Above: AOA Secretary-Treasure Dori Carlson, OD, inducts the 2009-10 TOA Board of Directors.

Above: “BCD” was a Full House as doctors listened to the latest from each company and earned a rebate at the same time.
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**It’s Certifiable**

By Clarke D. Newman, OD, FAAO

Malcolm Gladwell, the author of the *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* and *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, once observed, “What do we tell our children?...Haste makes waste. Look before you leap. Stop and think. Don’t judge a book by its cover. We believe that we are always better off gathering as much information as possible and spending as much time as possible in deliberation.”

I agree with this sentiment completely. However, there are a lot of people who are not gathering information on the Board Certification issue—they are arguing from emotion or self-interest. It is time for every optometrist to verify the facts for themselves. Most don’t want to take the time to do that.

So, the debate over board certification has been anything but a debate. On one side of the debate is the Joint Board Certification Project Team (JBCPT), a collection of some of the best minds in our profession representing each of the stakeholders in optometry.

On the other side is an optometrist with his own on-line newsletter; someone who I count as a friend and a colleague.

On the one side, there were months of study of the need for optometric Board Certification. There were months of study of what would constitute a defensible, credible, and obtainable program for a profession that does not have a mandatory residency requirement.

There were months of preparation about how to present this information to the profession. There was a mechanism put in place to change things as the profession offered its questions. There have been changes to address the concerns of members and non-members alike, and they are meeting one more time to address new concerns.

There has been a concerted effort by the AOA and the other stakeholders to disseminate the information through the *AOA News*, through presentations all across the country, and through letters.

On the other side is an optometrist with an opinion and his own

Please See “Certifiable” Page 19
Words of the Past
By Stacie Layne Virden, OD
TOA President

Editor’s Note: This is the text of Dr. Stacie Layne Virden’s acceptance speech at the 109th Annual Convention.

A while back I ran across an interesting essay, and I’d like to share part of it with you tonight.

Optometry is an ever-changing and diverse profession. Within the next ten years, there will be the potential for many more innovations. It will be the responsibility of all optometrists, both established doctors and new graduates alike, to make competent, educated decisions that will protect optometry as it is now and provide a scope for how it will be in the future.

Today, optometrists are the providers of primary eye health care. Not only do they perform refractions and formulate prescriptions for glasses and contacts, optometrists are often the first to diagnose eye diseases such as cataracts and glaucoma. In many rural communities, he or she is the first professional consulted for eye injuries…In addition, optometrists in Texas…may also prescribe therapeutic drugs. This is a direct result of active lobbying by hundreds of optometrists… and is an excellent example of what optometrists can accomplish by working together. Although optometry today is a rewarding career, to keep it this way will require the teamwork of dedicated professionals.

Sounds current, doesn’t it? But this was actually part of the essay I wrote in 1992 for my application to the University of Houston College of Optometry. I found it a while back, and it shocked me how true those words still are.

Four years ago, on this stage giving this very address, incoming TOA President John Todd Cornett said:

“the very first sentence of the optometric oath states …, ‘I will practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.’ Quite honestly, that is not something that we do today. You see, right now, we are not limited by our scope of competence. Rather we are limited by our legislated scope of practice. Our scope of competence vastly exceeds our scope of practice. We have risen to the challenge of bettering ourselves through the educational process. We have proven ourselves through the care we have delivered to our patients. Now it is time for us to be able to prove ourselves capable of establishing our scope of practice.”

Four years and two legislative sessions later, we are still not there. The longer our laws remain stagnant the further we will have to catch up because technology is changing the way health care is practiced every day in every single specialty. Fifteen years ago, the nerve fiber layer was best viewed with a red-free filter and a handheld lens; today scanning lasers allow us to visualize this structure and diagnose glaucoma before vision loss occurs. While our glaucoma medication regimen here in the states has decreased to one drop a day at bedtime, in Europe lasers are the first line of treatment. In the future, it is predicted that nanotechnology will change the delivery system of treatment yet again. Will optometrists be able to utilize this technology? Not under our current Texas laws.
TOA’s Convention Rated Best State Convention in U.S. by Vendors!

The Texas 109th Annual Convention is now one of the most talked about and exciting meetings in the country! Not only does it cost a fraction of the other meetings, but it has been described as the “most fun you can have while fulfilling a year’s worth of continuing education credits.”

A special thanks to Dr. Kevin Gee and everyone involved in putting together a CE package that rivals the best national programs. With speakers of the caliber of Drs. Paul Karpecki, Mark Dunbar, Marc Bloomenstein, Stacey Coulter and the team of Drs. Melton and Thomas… who would want to travel outside of Texas for CE?

This level of educational excellence was made possible with the generous contributions of the TOA’s Patron Education Sponsors – Alcon, Allergan, and Johnson & Johnson’s Vision Care Institute. The Patron Education grants are undesignated funds that underwrite the cost of the optometrist, paraoptometric/optician and optometry student programs. Please thank their representatives for their generous support of Texas optometry when they visit your offices.

This year’s convention broke all attendance records with over 500 optometrists, 125 paraoptometric staff and opticians, 150 students from UHCO, SCO, and NOVA and more vendors than possible to contain in one Exhibit Hall. Special thanks to UHCO, Talking Books, and Prevent Blindness who were so gracious to join the TOA booth in the entrance hall overflow booths.

TOA’s eight “Behind Closed Doors” sponsors were overwhelmed by the positive response to their presentations and participation in the After Hours Hospitality Suites. Attendees had time to get together with old (and new) friends, talk to the sponsors on a more personal basis, and even sing a few songs in the late night karaoke room! Please remember to thank the Behind Closed Door’s companies (AMO, CIBA, Essilor, OOGP, Optos, Shamir, Vistakon, and Zeiss) for their generous support of Texas optometry. Along with reducing the optometrist’s cost of registration fees by $200, this highly successful program directly contributes to keeping the TOA dues down!

Mark your calendars now for next year’s convention which will be again at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin, February 18th - 21st, 2010. Remember - it’s very important to support the only convention that returns every dollar back to the TOA in support of Texas optometry. And where else can you get four days of fun and a year’s worth of quality CE and your meals included for less than $100 (after refund) plus the price of a room?

See more from TOA’s 109th Annual Convention on Pages 8-11
A road racer who was decades ahead of her time once wrote that “Change is the only constant; hanging on is the only sin.” In the 1950’s and 60’s, Denise McCluggage raced against, and often beat, champion drivers Phil Hill, Sir Stirling Moss, and Carroll Shelby in marques as diverse as Porsches, Minis, Ferraris and MGs. Hers is not a household name, however, because women were not allowed to participate in the more famous and prestigious races of the time. Modern optometry faces the same sort of dilemma. Optometrists who are expertly trained far beyond the current scope of our state laws seek to positively change the delivery system of eye health care. This change is resisted by not only the medical community, but also by insurance companies, state agencies, and legislators. So why is progress not being made? Why do these groups continue to hang on?

