

Access previous newsletters you might have missed [here](#).

 AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

# QUARTERLY PARAOPTOMETRIC NEWSLETTER



## Optometry's Meeting® & AOA+ 2026—see you in Phoenix!



**[Optometry's Meeting®](#)** will be held June 17-20, 2026, at the Phoenix Convention Center! [Register online](#) or on-site when arriving. Paraoptometrics interested in attending **Optometry's Meeting** may benefit from guidance on how to clearly demonstrate the value and return on investment to their employer. AOA offers a [customizable justification letter](#), which can be used to show how attendance at this meeting aligns with your professional and practice goals, including educational and networking opportunities with other professionals. A total of

## Workshops

- Basic Lensometry Workshop - **ABO Ophthalmic Level 1**
- Eye Dissection Workshop - **ABO and NCLE Ophthalmic Level 2**
- Refine Your Slit Lamp Skills: A Hands-on Workshop - **CPOC**
- Therapy for Visual Information Processing: Workshop
- Low Vision Unlocked: Devices, Strategies & the Power of a Team - Workshop
- Workshop on Neurologic Screening Exam
- A Hands-On Technology Workshop for Retinal Disease: How to Implement New Tools to Your Practice
- Scleral Contact Lens Fitting: A Hands-On Workshop
- Scleral Lenses from Start to Finish
- Double Trouble-Introductory Workshop on Prism Use for Diplopia and More
- Retina OCT Workshop: How to Scan and Interpret
- Hands On in the Vision Therapy Room

[ADD A WORKSHOP](#)

## Course Highlights:

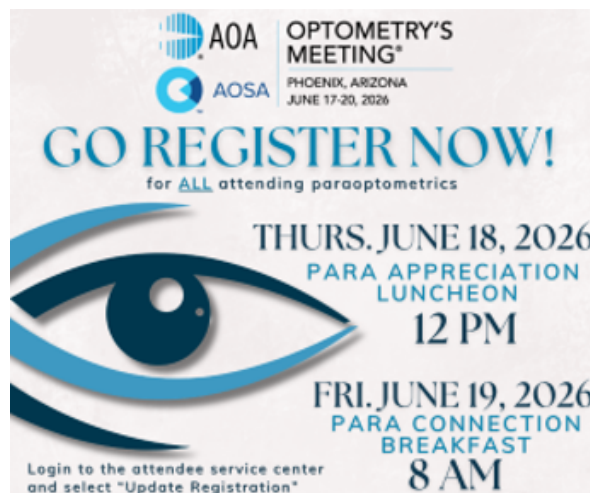
- Designing Eyewear Experiences for Diverse Communities
- Sometimes A Body Speaks For Itself
- Choose Your Own Adventure: Everything You Ever Wanted to Ask About Eye Conditions! - CPOC
- Do You See What I See? - CPOC
- Vision And Child Development
- Billing Basics for the Non-Billers
- Kids and Contacts
- Contact Lens Considerations for Sports Vision Performance
- Functional Vision Fundamentals: Empowering the Optometric Assistant
- Insurance Matters - CPOC

- Progressive Lens Fitting Techniques for Today's Technology
- Anti-Fatigue Lens Opportunity
- Branding & Social Media Strategies for Healthcare Professionals

### Breakfast/Luncheon Info:

- Paraoptometric Appreciation Luncheon Supported by Arrello
  - Thursday, June 18, from 12-1 p.m.
- Paraoptometric Connections Breakfast Supported by Alcon
  - Friday, June 19, from 8-9:30 a.m.

View the conference preview [here](#).



## Congratulations to the 2026 Paraoptometric Award Winners!

The awards will be presented in Phoenix during Optometry's Meeting. [Read more.](#)

- **2026 Paraoptometric of the Year** – Kimberly Pickle, CPOA (MS)
- **2026 Paraoptometric Lifetime Achievement Award** – Susan

- **2026 Paraoptometric Community Service Award** – Brandie Duncan, CPO (MS)

## Congratulations to the February exam candidates!

The Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC) would like to congratulate the paraoptometrics who passed their examination in February. The examinations were administered to CPO, CPOA and CPOC candidates and over 100 paraoptometrics earned their certification! Fifteen candidates chose to test remotely and 12 of them (87%) passed. Remote proctored testing is available to CPO, CPOA and CPOT candidates who meet the technical and space requirements. [Get more information on remote proctored examinations.](#)



**Call for Courses  
2027 is open!**



**Preparing for the  
August (or later)  
exam**

presentation during Optometry's Meeting 2027 that will be held in Boston, June 16-19, 2027. Courses accepted for Optometry's Meeting should be original and not presented previously at Optometry's Meeting or slated to be presented at any other meetings in 2026/2027. Paraoptometric education as well as joint education for optometrists and paraoptometrics may be submitted. The primary speaker must be an AOA member.

discussion in July to help paraoptometrics prepare for upcoming examinations. Whether you have not yet tested or were unsuccessful on a previous attempt, we encourage you to participate.

