



SGRC REGIONAL ADVOCACY MEETING NORTHEASTERN

SGRC Northeastern Regional Advocacy Meeting Speakers Bios

Speakers

Matt Burchett, O.D.

Dr. Burchett has been a long-time advocate and advocacy leader in his home state of Kentucky and its capital of Frankfort. Dr. Burchett was vice president of the Kentucky Optometric Association (KOA) during the 2011 legislative session, which saw the enactment of their advanced scope of practice law and served as the KOA co-legislative chair for two years.

Dr. Burchett is an active member of the AOA's State Government Relations Committee (SGRC) and has been serving in that role for nearly 10 years.

Jacquie M. Bowen, O.D.

Dr. Bowen was a key member of Colorado's legislative team, which successfully enacted advanced scope of practice legislation earlier this year. She is also a past president of the Colorado Optometric Association (COA) and a legislative keyperson to Colorado.

Dr. Bowen was first elected to the AOA's Board of Trustees (BOT) in 2016 and was recently elected secretary-treasurer at Optometry's Meeting® in June of this year.

Virginia State Delegate Roxann Robinson, O.D.

Delegate Robinson was the lead bill sponsor and chief advocate for the scope of practice legislation enacted earlier this 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.

John McCarthy

John McCarthy is the founder and managing partner of McCarthy Strategic Solutions, LLC, based out of Frankfort, Kentucky, and has represented the KOA for almost 20 years. John was the lead lobbyist for the KOA during their advanced scope battle and ultimate enactment in 2011.

John is an avid fundraiser and advisor to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Brett Guthrie, former Gov. Matt Bevin, Kentucky Sen. President Robert Stivers and House Speaker David Osborne.

William T. Reynolds, O.D.

Dr. Reynolds is without equal when it comes to advocating for the profession of optometry. Not only has he been a driving force in his home state of Kentucky, playing a key role in it becoming the second state to enact advanced scope of practice legislation, but he has tirelessly worked with states across the country in an effort to continue to move the profession forward.

Dr. Reynolds is a past president of the AOA, currently sits on the AOA BOT and is also the current advocacy chair for the AOA.

Steven T. Reed, O.D.

Dr. Reed has been a model of volunteer advocacy 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 vice president for the AOA, having been elected to that position earlier this year at Optometry's Meeting.

Deanna Alexander, O.D.

Dr. Alexander has been both a state and national leader when it comes to advocating for the profession of optometry. Dr. Alexander was a central part of the

team which worked to enact advanced scope of practice legislation earlier this year in her home state of Colorado. She spent countless days and evenings at the capital in Denver, testifying before committees and working with legislators to counter the opposition's efforts.

She most recently served as co-legislative chair of the Colorado Optometric Association but has also served as chair of AOA's SGRC for nearly 10 years, as well as chair of the Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety.

Chris Wolfe, O.D.

Dr. Wolfe leads the legislative efforts for the Nebraska Optometric Association, which includes the current legislative review process required for scope of practice legislation.

Dr. Wolfe is the immediate past chair of the AOA's SGRC and has successfully served as an SGRC member for the past six years.

Dr. Wolfe has spearheaded the scope review process in Nebraska, which they've coined the "407 Review Process" and is doing everything possible to gear up for a scope effort in 2023.