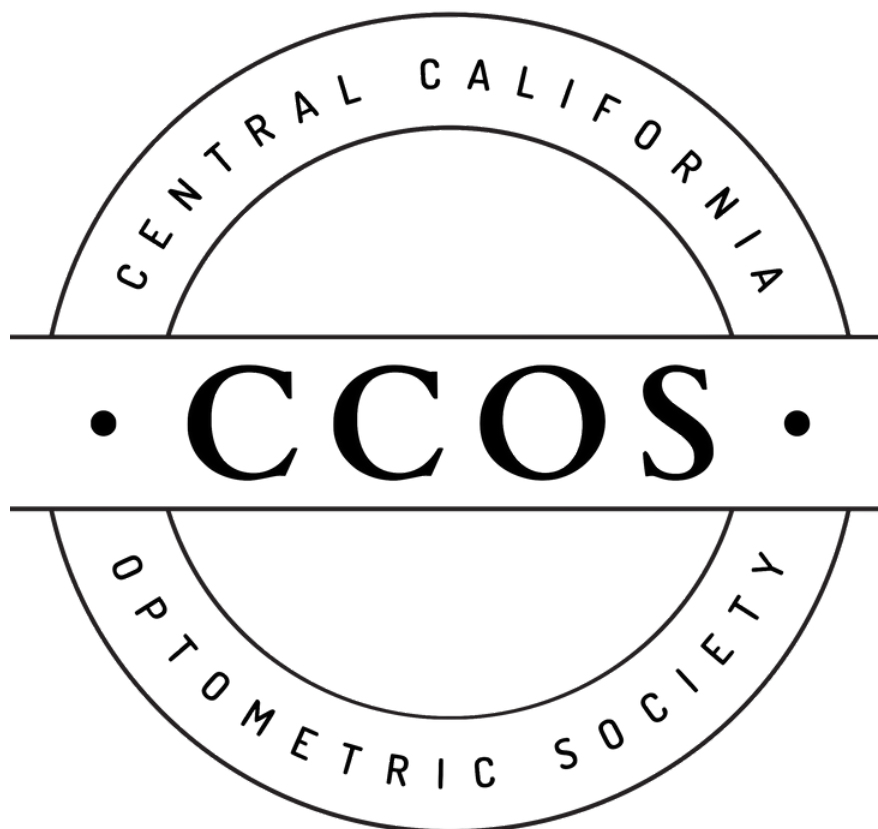


APRIL 2024



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

**FEATURED STORIES**

*President's Message from Alyssa Yamamoto*

*House Of Delegates Recap*

*Legislative Day Recap*

*Spring Ocular Symposium*

*Upcoming Events*

*Tzu Chi Volunteer Opportunity*

**APRIL 2024**

*Central California Optometric Society  
Visit our website at : [www.ccosociety.org](http://www.ccosociety.org)*

# President's Message

Hello fellow OD's!

I hope everyone has had a great start to their year! Q1 flew by so quickly and it was a busy quarter for the CCOS/COA. We had our first CCOS social of the year in February. It was such a fun night to just catch up with and meet new colleagues in the area. A big thank you to Dr. Brianna Kebo for organizing the event and to Johnson & Johnson Vision for sponsoring! We had one of our biggest turn-outs yet and hope to continue the trend for our future social events for the rest of the year. House of Delegates and Legislative Day also took place in February this year. This was my second year attending both these events. Please see my recaps later on in the newsletter. My experiences at both events once again served as a reminder for my motivation to continue my involvement in the COA!

Our next event will be our annual Spring Symposium in partnership with our Platinum sponsor, Eye-Q. It's such a great local event where we get to learn and socialize with one another for the morning. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Being a part of the CCOS/COA not only means you're helping support our profession, but it's also an opportunity to be a part of a community. 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 - February 9-10, 2024**

**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 5 delegates this year!). Delegates listen to 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:** Irvine Marriott Hotel - Irvine, CA

**TAKEAWAY:** There were no proposed policy resolutions or bylaw amendments to vote on this year. Four candidates ran for 3 open COA Trustee positions. Our own CCOS member, Dr. Chris Fisher, was re-elected! 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. And a special thank you to Dr. Michael Mendoza for his time as a COA Trustee the past 2 years!