It is certainly not for lack of trying on the part of organized optometry. A core group of committed optometrist volunteers take time out of their practices every year to meet with their legislators; Tom Annunziato went above and beyond the call of duty last year and took 6 months out of his life and practice to run for state representative. Dozens of optometrists lend their talents to TOA and AOA committees each year.

Don’t get me wrong. We have a wonderful profession. Optometry is consistently ranked as one of the most desirable careers in terms of income potential and quality of life. We can take care of patients from their very first eye exam all the way through life to taking care of them after cataract surgery. The immediate problems we face are dealing with bureaucracy in our current law. Unnecessary referrals waste patients’ time and healthcare dollars simply because current laws say we have to do it; since our prescriptive authority was expanded ten years, doctors of optometry have efficiently and effectively utilized these treatments for the benefit of our patients. And in many cases we do a better job than our MD counterparts. Just this week I have been following a patient post-EKC whose ophthalmologist told her there was nothing else he could do for her discomfort and blurred vision due to subepithelial infiltrates—she’d just have to let the after effects of the infection run its course. After only two days on a steroid drop, she was feeling much better and questioning why the other doctor didn’t do this. But technology is changing. What happens when treatment modalities change, a drop is no longer the standard of care, and we can no longer treat a condition at the highest level because it is not listed in our Optometry Act? Yes, there’s a lot we can do right now. But would you buy the same TV you bought 10-15 years ago? A 28” was pretty impressive back in the day, but we would all choose an HD or projection system. Few of us carried a cell phone 15 years ago, but in that short time they have advanced to the point that we are walking around with mini-computers in our pockets. If technology changes and optometrists are not a part of that change, you can be sure your patients will follow technology elsewhere.

Now I ask—where do you fit into this process of making our great profession even better? If you have ever served on a TOA committee or Board, or led your local optometric society as an officer, or taken time off to visit your elected officials, I sincerely thank you. If you have not been a part of the process, I challenge you to step up and become part of the solution. Call your representative this legislative session. Speak to a civic or parents group on why kids need an eye exam before starting school. Sign up to do at least one Vision USA exam per month. Serve on a TOA committee. If you can’t find anything that appeals to you or fits into your schedule, call me. We’ll find somewhere you can help out.

I want to conclude this evening with the last paragraph of my optometry school application:

“All optometrists must have a vision of the future and be willing to work toward it if optometry is to advance. Through lobbying and legislation, optometrists have gained the right to use therapeutic drugs. We must continue to stand together and use our political voice to keep these privileges, and optometrists in the future may also use this process to lobby for the right to prescribe other drugs. But other interest groups can just as easily use this process to repeal this bill. In the past ten years, optometry has made great advances to become what it is today. A career in optometry is an opportunity—an opportunity to serve each patient’s needs and to serve in the community, a chance to develop new technology, and the possibility to retire from the profession leaving it far better than it was upon entering. The field of optometry can be very rewarding, but…”

And that’s where it ends. Somewhere over the years, the last page was lost and I think that’s just as well. Optometry’s history is far from being written, and I invite each of you to join me in creating another chapter this year.
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2009 TOA Convention Highlights

(Left) Convention optometrist attendees look on as they learn about the latest technologies and information to better serve their patients and their practice during the “Behind Closed Doors seminar”.

(Above) TOA member doctors take the Optometric Oath during the House of Delegates. (Right) President Awards Recipients stand with TOA president Brian Blount, OD after being recognized for their outstanding service during the year. Pictured are (left to right) Larry Gunnell, OD, Steve Nguyen, OD, Kevin Gee, OD, FAAO, Stacie Layne Virden, OD, Beverly Newhouse, OD, Brian Blount, OD, Steven Ezzell, OD, FAAO, Dennis Neely, OD, Marc Piccolo, OD, FAAO, Kevin Katz, OD, MS and Stan Woo, OD, MS, FAAO

(Left) William Townsend, OD, FAAO, of Canyon, Texas receives the William D. Pittman Leadership Award for his achievements as a noted writer, lecturer and political key contact from Texas Optometry Editor and TOA past president Clarke Newman, OD, FAAO. (Above) Kenji Hamada, OD (far right) presents the Texas Optometric Association with a symbolic check of the contributions that OOGP has given TOA since inception.
With all the companies and vendors on hand in the Exhibit Hall, there is no wonder why TOA’s Annual Convention is the place to be when seeking out information and products that can help make optometry better.

(Above) Roland Montemayor, OD’s band “Easy Money” entertained at the TOA Reception Saturday night, sponsored by Texas State Optical.

(Above) Sam Quintero, OD glides across the dance floor. (Left) Charles Stewart, OD and his wife Sue dance the night away.
TOA Awards & Installation Banquet

(Left) Earl Smith, III, OD, PhD, Dean of UHCO receives the Optometrist of the Year award from his former UHCO classmate David Wright, OD. (Below) Young Optometrist of the Year, Kevin Gee, OD, FAAO, UHCO faculty, director of the sports vision clinic at UHCO shakes hands with last years recipient Anthony Tran, OD, FAAO.

(Above) Former Texas Optometry Board Chair, Clinton DeWolfe, OD, accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his many years of service to and influence on the profession. (Right) Brian Blount, OD, TOA President presents John D. Marvin, TSO CEO with the Public Service Award for his great work with TSO and optometry.

(Above) Former Texas Optometry Board Chair, Clinton DeWolfe, OD, accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his many years of service to and influence on the profession. (Right) Brian Blount, OD, TOA President presents John D. Marvin, TSO CEO with the Public Service Award for his great work with TSO and optometry.

(Left) Marcus Gonzales, OD, UHCO faculty stands proud after receiving the Educator of the Year Award from fellow Bridge-Builders Eye Clinic (Dallas) doctor Joe DeLoach, OD, FAAO. (Above) a special award was presented to Jim Hannigan, OD, for his years of service as chairman of TOA's Continuing Education Committee. (Right) Nancy Stehlik, OD graciously accepts the Mollie Armstrong (OD Public Service) award for her work with VOSH and other service endeavors.

109th Annual Convention - Celebrate Sight in the City of Light
TOA honors Bj Avery for Years of Service

At the 109th Annual Convention, the Texas Optometric Association had the honor of celebrating 20 years of dedicated service by Bj Avery, TOA Executive Director. Bj joined the TOA family in 1989 as Legislative Coordinator under the late Stan Boysen (former ED) and has been a driving legislative force in the TOA ever since. Ms. Avery was presented with a custom TOA President’s ring as a symbol of appreciation for all her years of hard work and devotion to the TOA and the profession of optometry.

