominent leaders within their schools and have a deep passion for optometry. All our programs are designed to meet our mission and vision and align within AOSA's pillars: Education, Advocacy, Student Experience and Tools for Success.

Advocacy

More than 300 advocacy-minded students from across the country are participating in AOA on Capitol Hill with affiliate leadership to directly connect with national policy leaders. More students than ever continue to engage in advocacy efforts through AOA+ in 2023 and at their schools and colleges. AOSA has further developed local Legucate Me programs at schools and colleges for student leaders to present, helping to educate their peers on top priorities in optometry from the moment they first enter optometry school.

AOSA continues to mobilize students in support of and being a voice for fighting legislative battles at the state and national level to ensure future doctors of optometry can practice to their fullest scope.

Student Experience

AOSA National Welcome Night

The AOSA hosted the second annual National Welcome Night for students in October 2022. More than 1,000 optometry students joined and participated from every school and college across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Students took part in an hour-long session learning and understanding more about the AOSA, AOA and their state affiliate.

The next AOSA National Welcome Night is planned for October 2023.

Membership

The AOSA is making a concerted effort to connect students with their state associations upon entry into optometry school. The first AOSA Student-Affiliate Connection program was launched in the fall of 2022 providing students the opportunity to network with affiliate leaders from across the country, build doctor-student relationships and inquire about career opportunities and advocacy efforts in those particular states. With the overwhelmingly positive response from both students and doctors, the AOSA plans on hosting a second program in May 2023 and fall 2023.



American Optometric Student Association

AOA+ 2023

With the generous AOA+ grants provided by the AOA, more than 2,000 students are gathering in Washington, D.C., for a historic combined Optometry's Meeting® and AOA on Capitol Hill experience. AOA+ programming for students includes more than 40 AOA+ recommended courses, hands-on workshops, networking opportunities, residency summit and career fair, as well as an Advocacy Workshop to ensure every student takes home tools and resources to put into action in their local communities and become an advocate for optometry.

Tools for Success

The AOSA, in partnership with the AOA, is excited to announce the relaunch of OptometryStudents.com (OS). OS is a website delivering content and resources to optometry students for more than a decade but has been revamped, rebranded and is ready to serve students better than ever. We have enhanced this online platform by offering a diverse range of resources including informative articles, how-to guides and reference materials. Whether someone is exploring optometry as a profession or a student getting ready to take boards, OS is an online platform with a variety of content for any stage of a student's career. OS is being charged by the power of community and is fueled by student contributors and content creators.

AOSA Executive Council

Emily Benson, President (OSU)
Claire Saylor, Vice President (UMSL)
Melissa Rezk, Secretary (UCB)
Robert Morgan, Treasurer (UAB)
Easy Anyama, Immediate Past President (UHCO)

AOSA Staff

Stacey Struckhoff, Executive Director

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Report from Commission on Paraoptometric Certification

2022-2023 Commission on Paraoptometric Certification

Janet Millis, CPOT – Chair
Beverly Roberts, CPOT – Vice Chair
Stacey Thibodeau, CPOT, CPOC – Immediate Past Chair
Catherine Firman, CPOT – Member
Katherine Ramsey, CPOT – Member
Roberta Beers, CPOT – Member
Cecelia Koetting, O.D. – Member-at-Large

Jennifer Smith, CPOT - Member
Elaine Thomas-Bush, CPOA - Member
Sasha Radford, O.D. - Member
Al Suguitan, CAE – Public Member
Steven T. Reed, O.D. – Liaison Trustee
Sharon Alderson – Staff Liaison

The Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC) offers three levels of certification plus a specialty coding certification. The Certified Paraoptometric (CPO), Certified Paraoptometric Assistant (CPOA) and Certified Paraoptometric Technician (CPOT) examinations are all nationally accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Accreditation serves as a benchmark on how organizations should conduct certification. NCCA uses a peer review process to establish accreditation standards, evaluate compliance with the standards, recognize organizations/programs that demonstrate compliance, and serve as a resource on quality certification. The CPC was granted reapproval of NCCA accreditation through March 2027. The commission strives to assure that the CPC continues to meet the NCCA accreditation standards.

Each examination level consists of a recommended self-study program and computer-based examination. Paraoptometric certification provides a formal declaration of education and skill achievement by:

- recognizing formally those individuals who meet all requirements of the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification.
- encouraging continued advancement of the educational skills of the paraoptometric.
- establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification of paraoptometrics.
- promoting a standard of requisite knowledge required for certification, thereby assisting the employer, public and members of the health professions in the assessment of paraoptometrics.

Commission Activities

- In 2022, 1,450 computer-based paraoptometric certification examinations were administered. In February 2023, 179 candidates tested; 60% of CPO and CPOC candidates and 67% of CPOAs passed. By the end of March, 362 paraoptometrics had registered for the May 2023 exams.
- 869 paraoptometrics, or approximately 40% of those due, renewed their certification in 2022.
- Expanded content outlines for the CPO, CPOA and CPOT examinations were developed and posted on the AOA website.
- CPC is collaborating with Professional Testing Corporation on the 2023 Job Task Analysis. The survey of certified and uncertified paraoptometrics and doctors of optometry will be distributed this summer. Results will be used to develop updated examinations for release in 2025.

- The Institute for Credentialing Excellence has approved the CPC request to begin offering live Remote Proctored Testing (RPT) on its examinations. Policies to cover this new testing modality are being developed, with RPT projected to begin later this year.
- Increased communication with exam candidates and practice managers regarding examination content outlines and available study resources using *Know Before You Go* email notifications.
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedures to ensure CPC will meet the revised NCCA standards, including the additional requirements for offering live remote proctored testing.
- CPC has notified NCCA of the intent to combine the CPOT written and clinical examinations into a single CPOT examination to be released in 2025.
- Published the 2022 Year in Review Report on the AOA website.
- The annual NCCA accreditation report that is due by June 1 each year was prepared and submitted by CPC staff in April.

The work of the CPC is conducted through four standing committees:

Coding Certification Examination Committee – Chair: Stacey Thibodeau, CPOT, CPOC

- Solicits and develops new exam items and reviews all items submitted by its members or other paraoptometric. Committee members and subject matter experts also participate in the annual review of test items for the Certified Paraoptometric Coding (CPOC) Exam. Item reviews were held in October 2022 and March 2023.
- **Item-Writing Committee** – Co-chairs: Beverly Roberts, CPOT, and Sasha Radford, O.D. The item-writing committee encourages collaboration with and guidance for developing new examination item writers. New items were submitted for review by the item review committee for possible placement on future examinations.

Continuing Education Review Committee – Chair: Kris Van Sickle, CPOT

- Reviewed and approved a total of 842 hours of paraoptometric continuing education that were submitted by 57 organizations in 2022.

Certification Examination Committee – Co-Chairs: Catherine Firman, CPOT, and Tami Franklin, CPOT

- Reviews and solicits items for the CPO, CPOA and CPOT written and clinical exams.
- Annual item review meetings for CPO, CPOA and CPOT examinations were conducted via conference calls held February-April 2023.
- The 2022 annual test review meeting was held virtually in July last year with guidance provided by Professional Testing Corporation. During this meeting, exam items selected for use on the 2023 examinations were reviewed for clarity, accuracy and continued relevance to ensure uniform quality of the examinations year to year and in accordance with the current exam outlines.

Examination Results and Certification Renewal Statistics

The CPO, CPOA and CPOC examinations are administered during two-week periods in February, May, August and November. The CPOT written and clinical examinations are offered in May and November.

- In 2022, 1,450 computer-based paraoptometric certification examinations were administered. In February 2023, 179 candidates tested; 60% of CPO and CPOC candidates and 67% of CPOAs passed.
- 869 paraoptometrics, or approximately 40% of those due, renewed their certification in 2022.

CPO Examination

- Just over half (51%) of the 1,165 CPO testers received a passing score. Sixty-nine percent of the candidates who indicated they had five or more years of experience passed.

CPOA Examination

- 225 candidates sat for the exam with 56.8% receiving a passing score. Only 30.7% of the 26 repeat candidates passed their exam, while 60.3% of first-time candidates were successful.

CPOC Examination

- 23 candidates sat for the exam with 47.8% receiving a passing score. The most experienced group of candidates with five or more years of experience had a 60% passing rate.

CPOT Examination Part 1 (Written)

- 33 candidates sat for the exam with 28 (84.8%) receiving a passing score. Four of the five repeat candidates passed the exam.
- CPOT candidates must pass both the written and clinical exams within an 18-month period before attaining the CPOT designation.

