



Central California Optometric Society

VisioNotes & Quotes

November 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Communication's Message	2
President's Message	3-6
COA Legislative Day	7
Diabetes Awareness Month	8-9
Eye Chat	10

Upcoming Events in 2018

- Berkeley Practicum **January 13-14**
- House of Delegates **February 9-10**
- OptoWest San Diego **February 11**
- OptoWest Santa Clara **March 4**
- OptoWest Sacramento **April 15**
- COA Legislative Day **April 18**
- Optometry's Meeting **June 20-24**

Communications Chair Message



As Thanksgiving comes to an end, I review through 2017 and think about what I am thankful for this year. Of course the obvious comes to mind: my family and friends, my health, my husband and my home.

As a transplant from the Bay Area and having lived in Boston the previous few years, my husband and I are constantly thankful that we moved to the Central Valley. We have a close-knit cul-de-sac where all the neighbors are invested in each other's well-being. We are in driving distance of family in LA and the Bay Area, without the headache of traffic and high living costs. We can enjoy being outdoors and do a daytrip to beaches or multiple national parks.

According to Redfin and the Fresno Bee in August 2016 (<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/business/biz-columns-blogs/real-estate-blog/article93591972.html>), Fresno is the best city for National Park Lovers. With a population of nearly a million, Fresno County has the creature comforts of a big city but still holds a small town charm for us. I am excited to see that other young professionals are discovering the Central Valley and bringing their expertise and energy to our area.



Your friendly neighborhood Communications Chair,

Kim Vuong, OD

President's Message November 2017

Margie Recalde, OD, FAAO



Insurance is needed to protect against an event or circumstance where something goes wrong. Over the past year, we've seen optometrists challenged with natural disasters including hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, and floods. Some of us have had the misfortune of criminals stealing our identity or using ransomware to hold our data hostage. We must face the facts and realize that in today's world, it's not a question of "if anything goes wrong" but rather **when** something goes wrong, are you protected?

Recently I was discussing membership dues with Dr. Jeffrey Garcia who owns practices in Lemoore and Hanford. Dr. Garcia had an interesting perspective on dues. As you are aware, dues are optional and yet we choose to renew our dues every year. A few members may have second thoughts on whether to spend their hard earned money on dues because they perceive the value does not outweigh the cost.

Dr. Garcia's viewpoint is that we should recognize our membership dues as insurance to protect and advance our profession. Although paying membership dues is an option, it quickly becomes a necessity when we realize our dues are the only means of protecting our profession. Thus, when membership dues are seen as insurance for our profession, the value becomes priceless!

Our dues include membership with CCOS, COA, and AOA. In addition, we may also contribute to four other organizations: Cal-OPAC, AOA-PAC, LSCOA, and the California Vision Foundation. I copied the description of each organization from the COA and AOA websites:

1. **California Optometric Political Action Committee (Cal-OPAC)**

Cal-OPAC can be added to your monthly dues statement from COA upon your request. It was formed to support candidates, ballot measures, and circulate petition drives in the State of California for the advancement, promotion, and protection of optometry as a profession and high-quality vision care provider. Cal-OPAC is governed by an independent board appointed by COA's President.

2. **Local Societies of the California Optometric Association (LSCOA-PAC)**

LSCOA-PAC was formed to help COA local societies establish vital relationships with aspiring and existing California elected officials. It is a bipartisan committee that supports candidates and legislators at the state level who understand the challenges of practicing as an optometrist in California. Your donation to LSCOA-PAC may also be included in your COA monthly dues statement and can ensure that public officials are educated about the vital role optometrists play in the healthcare arena.

3. **California Vision Foundation (CVP)**



CVP is a non-profit, optometric charity designed to provide low-income, uninsured families and individuals throughout the state of California with free comprehensive eye exams and glasses. CVP successfully matches and assigns over 3,000 eligible individuals to volunteer optometrists each year.

4. American Optometric Association-Political Action Committee (AOA-PAC)



From Capitol Hill to your state legislature, AOA and its affiliates fight for your right to practice and your access to patients, working tirelessly to make sure your needs are heard and met. AOA-PAC is the only federal PAC to support election/re-election of pro-optometry candidates for Congress.

Here are a few examples of wins based on AOA-PAC efforts:

- Through both legislative and regulatory actions, AOA saved or generated an estimated \$260 million in Medicare payments for physician services in 2014. On average, the impact per Medicare-participating optometrist is nearly \$10,000.
- Won federal recognition that kids vision care is essential and includes comprehensive eye exams and glasses.