From left to right:

Dr. John Barron, Dr. Michael Mendoza, Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto, Dr. Dianna Inthavong,  
Dr. Chris Fisher, Dr. Diane Ramirez

From left to right: Dr. John Barron, Dr. Michael Mendoza, Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto, Dr.  
Dianna Inthavong, Dr. Chris Fisher, Dr. Diane Ramirez

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# Legislative Day Recap

## Legislative Day Recap - February 26, 2024

**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 4 society members represent the Central Valley this year. Our team met with 5 lawmakers and/or their aides. The main focus of this year's Leg Day was to ask for support for Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increase. The governor's proposed budget would increase reimbursement rates for optometry to match what Medicare pays currently. Right now, Medi-Cal pays only 25% of what Medicare pays and that rate hasn't increased in over two decades! The money to pay for the increase wouldn't come from the general fund, but would come from a managed care tax that is already in place. If approved, this would hopefully allow for more optometrists to afford to accept Medi-Cal patients and could be a game changer. On the next page 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!



From left to right:  
COA Past President - Jason Tu  
COA Legislative Chair - David Redman  
Former COA Trustee - Michael Mendoza  
COA Past President and AOA Trustee Nominee - Bob Theaker  
COA President - Chris Gee  
COA President Elect - Brian Park



Advocacy in Joaquin Arambula's office!

From left to right:  
Joaquin Arambula's Staff Member  
Michael Mendoza  
Mark Sorksy  
John Barron  
3rd Year Berkeley Optometry Student - Baldemar Torres

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## California Optometric Association Priority Issues - 2024

### **Medi-Cal reimbursement rates**

Please support the governor's proposed budget that would increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for optometry services. The current reimbursement rate for an eye exam for a new patient is just 25% of what Medicare pays and has not been increased in over 20 years. Meanwhile, optometrists are paying higher costs in every part of their business. As much as they want to, many optometrists can't continue to accept Medi-Cal patients when reimbursement is far below the cost of providing care.

### **Timely access to quality eyeglasses**

Please support SB 340 (Eggman), which would allow optometrists to get Medi-Cal eyeglasses from the Prison Industry Authority (PIA), or a private lab. Current Department of Health Care Services policy requires that eyeglasses for the Medi-Cal program be obtained through the PIA. Unfortunately, the delivery system is fraught with long delays and quality control issues. Medi-Cal beneficiaries often wait 1-2 months to receive their eyeglasses and thousands are suffering because they cannot see well enough to perform necessary life functions. With two-thirds of Medi-Cal patients people of color, the lack of timely access to eyeglasses in Medi-Cal is an equity concern.

### **Expanding access to eye care (scope of practice)**

Please support increasing access to eye care by expanding the services that doctors of optometry can provide patients. Today's optometrists are trained to do much more than they are permitted in California. Optometrists in other states are performing minimally invasive procedures, including the use of lasers to treat glaucoma and removing small skin tags and cysts from around the eye, with no increase in adverse events. As our population ages, more patients need these services, especially in rural and medically underserved areas. Allowing optometrists to practice to the fullest extent of their training allows the 2,000 ophthalmologists in California to focus on more complex surgical care.

For more information contact: Kristine Shultz (916) 752-1671 or [kshultz@coavision.org](mailto:kshultz@coavision.org)

# Spring Ocular Symposium



**Upcoming on Saturday, April 13th**

H. Marcus Radin Conference Center  
2755 Herndon Ave, Clovis CA 93611

8AM-1PM

7:30 am: Check-in/breakfast

3 hours of CE provided  
(COA approval pending)



<Please RSVP here

This event is FREE for CCOS/COA members and students.  
Just use coupon code: **CCOSspring2024**  
Non-members: \$30

