



SGRC REGIONAL ADVOCACY MEETINGS EASTERN

Eastern Regional Meeting Speaker Bios

Speakers

Delegate Roxann Robinson

Delegate Robinson was the lead bill sponsor and chief advocate for the scope-of-practice legislation last year in the Virginia legislature. Delegate Robinson was a tireless advocate behind the scenes for the Virginia Optometric Association (VOA).

She has been in private practice for 34 years in her hometown of Chesterfield, is a past president of the VOA and former VOA Optometrist of the Year. She currently represents the 27th House District.

Johndra McNeely, O.D.

Dr. McNeely serves as South Carolina's legislative chair and spearheaded the effort to enact patient safety standards related to mobile clinics during the 2022 session. Dr. McNeely also played a critical role in enacting legislation, which helped to set national standards for patient safeguards, related to online vision tests in 2016.

Dr. McNeely currently serves as chair of the AOA's State Government Relations Committee.

Steven T. Reed, O.D.

Dr. Reed has been a model volunteer advocate in his home state of Mississippi, tirelessly advocating for his members and the profession. Dr. Reed was an integral part of the Mississippi Optometric Association's (MOA's) team that ultimately enacted advanced scope-of-practice legislation during the 2021 legislative session.

Dr. Reed is a past president and legislative chair for the MOA and currently serves as president-elect for the AOA, having been elected to that position earlier this year at Optometry's Meeting®.

Terri A. Gossard, O.D., M.S.

Dr. Gossard is a past president of the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA), also serving on the OOA Board and chaired the OOA's Children's Vision Task Force and Legislative Committee. She is on the selection committee for the Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholars in Vision Research as well as Healthy Eyes, Healthy Children. Dr. Gossard was honored as the OOA's Optometrist of the Year in 2017.

She was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees in June 2019 and reelected earlier this year at Optometry's Meeting.

Jeff Michaels, O.D.

Dr. Michaels, the AOA's 2022 Optometrist of the Year, has been in the role of VOA Legislative Committee co-chair for many years, including during the planning and successful passage of its laser scope bill. His extensive legislative experience includes not only galvanizing a statewide keyperson network, but also testifying in the Virginia state house and Senate as an expert witness.

Dr. Michaels is a past president of the VOA, is co-owner of five OD practices in Richmond and is a member of the AOA's State Government Relations Committee (SGRC).

John Whitlow, O.D.

Dr. Whitlow has been a staple in Atlanta at the Capitol and in all things Georgia politics and policy, especially when it comes to any issue dealing with eye and vision care. He currently serves as the Georgia Optometric Association's legislative chair and has served in that role for over 20 years. In that time, he successfully defended against companies that have worked to undermine the doctor-patient relationship, while also enacting surgical scope-of-practice language.

Dr. Whitlow currently serves on the AOA's SGRC and has been a dedicated volunteer with the SGRC for 14 years.

Ryan Wally, O.D.

Dr. Wally was a driving force in Mississippi during the 2021 legislative session, when the MOA enacted its advanced scope of practice legislation. He served as legislative chair during both the 2020 and 2021 scope battles and has held that role since 2014.

Dr. Wally currently serves on the AOA's SGRC and has been an integral member of the committee since 2019.

Bo Keeney

Bo currently serves as the executive director and lead lobbyist for the VOA, having served in this role for six years. Keeney was critical to coordinating the legislative and political efforts of the VOA during its successful passage of advanced scope-of-practice legislation during the 2022 legislative session.

Keeney's family and advocacy firm are no strangers to optometry or the VOA, as they have represented optometry in Richmond for nearly 20 years altogether.