

## Who are Paraoptometric?

Paraoptometric are allied health professionals who assist optometrists in providing their highest level of vision care to patients. Front office procedures, chair-side assisting, pre-testing, contact lens instruction, frame styling and fitting, and vision therapy are just a few of the many duties paraoptometric perform while working directly with an optometrist.

## What is the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

The American Optometric Association Paraoptometric Section is the nation's largest organization serving the needs of optometric assistants and technicians. The purpose of the Paraoptometric Section is to offer continuing education opportunities, service recognition, professional development and promotion, and opportunities for its members to be involved with a national, professional association. The Paraoptometric Section promotes a health-team concept in the delivery of optometric care and enhances the identity of both the optometrist and the paraoptometric.

## Who is Eligible for Membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

Any ancillary, allied health professional sponsored by an AOA member optometrist is eligible for membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Members of the Paraoptometric Section are also associate members of the American Optometric Association, the national organization representing the optometric profession.

## Why Become a Member of the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

There are many benefits of membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Section members receive:

- A certificate of membership, suitable to be framed and displayed in the office. A membership certificate will serve as a visible reminder of professional pride and involvement. To show continued commitment to service, members receive a gold renewal seal each year that can be added to the membership certificate, keeping it current.
- The Section's quarterly electronic publication, *E-News*, keeps members up-to-date on the many

activities in the paraoptometric field. Each issue contains section activity highlights, and much more.

- Section members may take advantage of reduced registration fees for the AOA Annual Congress: Optometry's Meeting™. The Paraoptometric Section offers an extensive continuing education program, designed specifically for optometric assistants and technicians, opticians, ophthalmic allied health professionals, and office staff. Members also enjoy networking opportunities and social functions during Optometry's Meeting™. Optometry's Meeting™ is held annually in June.
- Members receive significant discounts on the various education products available for purchase from the AOA Paraoptometric Section. Products include study guides for certification testing, home-study education modules, professional identity items, and much more.
- Members can access an online continuing education program, offering free hours available through the AOA Web site.
- Members have FREE access to Optometry's Career Center®, the AOA's online career-matching site, which helps them to find job opportunities in optometric practices nationwide. Members are able to post their resume for providers to view and to contact them directly, and they may also search detailed listings of available paraoptometric opportunities. Additionally, members can use the AOA Doctor Locator for referral needs and access to the contact information of optometrists in their area.
- Associate members of the American Optometric Association receive:
  - *AOA News* – published twice monthly, the *AOA News* reports on AOA activities, meetings and seminars; and recognizes people within the profession.
  - *Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association* – published monthly, the journal is the most widely circulated scholarly optometry journal in the world. *Optometry* provides a forum for breakthrough research that advances the art and science of the practice of primary care optometry.

- Access to the *Member Desk Reference* – this online guide is a tool for members to utilize the benefits of membership in the AOA. The *Desk Reference* contains information about the AOA structure, including the Board of Trustees; provides contact information for affiliate and regional optometric associations; and explains membership benefits in detail.
- Associate members also receive discounts on car rentals, package delivery service, and long distance telephone service. Members can apply for a "Gold" Mastercard, through an AOA-sponsored program.

The AOA Paraoptometric Section offers recognition, education, and professional development for its members. Paraoptometric from all areas of the profession belong to the Section, giving them a diverse forum for sharing information and exchanging ideas. The benefits offered through membership in the AOA Paraoptometric Section prepare paraoptometric for tomorrow's career challenges.

A paraoptometric's occupation is more than just a job. Together with the optometrist, paraoptometric play a valuable role in providing quality eye care to each patient who enters the office or clinic. Paraoptometric who make a career of their job strive to upgrade their skills and abilities in order to assist the doctor in providing the highest level of professional care possible. The AOA Paraoptometric Section helps its members achieve their career goals.

## How Can I Join the AOA Paraoptometric Section?

Annual dues for membership in the Section (and associate membership in the AOA) is only \$60.00 per year. Simply complete the membership application, have it signed by an AOA member optometrist, enclose the dues payment in U.S. funds only, and send it in today.

Membership applications may be sent to:

**AOA Paraoptometric Section**  
**243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1**  
**St. Louis, Missouri 63141-7881**  
**(314) 991-4101 FAX**