CPOT Examination Part 2 (Clinical)

- 33 candidates sat for the clinical exam with 54.5% passing on the first or second attempts.

The CPC's full 2022 Year in Review report may be viewed on the AOA website:

<https://www.aoa.org/education/paraoptometric-resources/paraoptometric-certification-and-renewal>

AOA Ethics and Values Committee

Summary Report, 2022-2023

Submitted on May 16, 2023-AOA, by Douglas Totten, O.D., MBA, Chair

The AOA House of Delegates adopted Resolution No. 1883 in 1991, modified in 2010, which established a standing committee dealing with ethics and values of optometric care and services with a broad mission and focus to address a variety of circumstances and problems which exist in the health care arena that affect the practices and services of doctors of optometry.

Current Ethics and Values Committee (EVC) members are Douglas Totten, O.D., (committee chair), Hilary Hawthorne, O.D., Inrava Khasnabish, O.D., Sue Lowe, O.D., Satya Verma, O.D., and Timothy Wingert, O.D. EVC is assisted by AOA staff members Janet O'Hallaron, JD, AOA assistant counsel, and Mike Stokes, JD, AOA general counsel.

The established “**Ethics Forum**” for doctors of optometry constituted most of the work for the committee during the past two years. Cases are now published in AOA’s EyeLearn platform to further the education of doctors of optometry regarding matters important to the profession. The purpose of the case studies is to foster ethical practices for the optometric community by providing a vehicle for discussion and education. In the June 2022 – May 2023 period, the EVC published a case study entitled, “When a Patient Requests a New Doctor,” that addresses the ethical issues that can arise when a patient decides to change doctors in a practice. “Malpractice and Communication with Patients,” another article published by the EVC, described the difficult balancing act that doctors of optometry navigate between determining medical necessity and managing patient expectations, as well as states’ legal requirements and a multi-billion-dollar automotive window-tinting industry. The EVC also published a case study entitled, “Ethical Issues Presented for a Doctor of Optometry When Served with a Subpoena.” In conjunction with this article, the AOA Legal Department issued a frequently asked questions reference guide that explained subpoenas, provided general information on how to respond to a subpoena, and the doctor of optometry’s legal obligations to the court. The EVC also provided answers to questions posed by the New Jersey executive director in her article addressing How to Identify Signs of Abuse. The answers provided by the EVC will be published in this article that will be profiled in the AOA New Jersey affiliate’s publication. EVC invites input and welcomes doctors of optometry to submit cases they wish to have discussed in the forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas L. Totten



2023 House of Delegates

Report from Optometry Cares®—The AOA Foundation

The mission of Optometry Cares®—The AOA Foundation is to empower the optometric profession in providing awareness and access to health and vision care for the public.

A baby's face lights up upon seeing a parent. Why? Because of what's seen. Making sure that those beautiful eyes can see the world is the reason **InfantSEE®** exists—to begin a lifetime of eye and vision health care. InfantSEE has provided comprehensive eye and vision assessments to thousands of infants. Since 2005, compassionate care from doctors of optometry has reached more than 165,000 babies.

The **Listen, Learn, Connect virtual educational series** raises awareness about the importance of children's vision and best practices when working with children. Three Listen, Learn, Connect virtual events took place in 2022, and 100% of post-survey respondents indicated that the sessions had improved their comfort level in providing eye care to children.

Many doctors were impacted by the destruction from Hurricane Ian, fires and other individual disasters in 2022. **Optometry's Fund for Disaster Relief (OFDR)** was ready and able to quickly restore patient care in times of disasters, providing more than \$90,000 in funding last year to help doctors return to what they do best: seeing their patients. Since its inception in 2005, OFDR has provided over \$1.2 million to over 500 doctors to restore patient care when it is needed most.

Your generosity also empowers future generations through our **Student Scholarship** program. In 2022, Optometry Cares awarded \$15,000 to three deserving optometry students through the Bernard Maitenaz (\$10,000), the Dr. Seymour Galina (\$2,500) and the Dr. Larry J. Alexander (\$2,500) scholarships.

The **AOA/AOSA Opportunities in Optometry Grant program** promotes diversity and equity within the profession by awarding pre-optometry students from underrepresented minority groups a stipend to assist with the initial costs of applying to optometry school. Since the launch of the program in 2021, nearly \$100,000 has been provided through over 60 grants to help increase diversity and equity within the profession. Through the work of this joint initiative, optometry's advocates are listening closely to colleagues nationwide to ensure optometry leads in engaging and encouraging a diverse, equitable profession going forward.

The **Optometric Historical Society (OHS)** which serves to protect and promote the historical legacy of the profession, also supports the Archives and Museum of Optometry, *Hindsight: The Journal of Optometry History* and the "Blast from the Past" Challenge. The **Archives and Museum of Optometry** encourages the collection, preservation and exhibition of artifacts and archival material that document the history of the profession, practice and science of optometry and the optical industry. *Hindsight: The Journal of Optometry History* is a publication of the OHS that contributes new knowledge to optometry history, interprets historical sources from unique perspectives, and guides others in their research. The



“Blast from the Past” Challenge involves three optometry student finalists presenting media highlighting influential people, events and developments in optometry history. Then, the attendees vote to award the first-, second- and third-place winners.

We continue to honor optometrists who have made significant, long-lasting contributions to the profession through the **National Optometry Hall of Fame**. The following luminaries will be inducted during the AOA Awards and National Optometry Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at 2023 Optometry’s Meeting®: Joseph Shovlin, O.D.; Siu Wong, O.D., MPH; and Mitchell Scheiman, O.D., Ph.D. The optometric profession advances thanks to the dedication and contributions of its practitioners.

Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr. was an inspiring and passionate leader and a driving force in optometry. In his honor, the **Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr., InfantSEE Award** recognizes an individual doctor of optometry who has made significant contributions to optometry or his/her community for outstanding public service involving the InfantSEE program. Andrea Thau, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, FNAP, will be awarded the 2023 Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr., InfantSEE Award to recognize her commitment to the InfantSEE program during the AOA Awards and National Optometry Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Optometry’s Meeting.

Optometry is a caring, supportive and generous profession, and for that, we are deeply grateful to all of those who have made so much possible.

2023 Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Belinda Starkey, O.D.	President
Hilary Hawthorne, O.D.	Vice President
Mahsa Masoudi, O.D.	Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Paul Barney, O.D.
Jacquie Bowen, O.D.
Jason Compton, O.D.
Teri Geist, O.D.
Steven Reed, O.D.



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

2023 House of Delegates Report from Paraoptometric Resource Committee

The Paraoptometric Resource Center (PRC) offers a library of educational resources and training materials to advance the skills and professional development of all paraoptometric members from beginner to advanced levels of competence. The PRC is led by a committee comprised of AOA paraoptometric members and member Optometrists. The PRC Committee goals are to assist all associate member paraoptometrics to reach their full potential, advance their career in pursuing paraoptometric certification, and increase their knowledge through recognition, volunteer opportunities and education.

2023 PRC Committee members

Erlinda Rodriguez, CPO, chair
Heather Tibbetts, CPOT
Heather Schwartz, CPOT
Barb Wholk, CPOT
Jessica Schiffbauer, O.D.
Melanie Jenkins, CPO
Tammy Petrosyan, O.D.
Kimberly Pickle, CPOA

AOA staff

Sarah Sutherland, MAT, director of education programs
Kortnie Herren, senior content & curriculum manager
Michelle Dorsett, senior content & curriculum manager
Keegan Palzkill, education analytics technologist

The committee goals for 2023 are being met through specific projects and programs as follows:

The AOA PRC Committee continues to focus on accomplishing its goals and to develop resources and content for the specific projects.

1. **Paraoptometric certification:** The committee is assisting the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC) in developing the new Job Task Analysis Survey, which will significantly impact the examination questions the CPC will be developing for each level of certification.

The committee is developing practice test questions to assist the candidate as they study to take each level of the certification exam. Study halls will continue to be provided for candidates taking certification exams for all levels. The exam review courses have been finalized and are accessible in EyeLearn. The CPC exam prep materials have been added to EyeLearn for nonmembers for a fee.