**Thank you to our sponsors!**

**Platinum:** EYE-Q, Glaukos, Johnson&Johnson

**Gold:** Fogg Remington Eyecare, Dompe'

**Bronze:** CooperVision



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# Upcoming Events

## **April 13th: CCOS Spring Ocular Symposium**

H. Marcus Radin Conference Center

8am-1pm

Check-in/Breakfast 7:30am

## **April 21st: COA Optowest Spring**

six hours of CE + virtual expo + networking

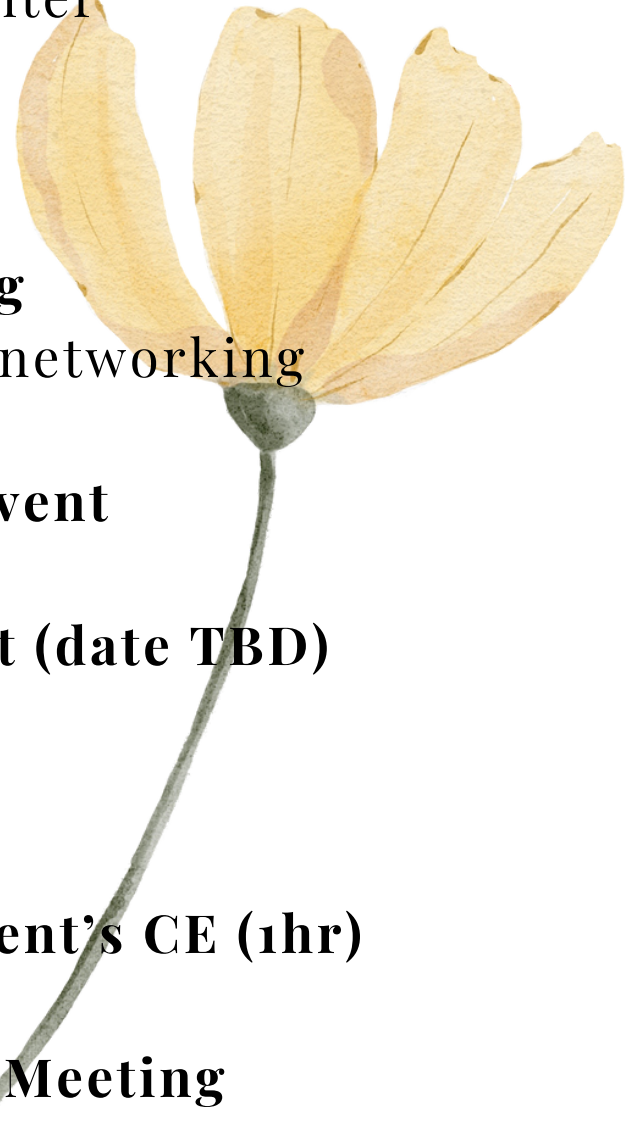
## **April 27th: Tzu Chi Volunteer Event**

## **May CCOS Summer Social Event (date TBD)**

## **May 13th: CExCOA virtual CE**

## **June 5th or 6th: CCOS VA Resident's CE (1hr)**

## **June 19-24th: AOA Optometry's Meeting**



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# Volunteer with Tzu Chi

*Tzu Chi needs our help  
to give vision care to kids in our community.*

**When:** Saturday April 27th from 8am-1pm

**Where:** 3898 N Ann Avenue, Fresno CA 93727 (by Blackbeards).

Age range is 5 and up, they have 8 exam lanes and all equipment is provided as well as pretesting done by volunteers.

If you are interested and able to help out, please contact:

**Olivia Chung** at (559)779-9422 or email her at

**Olivia.Chung@tzuchimedical.us**

**RSVP by 4/20/24**

(They have to know with at least a week notice as they need to submit your professional license and drivers license to get on the malpractice insurance for Tzu Chi)



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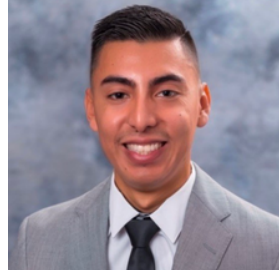
# 2024 CCOS Board of Directors



**Dr. Alyssa Yamamoto, OD**  
President



**Dr. Diane Lee Ramirez, OD**  
President-Elect



**Dr. Anthony Chavez, OD**  
Secretary



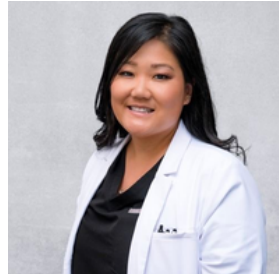
**Dr. John Barron, OD**  
Treasurer



**Dr. Gloria Young, OD**  
Communications



**Dr. Dianna Inthavong, OD**  
Events/Sponsorship



**Dr. Brianna Kebo, OD**  
Membership



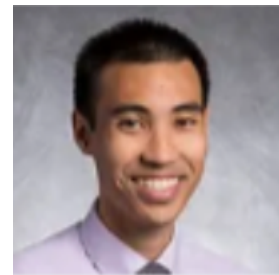
**Dr. Michael Mendoza, OD**  
Public Affairs/Awareness



