

Paraoptometric Certification

December 2002

Newsletter—AOA Commission on Paraoptometric Certification

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CPC ANNOUNCES NEW EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

The CPC has made provisions to allow for some international, regional and or state optometric meetings to administer written examinations. The host entity will be charged a special fee for examinations scheduled outside of the established test dates in the event a minimum of 40 candidates not sit for the CPO/CPOA/CPOT examination at any particular site. All three examinations may be given at the same time/room. The 40 candidate minimum can be an aggregate of candidates for all levels of certification. For example, there may be 25 candidates for the CPO level, 10 for the CPOA level, and 5 for the CPOT level.

Procedures are as follows:

- Request a contract from the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification office.
- Send completed contract to the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification office no later than six months prior to the scheduled examination date.
- Contact person will be preliminarily notified of acceptance upon review and approval of the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification within two weeks of receiving completed contract. However, a signed contract will be returned to the contact person along with procedures and binding acceptance is not complete until such signed contract is sent.

The Commission on Paraoptometric Certification is excited about the new procedures and are confident that this will provide for smooth and efficient certification testing. For further information, contact the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification at 800-365-2219 ext. 135 or log on to the AOA website at www.aoa.org.



Message from the Chair

Hello, my fellow certified paraoptometricians. There has been a great deal of work on behalf of the CPC and the AOA staff. I would first like to introduce you to a dedicated team of professionals that are working to give our valued certification the status it deserves. The CPC is comprised of five members. There is one public member, Bill Samuels, an individual that has a tremendous amount of experience with accreditation and professional organizations, with his primary area of focus in National Accreditation. We have one Optometrist, Dr. Al Levin. Dr. Levin has been an advocate for paraoptometricians forever and has dedicated much of his personal time aiding the CPC. He is a past president of the AOA and has a great deal of AOA organizational experience. His primary area of focus is marketing our certification to professional organizations. He is currently the vice chair, and he does a great job mentoring me. You have three Certified Paraoptometric Technicians: Pat Schneider (nee Livingston), whose primary area of focus is administration; Billie Taylor, whose primary area of focus is written exams; and myself, Lynn Lawrence, your current chair, focusing mainly on the practical exam. Not to forget, we are partnered with the AOA staff, Darlene Byrd and Kim Dixon, and they work extremely hard for all of us.

The first thing I want to share is that the CPC works for you, so your input is critical to us. We want to encourage you to phone or mail your comments to the AOA/CPC. We set time aside at every meeting to review comments made by our fellow paraoptometricians.

Secondly, I would like you to know some of the wonderful things we are trying to do within the CPC. First, we would like to motivate and encourage you to display your certification proudly. It did not come easy and the different certification levels show different levels of skill and knowledge. If we can't convince our fellow paraoptometricians to support and recognize his or her certification, we will not be able to convince anyone else.

What is a Certified Paraoptometrician? A valued vision care specialist; an eye care provider that has been motivated to learn and dedicated to excellence in the field of optometry. Why are we certified? To demonstrate that you have met the level of knowledge and experience required to present excellence to your doctor, patients, staff, and yourself.

On the horizon, we are transferring the CPO

exam over to the Professional Testing Corporation in January, 2003. This will enhance test security and allow states and candidates to test at the approved test sites. We are working to develop the 2003 written and practical exams for the Congress in San Diego, California, more written and practical test sites in 2004, an exclusive area on the AOA website to pass information to certified paraoptometricians, and our first annual Certified Paraoptometric breakfast during the Congress. This gala event is going to give certified paraoptometricians a chance to gather, and those looking to get certified, an opportunity to come and ask questions and socialize with eye care professionals. We anticipate a significant growth and interest in our organization, and we are planning to meet the needs head on.

As we work to advance our organization, we are not going at it alone. CIBA has been a corporate supporter for Paraoptometric certification and education, so please thank your CIBA representative when you see them.

We need your help! Get a vision for paraoptometry and work on it. A Proverb, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." We are moving, and the revelation we have will promote the field of optometry in ways that will benefit and serve the public. I am asking you now to speak with your doctors and talk about National Vision Awareness Month (March 2003). Ask them if you can get free information and begin a promotional campaign for vision awareness. Optometry is not one of the largest health professions, but David was smaller than Goliath. If we all pitch in and start making a little noise about the great things this field has to offer, people will begin

to respect the importance of what we do. We are not just "light benders"; we influence our society by enabling them to accomplish their daily tasks. We affect an individual's quality of life.

A few numbers you can contact to get information on literature for March 2003 are: Vision USA 1-800-365-2219 ext. 261 and the Infants and Children's Coalition 1-800-365-2219 ext 245. Don't wait; call now! Please help us support an America that is educated on vision awareness through certified providers of quality eye care. There is room for you in this organization, start right where you are! Thank you for being a part of our organization.