2. The committee will focus on finalizing the following micro-credential programs:

- **Scribing:** This program will cover all the necessary training and resources in scribing. The participant will be required to complete an assessment to obtain a certificate of completion. The course is optometric specific.
 - **Paraoptometric surgical assisting:** This program will be ready before Optometry's Meeting 2023. It includes eight hours of theory available in EyeLearn and four hours of hands-on workshop at Optometry's Meeting in 2023 and will be made available at regional meetings. The participant must pass an assessment to obtain a certificate of completion.
3. **Para onboarding course for beginners/new hire:** The course has been finalized and is available for all members as a resource in EyeLearn. The committee will focus on developing a second Para Onboarding Course at a more advanced level.
 4. **Para speaker series educational webinars:** This program offers monthly webinars with timely topics presented by expert speakers for paraoptometric continued education and to advance paraoptometric knowledge and professional development. These courses are made available for all members in EyeLearn. This is an ongoing program. The committee continues to focus on developing new and current topics to meet the educational needs of all paraoptometric members.

Optometry's Meeting:

- Paraoptometric courses will include topics that are timely and comprehensive for paraoptometrics in their distinct roles in a contemporary optometric practice. The joint OD and paraoptometric courses being offered provide current topics specific to their role and enhancing teamwork, including surgical assistance and contact lens workshops.
- The committee will be engaging paraoptometrics in the Idea Exchange event during which different topics will be presented and shared providing an opportunity for the participants to increase their knowledge and motivate professional growth.

Industry relations

The Paraoptometric Award Program continues to be sponsored by Alcon.

2023 award recipients

Paraoptometric of the Year Award – Brandy Yeack, CPOA

Community Service Award – Brianne Speaks, CPOA

Lifetime Achievement Award – Roberta Beers, CPOT

Beverly Roberts, CPOT

Erlinda Rodriguez, CPO



2023 House of Delegates

Report from the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) for 2022

AAO Celebrates its 100th Anniversary at Annual Meeting 2022

San Diego proved to be one of America's finest cities during the academy's 2022 annual meeting. The city and its convention and exhibition center provided an excellent backdrop for the annual meeting and our very special Centennial Celebration. It was apparent participants were eager to fully enjoy an on-site event, as we saw the highest attendance rate ever. The academy also inducted a record-breaking 309 new Fellows into its membership. In honor of the centennial, we established the American Academy of Optometry Hall of Fame, recognizing our first 100 inductees.

With nearly 430 hours of continuing education and 150+ exhibitors, the meeting offered something for everyone. With a wide array of events and networking opportunities, attendees indicated a high rating of their Academy 2022 San Diego experience. The event's Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 73% and high satisfaction scores indicate attendees received great value from the meeting and associated events. This strong NPS places the academy in the top 25% of associations most recommended by their constituents.

Merton C. Flom Leadership Academy – Capstone Session

The academy's Leadership Committee recognized the accomplishments of 49 Academy Fellows and celebrated the completion of the newly designed Merton C. Flom Leadership Academy in San Diego. These individuals explored their strengths and examined how to leverage them to become more effective leaders through a live introductory course and eight virtual modules. The capstone session featured an inspirational leadership address by Ed Hernandez, O.D., FAAO, a former member of the California State Senate. Since the graduation of the first cohort, several graduates have acquired their first positions as academy volunteers.

2022 Educational Offerings

Virtual Symposium: Multi-Disciplinary Symposium on Stroke & Ocular Ischemia

The academy partnered with the AAO Pacific Northwest Chapter, in collaboration with our educational partner, Northwest Eye Surgeons, to deliver the May 18, 2022, virtual four-hour program. The session comprised interprofessional specialists who shared seminal and timely information on stroke.

Innovation Council Presents: Augmented Reality in Contact Lenses

The AAO's Innovation Council presented a two-hour virtual event on augmented reality and contact lenses. It featured Lyndon Jones, Ph.D., FCOptom, FCOptom, FAAO, discussing "Innovative Use of Contact Lenses Beyond Vision Correction," and Eli Peli, MSc, O.D., FAAO, on "Augmented Reality: Some Optometric Considerations."



Inaugural Retina Summit

The academy, in partnership with the AAO Retina Section and the Tennessee Chapter, launched the inaugural Retina Summit in Nashville, Tennessee. Leading retina experts highlighted the state of retinal disease management across the United States, addressing key treatment challenges in patients with age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other posterior segment conditions.

Optometry and Vision Science Journal (OVS)

We are celebrating *OVS*'s rich history, now over 100 years old, with over 12,000 published articles. The scope of optometric practice has widened, and vision findings are integral to evidence-based clinical practice. The journal has its highest ranking in scientific metrics—an indicator of relevance and impact. *OVS* has global recognition, a reputation for quality, and prominent standing among leading journals in optometry and ophthalmology.

What is in the future? *OVS* will:

- Be an open-source vehicle for sharing and promoting evidence-based clinical practice.
- Rank among the leading scholarly archives of eye and vision research.
- Facilitate a culture of growth, learning and discovery through scholarly publication.
- Promote pathways for members, committees, sections and SIGS to participate in publication and peer review.

Clinical Insights in Eyecare Journal

In 2021, a task force was established to evaluate the merits of—and, based on recent surveys, the need for—publishing additional case reports outside of *OVS*.

In April 2022, the task force submitted a report to the board recommending the launch of a second journal with a clinical focus, including publishing case reports, with the new journal complementing and not competing with *OVS*. The new case report journal, *Clinical Insights in Eyecare*, is planned to launch in 2023.

Article types will include:

- Case reports and series that highlight diagnostic dilemmas, clinical technology applications, management considerations, and treatment outcomes
- Case reports that describe an unusual presentation or a rare condition or offer a new perspective on an existing condition
- Summaries of relevant publications in other journals
- Topical point-counterpoint discussions



2020-2024 AAO Strategic Plan

The academy's Strategic Plan centers on five Strategic Pillars and related goals: Education, Research, Leadership and Legacy, Membership, and Strategic Partnerships.

Key outcomes achieved include:

- Enhanced in-person and online continuing education
- Flom Leadership Academy cohort course
- Establishment and fostering strategic partnerships inside and outside of eye care organizations
- Appointment of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee and launch of the DEI Fellows Talk Series
- Annual meeting programs for high school and college students
- Fellows candidate "crash course"
- Cochrane Eyes and Vision partnership
- Biennial Think Tank
- Research Academy

2023 House of Delegates

Report from Rachel “Stacey” Coulter, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD

President, Board of Directors

75 Years of Making a Difference in Eye Care through Philanthropy

For 75 years, the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) has been advancing optometry through direct financial support for research, education and programs. Each year, hundreds of optometrists, vision scientists and optometry students benefit from the Foundation's tireless work and the incredible generosity of our donors and sponsors.

William C. Ezell, O.D., and six colleagues, incorporated the American Optometric Foundation in 1947 for the “upholding, improving, broadening, fostering, promoting and aiding optometric education; the profession of optometry and its practitioners.” In 2017, the organization amended its name to become the American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

In 2022, the AAOF distributed more than \$900,000 in scholarships, grants, awards and special funds to students, residents, faculty and researchers. Specific examples include:

- **William C. Ezell Fellowships:** 473 prestigious Fellowships have been provided since 1947. The \$8,000 award supports graduate students enrolled in a full-time program of study and training in vision-related research, which leads to a master's or Ph.D. degree. Recipients also receive \$750 travel awards to attend the AAO Meeting and ARVO. Sixteen Ezells will be awarded in 2023.
- **Resident Awards:** \$2,000 grants are awarded to residents currently serving in a residency through a North American school or college of optometry. Awards support talented optometric residents who demonstrate a passion and commitment to practice, research and education.
- **Student Travel Awards:** Students receive an award of \$750 to attend the Academy's annual meeting. In 2022, the Foundation awarded 137 awards to students.
- **International Travel Award:** At the 2022 San Diego Academy meeting, the AAOF awarded an inaugural international award to a FAAO candidate from Ghana.
- **AAOF Excellence in Diversity Awareness and Education Award:** This award honors those who lead our profession by enhancing diversity and inclusion efforts. The inaugural award was presented to Sherrol Reynolds, O.D., during the 2022 San Diego Academy Meeting.

As the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the AAOF initiated additional programs in 2021 to support the strategic plan of the Academy. These programs include:

- **Research Funding:** Launched in February 2022, the Foundation provided \$100,000 of funding to create a pilot grant project. The calling received 14 applications for review and granted two awards, one specifically in the field of pediatrics.

The AAOF developed additional research opportunities by collaborating with technology and vision-related companies. Grants totaling \$450,000 were awarded in 2022.

