

02/19

Central
California
Optometric
Society

VISIONOTES & QUOTES

the latest news for the Central Valley's optometric professionals

FEATURED STORIES

President-Elect's Message: Update on House of Delegates

Communications Message: Health Care Delivery Systems

CCOS Dinner Meeting

2018 COA Legislative Accomplishments

CA Employer Mandates



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P R E S I D E N T - E L E C T ' S M E S S A G E

Hello fellow CCOS members,

I am writing this in San Francisco having just finished day one of the COA House of Delegates. It was a fairly straightforward day. The business of the California Optometric Association occurred. There was no major contested items or policies to be debated or voted upon. We will be electing our COA Trustees tomorrow. The Trustees are doctors that will represent our interests on a state level.

After finishing HOD, Diane and I attended a lunch meeting discussing membership in the COA. Some of the questions asked at the meeting were: Why did you join COA? What value do you get from COA? What should the main goal of the COA be? I'd like to share a few of my answers.

I joined the COA because of CCOS. I knew I wanted to practice in Fresno. Thru a series of events I ended up purchasing a practice shortly after receiving my license to practice here in California. As a recent grad and an owner of a solo private practice, I enjoy spending time with other optometrist. However, that alone would not keep me in CCOS, COA, and the AOA. I enjoy the CE meetings that we host and sponsor, but most of all I know that our profession is changing. I want to know and see and do everything I can to be aware of how we are changing. I want to be a part of the discussion. That's what keeps me coming.

As your President-Elect, I have the opportunity to represent you at meetings like this. I would love to hear from you. Why do you come to the CCOS? And equally important, what can we continue to do on your behalf? What can we do both locally and on a state level to help you, the members of CCOS, continue to be the best optometrists you can be? Please email me as soon as you can at drfisher@signatureoptometry.com

I look forward to hearing from you!
Chris Fisher, President-Elect of CCOS

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COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE

Since Kim is safe at home with her new baby boy, I am taking over the newsletter this month. Happy Chinese New Year and Happy Valentines Day!

My name is Diane Lee, I am a member of the CCOS Communications Team and a committee member for Health Care Delivery Systems (HCDS) Committee. I currently work at a Federally Qualified Health Center or FQHC in Visalia. I had no idea what the HCDS committee was or what they did before I joined the committee, so I thought I'd tell you a little bit about how the HCDS is working to serve all the COA members.

FQHCs are health centers that mainly serve the MediCal populations using federal grant money. No one is ever turned away from service at an FQHC, even if they cannot afford to pay. Patients with no insurance can sign up for discounted services based on their income level on the Sliding Fee Scale.

FQHCs provide primary care services utilizing MDs, DOs, and PAs. Many FQHCs also offer dental services. Other specialty services are also offered, including optometry. Currently, only 5% of FQHCs offer optometry services. HCDS committee is working to increase access to care for optometry services at more FQHCs. Members of the committee meet with insurance providers like HealthNet and VSP to ensure that insurances will cover optometry services for patients. The committee also consults with new FQHC optometry departments. Additionally, the committee is working to outsource eye exams to private practices so that private ODs can benefit from higher reimbursement rates for seeing MediCal patients.



Personally, I find it extremely rewarding to practice at an FQHC because of the medical model and population base. I sincerely hope that there will be more opportunities will be available for ODs in this mode of practice in the near future. FQHCs provide great compensation and benefits packages for optometrists, including an average of 6-8 weeks of PTO each year.

Next month, Pearl will be back in the newsletter

Thank you for your readership. Please email me at dianelee015@gmail.com on your ideas or questions about the OD role in health centers.

Your friendly neighborhood
communications assistant,

Diane Lee

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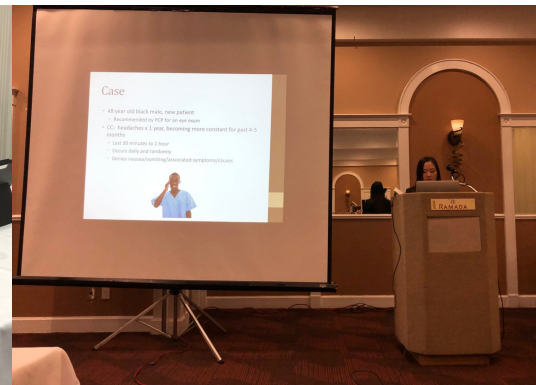
CCOS Dinner Meeting

February 12, 2019



CCOS had a CE Dinner meeting this month at the Ramada Inn in Fresno. There were 3 resident presenters from the VA. Thank you to our sponsors present at the meeting, Eye-Q , MacuHealth, OptoVue, and Johnson & Johnson.

Ken Warkentin, Executive Director for Valley Center for the Blind (<http://www.vallencenterfortheblind.com>) announced that there would be a fundraising event called Dining in the Dark on March 9, 2019 in downtown Fresno. Valley Center for the Blind provides no fee vocational services for vision impairment



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COA Legislative Accomplishments of 2018

What has COA done for you lately? Here is a list of the top 5 things COA achieved in 2018 alone:

- Fought against unfair business practices, resulting in over \$700,000 in fines for illegal optician practices.
- Amended the State Board of Optometry's branch office legislation to reflect COA's concerns.
- Passed legislation to allow optometrists to be certified to administer certain immunizations after completing the pharmacist immunization certification courses.
- Secured amendments that exempted eyeglasses and contact lens prescriptions from a new law that requires all prescriptions to be electronic.
- Defeated legislation to establish onerous new paperwork requirements including a notification to each patient 60 days before their medical records are destroyed and a requirement to give the patient their original medical records scheduled for destruction, upon request.

thank you

Government Affairs Weekly. California Optometric Association. January 14, 2019

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COA UPDATE

EMPLOYER MANDATES



NEW CALIFORNIA EMPLOYER MANDATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019

Salary history - AB 168 by Assembly Member Susan Eggman, D-Stockton, prohibits an employer from inquiring into an applicant's prior salary or failing to provide a pay scale upon demand.