Bj Avery, TOA Executive Director (center right) stands proud with a room full of past TOA presidents all there to honor her years of commitment at the TOA Banquet.

2009 Texas Optometric Association
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

60 Years of Membership
Monte Friedman, OD
Nash Hogue, OD
James Hughes, Jr., OD
John Jennings, OD
James Koetting, PhD, COVD, OD, FAAO
Loy Lawler, OD
O. R. McIntosh, OD

50 Years of Membership
William Elizondo, OD
Richard Morgan, OD
E. M. Slack, OD

40 Years of Membership
Harold Codianne, OD
Russell Dressen, OD
Jeff Ekery, OD
Carl Gilbert, OD
Ray Matocha, OD
Spencer Moore, OD
Joe Putman, OD
Robert Reid, OD
Elliot Stendig, OD
Raymond Stepp, OD
Larry Wilkinson, OD

25 Years of Membership
Lendon Davis, OD
Thomas Goldstein, OD
Andy Hawari, OD
Alicia Hinojosa, OD
Cindy Hudson, OD
Jeffrey Jones, OD
Gregory Kloesel, OD
Stephen Lanier, OD

10 Years of Membership
Wesley Anderson, OD
Amela Arredondo, OD
Soroush Azadi, OD
Manso Bhai, OD
Leandro Bara residuals, OD
Sarah Berg, OD
Shelly Blaker, OD
Lindsay Bond, OD
Jerry Brinegar, II, OD
Selene Burke, OD
Aaron Butchel, OD
Robin Byrum, OD
Rogelio Cantu, Jr., OD
Eddy Contreras, OD
Brandon Dabney, OD
Jason Daughtrey, OD
Jeffrey Elkins, OD
Hani Ghazi-Birry, MS, MD, OD
Emma Gonzalez, OD
David Grey, OD
Kevin Greenman, OD
Brett Hamilton, OD
Keith Hancock, OD
Casey Holdridge, OD, FAAO
Kevin Katz, OD, MS
Cassandra Knight, OD
A. Brook Komar, OD
Michael Latimer, OD
Mimi Le, OD
Andre Le, OD
Autumn Lind, OD
Sumant Malhotra, OD
Natalie McAbee, OD
Melanie Melanson, OD
Mehran Nakhwai, OD
Duyan (Emma) Nguyen, OD
Charlie Nguyen, OD
Monica Nguyen, OD
Cristina Ormamp, OD
Jane Oh, OD
Faris Ohan, OD
Shilpa Patel, OD
Tuy Pham, OD
J. Martin Prati, OD
Chan Quach, OD
Michele Quinlan, OD
Sadaf Razi Elhaffar, OD
Ronald Redder, OD
Claudia Salas, OD
Amil Shah, OD
Muntaz Tejani, OD
Sharon Than, OD
Cuong Tran, OD
Huy Tran, OD
Stanley Tran, OD
Anthony Tran, OD, FAAO

Yuvani Tran, OD
Faye Tupa, OD
Kelvin Van Voort, OD
Stacie Van Voort, OD
Summer Vu, OD
Kent Webb, OD
Laura Wendlandt, OD
Cody Wilkinson, OD
Bhavani Yedlapuram, OD
Mona Younes, OD
Deborah Zanella, OD
STOA Graduates - 2009

Heather Anderegg
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Desired Location: Fredericksburg and surrounding area
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handeregg.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

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Tara Bailey
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tbailey.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

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Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Houston
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Jessica Baxter
Hometown: Houston TX
Practice Interests: Commercial
Desired Location: Texas, Virginia/DC area, California
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J Baxter991@aol.com

Kevin Benham
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kbenham.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

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STOA Graduates - 2009

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Melissa Do  
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mdo.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

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STOA Graduates - 2009

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Chi Kim Nguyen  
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Dat Nguyen
Hometown: Dallas, TX
Practice Interests: Full Scope, CL
Desired Location: Dallas
Practice Mode: Partnership, Associate, Group
Cell: 214-277-3031
dnguyen.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

Jason Nguyen
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Houston, Dallas
Practice Mode: Partnership, Solo, Group
Cell: 832-433-0931
jaynguyen82@yahoo.com

Nancy Nguyen
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
Practice Interests: Full Scope
Desired Location: Houston, Sugar Land, Pearland
Practice Mode: Associate, Partnership
Cell: 8322360520
nnguyen.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

Tina Nguyen
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Texas
Practice Mode: Partnership, Solo, Group
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Vi Nguyen
Hometown: Houston/ Sugar Land, TX
Practice Interests: Full scope, GLC, Contact Lens
Desired Location: Houston or surrounding area
Practice Mode: Solo, partnership, group
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vnguyen2009@gmail.com

Krishan Patel
Hometown: Montgomery, TX
Practice Interests: Full Scope, CL, Glaucoma, Ocular Disease, Refractive Surgery co-management
Desired Location: Conroe, Woodlands, Spring, NW Houston, Humble, Kingwood
Practice Mode: Associate, Solo, Group, Relief
Cell: 903-288-1311
kpatel.2009@gmail.com

Amber Paulsen
Hometown: Conway, AR
Practice Interests: Full Scope, CL, Ocular disease
Desired Location: North Texas, Arkansas
Practice Mode: Associate, Group, Partnership
Cell: 832.385.4768
amber.paulsen@gmail.com

Jordan Pierce
Hometown: Dallas, TX
Practice Interests: Full Scope, GLC, Path
Desired Location: Fort Worth, TX
Practice Mode: Partner, Solo, Associate
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jpoptics@gmail.com

Nikki Polnick
Hometown: Brownwood, Texas
Practice Interests: Full scope (GLC, Ocular Path, Peds)
Desired Location: Texas, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Abilene
Practice Mode: Partnership, Group, Associate
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npolnick.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu
STOA Graduates - 2009

Myria Reese
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Practice Interests: Full Scope Optometry, Pediatrics
Desired Location: Austin, Houston, Cypress, Dallas
Practice Mode: Associate, Group, Partner
Cell: 832-488-0458
mreese.2009@alumni.opt.uh.edu

Emily Simonek
Hometown: Big Spring, TX
Practice Interests: Full Scope, CL, Glaucoma, Low Vision
Desired Location: Austin or Houston Area
Practice Mode: Associate, Group, Partner, Fill-in
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emilydanielle@gmail.com

