

JULY 2023



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

FEATURED STORIES

*President's Message from Alyssa Yamamoto
House of Delegates Recap
Legislative Day Recap
Spring Symposium
New Grads!*

JULY 2023

*Central California Optometric Society
Visit our website at : www.ccosociety.org*

President's Message

Wow, I can't believe we are already at the halfway mark for the year!

With this being my first year as President, I wasn't sure what to expect, but my experience has been great and eye-opening so far! I attended my first House of Delegates in San Francisco this past February where all the local societies came together to discuss current COA business and collaborate on ways to better serve COA membership and optometrists in our state as whole. It was inspiring to see all the hard work the COA does behind the scenes to help support us. In April, I participated in my first Legislative Day since I was a student. My overall experience reinforced how diligently the COA works to advocate for our profession. Attending both HOD and Leg Day served as a reminder for my motivation to continue my involvement in the COA. Our local Spring Symposium in April was a great success! We are so grateful that our platinum sponsor, Eye-Q, provides us with an amazing space at the Radin Center to learn, socialize, and network with one another for the morning. Also, a huge thank you to Dr. Pearl Thai, our former CE chair who made the event possible! In May, I attended grad week at Western University of Health Sciences' (my alma mater) where I sat on a new-grad panel with a few other COA members. I wanted to represent the Central Valley and put us on the map for new grads! It was nice to be surrounded by their fresh enthusiasm for the profession.

Our next event will be a summer social event in August to welcome new grads to the area. I hope to see many of you there!

Please take advantage of your valuable membership benefits by joining us for excellent CE and social events throughout the rest of the year!

Best,
Alyssa Yamamoto



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House Of Delegates

House of Delegates Recap - February 24-25, 2023

WHAT happens at HOD?: Local society members convene annually at the COA House of Delegates meeting to represent their society membership and to conduct association business. Each society gets a certain number of delegates based on the size of the society (we got 6 delegates this year!). Delegates hear updated reports from various COA committees and other organizations closely associated with the COA. More importantly, delegates vote on changes in leadership and on any bylaw or policy resolution proposals to enhance the governance of the COA.

WHERE: Grand Hyatt Hotel - San Francisco, CA

TAKEAWAY: We gained an extra delegate spot this year due to growth in our society! There were no proposed policy resolutions or bylaw amendments to vote on this year. All COA board positions also ran unopposed. So although there was no voting this year, attending is generally our opportunity to give voice and impact change within the COA. It was enlightening to see what goes on within the inner workings of the COA and all the hard work they do to support our profession.

We are fortunate and proud to have 2 Central Valley doctors to represent us on the Board as COA trustees - Dr. Michael Mendoza and Dr. Chris Fisher! They both have 1 more year left on their 2 year term.



Pictured above (left to right): Dr. Anthony Chavez, Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto, Dr. John Barron, Dr. Michael Mendoza, Dr. Chris Fisher, Dr. Brianna Kebo

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Legislative Day

Legislative Day Recap - April 18, 2023

WHAT is Leg Day?: Society members visit the Capitol to take meetings with local lawmakers to make our voices heard to ensure that laws and regulations are in place to protect the public's eye health and our optometric rights.

WHERE: Cafeteria 15L and the Capitol Building - Sacramento, CA

TAKEAWAY: It was a busy day at the Capitol with the COA and many other organizations taking meetings with lawmakers all day. We had 3 society members and a first year UC Berkeley optometry student represent the Central Valley this year. Our team met with 6 lawmakers and/or their aides. They were overall very receptive to our concerns, with the most positive response to the budget neutral SB 1089 which would open up lab choices for Medi-Cal eyeglasses outside of PIA. Below is the handout we left behind after our meetings. Being a part of legislative day was a great way to see first hand the importance of the COA in our legislative efforts to protect our profession!