Pushed back massive Medicare physician fee cut two times for 2014.



We spent thousands of dollars on our education to become Doctors of Optometry. With our membership dues, we pay a small fraction of that cost to ensure our profession continues to thrive and provide high quality eye care to the public. Every membership dollar counts. My hope is that you continue to “purchase insurance” to protect our profession and share with non-members your reasons for paying dues.

COA Legislative Day 2018

It's a Celebration!

When: April 18, 2018
Program: 7:00 - 3:00 pm
Reception: 3:30 - 7:30 pm

Where: Cafeteria 15L
1116 15th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RSVP: Click here or contact Julie Andrade
at jandrade@coavision.org or 916-266-5031

*Reception at Cafeteria 15L immediately following legislator visits**

COA Legislative Day 2018

Come and celebrate the passage of AB 443 - landmark legislation that expands the optometric scope of practice.



Join Your Colleagues

Meet with your legislators and then join them for a cocktail at COA's reception.



Cafeteria 15L

A fresh venue to inspire and entertain you!





November is Diabetes Awareness Month

According to the CDC:

- More than 30 million Americans have Diabetes
- 84 million are pre-diabetic and are at risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes
- 79% of Americans do not know that diabetic eye diseases have no visible symptoms and more than half do not know that comprehensive eye exams can detect diabetes (through a survey done by the American Optometric Association)

Importance of dilated eye exams:

- In 2016, more than 320,000 patients were diagnosed with diabetes through the work of doctors of optometry identifying diabetes related eye complications leading to referrals and prompt diagnosis
- As doctors of optometry, we are the sentinels for our patient's ocular and systemic health
- It is our job to not only evaluate our patients fully, but educate them so they can be well-informed advocates of their own health

<https://www.aoa.org/newsroom/november-2017-diabetes-awareness-month>

Here are 4 tools that are provided by the AOA to aid optometrists in diabetic eye care:

[Eye Care of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus](#) clinical practice guideline. The AOA's first evidence-based clinical practice guideline. [Click here](#) to access a summary version of the guideline in a condensed, nine-page quick-reference guide.

Continuing education. [EyeLearn™](#), the AOA's member-exclusive centralized education platform, offers an online catalog of educational courses, webinars and resources to help expand clinical knowledge and practice management expertise for doctors and staff.

[Diabetic Retinopathy Chairside Tool](#). Designed for use by doctors of optometry to educate-and motivate-patients with diabetes. Both sides of the 8 ½-by-11-inch laminated card contain ultra-wide images of the progression of diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema. The doctor- and patient-friendly tool is available in [AOA Marketplace](#).

Additional resources at AOA Marketplace and on the AOA's website. View more diabetes-related information on the [AOA Diabetes & Eye Health web page](#), and search AOA Marketplace to find practice and patient information products, such as diabetes [health cards](#), [fact sheets](#) and [gallery prints](#).



Eye Chat

If you are interested in participating, please contact me at communications.ccos@gmail.com.

Low Vision Clinic

The Valley Center for the Blind is interested in creating a low vision clinic to further establish a fully interdisciplinary professional rehabilitation center for the blind and visually impaired population in the Central Valley. This low vision clinic will be overseen by an optometrist trained in low vision rehabilitation. Based on your practice populations, is there a demand or need for this type of service? Would you be willing to utilize this service? Please contact Kim Vuong, OD at kim.th.nguyen@gmail.com.

Vaccinations

Dennis Chinn, OD would like to know of any ODs or patient's children having any adverse effects from any vaccinations. Please send info to dennischinnod@gmail.com or call (559) 224-8302.



Classifieds

Full Time Optometrist Position available in Lodi, CA (Posted October 2017)

Delta Eye Medical Group practice of Ophthalmology excellence in providing the best possible quality eye care for 44 years. We have 3 practice location, Stockton, Lodi and Tracy each location has one ophthalmology and one optometrist working together to serve our patients. Total of 5 ophthalmologist and 3 optometrist.

The Lodi office located [521 S. Ham Lane, Suite A](#), has an optometrist open position that need to be fill as soon as possible. The candidate should be able to practice full scope optometry, be able to fit soft contacts, RGPs, scleral, semi-scleral and hybrid

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@CCOSociety



COA Upcoming Events



\$175 Members • \$250 Non-Members

6 hours CE + breakfast & lunch

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