Josh Steger
Hometown: Kenedy, Tx
Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Texas
Practice Mode: Partnership, Solo, Group
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jsteger.2009@gmail.com

Candace Tran
Hometown: Abbeville, LA
Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
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Cathy Tran
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Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Houston, Dallas, Texas
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Luom Tran
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Practice Interests: Full Scope
Desired Location: Dallas, Houston
Practice Mode: Associate, Partnership, Solo
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Tony-Nguyen Tran
Hometown: Houston
Practice Interests: Full Scope
Desired Location: Houston/Dallas
Practice Mode: Group, Partnership
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Laura Vondra
Hometown: Decorah, IA
Practice Interests: Full Scope, CL, Path
Desired Location: Open to relocation
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Ashley Walton
Hometown: Pearland, Texas
Practice Interests: Full scope optometry
Desired Location: Houston (and S-E Suburbs)
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STOA Graduates - 2009

Marcus Whatley  
*Hometown:* Atlanta, TX  
*Practice Interests:* Full scope optometry  
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Andrew Whyte  
*Hometown:* Longview  
*Practice Interests:* Full Scope Optometry  
*Desired Location:* DFW Metroplex, San Antonio  
*Practice Mode:* Associate, Partnership  
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*drew1214@gmail.com*

Aaron Wolf  
*Hometown:* San Antonio, TX  
*Practice Interests:* Full Scope Optometry  
*Desired Location:* DFW, Austin, Hill Country, San Antonio  
*Practice Mode:* Associate, Partnership, Fill-in  
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*aarontwolf@hotmail.com*

Delilah Yousef  
*Hometown:* Austin, TX  
*Practice Interests:* Full Scope Optometry (Glaucoma, CL, Cornea, retina, Peds, Gen path)  
*Desired Location:* Austin, Tyler TX  
*Practice Mode:* Solo, Partnership, Group  
*Cell:* 512-656-3644  
*delilah.yousef@gmail.com*

OPTOMETRIC CONSULTANT

- Dr. Jack L. Bridwell  
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  Phone 979-242-4087  
  Fax 979-242-5132  
  Cell 979-966-9500  
  Email: jbpar@hotmail.com  
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On the one side is the realization that this nation will reform health care delivery in the next two years. There is no stopping that train. There is also no stopping the fact that whatever form that reform may take, quality and outcome measures, as well as demonstration of continued competence will be a part of it.

The term, Board Certification, is a definition used by regulatory and accrediting entities to define someone who has demonstrated a certain level of competence, and then continues to do so by additional testing. The JBCPT has used this term to mean what the health care industry thinks it means.

On the other side is an optometrist who has traded on his colleagues’ lack of understanding of what that term means to foment resentment against the AOA because of his own agenda. He speaks in terms that attack his opponents’ character and in hyperbole to prey on the emotions of those who are not informed about this issue. He is successful because he has his own on-line newsletter, and there is no one there to say, “You cannot say that because it is not factual.”

People like me have sent him letters telling him where he was saying things that were not factually correct. The hope was that he would publish them and offer a balanced view of this issue. Not only did he not publish any of these responses, but he did not respond personally. Further, this optometrist was challenged to an open debate on the issue in his home state, and he refused.

Therefore, I sent my letter to him on to the AOA to publish in the AOA News. I want my letter to him out in the public sphere.

In his on-line publication, the debate this optometrist lamented was not happening was because of his own refusal to debate. He does not want to address the things he has said because they are refutable. The facts are there for anyone who wants to take the time to research this issue on their own. He makes ad hominem arguments against those who have the audacity to challenge him with verifiable facts.

I could be wrong, but I think this optometrist knows that what he is saying is refutable. At best, if he does not, then he does not know enough about this issue to speak to the profession in an on-line newsletter that goes to all optometrists.

Look, Board Certification is an expensive, time-consuming pain in the ass. No one wants to do it. However, sometimes, you have to do what you have to do. Last month, I was told that the pain in my back was caused by a mass inside my appendix. I was told that it was probably a mucoscele that would never go anywhere, but it could also be a neoplasm that could kill me. The chances of that were less than 5%, but the standard of care recommended that I have immediate surgery, which I did.

The surgery was expensive (my out-of-pocket so far is $3,600), disruptive, painful, and it scarred my vain carcass. However, it wasn’t a mucoscele—it was an adenoma. Not a malignancy, but a tumor that none of us expected.

You see, sometimes you are faced with something ominous, and you don’t have all of the details, and you have to make informed decisions based on that limited information. We have a significant body of information that indicates that every governmental agency and most private third-party payers are moving towards reforms that will require some form of certification that will be ongoing.

Our competition, ophthalmology, already has that in place and we do not. There is an inertia that demands that we act before we know for sure. Our competition has a competitive advantage already in place if we do not affect these reforms.

Please See “Certifiable” Page 20
We build fire houses and staff fire departments before we need them. You cannot wait for a fire to build a fire house. We buy insurance because there is a credible risk that we might encounter a casualty loss. You cannot wait until the storm hits to insure you home.

Right now, we do not need Board Certification. However, there is very credible evidence on the radar that the storm is coming. I serve on the AOA’s State Governmental Relations Center and I chair the AOA’s Medical Home Project Team, and we are tracking so many bills across the country that reference medical home, quality assurance, outcomes measurement, and continued competence demonstration that we literally cannot keep up with them all—there are hundreds of them.

The current federal Medicare Medical Home Demonstration Project requires all participants to be Board Certified, which limits the providers to MD’s and DO’s. That is happening now—the program is already in place with Kansas and Louisiana having already promulgated their rules for implementation. That is factual. Any optometrist in America can verify that fact on his or her own.

On the other side is an optometrist telling our profession that there is, “…not one iota of credible evidence that we need Board Certification.” You be the judge.

Just today, the tenets of the Obama health care reforms were laid out in the Senate Finance Committee. In there, was the following:

“A new PQRI participation option would be added to the existing options described above. Eligible professionals could also receive PQRI incentive payments for two successive years if, on a biennial (every two year) basis, the physician (1) participates in a qualified American Board of Medical Specialties certification, known as the Maintenance of Certification or MOC, or equivalent programs, and (2) completes a qualified MOC practice assessment.”

“MOC” is “maintenance of certification.” That means you first have to be certified, and then you have to prove your continued competence through testing again and again. MOC is the second part of the Board Certification process that the JBCPT created.

AARP, one of the most influential lobby groups in the health care arena (They are an 800lb gorilla in the room, if you want to know the truth.), in their report on the state of health care in America, had the following as their Core Finding—their CORE FINDING:

“A new regulatory model is needed.