- **Clinical Investigator Certification (CIC):** Recognizing that clinical Fellows are uniquely positioned to recognize areas of eye care requiring further development of investigation, the CIC program

presents an eight-week course. This course provides practicing optometrists with the training and skills necessary to serve as a clinical investigator for sponsored clinical research trials within their practice setting. Since the inaugural class held in spring 2021, the program has awarded certificates of completion to 113 Fellows.

- **Staff Training Fundamentals:** The program provides a basic foundational education for employees who are new to the eye care profession. The course includes 16 modules in a curriculum that is intended to be taken during the initial months of employment. The self-paced learning training awards a certificate of completion to employees finishing the program.
- **Bright Ideas Pitch Competition:** An inaugural program launched in 2022 designed to provide recognition, mentoring and monetary reward to new or early-stage entrepreneurs with an idea or innovation that will improve eye care treatment or devices. Twenty-eight applications were reviewed to invite five finalists who presented live “pitches” to a panel of judges. Three entrepreneurs were awarded cash prizes.
- **O.D. to Ph.D.:** Fostering the next generation of optometric educators and leaders, AAOF created a \$30,000 scholarship for doctors of optometry pursuing a Ph.D. in a vision science field. The award is payable over two years and in 2023, AAOF will be awarding two scholarships.
- **Clinical Podcast Series:** A program designed to provide summaries (video podcasts) of trending, clinically relevant research which may directly translate to improved patient care. Ten podcasts are distributed monthly to Academy members featuring expert clinicians and researchers. Launched in November 2021, the series has realized more than 7,250 downloads with a global reach in 86 countries.
- **Future Focus on Optometry:** Introduced during the 2022 Academy Meeting in San Diego, the program extends outreach to high school and college students regarding the profession of optometry. Fifty college students engaged in a half-day onsite educational session during the Academy meeting which included presentations by AAO Fellows and a tour of the exhibit hall. To reach high school students, AAO Fellows visit the schools during the week of the AAO meeting to introduce the profession of optometry.

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation is true to its mission: to provide financial support to students, residents, faculty and researchers for optometric research and education in vision and eye health to improve clinical patient care. For more information about the AAOF and its programs or for ongoing updates, please see our webpage: <https://aaopt.org/about-us/foundation/>



2023 House of Delegates

Report from American Board of Optometry

The American Board of Optometry (ABO) was founded in 2009 as a nonprofit organization that board certifies optometrists in the United States. We were established to serve the public and the optometry profession by assessing and certifying the competency of optometrists. Board certification is a voluntary process that sets educational and practice standards and offers a means of demonstrating ongoing clinical competence through maintenance of certification.

Our annual board of directors meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., on June 20, in conjunction with Optometry's Meeting®. We will review and assess strategic performance, define our focus for the upcoming year and welcome new leadership. Diane Adamczyk, O.D., will assume the role of board chair and Matthew Gerstberger, O.D., will assume the role of board vice chair. I have enjoyed serving as board chair since 2021 and will continue to support the ABO and its mission in the role of immediate past chair.

Subspecialty credentials

The ABO is excited to announce the launch of our pilot Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) program this summer, which provides diplomates the opportunity to earn a credential and maintain their board certification in a specialty area. Earning a CAQ allows board-certified optometrists to achieve recognition for their experience, skills and knowledge in a focused clinical area. A CAQ reflects optometrists are first grounded in the training and knowledge of primary eye care, which is enhanced but not replaced through specialized clinical practice.

Beginning in May, applications will be available for two CAQs: glaucoma and cornea/contact lenses. Additional areas of subspecialization are planned if the pilot is successful. The application process will consist of a short, specialty-focused exam and a points requirement. Exams for both CAQs will be available in August. Upon meeting all requirements, diplomates will be awarded a CAQ in the specialty area and will maintain their board certification in the chosen MOC path. Diplomates may choose to earn more than one CAQ and must meet MOC requirements for each. Opting out of a specialty MOC path will be allowed at the end of each MOC cycle if a diplomate wishes to drop one or more CAQs.

Canadian optometrists

Beginning in 2023, the ABO removed restrictions that prevented Canadian-licensed optometrists from taking the board certification exam. With more Canadian optometrists completing residencies in the U.S. and widespread acceptance of the NBEO exam, the ABO board moved to allow Canadian optometrists to take the board certification exam under the same requirements as U.S. optometrists. We have not yet started to market board certification in Canada, as a handful of Canadian optometrists have now applied to sit for the exam, which is offered at Meazure Learning testing centers throughout Canada. The ABO is also excited to announce the addition of Mark Eltis, O.D., to the ABO Board as our first Canadian director. Dr.



Eltis is currently the president of the College of Optometrists in Ontario, a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society and a well-known author and lecturer. He will focus on helping the ABO grow awareness of board certification throughout all Canadian provinces.

Maintenance of certification

After a thorough review of feedback from a 2022 Diplomate survey and evaluation of changes and updates to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) MOC model, the ABO announced new, streamlined MOC requirements in January 2023 along with increased opportunities for continuing education.

During each four-year MOC cycle, diplomates are required to complete 100 hours of CE and pass 7 of 9 CAP assessments. A new CAP assessment becomes available every four months during the first three years and focuses on a specific clinical area such as posterior segment or neuro-ophthalmic.

Over half of the 100 required CE hours can now be earned through ABO activities.

- ABO offers four webinars each year that are COPE-accredited for two hours each.
- CAP assessments are now COPE-accredited for two and a half hours each.
- COPE-accredited specialty webinars may be offered in addition to our quarterly webinar series, co-sponsored by specialty societies or other organizations. Our most recent specialty webinar was in partnership with the Ocular Wellness and Nutrition Society.

As recognition of board certification in optometry continues to grow, we remain committed to providing a relevant, valuable and focused learning experience that meets the needs of our diplomates and supports the effort to stay current in a contemporary health care environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Sterna".

David Sterna, O.D., FAAO
Chair, American Board of Optometry

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "April Wilhelm".

April Wilhelm
Executive Director, American Board of Optometry



2023 House of Delegates

Report from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO)

The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) represents and assists member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare. ARBO provides resources to licensing boards of optometry throughout the world. Our members include the licensing boards in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Canadian provinces, Australia and New Zealand.

ARBO is currently in its 104th year of operations. During that time, we have developed a variety of programs to assist our member boards. We oversee the following programs: *OE TRACKER* for electronic tracking and verification of optometrists' continuing education attendance; COPE (Council on Optometric Practitioner Education) for the accreditation of optometric continuing education activities and providers; and CELMO (Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists) which offers a vehicle for license portability to optometrists looking to relocate from one state to another.



Utilization of the COPE accreditation system continues to increase. COPE accredited over 8,100 courses and activities in 2022 which were accepted by the state/provincial licensing boards for credit toward licensure renewal. There were over 645,000 learner interactions with COPE accredited CE courses in 2022. COPE continues its On-Site Review program to ensure COPE-accredited courses are presented in compliance with COPE's policies and Standards for Commercial Support.

COPE follows the same accreditation criteria and standards as those required by medicine's CME accreditor, the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education's (ACCME). COPE's accreditation system has been recognized as substantially equivalent to the ACCME's accreditation system since 2017. This is an important tool that can be used in optometric scope of practice expansion efforts as optometrists that take COPE accredited CE are receiving comparable education to physicians taking accredited medical CME.

COPE continues to be a member of the Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education collaborative. Joint Accreditation offers organizations the opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide continuing education for athletic trainers, dentists, dietitians, nurses, optometrists, PAs (physician assistants), pharmacists, physicians, psychologists and social workers through a single, unified application process and set of accreditation standards. Joint Accreditation assures the public that health care teams receive education designed to be independent, free from commercial bias, based on valid content and effective in improving the quality and safety of care delivered by the team.



CELMO offers a method for state optometry boards to confirm the credentials of optometrists applying for licensure by endorsement in a uniform and consistent manner. Fourteen states currently recognize the CELMO certificate as a significant credential when evaluating an actively practicing optometrist for licensure.



The growth rate of *OE TRACKER* has continued to accelerate. *OE TRACKER* now contains over seven million attendance records. Over 60,000 optometrists from the U.S. and Canada have *OE TRACKER* accounts and 97% of those contain attendance data. Many state/provincial licensing boards require their licensees to utilize the *OE TRACKER* program for tracking their CE hours for license renewal. *OE TRACKER* allows ARBO's member boards to do an electronic audit of the CE hours earned by 100% of their licensees with minimal staff time and cost. This is significant in that many of the boards have limited resources. The *OE TRACKER* mobile app allows optometrists to record course attendance, review their course history and upload CE certificates using a smartphone or tablet. The mobile app is used by a variety of CE providers, including several state associations, to submit attendance directly to *OE TRACKER*. Over 635,000 attendance records have been submitted using the mobile app since it was developed.

