Who are Paraoptometrics?

Paraoptometrics are allied health professionals who assist optometrists in providing their highest level of vision care to patients. Front office procedures, chair-side assisting, pre-testing, contact lens instruction, frame styling and fitting, and vision therapy are just a few of the many duties paraoptometrics perform while working directly with an optometrist.

What is the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

The American Optometric Association Paraoptometric Section is the nation’s largest organization serving the needs of optometric assistants and technicians. The purpose of the Paraoptometric Section is to offer continuing education opportunities, service recognition, professional development and promotion, and opportunities for its members to be involved with a national, professional association. The Paraoptometric Section promotes a health-team concept in the delivery of optometric care and enhances the identity of both the optometrist and the paraoptometric.

Who is Eligible for Membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

Any ancillary, allied health professional sponsored by an AOA member optometrist is eligible for membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Members of the Paraoptometric Section are also associate members of the American Optometric Association, the national organization representing the optometric profession.

Why Become a Member of the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

There are many benefits of membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Section members receive:

- A certificate of membership, suitable to be framed and displayed in the office. A membership certificate will serve as a visible reminder of professional pride and involvement. To show continued commitment to service, members receive a gold renewal seal each year that can be added to the membership certificate, keeping it current.

- The Section’s quarterly electronic publication, E-News, keeps members up-to-date on the many activities in the paraoptometric field. Each issue contains section activity highlights, and much more.

- Association members may take advantage of reduced registration fees for the AOA Annual Congress:

- Optometry’s Meeting®. The Paraoptometric Section offers an extensive continuing education program, designed specifically for optometric assistants and technicians, opticians, ophthalmic allied health professionals, and office staff. Members also enjoy networking opportunities and social functions during Optometry’s Meeting®. Optometry’s Meeting® is held annually in June.

- Members receive significant discounts on the various education products available for purchase from the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Products include study guides for certification testing, home-study education modules, professional identity items, and much more.

- Members can access an online continuing education program, offering free hours available through the AOA Web site.

- Members have FREE access to Optometry’s Career Center®, the AOA’s online career-matching site, which helps them to find job opportunities in optometric practices nationwide. Members are able to post their resume for providers to view and to contact them directly, and they may also search detailed listings of available paraoptometric opportunities. Additionally, members can use the AOA Doctor Locator for referral needs and access to the contact information of optometrists in their area.

- Continuing Education Article Archive. Designed to provide additional CE for recertification requirements, the section offers the Article Archives online. Receive one hour of CE after successfully passing the exam at the end of the article. There is no limit on the number of titles you may choose, and a $10 processing fee is associated with each submission.

- Paraoptometric Skill Builder (PSB): Enhance Skills and Advance Careers. Basic training for the beginning paraoptometric. Easy to use, automated, audio PowerPoint format allows trainees the freedom to learn from home on their own personalized path.

- Associate members of the American Optometric Association receive:

  - AOA News – published twice monthly, the AOA News reports on AOA activities, meetings and seminars; and recognizes people within the profession.

  - Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association – published monthly, the journal is the most widely circulated scholarly optometry journal in the world. Optometry provides a forum for breakthrough research that advances the art and science of the practice of primary care optometry.

  - Access to the Member Desk Reference – this online guide is a tool for members to utilize the benefits of membership in the AOA. The Desk Reference contains information about the AOA structure, including the Board of Trustees; provides contact information for affiliate and regional optometric associations; and explains membership benefits in detail.

  - Associate members also receive discounts on car rentals, package delivery service, and long distance telephone service. Members can apply for a “Gold” Mastercard, through an AOA-sponsored program.

The AOA Paraoptometric Section offers recognition, education, and professional development for its members. Paraoptometrics from all areas of the profession belong to the Section, giving them a diverse forum for sharing information and exchanging ideas. The benefits offered through membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section prepare paraoptometrics for tomorrow’s career challenges.

A paraoptometric’s occupation is more than just a job. Together with the optometrist, paraoptometrics play a valuable role in providing quality eye care to each patient who enters the office or clinic. Paraoptometrics who make a career of their job strive to upgrade their skills and abilities in order to assist the doctor in providing the highest level of professional care possible. The AOA Paraoptometric Section helps its members achieve their career goals.

How Can I Join the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

Annual dues for membership in the Section (and associate membership in the AOA) is only $60.00 ($35 military) per year. Simply complete the membership application, have it signed by an AOA member optometrist, enclose the dues payment in U.S. funds only, and send it in today.

Membership applications may be sent to:

AOA Paraoptometric Section
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1
St. Louis, Missouri 63141-7881
(314) 991-4101 FAX
Application for AOA Paraoptometric Section Membership

MISSION STATEMENT
The American Optometric Association Paraoptometric Section will seek to ensure that the education and training for all paraoptometrics is consistent with and reflects the growth of the paraoptometric profession.

Last Name __________________________ First Name __________________________ M.I. ______ Certification __________
Maiden Name/Nickname ___________________________________________ Today’s Date __________________________
Home Address ____________________________________________________________
(P.O. Box, street, rural route, apartment number)
City ___________________________ State __________________________ ZIP Code ___________
Home Phone (________) Office Phone (________) FAX (________)
E-mail ___________________________ Birth Date __________________________
(required for newsletter information) (required for Web site access)
Office Name ____________________________________________________________
Office Address ____________________________________________________________
(P.O. Box, street, rural route, apartment number)
City ___________________________ State __________________________ ZIP Code ___________
Send all correspondence to: ☐ Home ☐ Office Address Are you in the Military? ☐ Yes ☐ No
In accordance with the AOA Bylaws, members joining the AOA Paraoptometric Section must be sponsored by an AOA member optometrist.
AOA Member Optometrist____________________________________________________ AOA ID # __________
AOA Member Optometrist Signature ____________________________________________
I hereby make application for membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section and attest that the above information is correct. I authorize the AOA Paraoptometric Section and the AOA to send me information, including any solicitations deemed to be commercial in nature, by e-mail or FAX transmission.
Please charge my $60 ($35 military) annual dues to ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express
Credit Card Number ___________________________ Expiration Date __________________________
Signature of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________
☐ Enclosed please find my check payable to the AOA Paraoptometric Section for $60 ($35 military), which includes my AOA Associate membership. Check # __________________
☐ FAX credit card information and application to 314-991-4101.
(Payments to the American Optometric Association are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. However, professional dues may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.)

Send completed application with fee to: American Optometric Association, ATTN: Paraoptometric Section, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1, St. Louis, MO 63141-7881