A new regulatory model must go beyond imposing mandatory continuing education (CE) to require some form of the five-step model that includes periodic assessment of knowledge, skills, and clinical performance; development, execution, and documentation of an improvement plan based on the assessment; and periodic demonstration of current competence.”

That was issued two years ago! It is stuff like this recommendation that drove the AOA to begin looking at this issue again.

Now, it is coming to fruition. In fact, ophthalmology beefed up their Board Certification and their proof of continued competence over the last three years in anticipation of these changes. The OMD’s sucked it up and did it without nary a complaint. These facts are verifiable by any optometrist who wants to make the effort to look.

On the other side is an optometrist who is telling our profession that the AOA is forcing this issue down the throats of all optometrists because the organization is looking to make money?!? Really? Really? I call “Bullshit.” Sorry for the swear word, Antonin, but I have to call it as I see it. This program will probably cost the AOA money because some emotional, unthinking optometrists will probably quit over this issue from the only organization on the planet that gives their profession voice.

That is cutting off one’s nose to spite one’s face. St Thomas Aquinas admonished the petitioners on this issue when he spoke about PRIDE being one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

I am all for dissent. Hell, I subscribe to the journal, Dissent. Most of you don’t even know that that journal exists. It does. I have paid the price many times for dissenting from the popular opinion. I know where he is coming from. My only beef with him is motive and method. I am disappointed. He is one of the last people I would pick to proffer vitriol as dissent for unclear motives.

Folks, you are being lied to, and you have to decide whether you are being lied to by the appointed representatives from six different optometric advocacy and regulatory groups who would have had to conspire together, without motive, to defraud the profession by advocating something so divisive as Board Certification, or by an optometrist with his own on-line newsletter with an axe to grind against the AOA.

Tell you what; I am not on the AOA Board of Directors. I am not on the AOA staff. I am not even on the JBCPT, but I promise to stand on the floor of the AOA House of Delegates in June ready and willing to debate this issue until we are all on the same page; after which, the House will vote this thing up or down. If you want to look at some of the information driving the need for this change, go to the following web address, and read it for yourself:

http://certification.aoa.org

The gauntlet has been laid down. If you are intellectually honest, and the facts are on your side, then you will not hesitate to be there for that debate. I will be there, regardless. Will you be?

We need to keep our profession strong and advantageously situated in a marketplace that is changing almost faster than we can keep up. We have no choice but to try to keep up. Anything else would be a disservice to the future of the profession that we love. Any other course of action would be, well, certifiable.
It is an honor to share this momentous moment with you. 44 years ago Rita and I arrived from Oklahoma to enter UHCO in 1965. I remember that it was August and 100 degrees with 100 percent humidity. Our air conditioner in the apartment was broken. For seven days we experienced a true Houston summer. I wasn't sure, then, what an Optometrist was. It wasn't until the 2nd year that I started to enjoy the possibilities of being an Optometrist. This is your day! You have dedicated 4 years of your life to this enterprise. I, also, want to recognize the faculty and staff who have given their whole lives for you 4 years. I will try to be brief to share with you a few of my experiences and lessons of Oklahoma Optometry. After practicing in a town of 5000 for 29 years and helped with the establishment of the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, I was asked to be the Interim dean of the college for 6-9 months. When I was asked to be the interim dean in 1997, I was told that I don't have to know anything, I don't have to do anything and I was to stay out of the way of those that were doing things. Hey, I have been doing that all my life.

Up to 1979, when NSU-OCO was established, Oklahoma depended upon Houston and SCO to provide graduates to provide Optometrists in Oklahoma.

Two important things happen right after the school was established. The state laws for Optometrists was passed that enabled Optometrists to "Relieve ocular abnormalities by any means including, but not limited to the use of pharmaceutical agents". Before that Optometry was a drugless profession that took great pride in "detecting and referring". YAG lasers were just being used by eye care providers for capsulotomy ablation. The Oklahoma State Board of Examiners issued the opinion in 1988 that ODs could provide this procedure since there was no prohibition in State Law. But the OD must have the same or better training and credentials as required by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (which was a couple of hours of CME provided at the annual AAO meeting).

The other important event was the establishment of the Vision Education Foundation in Oklahoma City. This Foundation was basically the first co-management center for Oklahoma that provided secondary and tertiary care and training and consulting services to the practicing Optometrists AND sent the patient back to the Optometrist. VEF had an Optometric Director who wanted to perform YAG lasers. The VEF Optometrist clinical director went to the AAO meeting and was credentialed and the State Board certified him. The State Board set up a requirement that Outcome Assessments for laser procedures were to be reported to the St. Board and a credentialing course was provided for Optometrists at NSU-OCO consisting of 2 ½ days of course work and wet labs. From 1988 to 1995 over 7000 outcome assessments were provided to the State Board with results that demonstrated significant better results and outcomes than provided by ophthalmology.

(It has always been my contention that no matter what your state law says, Optometry has nothing unless they get paid for their knowledge, expertise and skills and that if only one Optometrist has the knowledge, expertise and skill to utilize a procedure to relieve ocular abnormalities, the law and the profession should ensure that this can be provided and be reimbursed.)

In 1998, ten years later, because of an unfavorable Atty. General's opinion, the state association (OAOP), Ok. St. Bd. of Examiners in Optometry, and the College of Optometry/Board of Regents, and Cherokee Nation Health Division worked with the state legislature and governor to codify Optometry's right to relieve ocular abnormalities by any means including but not limited to minor surgery and lasers.

Now all optometry schools are united to expose their students to the scope of practice of Oklahoma and minor surgical procedures and laser therapy. Oklahoma is very proud to have the Houston students do an externship there to enhance the students' skills.

While I served on the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) as a private practitioner, the question "do our schools prepare its graduates to be primary eye care providers? Are they able to diagnose, manage, and treat most eye conditions, for most people, most of the time?" Houston does a great job of providing opportunities of its students through it clinical education and

Leadership training

Financial counseling

Emphasis of making graduates the decision makers in their practices for the benefit of their patients

Emphasizing the tradition of comprehensive optometric care and private practice

Please See “Commencement” Page 22
UHCO Awards Dixon Golden, OD with Alumnus of the Year

Dixon Golden, OD, was awarded the University of Houston College of Optometry’s Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2009. Dean Earl Smith III, OD, PhD, FAAO presented him with this award on May 16, 2009 at the UHCO Commencement Ceremony on University of Houston Campus, Cullen Performance Hall. This award acknowledges an alumnus of the college who has distinguished himself or herself in the profession. Dr. Golden’s accomplishments include Member, University of Houston College of Optometry Vision Institute Campaign Committee; Board Member, Foundation for Education and Research in Vision; Chair, Texas Optometry Board and service to the Texas Optometric Association.

