

Each year, the American Optometric Association (AOA) Paraoptometric Section (PS) recognizes individuals and states for their efforts that positively influence their patients, their community and the profession of paraoptometry. One way to recognize states for their partnership with the AOA, and their efforts to support the profession of paraoptometry, is through the State Affiliate Membership Recruitment award. This year, new criteria for the State Affiliate Membership Recruitment award have been put into place to ensure all states have an equal opportunity to participate in the award selection.

The new criteria is based on a points system that allows each state to earn points for their efforts to recruit new members and promote AOA programs and services that positively influence the careers of paraoptometricians. The state that accumulates the highest number of points from April 1 each year to March 31 of the next year will be awarded a plaque recognizing their state. New this year, the winning state will also receive a gift basket filled with educational materials (\$600.00 value) to be used for a state lending library for paraoptometricians. Included in the basket are educational items to help paraoptometricians prepare for all three levels of Commission on Paraoptometric Certification examinations and other staff training and development modules.

Each state will accumulate their points throughout the year, and all entries must be submitted to the AOA PS by March 31 of the current year to be considered for the award. The winner will be notified in April. The winning state will be recognized at Optometry's Meeting® during the PS Annual Awards Luncheon.

Points are awarded for:

- **Publishing an AOA PS article in your state paraoptometric and/or optometric association newsletter**
– 50 points for each article

Must provide a copy of the article to receive points.

- **Displaying a state meeting exhibit box** – 100 points

These boxes (kits) are available from the AOA PS for use at state association meetings. They contain membership applications and materials on certification, InfantSEE®, The Bridge, Optometry's Career Center®, and other programs. They also include prize slips and prizes for use in drawings at the meeting. Must submit a photo of the display for points.

- **Returning completed attendance prize slips from state meeting exhibit box to PS** – 250 points

Send all completed prize slips to the AOA PS in an envelope. You will receive an e-mail confirmation when they have been received. Save this confirmation to receive your points.

- **Inviting an AOA PS representative to your state meeting to talk about the AOA PS.** – 100 points

Invite someone to speak on behalf of the AOA PS at your state meeting. He or she will educate participants on the benefits of PS membership and certification. Must send copy of the program or registration form for points to be awarded.
- **Attending Optometry's Meeting® State Leaders Meeting** – 500 points

Register to attend the State Leaders Meeting at Optometry's Meeting® to receive these points. A certificate of attendance must be submitted for points to be awarded.
- **Participating in quarterly State Leaders conference call.** - 50 points for participation on each call

Attend the quarterly State Leaders conference call to receive extra points and gain valuable information. Must submit a certificate from chair to confirm participation.
- **Submitting contact information for your state meeting that offers paraoptometric education to post on the AOA Education Finder web page** – 25 points

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification of the number of submissions from your state.
- **Notifying PS of your state's new paraoptometric state leadership each year** – 100 points

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Sending AOA PS manager your monthly/quarterly state newsletter** -100 points for each submission

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Authoring an online CE article** – 50 points for each author from your state

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Including an ad in your newsletter for PS** – 150 points

Submit a copy of the newsletter ad.
- **Adding a discussion posting on Facebook** – 25 points for each posting

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Requesting a Paraoptometric Recognition Week promotional kit** – 25 points

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Having a certification AOA Review Course at your state meeting** – 200 points

Send a copy of the registration/program outline.
- **Replying to surveys sent by the AOA PS** – 10 points for each response from your state

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Submitting paraoptometric images for use in AOA PS publications** – 50 points for each published image

The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **Attending both sessions of the PS Business Meeting at Optometry's Meeting®** – 250 points for each attendee from your state

Must attend both sessions of the business meeting (Thursday and Friday). Attendees will sign an attendance roster for the meetings, and the PS will issue a certificate with the number of attendees, to be used for the following year's points.

- **AOA PS members attending Optometry's Meeting®** – 25 points for each person from your state
The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification.
- **InfantSEE® providers in state** -1 point for each participating OD practice/setting from your state.
The AOA PS will send notification of participating providers from each state.
- **State member service on AOA PS Council or AOA PS committee** – 100 points
Awarded if a Paraoptometric Section member from your state serves on the PS Council, AOA PS committee, or Commission on Paraoptometric Certification.
- **AOA PS membership** – 1 point each
Submit the name of each member, and the AOA will cross-reference “shared” members. You will receive 1 point for each “shared” member. The AOA PS will send e-mail notification of the number of members credited to your state.
- **AOA Paraoptometric of the Year (POY) and Community Service nominations** – 75 points for each AOA POY nomination from your state and 50 points for AOA Community Service nominations.
The AOA PS will send an e-mail notification of the number of nominations from your state.