ARBO Office and Staff

ARBO's headquarters are located in Charlotte, North Carolina, with Ms. Lisa Fennell serving as Executive Director.

2022-2023 ARBO Board of Directors

Officers:

Coby Ramsey, O.D., President
Jeffery Yunker, O.D., Vice-President
Kenneth Lawenda, O.D., Secretary-Treasurer
Patrick O'Neill, O.D., Immediate Past President

Directors:

James Campbell, O.D.
Terri Haley, O.D.
Glenn Kawaguchi, O.D.
Margaret Whelan, MPA

Consultants:

Donovan Crouch, O.D.

ARBO Annual Meeting

ARBO's 2023 Annual Meeting will take place in Alexandria, Virginia, June 18-20, 2023.

More information about ARBO can be found on our website at www.arbo.org. To contact the ARBO office, call 704.970.2710 or email arbo@arbo.org.

2023 House of Delegates

Report from Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)

The past year has presented optometry schools and colleges, and ASCO as the organization representing optometric education, multiple opportunities to fulfill our mission of preparing practitioners of the future in an environment that continues to be stressed by the aftermaths of pandemic, racial reckoning, political discord, climate change, and economic strain. With the welcome return to in-person education operations and association activities, the optometric education community has embraced the challenge and is happy to report here about its accomplishments.

The ranks of optometric education expanded in 2023, with the addition of the 24th U.S.-based optometry school/college when Rocky Mountain University of Health Sciences launched its School of Optometry.

Strategic Priorities

The ASCO Board of Directors developed and approved an updated five-year strategic plan that recommit the association to four key strategic objectives:

- **Applicant Development:** Attract a robust, highly qualified, diverse applicant pool of students pursuing the necessary education required to treat, care for and improve the overall vision and health of patients everywhere.
- **Organizational Sustainability & Infrastructure:** Develop systems to assure effective governance, responsible resource allocation, including staffing, and appropriate infrastructure development.
- **Advocacy:** Serve as the leading voice for optometric education.
- **Career & Leadership Development:** Establish and promote career and leadership development programs for faculty, administrators, residents and students.

Here are some highlights of initiatives ASCO is undertaking in each of these objectives:

Applicant Pool Development

2023 represents the fifth full year of ASCO's *Optometry Gives Me Life (OGML) public awareness* campaign. The focus of this campaign is to increase the quantity and diversity of optometry's applicant pool while maintaining or enhancing the quality of those applicants. Results from the campaign prove that the campaign has stemmed the downward trend in applications, and even resulting in an *increase* in applications, but has yet to meet our aspiration of doubling the pool of applicants and buttressing the perception of optometry as a career of choice among undergraduate students pursuing a STEM degree.

Last October, ASCO's Applicant Pool Development Committee led a brainstorming session to explore new approaches around ways to broaden the campaign's reach. Focus groups and in-depth interviews with optometry students and some college students who elected another health profession were also conducted. Plans for several new ideas informed by these activities are in formation, including a national "open door" program to engage current practitioners to establish easier-to-identify shadowing opportunities and help students explore what it is like to be a doctor of optometry.

We are also proud to report that OGML has won yet another award (the third), this time from the American Advertising Federation Greater Rochester (in addition to the MM&M award and ASAE Power of A Award).

Other applicant pool development activities include the *Inspiring Future ODs* program, exhibiting/table events at conferences for high school and college counselors, running virtual optometry career fairs and participating in Health Professions Week. We encourage all doctors of optometry to get involved in the future of the profession by volunteering to be an ambassador in the *Inspiring Future ODs* program. For more information, check out: <https://optometriceducation.org/for-practitioners/asco-inspiring-future-ods-program/> where you will learn more details about the program as well as find helpful resources such as slides, posters, marketing cards and other tools to make community outreach an easy and enjoyable undertaking.

Career & Leadership Development

Volunteers and staff for ASCO's Committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) had an extraordinarily busy year delivering a cornucopia of programs and services dedicated to helping optometry faculty provide the highest quality educational experiences for students and residents.

Just this month, the Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee (DCCC) partnered with the Student Affairs and Admissions Group to host an open town hall on two cases before the Supreme Court on racially conscious admissions policies and how institutions should prepare for the Court's impending decision. ASCO launched its *Eye on Diversity Initiative*, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Vision, that included six virtual lectures on diversity topics; the establishment of ASCO's Learning Center (an online learning management system that houses educational resources); delivering our Voices of Diversity Video Series, a collection of first-person accounts from doctors of optometry, optometric educators, and optometry students who bravely share their stories about the impact race and prejudice has had on them both personally and professionally; a Virtual Cultural Competency Workshop and toolkit (both available to all interested). The DCCC also ran a Cultural Competency Case Competition, publishing the best case in ASCO's *Optometric Education* Journal.

ASCO also established two new professional groups within our volunteer structure: a Chief Diversity Officer Group and a Residency Directors Group (which has been working to address the decrease in residency applications experienced this cycle). ASCO volunteers led a multi-association task force studying the development of subspecialties in optometry.

The Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) Committee and the IPECP SIG published revised Core Competencies for Optometric Education and put on a series of sessions labeled "ASCO's IPECP Summit." Members of these groups have represented optometric education and the profession on the Interprofessional Education Collaborative/IPEC's Core Competency Revision Project and on the Interprofessional Professionalism Collaborative (IPC).

The Clinical Affairs Committee developed and published our new *Clinical Preceptor Training Toolkit*.

These programs are a sampling of the types of programs and services ASCO offers on top of our traditional faculty development programs, such as the peer-to-peer learning and networking through ASCO's 18 different SIGs and Professional Groups; our journal (*Optometric Education*) and newsletter (*Eye on Education*); over a dozen different data surveys and statistical reports on many aspects of optometric education; our Future Faculty Program (and its companion Diverse Faculty Initiative for residents from



underrepresented backgrounds); the Summer Institute for Faculty Development; the Optometric Education Leadership Institute; and the Online Clinical Educators Forum (two virtual programs per year on topics related to clinical education and training).

Advocacy

ASCO volunteers and staff are equally active in the advocacy arena. Led by Chair James Venable and Vice Chair Sandra Fortenberry, the ASCO Government Relations Committee monitors and participates in no less than a dozen different coalitions, through which ASCO's voice is amplified when communicating with legislators and policy setters. Executive Vice President and CEO Dawn Mancuso was elected President of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP), a position she will fill for two years. Other ASCO-nominated volunteers serve on other leadership groups, committees, and task forces, such as COPE, NBEO, ABO, and ACOE. Treasurer Michael Bacigalupi and Ms. Mancuso represent optometry on the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Profession Education, and President Trego and Ms. Mancuso participated in a special Summit on Men of Color in the Health Professions held by the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Gerald Simon has been appointed to serve on a follow-up task force responsible for working with medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other health professions to recommend strategies for increasing representation of men of color in health care.

Leadership

At the forefront of ASCO's leadership has been ASCO President Melissa Trego, O.D, Ph.D., Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Dr. Mark Colip, President of the Illinois College of Optometry, will ascend to the position of President in June.

This year saw several other leadership changes: the first black female dean of an optometry school/college with the appointment of Dr. Keshia Elder as Dean of the University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Optometry after Dr. Larry Davis retired from his role as dean. We were thrilled to celebrate Dr. Jennifer Coyle as she assumed her role as President of Pacific University. Dr. Daniel Taylor was confirmed as the Dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. Dr. Nancy Coletta was named the Interim Dean of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' School of Optometry, after Dr. Maryke Neiberg departed following medical leave.

We also have two new employees who joined our staff team in the past year: David O'Donnell is now our Development Director and Jennifer Rubin (*formerly with the America Academy of Optometry*) is our new Program Associate for Member Engagement.

2023 House of Delegates

Report from Association of Vision Science Librarians

The Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL) met several times in 2022, including for an official business meeting in May and our annual meeting in November. Among our initiatives for the year were continued work to maintain and update the Vetted List of Vision Science Journals, including an immersion session at the Medical Library Association conference. Additionally, the AVSL website committee performed a major redesign and migration of our website, avsl.org. Two ongoing initiatives are bimonthly journal club meetings (in which members meet to discuss articles addressing scholarly communication and/or information literacy within the vision science community) and a bimonthly peer evaluation session (in which members are invited to share a presentation, tutorial, lesson, etc. for feedback from other members). We look forward to another active and productive year ahead.