While examination content remains confidential, commissioners can guide you toward appropriate study materials, explain what to expect before, during and after the exam, and offer support and encouragement. The discussion will also cover different study strategies and testing options, including in-person and remote formats.

Bring your questions, comments and experiences. Invitations will be sent to paraoptometrics in late June or early July once the date is set. To ensure you receive an invitation, please contact [cpc@aoa.org](mailto:cpc@aoa.org) to have your name added to the list.

## Renewing your certification in 2026 – you don't have to wait until October



CPOC renewals are due by May 31. If you earned the CE within the 3-year renewal cycle (June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2026) and didn't submit the credits and fee by the May 31 deadline, it's not too late to do so. CPOC renewals will be accepted through July 31 with the late renewal fee.

All other renewals are due by Nov. 1, and the CE required to renew a CPO, CPOA or CPOT must be completed by midnight on Oct. 31. No exceptions will be made for not completing the CE within the 3-year renewal

natural disasters that affected your ability to meet the requirements, you may submit a request for a full or partial waiver of the CE requirements or fee to [cpc@aoa.org](mailto:cpc@aoa.org).

Requests must be submitted to the CPC by Sept. 1, and documentation may be requested.

AOA members can earn all the CE that is required through EyeLearn on-demand courses and live webinars. Log into your EyeLearn account and click the “Upcoming Webinars” tile to view the schedule.

Paraoptometrics may attend the OD Talks and the Para Speaker Series live webinars.

Review the [step-by-step instructions](#) for submitting your renewal.

Need assistance with your EyeLearn account? Contact [educationcenter@aoa.org](mailto:educationcenter@aoa.org) for more information.

## Registering staff for a paraoptometric exam

When registering candidates for paraoptometric examinations, please ensure that each candidate uses their own personal or individual business email address on the application. This allows PTC, Prometric and CPC to communicate directly with the candidate regarding their application, appointment, exam details and results. Please note that exam results are confidential and will only be released to the candidate.





2026

## Paraoptometric Examination Schedule

The [registration deadline](#) for the August 8-22 paraoptometric examinations is June 26. Late registrations will be accepted through July 10 and include a \$50 late fee. Some study materials are available to AOA associate members for free in [EyeLearn](#) and for purchase by nonmembers. Review the [candidate handbook](#) for information about upcoming examinations, live remote proctored testing opportunities, and all the recommended study resources. More than one resource from reputable resources should be used when preparing for any examination.

---

### What is new in EyeLearn?

Access the full Paraoptometric Catalog in [EyeLearn](#).

We are so excited to now be offering a prep course for the CPOC examination! This exam prep course includes a practice assessment to help you evaluate your readiness for testing.

**New Paraoptometric Courses**

Hands On: How to Handle Non-Ocular Emergencies in Office  
•••••

Para Speaker Series: Fill Your Schedule Fast - Modern Growth Tactics for Thriving Optometric Practices  
•••••

Certified Paraoptometric Coding (CPOC) Certification Prep-course  
•••••

AOA Paraoptometric Micro-credential: Optometric Surgical Assisting

 **AOA EYELEARN**  
your professional development hub

### CPC seeks volunteers!

[Learn More](#)

Two volunteer opportunities are available to

paraoptometrics who want to earn continuing education credits: the CPC CE Review Committee and the Item Writing Committee.

The CE Review Committee is responsible for the review and granting or denying requests for CPC approval of CE courses that are presented to paraoptometrics for certification maintenance and competency. This committee, with the help of CPC staff, will:

- Review and approve or deny requests of education for purposes of certification renewal
- Maintain a list of currently approved and expired courses
- Collect information on continuing education opportunities and provide this information to paraoptometrics in various formats

The award of CE is dependent on participation. Members are expected to participate in reviews assigned to them.

Certified paraoptometrics at any level are invited to participate in writing new items (questions) for the paraoptometric examinations. Training is provided, and participants work closely with other experienced item writers as well as Professional Testing Corporation staff. Item writers who submit three new questions earn 1 CE credit that may be used toward their next certification renewal.

Anyone who may be interested in either of these opportunities to earn CE toward their renewal should complete a [volunteer interest form](#) or contact [cpc@aoa.org](mailto:cpc@aoa.org) for more information.

## AOA membership has benefits

AOA associate members can access

discounts on materials and meeting registration, and more! All for free to paraoptometrics who are employed by an AOA member optometrist. With just a few pieces of information, your employer can [sign up all staff](#) (front desk, office managers, billing, opticians, etc.) for membership.

[Read More](#)

---

## Paraoptometric Newsletter archive

Catch up on paraoptometric news you may have missed in the [newsletter archive](#).



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

©2026 American Optometric Association  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Saint Louis, MO 63141

**The AOA is here to help.**

Chat with an AOA representative at [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org) 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. CT.

Or call Member Services at 800.365.2219



[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)