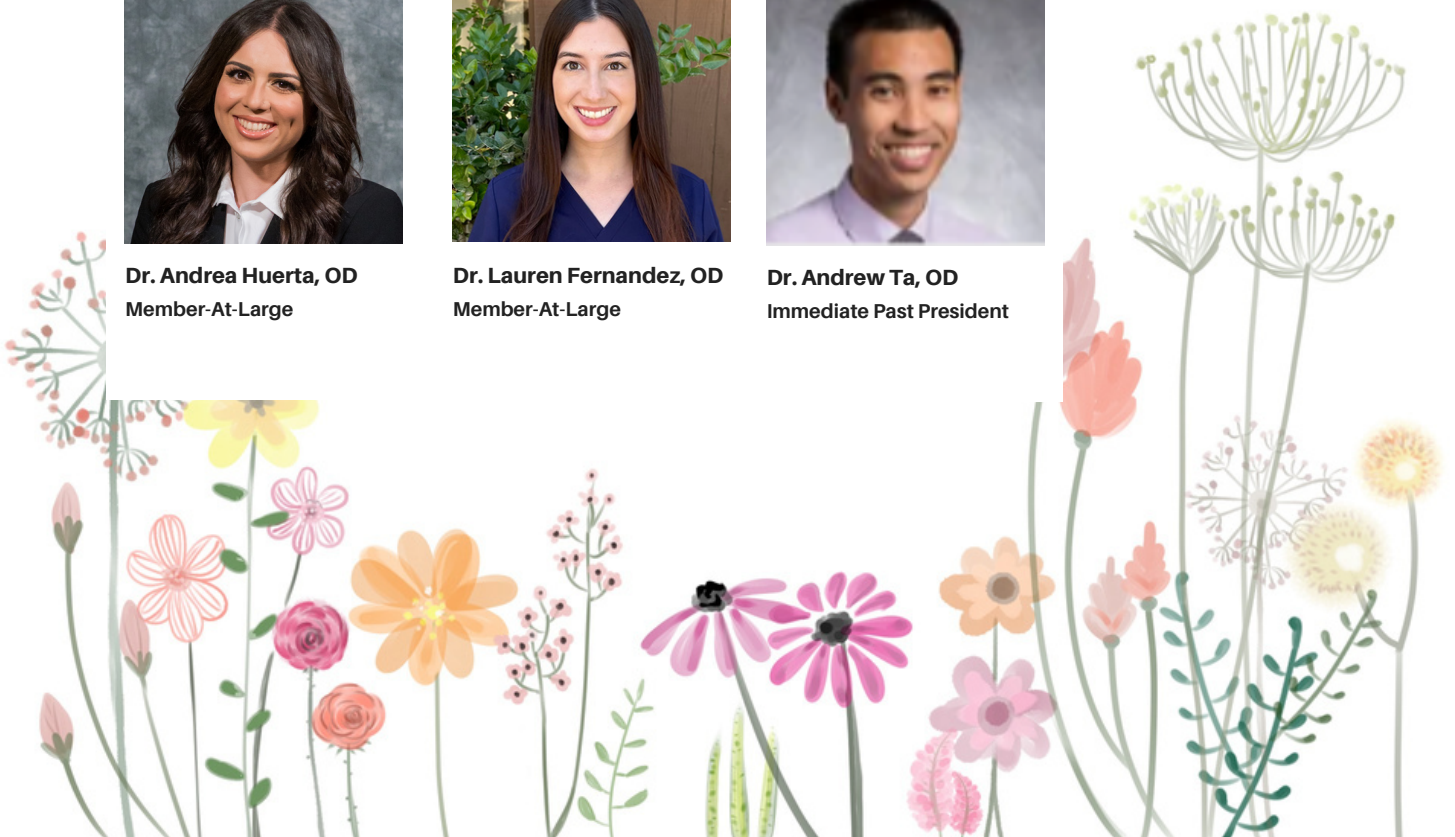
**Dr. Andrea Huerta, OD**  
Member-At-Large