Judicial Council

2022-2023 Report

In July 2022, the Judicial Council voted to “make effective” the following four (4) resolutions:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Resolution A | Support for Student Attendance at AOA+ and other AOA and AOA Affiliate Association Events |
| 2. Resolution B | Future Practice Initiative – Amending Resolution 2011 |
| 3. Resolution C | Eye Deserve More Awareness |
| 4. Resolution D | Support for the American Optometric Student Association – Amending Resolution 2008 |

The full text of all resolutions and motions is available on the AOA website, or you may request a copy by contacting the AOA General Counsel’s Office at (314) 983-4131 or legal@aoa.org.

Robert C. Layman, O.D. (Chair)

William T. Reynolds, O.D.

Barbara Horn, O.D.

Hillary Hawthorne, O.D.

Douglas Totten, O.D.

Mike Stokes, J.D., Staff



2023 House of Delegates

Report from National Academies of Practice-Optometry Academy

National Academies of Practice (NAP) is an alliance of professionals collaborating to transform health and well-being. NAP is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to advise governmental bodies on our health care system. Distinguished practitioners and scholars are elected by their peers from multiple different health professions to join the only interprofessional group of health care practitioners and scholars dedicated to supporting affordable, accessible, and coordinated quality healthcare for all. NAP firmly believes that close collaboration and coordination of different health care professions, aligned through a common vision, can advocate for patients and model excellence in interprofessional and preventive care. NAP is dedicated to lifelong learning from, with, and among different health care professions to promote and preserve health and well-being for society.

Working to advance **Interprofessional Education, Scholarship, Research, Practice and Public Policy**, NAP takes in active role in:

- Educating and informing our members and others,
- Facilitating collaborative scholarship and research opportunities,
- Recruiting, engaging, retaining, and mentoring our network of members, and
- Advocating for the value of interprofessional practice and working to improve health care and policy for all.

Values

As an interprofessional organization representing multiple health professions, NAP is guided by and propagates four core values. These serve as the central tenets for all our official actions. **Our core values are:**

- **Collaboration**: To fulfill NAP's vision and mission, we foster a work ethic of interprofessional collaboration that is based upon learning with, from and about NAP members of all academies. We advocate and advance similar collaborative health care and education models.
- **Patient-Centeredness**: Optimal health care is patient-centered. Public policy, scholarship and health care practice must be patient-centric, in their best interest, and inclusive of individuals, families, and communities. NAP supports its members in developing and disseminating best practice models, public policies and scholarship that enhance interprofessional collaborative care for all individuals.



- **Inclusivity:** NAP embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the organization for our members and the stakeholders we advocate for and serve. We strive to support the development and implementation of models that ensure appropriate and equitable health care for all. We value and promote the contributions of all our diverse constituent members.
- **Interconnectedness:** We foster connections within and between academies and among members of all groups. We support and target initiatives that are designed to maximize these interprofessional interconnections to advance patient or client-centered public policies, scholarship and interprofessional collaborative care. Our collective, interconnected experience, education and wisdom will take us further together than individually.

Within the past year, the National Academies of Practice Optometry Academy (NAPO) presented on the optometric profession at the NAP Annual Forum held in Washington, D.C. They also have presented informational posters at Optometry's Meeting® and at the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting.

At the recent forum, Dr. Rick Weisbarth completed his successful two-year term as NAP President and was installed as the Immediate Past President. Dr. W. Howard McAlister received the Dr. James Boucher Memorial Award in recognition of his contributions to interprofessional health care.

NAP has 15 academies within its structure, including:

- Allopathic and Osteopathic Medicine
- Athletic Training
- Audiology
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Podiatric Medicine
- Psychology
- Respiratory Care
- Social Work
- Speech - Language Pathology
- Veterinary Medicine



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Report from The National Association of VA Optometrists (NAVAO)

The National Association of VA Optometrists (NAVAO) held its annual business meeting and reception on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in San Diego, CA.

Elected officers: Molly McGinty-Tauren, O.D., President
Jerrett Mazzearella, O.D., Vice-President
Carla Gilbertson Kuiken, O.D., Secretary
Amy Knapke, O.D., Treasurer
Kevin Mercado, O.D., Immediate Past President

Honored guests: W. Scott Slagle, O.D., Executive Director, National Optometry Service (Former)
H. Lindsay Wright, O.D., Emily Sprague, O.D., & Greg Smith, O.D., AFOS

Keynote speaker: John Townsend, O.D., Retired Director of VA Optometric Service;
Presentation titled: *AOA/ASCO/NAVAO Recommended Strategic Actions for the 90s*

Dr. Tokumaru Leadership Award Recipient: Mary Jo Horn, O.D.

The NAVAO Board remains committed to high quality veterans eye care and continues to focus on addressing staffing concerns related to recruitment, retention, and diversification for optometry staff and residency positions within VHA. Specifically, NAVAO board received a response following a letter to VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) regarding stipend rates for VA optometry residents. It has since been announced that VA's optometry resident stipends will increase 25% for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Additionally, the NAVAO Board wrote to Secretary of VA Denis McDonough seeking support for market pay analysis including adding VA optometrists to the executive level pay scale. The NAVAO board received a positive and supportive response from VA leadership, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, acting Under Secretary for Health. We have continued to work together with our partner organizations, AOA and AFOS, to be included in this legislation and fight off ophthalmology's vigorous and often vicious campaigns aimed at VA optometry's exclusion from procedures many are licensed to perform. Multiple meetings and public forums have been held to address these major concerns.

Finally, as part of the NAVAO Board's strategic goals, membership voted to update our constitution and bylaws. The changes all aligned with shortening term limits of board members to make opportunities for others. NAVAO is always interested in expanding our membership and welcomes any VA staff, consultants, fellows, residents, or those interested in VA optometry careers to contact us for further information and guidance.

NAVAO would like to thank the AOA for their continued support of VA Optometry. We look forward to future endeavors.

2023 House of Delegates Report from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry

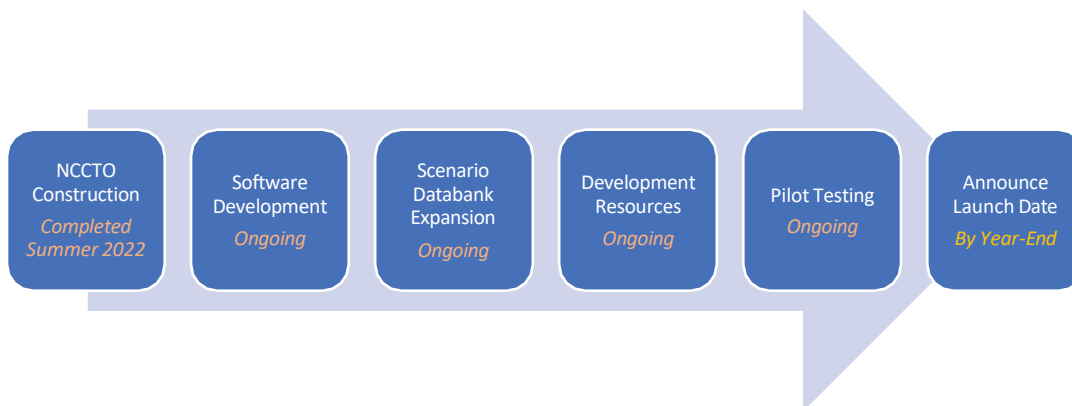
The National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO®) expresses sincere appreciation to all who assisted us in advancing the assessment of optometric competency over the last year. We are committed to public protection through the development, administration, scoring and reporting of examinations that reflect contemporary optometry. Please review the following key updates and organizational announcements.

New Part III PEPS Examination Launch Date Expected by Year-End

NBEO has made substantial progress toward the development of the new Part III exam, known as the Part III PEPS (Patient Encounters and Performance Skills) examination, which will replace the current Part III CSE (Clinical Skills Examination) once it goes live. The NBEO licensure examination consists of three parts. The revised Part III exam format will complement the Part I ABS® (Applied Basic Science) and Part II PAM/TMOD® (Patient Assessment & Management/Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease) exams in assessing a candidate's competency for initial licensure for the independent practice of optometry.

NBEO has worked with a diverse range of subject matter experts at every step of examination development. Contractors completed renovations last summer to add new examination rooms to the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO®) in preparation for the new Part III PEPS examination. Currently, we are focused on software development, expansion of our scenario databank, and pilot testing. We are excited for the continued progress and expect to announce before the end of the year the launch date for Part III PEPS.