Lynn



Lynn Lawrence, CPOT

Certification Examination Schedule

AOA Certified Paraoptometric (CPO)

<u>Written Examination Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
February 8, 2003 (regional sites)	December 28, 2002
February 20-23, 2003 (Austin, TX)	January 18, 2003
February 22, 2003 (Atlanta, GA)	January 18, 2003
March 9, 2003 (Dallas, TX)	February 2, 2003
April 4, 2003 (Des Moines, IA)	February 21, 2003
April 12, 2003 (regional sites)	March 1, 2003
May 17, 2003 (Blaine, WA)	April 11, 2003
June 20, 2003 (San Diego, CA)	May 9, 2003
August 16, 2003 (regional sites)	July 5, 2003
December 6, 2003 (regional sites)	October 25, 2003



AOA Certified Paraoptometric Assistant (CPOA)

<u>Written Examination Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
February 8, 2003 (regional sites)	December 28, 2002
April 12, 2003 (regional sites)	March 1, 2003
May 17, 2003 (Blaine, WA)	April 11, 2003
June 20, 2003 (San Diego, CA)	May 9, 2003
August 16, 2003 (regional sites)	July 5, 2003
October 26, 2003 (Cleveland, OH)	September 12, 2003
December 6, 2003	October 25, 2003

AOA Certified Paraoptometric Technician (CPOT) – Written/Practical

<u>Written Examination Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
February 8, 2003 (regional sites)	December 28, 2002
April 12, 2003 (regional sites)	March 1, 2003
May 17, 2003 (Blaine, WA)	April 11, 2003
June 20, 2003 (San Diego, CA)	May 9, 2003
August 16, 2003 (regional sites)	July 5, 2003
October 26, 2003 (Cleveland, OH)	September 12, 2003
December 6, 2003	October 25, 2003
 <u>Practical Examination Date</u>	 <u>Application Deadline</u>
June 21, 2003 (San Diego, CA)	May 9, 2003



Commission on Paraoptometric Certification Members

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We're on the web!
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Chair, Lynn Lawrence, CPOT—Lynn.lawrence@hurlburt.af.mil
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Member, Billie Taylor, CPOT—bltaylor@naxs.net
Member, Pat Livingston, CPOT—livi@med.mit.edu
Public Member, Bill Samuels—Billjosam@aol.com
AOA Staff, Darlene Byrd—DMByrd@aoa.org

Congrats!

Congratulations to the new Certified Paraoptometrics listed below. Each passed the CPO examination between August and October, 2002:

Emily Acquavella
Jessica Acton
Becky Armstrong
Davyne Asato
David Aycock
Angela Barker
Joyce Barner
Tanya Barry
Beverly Beebe
Kristi Berry
Rosilyn Bolski
Allison Boosinger
Michelle Brandon
Laura Brooks
Heather Brown
Laurie Bubar
Cheryl Burgess
Alisa Cadenhead
Gayle Caldwell
Nancy Capuano
Melissa Carey
Nancy Cejka
Nelda Cervantes
Laura Clark
Heather Coiner
Summer Coleasure
Allison Coles
Cathy Crane
Deborah Creasy
Kathy Daley
Vanessa Digby
Jennifer Donovan
Sabor Downing
Carol Draper
Marcia Edwards
Lorraine Eggert
Peggy Ervin
Michele Ewing
Candace Farinelli
Danielle Fischl
Jacquie Flatley
Karen Fourkiller
Maria Fox
Diane Friesen

Lisa Fuentes
Stacey Gann
Ramona Gescher
Corlynda Gorman
Suzanne Griffith
Amanda Groves
Jennifer Hall
Karen Hammers
Shawna Harrup
Tonya Haselbarth
Kristina Hearn
Debra Heeman
Snow Hernandez
Roxanne Hiibel
Kristin Hill
Zoila Hillanbrand
Lisa Hinman
Doris Howell
Danielle Hubbard
Crystal Huber
Virginia Ines
Alicia Jefferson
Karen Kendig
Laura Kent
Randi Kibitlewski
Marilyn Kimbrow
Melody Kitchen
Deborah Kleszics
Cynthia Knight
Cindy Kunkel
Jennifer Lambert
Lisa Lambert
Melissa Lee
Kandice Lee
Tiffany Lewis
Rebecca Lienenman
Kathleen MacLennan
Juliane Malchoff
Yvonne Malkowski
Janice Mann
April McAllister
Sarah McEndree
Melanie McGhee
Susan McKain
Barbara McPherson
Marcia Miller
Star Mitchell
Lori Moon
Shanna Morris

Leah Murphy
Michelle Nesmith
Jacqueline Nofsinger
Erica Olson
Sherry Oxtra
Cody Parker
Lisa Pierce
Shannon Piper
Ethel Plowmaker
Christy Price
Juli Prodan
Christina Ramseth
Shelly Rathai
Anita Rice
Michelle Riggs
Maria Roa-McCorkle
Lavina Rye
Christa Saaijenga
Melissa Sanders
Kenneth Sawatzky
Danielle Saylor
Caleb Schoonover
Shanna Scott
Debbie Shronce
Ann Sisson
Vickie Stephens
Nancy Stroud
Stacy Suppes-Murphy
Sherri Taylor
Kellie Thomas
Renee Tompkins
Terri Tufts
Emily Turay
Rosemarie Ukaj
Diana Unterseher
Mary Villanueva
Kim VonWeltin
Anna Wallen
Shelley Weisheit
Sheila Wentland-Hess
Wylova Werni
Pamela Whatley
Jill Whatley
Jolene Whelan
Kathryn Whitwer
Elaine Wilcomb
Gloria Young
Holly Zakrociemski
Judy Zamboni