**Dr. Lauren Fernandez, OD**  
Member-At-Large



**Dr. Andrew Ta, OD**  
Immediate Past President



# Sponsors

## Platinum Sponsors

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# CLASSIFIEDS



Please email [Communications.CCOS@Gmail.com](mailto:Communications.CCOS@Gmail.com) to post

## **Part Time Associate for Private Practice in Merced (Posted January 2024)**

Private practice with easy patients that are VSP/Eyemed. 9-5 schedule with 30 minute exams. \$525 per diem with production bonus structure.

Also open for potential partnership or sale of office.

You can check out our website at <http://www.healthyeyesoptometry.com> and our vibe on our Google reviews page.

Contact me Jing Han, OD at [jinghanod@yahoo.com](mailto:jinghanod@yahoo.com) or text at 916-549-6728

## **Full-Time Associate Optometrist (~\$156k-\$182k+/year plus benefits) (Posted 10/2023)**

Chen Optometry is an OD group located inside Costco in Turlock, Merced, Fresno, and Clovis. Join our growing team to help provide our community with excellent care at affordable prices.

Earn ~\$156k-\$182k+/year working 5 days a week plus benefits (4 day week also available)

We are looking for an energetic, motivated, and friendly optometrist to become a full-time associate in our practice located inside Costco in Clovis, CA.

Busy retail practice with an emphasis on primary eye care, contact lens evaluations, and medical office visits. Equipment includes Optomap and Marco automated phoropter. We use Eye Cloud Pro EHR that is intuitive, easy to use, and efficient.

New graduates are welcome to apply.

### **Compensation:**

Competitive base salary plus % of production

Earn more as the practice grows including yearly increases in base salary and benefits.

Paid as an employee and not as an independent contractor

### **Benefits:**

Paid Time Off

Paid professional liability insurance

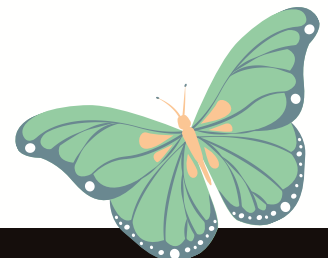
Paid license renewal

Yearly allowance for CE

401k with employer match

Email us at [drchen@chenoptometry.com](mailto:drchen@chenoptometry.com) to discuss the opportunity.

Part-time position is also available with base per diem and bonus. If you are interested in working at any of our locations part time (one day a week, Mondays or Saturdays), please contact us for more information.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## **Office for Sale: Beautiful Central Coast, CA Location (Posted January 2024)**

Your Private Practice Ownership Dream can start in this busy Optometric Center on the Central Coast in San Luis Obispo County, California. The practice is priced to sell at just \$295K plus ophthalmic frame inventory. The practice has been pre approved for an SBA loan up to \$300K. This optometric office is located in one of the best beach city locations. It is easy to find with plenty of free parking. San Luis Obispo County includes a pristine cluster of communities on the Central Coast. It is a safe and family-oriented environment with very pleasant weather conditions year round. Included in the acquisition is approx \$300K in Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment. This practice is completely built out with 2 exam rooms, pre test area, diagnostic test area and optical dispensary area. This practice is equipped with Reichert VRx, OCT, retinal camera, visual fields, topography, and slit lamp video camera amongst other current technologies.

Please contact Pacific Coast Brokers at 415-948-4629 for more information.

## **Equipment for Sale (Posted December 2023)**

These pieces have been in my old office covered and climate controlled for the last 3 years.

The value in parenthesis is what they are listed for on the internet. The other is what I am asking. All are in great condition.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Visuref 100 from ZEISS Autorefractor/ keratometer | \$4,400.00 (\$6400.00)  |
| 2. Zeiss Humphrey Field Analyzer Model 740           | \$5,500.00 (\$7,575.00) |
| 3. Reichert 7CR Auto Non-contact Tonometer           | \$7,270.00 (\$9,270.00) |
| 4. Humphrey Matrex Visual Field Analyzer             | \$7,300.00 (\$9,300.00) |

Steven W. Shute, O.D., Inc.  
Clovis, CA 93619  
C: (559) 250-4151



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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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