Pictured above (left to right): Dr. John Barron, Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto, Lindsey Sano (1st year UC Berkeley opto student), Dr. Chris Fisher

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Spring Symposium

Spring Symposium Recap - April 22, 2023

This year's Spring Ocular Symposium was an exceptional event that achieved remarkable success, thanks to the unwavering support of our sponsors, dedicated board members, enthusiastic attendees, and brilliant presenters. This symposium served as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and cutting-edge advancements in the field of optometry. The lectures on uveitis by Dr. Spencer Adams, cataract refreshers by Dr. Thomas Shute, and dry eye management with IPL by Dr. Kristyna Lensky-Sipes provided great review, new knowledge, and information about new technology available to optometrists. The generous contributions of our sponsors not only ensured the smooth organization and logistics of the symposium but also facilitated the participation of distinguished speakers. Notably, EYE-Q was able to again provide us with an excellent venue and food for all in attendance.

The active involvement of our board members on the sponsorship and education team were instrumental in curating a diverse and engaging program that catered to the interests and needs of the attendees. Significant appreciation goes to Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto and Dr. Dianna Inthavong for their pivotal role in making this event a success. The doctors in attendance displayed enthusiasm and eagerness to learn, actively participating in lectures and speaking with the vendors during the exhibit hall. The collective efforts and collaboration of all involved made the Spring Ocular Symposium an outstanding event, fostering professional growth and development while advancing the field of optometry. Thank you everyone for your membership in our society and supporting CCOS and COA.

Sincerely,

Pearl Thai, OD

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New Grads!

Grad Week Recap - May 16, 2023

WHAT: Graduating 4th years return to campus before graduation to participate in programs/events to help prepare them for their transition into the profession as working optometrists. The 3 optometry schools in California invite the COA to be a part of their graduation week capstone program.

WHERE: Western University of Health Sciences

TAKEAWAY: Dr. Yamamoto went back to her alma mater and represented the Central Valley! The COA made a presentation about the importance and benefits of becoming a COA member and highlighted all the resources the COA provides to support new grads. The presentation was followed by a Q&A panel with some of us COA members. The students asked very insightful questions about getting started, the importance of advocacy, and how to get involved. It was re-invigorating to be around the enthusiasm and excitement of the new grads!

Grand Rounds with Fresno VA Residents - June 8, 2023

Additionally, the residents at the Fresno VA had their last CE presentation with us at Westwoods BBQ & Spice Co. We are thankful for all their hard work this past year providing CE for us and wish them the best!



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2023 CCOS Board of Directors



Alyssa Yamamoto, OD
President



Diane Ramirez, OD
President-Elect



Anthony Chavez, OD
Secretary



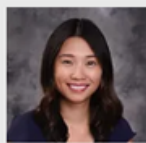
John Barron, OD
Treasurer



Brianna Kebo, OD
Membership Chair



Dianna Inthavong, OD
Events/Sponsorship Chair



Pearl Thai, OD
Education Chair



Gloria Young, OD
Communications Chair



Andrew Ta, OD
Immediate Past President



Michael Mendoza, OD
Public Awareness/Affairs Chair



Chris Fisher, OD
Immediate Past President

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Upcoming Events

CExCOA

- July 17
- September 18
- October 16

COA Insights with Dompé (COA industry Partner Programming)

- July 20 @ 6:30 PM
- Neurotrophic Keratitis: Overview of disease, diagnosis, and therapeutic strategies

CCOS Social Event

- TBD in August

OPTOWEST

- August 27th
- Six hours of CE

Central Valley Veterans Stand Down

- Sept 27-28th
- Volunteers and fundraising needed to help provide free eye exams and glasses to veterans!
- <https://healingca.org/volunteer>

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CLASSIFIEDS

Please email Communications.CCOS@Gmail.com to post

Permanent Saturday Position Available (Posted 05/2023)

Chen Optometry is an OD group located inside Costco in Fresno, Clovis, Merced, and Turlock. We are looking for an energetic, motivated, and friendly optometrist to help on Saturdays in our Clovis office (Monday coverage also available for our Fresno location). Saturday hours are 9:30-5:30 with one hour lunch.

Also, looking for a full time associate in Turlock

Our offices are equipped with Optomap and Marco automated phoropter linked to our Eye Cloud Pro EHR. Our friendly staff will perform pre-testing on all patients and contact lens training when needed.

New graduates are welcome to apply.

Competitive base salary plus % of production

Email us at drchen@chenoptometry.com to discuss the opportunity.

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COA members get 30 minutes of free legal consultation every month

CALL

WILL FLEURY SACRAMENTO LAW FIRM AT
(916) 441-2430

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