Sexual harassment training - SB 1343 by Senator Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, requires an employer with five or more employees to provide at least two hours of sexual harassment training to all supervisory employees and at least one hour of sexual harassment training to all nonsupervisory employees by January 1, 2020, and once every two years thereafter. California previously only mandated regular training for supervisors at large companies.

Private breast pumping room - AB 1976 by Assembly Member Monique Limón, D-Goleta, requires employers to provide their workers with a private area that is not a bathroom to pump breast milk.

Government Affairs Weekly. California Optometric Association. October 15, 2018

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UPCOMING EVENTS



CCOS MARCH SOCIAL

Trivia Night

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:30pm

Tloga Sequoia Brewing Company

745 Fulton St, Fresno CA

LEGISLATIVE DAY

April 10, 2019

Program and legislative meetings: 8:30am-3:30pm

Reception: 3pm-6:30pm

Cafeteria 15L 1116 15th St, Sacramento, CA

April CE

Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 7am-1pm

Breakfast and lunch included

H. Marcus Radin Conference Center

2755 Herndon Ave, Fresno, CA 93611

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CLASSIFIEDS

Optometry Equipment for Sale (Posted December 2018)



Dr. Dennis Chinn is selling his Fashion Display Unit frame boards. Contact Dr. Chinn's office if you are interested. Contact information is dennischinnod@gmail.com, 559-224-8302. His office is located at 5151 N. Palm.

Practice for Sale in Morro Bay, CA (Posted November 2018)

“Plug and Play in Morro Bay”

Our established community practice of over forty years is a dream opportunity for anyone looking for a turn-key operation in the heart of Morro Bay, a beautiful, easygoing beach town twenty minutes from San Luis Obispo. The practice grosses over \$550K annually on part-time doctor hours. Top-notch building and equipment include an Optos Daytona retinal camera, an RTVue OCT, Revolution software and a large inventory of current, stylish frames. Our capable staff are excited to come to work every day.

Please contact:

morrobayeyes@gmail.com

805-801-7970



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ONLINE VISION TESTS

Help COA Raise Awareness about the Dangers of Online Vision Tests

REPORT PATIENT EXAMPLES OF SERIOUS EYE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MISSED BY ONLINE EYE TESTS

Several companies, such as Operative, market online "vision tests" directly to consumers for the purpose of obtaining an eye glass or contact lens prescription. This technology allows patients to self-administer a series of visual tests and pay for an eyeglass prescription signed by an "optometrist" or "ophthalmologist."

The Federal Drug Administration issued a warning to Operative in 2017 demanding cessation of marketing its online product. Operative continues to operate under apparent violation of federal law.

Furthermore, Operative has partnered with 1-800-Contacts to enable patients to obtain contact lenses without an in-person exam. This new technology promises consumers convenience and affordability but also raises concerns for patient safety.

As primary eye care providers, we are on the front line and have numerous examples of how this online technology can do our patients a serious injustice. We know this can range from missing contact lens related problems such as fitting issues or corneal damage to sight threatening problems like glaucoma or retinal detachments -- or even life-threatening diagnoses such as uncontrolled diabetes, malignant hypertension or tumors.

COA is collecting examples of such cases to fully inform regulators about the dangers of online vision tests. To report your own case, click on the button above.

The screenshot shows the California Optometric Association's website header with the logo and navigation links: Home, About, Membership, CE/Events, Government Affairs, Media, Eye Help. Below the header is the title 'Online Eye Tests Evidence of Problem Form' with a note 'Fields marked with * are required.' The form contains several sections: 1. A statement of purpose: 'COA is seeking patient examples to demonstrate to regulators that online eye tests, like Operative's, are potentially harmful to patients. Specifically, we need doctors to write up case examples of patients who meet the qualifications for an exam on the Operative website, but who would be an optometrist's normal and were diagnosed with a serious eye condition that would not have been detected by the Operative website.' 2. A section titled 'Operative's qualifications require patients to be:' followed by a list of requirements: 1. 18-40 years old. 2. Have a prescription range that is: • Emmetropic • Spherical with spherical power between -6.25 and +5.50 • Bicyclic with spherical power between -6.25 and +5.50 • Anisometric with cylinder power between 0.75 and -2.50 • Non-astigmatic. 3. Have no history of amblyopia, diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma, cataracts, retinal detachment, brain aneurysm, neurological issues, etc. 4. Have no recent discomfort or symptoms of acute eye pain, flashes and/or floaters in eyes. 3. A section for patient information: 'If you would prefer to print the form, [click here](#). After completing the form, please fax to COA at (916) 448-1423. Patient Information (Please do not include information that can identify the patient.) Patient Age * [text input field] Male/Female * [dropdown menu with 'Female' selected]

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