Commencement

And, above all, emphasizing the importance of Integrity in all aspects of patient care and life choices

All this is to say, you are graduating at the most exciting time of Optometry’s history. Governments and society place vision care and eye health as a priority for Public Health. You are recognized as a physician and expected to be a team member and collaborative for the benefit of the patient with all health care providers. The economic barrier is being removed between you and children and you and those over 65. In your lifetime, interoperability of health records between you and all healthcare providers including labs and pharmacy will tie the patient's health into one comprehensive unit that is cost effective and secure. New medications and procedures, i.e. SLT lasers, are available to prevent blindness and cures for eye conditions.

BUT life after graduation can be a barnyard. You know what is in a barnyard and its odor. I don't need to tell you of all the perils that await you OUT THERE. Economy~Depression~1931. But I want to show you what we learned in Oklahoma to address them. AND, please allow me to use these props.

1) Optometry is a legislated profession. Whether you practice, your scope of practice will be determined by your state board of examiners in Optometry or a Health Board. There is a movement by political medicine to role back the scope of your privileges in state legislatures and develop a medical home model to control patient options as to access to your services. As a legislated profession you MUST REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONE VOTE, ONE OPINION, ONE APPOINTMENT FROM LOOSING YOUR PRIVILEGES AND ACCESS TO YOUR PATIENTS.

2) Membership in your state association ensures that the strides made for your profession for over 100 years are sustained and enriched. "How I am perceived as an Optometric Physician is how you are perceived. How you are perceived reflects up me, University of Houston and your state/national association." The totality of the members is significantly greater than the number of the individuals. Oklahoma has 90% Optometric membership.

3) The 3rd leg is the continual use and understanding of new knowledge. Your education is excellent and your encouragement for lifelong learning has been established here at University of Houston. Although you probably feel elation about graduating and leaving UHCO, your commitment to support UHCO determines its ability to continue producing state-of-art primary eye care providers and elevates the profession of the future. Continued competency or board certification is the future of being perceived as a health care providing profession for accountability and reimbursement by government and 3rd party payors. For the Public Health, we are recognized as the place to go for eye health and vision care. We are recognized as providing these services and not just the sellers of optical goods. You will be engendered to protect the public by keeping current through continued medical education.

Now you have the protection to keep out of the barnyard by these 3 legs of professional optometry. I am more confident in the future because I have seen you in action. People ask me if we have too many optometry graduates. I say there may be too many refractionists, but there are not enough eye care providers if we as a society remove the economic barriers that separate our populations from your education and skills and provide visual therapy, low vision services, contact lens care and minor surgical care. If you are allowed to practice to your full scope of education and if you are recognized as a vital part of interprofessional total health care team as is exemplified in the VA, IHS, Military and National Health Corp., you will have a wonderful future. There are NOT enough eye care providers to meet the need as these parameters are met.

What an exciting time for you as you continue in this family of Optometry.

God Bless you, cousins.
TOA Mourns…

Edward Cope Jr., OD
87, died March 4, 2009. Born May 8, 1921 in Ada, Oklahoma to Ed and Cleo Cope. He attended Monahans High School, Texas Tech University and Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He served in the Army during World War II at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Dr. Cope practiced optometry in Garland for fifty years. He was a member of the American Optometric Association, the American Optometric Association and was a co-founder of the Southwest Contact Lens Society. He was also a member of the Hella Temple Shrine and Elks Lodge #71. Dr. Cope is preceded in death by his parents, his sister, June Cope, and his eldest son, Michael Edward Cope. He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Jerry Cope of Garland, son Brad Cope and his wife Ann, and grandchildren Eliza and Daniel Cope of Dallas, grandson Geoff Cope and his wife Jill Cope, and great-grandchildren Zach, Jaxon and Olivia Cope of Richmond, Texas.

Milton Covell, Jr., OD
91, died March 20, 2009. Born November 29, 1917, in Galveston, TX, to Milton and Alma Covell. He was well respected in the Pasadena community as a Doctor of Optometry, practicing in this area from 1944 until his retirement in 1989. He was a member of the Harris County Optometric Society, the Texas Optometric Association, and the American Optometric Association. He served as Directors for 1st Pasadena State Bank and Southmore Savings and Loan. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Serra Club, promoting religious vocations in the Catholic Church. For over 65 years, he was a member of the Pasadena Rotary Club with decades of perfect attendance and was named a Paul Harris Fellow multiple times. Milton is survived by his beloved wife of almost 64 years, Dorothy. He is further survived by son Dr. Paul Covell and spouse Joan of Pasadena, TX, daughter Sue Piwonka and spouse Mark of Tomball, TX, and son Mark Covell and spouse Karen of Pasadena, TX. Also mourning his passing are grandchildren, Brian, Katie, and Michael Covell, Laura Covell Anderson and spouse Brian, Robert and Alex Piwonka, and Christina and Sara Covell; sister Nora Inglish and spouse Jim; and sister Eleanor Gardea. He is preceded in death by his parents, and one sister Mary Peck. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Milton’s caregivers Eva Garza and Sawana Ryans.

Jack Sham, OD
82, died March 15, 2009. Born August 3, 1925 in Chicago, the only child of Pearl and Lewis Sham, Jack was a graduate of Von Steuben High School in Chicago (class of ’43). He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1945. He was a graduate of the Northern Illinois College of Optometry (class of ’48) and practiced until his retirement in Dallas in 1997. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Harriett (also known as Chick), sons Brad and Eric of Dallas, grandchildren Kyla Brinkley and Husband Trevor of Fort Worth, Zack Sham of Dallas and Paul Sham of Coppell, Texas, daughter-in-law Peggy Sham of Coppell, Texas, and great grandson Lane Brinkley of Fort Worth.

Elmer Ruth Treadwell
81, died February 25, 2009. Born September 1, 1927 in Denison, Texas to Lloyd DeBow Harris and Sarah Ruth (Davis) Harris. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, mother-in-law and loving friend. Elmer Ruth is survived by her husband of 60 years, Wilbur Collins Treadwell, Jr., OD. She is also survived by her son Stephen Collins Treadwell, OD and wife Davina Kleen Treadwell, daughter Sarah Ruth Treadwell Benak and husband John Carl Benak, Jr., granddaughters Lauren and Emily, and great-grandson Zachary. Elmer Ruth graduated from Denison High School in 1944, and then attended the University of Texas in Austin where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She was a long time member of AFVA (spousal organization of the Texas Optometric Association). She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. She was happiest spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed music, tennis, dancing, hunting, traveling, her many pets, and was active as a volunteer in many community and charitable organizations. She was also a lifelong University of Texas Longhorns fan.