Part III PEPS: Current Priorities



Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®)

There has been a steady increase in the number of candidates registering for the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®), which is designed to assess optometric cognitive and technical ability to appropriately manage and perform laser and surgical procedures. Administered at the NCCTO, LSPE is the only nationally standardized examination of its kind, measuring competency in laser and surgical skills, decision-making, and patient management. It is a stand-alone, elective examination containing both laser and surgical sections. Each of these sections includes a performance of clinical skills and computer-based multiple-choice items.



LSPE will be entering its fifth administrative year beginning in August 2023. Registration is open to fourth-year optometric students, optometric residents and optometric practitioners. Candidates may register to take LSPE in its entirety or have the option to take the laser or surgical sections separately as needed.

For more information on LSPE, please visit our website: <https://www.optometry.org/exams/lspe>.

New Part I ABS® Practice Items Databank Now Available, Part II PAM/TMOD® Practice Items Databank Expected Fall 2023

We are excited to announce that Part I ABS candidates now have a new subscription-based, online tool to help prepare for the Part I ABS examination. This tool allows candidates access to NBEO Part I ABS items that are no longer being used. Candidates may select from items based on examination content or may complete an entire examination session (total of 185 items).

With the purchase of a one-month subscription, candidates have unlimited access to items in the Part I ABS Practice Items Databank for one month. Candidates may subscribe to the new Part I ABS Practice Items Databank after registering for the Part I ABS examination.

In the fall of 2023, NBEO is planning to make available a Part II PAM/TMOD Practice Items Databank to Part II PAM/TMOD candidates through the same online tool and at the same cost. More information will be provided on our website as the date nears.



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Report from [National Optometric Association]

The National Optometric Association (NOA), founded in 1969, is comprised primarily of over 800 minority optometrists throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The recruitment of minority students into the schools and colleges of optometry and their placement into appropriate practice settings upon graduation are two priorities of the NOA. Concurrent with these priorities is the mission of the NOA, “Advancing the Visual Health of Minority Populations” through the delivery of effective and efficient eye and vision care services to minority communities.

In 2019, the NOA hosted its 50th annual convention near Atlanta, Georgia with nearly 500 attendees. As part of the Serve Where You Go community initiative, the NOA partnered with VSP Mobile Vision clinic and the CT Martin Recreational Center in Georgia. Comprehensive eye examinations and glasses were provided to over 300 individuals in an underserved community with the support of VSP, NOA and National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) volunteers. The NOA’s visionary co-founder, Dr. C. Clayton Powell Sr., was awarded the NOA Legacy Award posthumously for his life of distinction and service to the profession of optometry. Participants had the opportunity to receive 15 hours of COPE education and attend networking sessions, corporate presentations, student educational workshops and the awards banquet.

- The NOA held several virtual events, including our annual scholarships and award ceremony which awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships.
- The NOA held a series of NOSA Town Hall discussions on race, diversity and equity.



- The NOA partnered with ASCO and AAO for a Diversity Summit, the largest attended AAO event as well as the NOA-Academy at home event.
- The NOA facilitated an articulation agreement between Salus and Hampton University as part of the HBCU initiative. Also, the inaugural scholarship award of the “Visioning the Future” HBCU Mentorship Program sponsored by the Dr. Marvin R. Poston, OD Education and Development Donor Advised Foundation, and VSP Global had three awardees who received \$1500. This year, the NOA will have eight to 10 HBCU awardees receiving a total of \$24,000.
- Southern College of Optometry (SCO) announced the creation of a \$25,000 Dr. Clayton Powell Sr. Scholarship Award to be given to a NOSA student.
- The NOA has partnered with the Los Angeles County Optometric Society to award a \$1000.00 scholarship award per year for the next five years.
- NOA launched a new children’s vision initiative, A.C.H.I.E.V.E: All Children’s Health Initiative for Eye and Vision Excellence, in partnership with The National Children’s Center for Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) at Prevent Blindness.
- NOA also partnered with VSP for an understanding of Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence in Optometry three-part webinar series.



In 2021, the NOA launched a virtual convention with over 100 students and 100 doctors of optometry in attendance. A few highlights include over 16 hours of COPE education, corporate presentations, awards banquet and for the first time, the NOA was able to provide \$85,250 in scholarships to the student organization. The scholarships were made possible by the support of the National Optometric Foundation (NOF) and corporate partners including, VSP, HOYA, Modern Optical, National Vision, CooperVision, Alcon, and Walmart.

Additional highlights from 2021 include:

- The NOA and NOSA held a second series of NOSA Town Hall discussions on race, diversity and equity.
- The NOA’s HBCU “Visioning the Future” initiative awarded 10 HBCU students funding towards optometry school.
- The NOA created three Young OD awards in recognition of leaders in the field of Optometry.

2021 recipients include:

- Dr. Edwin Marshall – Emerging Leader Award
- Dr. Mel Ship – Young Optometrist of the Year
- Dr. Betty Harville – Educator of the Year Award
- The NOA recognized Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery and the 100 hundred years of Tulsa Race Massacre, by honoring the late Dr. Anita Myrtle Williams Christopher. Dr. Christopher was the third African American woman licensed to practice in the U.S. and the first African American, male or female, licensed to practice in Oklahoma.



In 2022, NOA held the annual convention in Anaheim, California on July 8-10.

- As part of the Serve Where You Go community initiative, the NOA partnered with VSP Mobile Vision clinic and the Boys and Girls club of Garden Grove area. Comprehensive eye examinations and glasses were provided to over 300 individuals in an underserved community with the support of the VSP , NOA and NOSA volunteers.
- \$141,396 was awarded in scholarships thanks to the support of the NOF and corporate partners including, VSP, HOYA, Modern Optical, National Vision, CooperVision, Alcon, and Walmart.
- The NOA and NOSA held a fourth series of NOSA Town Hall discussions on race, diversity and equity.
- The NOA created two more Young OD awards in recognition of leaders in the field of optometry. 2022 recipients include:
 - Dr. Millicent Knight – Trailblazer of the Year Award
 - Dr. Paula Harmon Boone – Community Service Award

Additionally, the NOA hosted four regional events at the major industry meetings including Vision Expo East, Vision Expo West, SECO and Academy. A few key successes from the event include:

- Substantial increase in membership, corporate and general support and charitable donations to the NOA Foundation.
- The NOA collaborated with other professional organizations, such as The Vision Council, the North Carolina Optometric Association, Prevent Blindness, Essilor Vision Foundation, and the National Eye Health Education Program to help promote wellness.



For 2023, the NOA is planning to host the Annual Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on July 7-9. The anticipated audience is over 300 ODs, students, allied professionals, and sponsors. Additional plans and initiatives for 2023 include:

- The NOA will host the first regional event at Optometry's Meeting in Washington, D.C. this June.
- The NOA continues to collaborate with other professional organizations, including The Vision Council, the North Carolina Optometric Association, Prevent Blindness, Essilor Vision Foundation, and the National Eye Health Education Program to help promote wellness.
- Corporate support continues to increase with a large visibility and presence at the annual conventions.
- NOA will present its first CE course on diversity, equity, and inclusion for the 2023 Annual Convention CE program in Ft. Lauderdale.
- The NOA will host a National D.E.I Forum at the NOA convention, which will highlight all deans and DEI officers in the profession.

To learn more about the NOA, annual events, highlights and accomplishments, please visit

www.nationaloptometricassociation.com.



OPTOMETRIC EXTENSION PROGRAM
FOUNDATION

2023 House of Delegates

Report from Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEPF)

The Optometric Extension Program Foundation is an international organization (organized in the United States as a 501C-3 Not for Profit Corporation in the State of California), with its main offices in Timonium, Maryland, and can be contacted by phone at 410.561.3791 or by email at info@oepf.org.

Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEPF) provides education, research and resources to optometrists, vision therapists and other professionals in the field of behavioral neuro-optometry and clinical care. Here are some specific data points about OEPF:

- Founded in 1928, OEPF has been providing education and resources to optometrists and vision therapists for over 90 years.
- OEPF offers a wide range of resources including books, courses, workshops and the open-source peer-reviewed OVP journal.
- OEPF has a strong focus on vision therapy, which is a type of therapy that uses visual exercises to improve a person's visual skills.
- OEPF community has a network of over 11,000 optometrists and therapists in the United States and around the world.
- OEPF's website provides a wealth of information about vision therapy and related topics including research articles, case studies and a directory of vision therapists.
- OEPF also has a presence on social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Hosts the four-annual OEPF International ICBO Congress, the Olympics of Behavioral Optometry, which features expert speakers and hands-on workshops. The 9th ICBO will be held August 14-18, 2024 in Ottawa, Canada.