TOA would like to congratulate the following optometrists for their appointment to these AOA committees:
(List at time of publication)

Dr. Tom Annunziato – Industry Relations Center Executive Committee
Dr. Avery, TOA Executive Director – Membership Development Committee
Dr. Carolyn Carman – Chair, Neuro-Optometry Project Team
Dr. John Coble – Industry Relations Center Executive Committee
Dr. Wiley Curtis – Consultant, Federal Legislative Action Keyperson Committee
Dr. Mark Keith Davis – Optometry’s Meeting Exhibits Committee
Dr. Ryan Fenska – Federal Relations Committee
Dr. Kathleen Goff – Optometry’s Image Coordinating Committee

Dr. Derek Hamilton – Online CE Initiative Project Team
Dr. Clarke Newman – Chair, Medical Home Project Team
Dr. Steve Nguyen – Chair, Medical Home Project Team
Dr. James Paramore – Ethics and Values Committee
Dr. Marc Piccolo – Federal Relations Committee
Dr. Wes Pittman – AOA Awards
Dr. Jody Tacker – Membership Group Executive Committee

American Optometric Association

Spring ‘09 ● TEXAS OPTOMETRY 23
Join TOA! or Refer a Potential Member

**New TOA Members**

**Doctors**
- Heather Anderson, OD; HCOS
- Janet Baker, OD; HTOS
- Ivan Bank, OD; DCOS
- Nolan Barit, OD; CTOS
- Martin Baumohl, OD; HCOS
- Sheetal Bhaga, OD; EPOS
- Jennifer Bomba, OD; BCDOS
- Maria Ceballos-Coral, OD; WTOS
- Tiffanie Childs, OD; HCOS
- Abby Fisher, OD; DCOS
- Cody Greenhaw, OD; CTOS
- Tonya Ketcham, OD; HCOS
- Colleen Lenz, OD; NETOS
- Shannon O'Hare, OD; NETOS
- Danielle Pantelis, OD; HCOS
- Dimple Patel, OD; HCOS
- Paulina Phan, OD; TCOS
- Gerald Phillips, OD; BVOS
- Courtney Rhodes, OD; CTOS
- Mark Richardson, OD; HCOS
- Shiloh Roberts, OD; ETOS
- Cameron Seidel, OD; MTOS
- Meghna Shah, OD; DCOS
- Param Singh, OD; HCOS
- Brooke Vegas, OD; HCOS

TOA Member Benefits Highlights

**Legal Consultation**
Members can consult with a Texas attorney who will provide legal information on a variety of subjects including contract negotiations, lease agreements, HIPAA violations, etc.

**Professional Advocacy**
TOA has a lobby team including staff and outside counsel to keep abreast of the legislative issues in Austin that effect optometry. When action is needed, TOA’s grassroots structure is in place. TOA's lobbying team has produced a century of legislative successes for optometry in Texas.

**Practice Management**
TOA provides materials for new graduates and those optometrists starting a new business, as well as practice tips for established practices.

**Discounted Registration**
Receive lower registration fees to TOA’s Annual Convention, EyeCon, and other important meetings as well as those affiliated with AOA.

**Insurance and Financial Services**
Members are given a list of TOA-endorsed providers of insurance and financial services

**Endorsed Member Services**
The TOA works with companies (as shown to the right) and organizations to financially support the profession of optometry in the state of Texas.

**Local Society Meetings**
Member doctors network on a local level with societies in their areas. Opportunities abound from continuing education, mentorship, practice management tips and other resources found through doctors who have the same interests.

**Member Information Listed on Doctor Locator**
Only TOA-AOA members are listed on Doctor Locator so new patients can find you and other doctors can refer patients to you.

**Leadership Opportunities**
TOA Committees and Board provide opportunities to be directly involved in advancing the direction of our profession.

"Members Only" access to the Website
Your membership dues provide access to materials found only in 'locked' areas on the website.

**Membership Support Service Panel**
Seeking advice? Consult with a panel of Texas doctors regarding questions you may have on topics ranging from billing and coding to new technology and equipment.

**Subscription to the** Texas Optometry Journal and E-News
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**contact:**
Sarah Gándara at 512-707-2020
or TOAsarah@austin.rr.com
or Visit Us ON-LINE at http://texas.aoa.org

See TOA's 2009 Membership Award Recipients Page 11
TOA Online Classifieds

TOA Classifieds are now located in one convenient and easy to surf location! [Click Here]

Trying to sell your practice? Looking for an associate? Maybe you’re just looking for some part time help while you’re on that much needed vacation. Reach out to your optometric community by placing an ad on the TOA website. There are over 8 categories to choose from. They include Equipment for Sale/Lease, Practice for Sale/Lease, Positions Available, Positions Wanted, Services, Relief Doctors Wanted, Available for Relief Work, Pre-Optometry Work Opportunities and even one for general Optometry Announcements. Anyone can view them online for free [Click Here]. TOA members can place multiple ads at no charge [Members Click Here]

TOA ENDORSEMENTS

The following organizations have been endorsed by the Texas Optometric Association Board of Directors. These suppliers financially support the TOA. As you comparison shop for goods or services, we urge you to consider these endorsed suppliers. They have made a commitment to support your profession.

AMO (Abbott Medical Optics)
1-800-821-1515
www.AMO-inc.com
(Solutions, IOL’s, etc.)

appi
1-800-520-6685
www.appienergy.com
(Savings Solution Program : helps manage and reduce utility costs)

Bank of America
1-800-365-2219 (AOA)
Visa (endorsed through AOA)

Capitol Credit Union
1-800-486-4228
www.ccuisx.org
(Business, Personal Accounts, Savings, Checking, Loans)

Carl Zeiss Meditec (LDT)
1-877-486-4743
www.meditec-zeiss.com/us
(Scanning Laser Equipment)

Chase Paymentech Solutions
1-877-765-8669
www.chasepaymentech.com
proactivesales@chasepaymentech.com
(Credit card processing)

CIBA Vision
1-800-241-5999
www.cibavision.com
(Contact lenses and lens care products)

Compass Insurance Agency
(Ensay Insurance / Oldham & Oldham)
1-800-950-2474
1-972-889-6000
(Malpractice Insurance)

CooperVision
1-800-341-2020
www.coopervision.com
(Contact lenses)

Essilor Laboratories
1-800-666-6342
www.ela.com
(Optical lab services)

First Insight
1-800-920-1940
www.first-insight.com
(maximEyes software, optometry.net website builder, paradEyes.com online ordering)

Frost Insurance Agency
1-817-420-5700
(Life, Health, Disability Insurance)

Hello Polly
1-800-642-7653
hellopolly@aol.com
(Message on hold advertising)

IC Systems
1-800-685-0595
www.ic-system.com
(Collection Agency)

M. A. R. Financial Group
1-800-880-9733
(Disability Overhead Expense Insurance, etc.)

Madeley & Company, Inc. • OPP
1-800-382-7741
(Malpractice Insurance)

Office Depot
1-800-203-9483 x 116
John.List@office depot.com
(Office Supplies, Computer Hardware, Software, Furniture, etc.)

OOGP
1-800-654-3829
www.ooogp.com
(Group Purchasing: Frames, Lenses, etc.)

Optos
1-866-OPTOMAP
www.optos.com
(Optomap Retinal Exam)

Payment Alliance International
(Electronic Data Resources)
Credit Card Processing
1-866-371-2273
www.paymentallianceintl.com
(Credit card processing)

Shamir Lens
1-877-514-8330
www.shamirlens.com
(Lenses)

Signet Armorlite
1-800-950-5367
www.practice-plus.net
(Pactice Plus Program for Kodak Lenses)

Vistakon / Johnson & Johnson
(The Vision Care Institute, LLC)
1-800-874-5278
www.jnjvision.com
(Contact lenses and solutions)
Corporate contributions are not permitted. Checks from P.C.’s are acceptable. Contributions to TOPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions under the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Calendar of Events

July 10 & 12, 2009
Texas Optometric Association
Summer Board Meeting
Location: TOA Office – Austin, TX
Website: http://texas.aoa.org/x7043.xml
Description of Event: TOA Business Meeting
Contact Number: 512-707-2020

November 21 & 22, 2009
EyeCon
Fall Education and Demonstrator Meeting
Location: Radisson Dallas Love Field
Website: http://texas.aoa.org
Come and get that “LAST MINUTE” CE or get “ALL” the CE you need for the Year in TWO DAYS. Demonstration Hall and meals are included in your one stop shopping price

Next display advertising Deadline:
July 15, 2009
To advertise in the Texas Optometry Journal e-mail TOAmelissa@austin.rr.com, call 512-707-2020 or Click Here

Legislative Update

Legislative Wins 2009:

A bill that allows optometrists to prescribe, dispense and sell ‘therapeutic’ or ‘medicated’ contact lenses is on its way to the governor’s desk where he is expected to sign it. TOA worked closely with Johnson and Johnson to pass this bill. Without this bill, optometrists would not have been allowed to sell a new type of contact lens expected to hit the market in the next few months. (HB 1740).

Several companies are about to bring to market contact lenses which will serve as delivery devices for medications such as allergy and glaucoma drugs. Under current law, all doctors are prohibited by the Pharmacy act from selling drugs in their offices, and consequently optometrists would have been prohibited from selling these new contact lens/drug combinations. HB 1740 by Rep. Donna Howard of Austin and Sen. Carlos Uresti of San Antonio changes that, and allows both therapeutic optometrists and ophthalmologists to sell these new “therapeutic” contact lenses.

As we publish this, other bills on their way to Gov. Rick Perry include a bill which allows optometrists to write handicapped permits for visually impaired people and their caretakers (SB 1367), a bill which allows retired optometrists to maintain a limited optometry license to perform charity work (HB 675), a bill to allow certain public health centers to employ optometrists (SB 1476), and a bill which exempts optometry offices from having to be licensed as an emergency care facility (HB 1357).

TOA bills concerning scope of practice and administration of flu and pneumonia vaccines were caught in the politics of the legislature and didn’t move.

Practice For Sale

For Sale: East Texas Practice - Outstanding growth, Best year ever in down economy. Full service practice with outstanding staff. Email: texaseyedoc@ymail.com or call 903-918-3515 for inquiries.
## Looking for an Associate (Part time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of OD</th>
<th>Name of Practice</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Burges, OD</td>
<td>Medina Eye Center</td>
<td>Castroville</td>
<td>830-538-2241</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wrburges@flash.net">wrburges@flash.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuvani Tran, OD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>214-823-6470</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ysek@hotmail.com">ysek@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Henson, OD</td>
<td>LaGrange Vision Center</td>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>979-968-8987</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Henson, OD</td>
<td>Phoenix Optical</td>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>512-303-5959</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Ekery, OD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>915-525-7077 (cell)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jekery@ekery.com">jekery@ekery.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Looking for an Associate (Full time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of OD</th>
<th>Name of Practice</th>
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<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry Davis, OD</td>
<td>Drs. Davis &amp; Reeves/TSO</td>
<td>Port Arthur</td>
<td>409-749-9787 (cell)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bdrd@gt.rr.com">bdrd@gt.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Hembree, OD</td>
<td>Vision Source Odessa</td>
<td>Odessa</td>
<td>432-362-3133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:visionsourceodessa@cableone.net">visionsourceodessa@cableone.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Reade, OD</td>
<td>Texas State Optical</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>713-824-2020</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mareade@tso.com">mareade@tso.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Jaszkowski, OD</td>
<td>Sharpstown Vision Center</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>713-777-5367</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donnamj@swbell.net">donnamj@swbell.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>After Hours Optical</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>210-680-3210</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doctor@afterhoursoptical.com">doctor@afterhoursoptical.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Kaiser, OD</td>
<td>House Call Eyecare</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>830-734-1275</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronkaiser@hotmail.com">ronkaiser@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Bank, OD, FAAO</td>
<td>Insight - Complete Eyecare</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>504-583-5992 (cell)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ibank@stcharlesvision.com">ibank@stcharlesvision.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Goff, OD</td>
<td>Envision Eyecare</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>915-588-9509</td>
<td><a href="mailto:KGoffTXOD@sbcglobal.net">KGoffTXOD@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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## Looking for an Associate (Full time & Part time)

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. Gary Thomas, OD</td>
<td>Eye Docs</td>
<td>Sherman &amp; Paris</td>
<td>903-891-9764</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.garythomas@verizon.net">d.garythomas@verizon.net</a></td>
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## OD Looking for New Position (Full time)

<table>
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<th>Name of OD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jared Kenyan, OD</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>903-239-2041</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkenyan@gmail.com">jkenyan@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Jaszkowski, OD</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>713-777-5367</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donnamj@swbell.net">donnamj@swbell.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Practice for Sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OA Watson, Jr., OD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
<td>512-396-3737</td>
<td>watson <a href="mailto:oa@yahoo.com">oa@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry King, OD</td>
<td>TSO</td>
<td>Longview</td>
<td>903-918-3515</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TexasEyedoc@ymail.com">TexasEyedoc@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Ekery, OD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>915-525-7077 (cell)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jekery@ekery.com">jekery@ekery.com</a></td>
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