OEPF's mission is to encourage research into human vision and the visual process; provide education necessary for the discipline of optometry to emerge as an independent profession worldwide; develop a cadre of willing and able leaders for the continued support of optometry; provide access to instruments, equipment, publications and materials supportive of the discipline of optometry related to the educational mission of the foundation; and educate the public and the professions about the importance of visual health and hygiene, the prevention of visual and ocular problems, an understanding of visual development, visual rehabilitation and the enhancement of vision and the visual process.



In our 95th year of providing education and optometric publications, we pride ourselves with having an increasing number of total enrollment of students and residents in OEPF, participants include optometrists, vision therapists, students and ophthalmologists, with faculty, and other optometric professionals from all over the world.

2022 has been again a year of challenges in an untested world for OEPF: inflation and unknown business challenges, stress, great lows, but also great firsts with new highs and discoveries. Life still has not returned to normal but, we, at OEPF, have continued to adapt to the new reality and welcomed and reached out to the global optometric community with our virtual and hybrid meetings.

Overall, the past Covid-19 years have shone a spotlight on multiple challenges, but also on great new opportunities.

Leadership (As of August 2022)

President: Eric Hussey, O.D. | Spokane, Washington, USA

Vice President: Pamela Schnell, O.D. | Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Secretary: Amy Pruszenski, O.D. | Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA

Treasurer Director/Trustee: Cathy Stern, O.D. | Canton, Massachusetts, USA

Director/Trustee: Brad Habermehl, O.D. | Pomona, California, USA

CEO-Executive Director: Line Vreven

Education and Certification

We are thrilled to announce that after almost 100 years OEPF in early 2023 launched its certification program of having the privilege of providing post-graduate education on behavioral neuro-optometry. We now offer you the option to become a fully certified behavioral neuro optometrist and add the professional designation of COEP behind your name or a fully certified behavioral vision therapist and add the professional designation of COEP-T behind your name. More information:

<https://www.oepf.org/certification/>

Prerequisite to becoming OEPF certified as an optometrist is to have completed all four OEPF clinical curriculum courses. This certification process is an online process with a peer-reviewed number of questions on all four courses. You must score a minimum of 80% on the questions to succeed in this certification. The system allows you to retake the quizzes one time should you fail the first time without having to re-submit your application.



OPTOMETRIC EXTENSION PROGRAM FOUNDATION

The OEPF core clinical curriculum is a four-part series of courses totaling 133 hours of continuing education (CE) and is currently offered over the internet and in person. Clinical seminars and other lectures, regional conferences and workshops have also shifted online, allowing for wide global participation. More information: <https://www.oepf.org/clinical-curriculum-2/>

OEPF holds courses on a great variety of topics and research ranging from neuro optometry to courses on TBI (Acquired Brain Injury/Traumatic Brain Injury), pediatric vision, vision therapy, reflex foundations, practice management, etc., as well as a huge library of CE webinars: <https://www.oepf.org/webinars/>

Information on the education program: <https://www.oepf.org/calendar/>

Publications and web shop

The OEP Foundation continues to publish our international peer-reviewed journal, *Optometry & Visual Performance (OVP)*. The journal is available in online format which has increased readership and authorship tremendously. The journal is now read regularly in over 60 countries worldwide. Archived issues can be accessed at www.oepf.org. The editor in chief is Marc Taub, O.D., M.S., from Southern College of Optometry and the Managing Editor is Pamela Schnell, O.D., also from Southern College of Optometry. The review board is comprised of colleagues from around the world in various practice settings and universities.

The OEP Foundation continues to publish multiple titles each year.

The newest titles published are:

- “Vision The Forgotten Sense” by Ken Lane, O.D.
 - “Applied Concepts in Vision Therapy 2.0” by Len Press, O.D., Marc Taub, O.D., M.S., and Pamela Schnell, O.D., as editors.
 - “The Essential Playbook” by Nancy Torgerson, O.D., and Kristi Jensen, O.D.
 - “Indicators of Primitive and Postural Reflexes Assessment (IPPRA)” by Patti Andrich, M.A., CVOT
 - “A+ Vision Manual of Vision Therapy Exercises” by Beth Gilman, O.D., and Greg Gilman, O.D.
- The latter two books are our first “hybrid” books.
- Reprint of “Vision: It’s Development in Infant & Child” by Arnold Gesell, M.D.



OPTOMETRIC EXTENSION PROGRAM
FOUNDATION

OEPF represents more than 200 different authors and products through its web shop. For more information: www.oepf.org/shop in the fields of general optometry, clinical vision care, research into human vision and the visual process.

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Report from Southern Council of Optometrists/SECO

The Southern Council of Optometrists is comprised of 13 state optometric associations and seven associate international organizations. We continuously improve our ability to provide year-round educational opportunities, expand our hands-on surgical procedures and laser offerings and continue to increase our student outreach and opportunities.

The leadership would like to extend our appreciation to the AOA Board of Trustees for its support of our Congress, SECO 100, celebrating our 100th anniversary.

SECO 100 Congress

- SECO and the National Academy of Opticianry expanded the partnership to include a track of live courses and hands-on workshops for opticians and technicians.
- The continuing education program once again offered both in-person and virtual educational opportunities and new features. SECO embraces diversity and works to ensure our key thought leaders reflect the profession. This year, we had the most female speakers in the history of SECO take the stage!
- The inaugural SECO Contact Lens Summit was launched. This FREE program started with a sponsored lunch and two 2-hour CE sessions.
- The Edutainment sessions offered opportunities for interactive CE designed to combine learning, fun and networking! This year, the two programs included the Civil Rights Museum Tour and CE and CE with BBQ, Brews, & Cornhole Too!
- Hot Topic Breakfast Sessions were another NEW educational offering this year to include a panel of experts exploring the science behind the cutting-edge developments with spectacles and contact lenses, advancing surgical interventions, novel pharmacologic treatments, new multifocal intraocular lens designs, and options for treating and managing presbyopia.
- MedPRO360 is a unique business conference within the SECO conference. The facilitated learning workshops are popular and new gaming formats were featured this year.
- We had over 100 poster presenters this year and are looking to expand the opportunities in the future.
- Optometry's Marketplace is an essential component of the Congress, offering the latest products and technology from the optometric industry, free education, events and more. This year, the Optometry's Marketplace featured the NAO Pavilion and the new Surgical Skills Pavilion, allowing attendees hands-on learning and education sessions.

- SECO Students and Residents – NEW this year was the Student Engagement Area located in Optometry’s Marketplace, where students and residents had an opportunity to learn more about job placement opportunities and enjoy fun interactions with peers in school and in practice. We also offered our first-ever Student T-Shirt Design Challenge for the 100th anniversary. Congratulations to the first-place winner, Daniel Parotta from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, and the runner-up, Baldemar Torres from UC Berkley.
- The award winners include:
 - President’s Award – Dr. Max Raynor (NC)
 - Optometrist of the South - Dr. Bill Reynolds (KY)
 - Young OD of the South – Dr. Erika Morrow (Ga.)
 - Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Rosalind Overton-Smith (SC)
 - Distinguished Service Award – Mr. Bo Keeney (VA)
 - Paraoptometric of the South – Ms. Anne Granger, CPO (LA)
- SECO 2024 is scheduled for February 28-March 3 in Atlanta, Georgia.

SECO University

SECO University, the profession’s leading online education, provides optometrists and allied healthcare professionals with extensive educational opportunities in an online environment. SECO and the NAO partnered on four webinars via the SECO University platform in 2022.

SECO Leadership

From Kentucky, Dr. Matt Burchett was sworn in as the new SECO Secretary and Dr. Michelle Cooper from the state of South Carolina became the new President of SECO.

2023 – 2024 Board of Trustees

The Board currently comprises the following individuals:

Rob Pate, O.D. (AL)	Patricia Flippin-Westfall, O.D. (AR)	Bryan Stam, O.D. (FL)
Ben Casella, O.D. (GA)	TeShawna Sutton, O.D (KY)	Kevin Kasovich, O.D. (LA)
Mike Weeden, O.D. (MS)	Michael Haines, O.D. (NC)	Michelle Welch, O.D. (OK)
Lori Roberts-Hauser, O.D. (SC)	Patricia Walker, O.D. (TN)	Joe Droter, O.D. (VA)
Brad Lane, O.D. (WV)		

