The Future of Optometry

Who shapes inventive minds?
Who shares visionary ideas?
Who serves the future of optometry?
You do. The optometric educator.

You are dedicated to protecting and promoting a positive image of optometrists for years to come. You set an example for your colleagues and students.

Thank you for shaping minds, sharing ideas and serving the future of optometry. Your sense of honor and commitment to the profession will always be the foundation for the ODs of tomorrow.

Join us in the fight to protect optometrists’ rights and make your voice heard at the federal and state levels.

Building Optometry’s Future

Shaping Minds.
Being a member of the American Optometric Association (AOA) and your state association means you’re making an even greater contribution to your students - the future of our profession. You’re tapping an extraordinary pool of professional expertise that benefits you and your students. And you’re having a **positive influence** on optometry’s future.

“We optometrists are passionate about our profession. We care deeply about our patients and their futures. The AOA allows us to stand together as a group and support and protect what we cherish.”

Janice McMahon, O.D.
Associate Professor
Illinois College of Optometry

“...The AOA works to ensure we have a profession. Without AOA political advocacy, our profession ceases to exist because we are a legislated profession.”

Paul M. Dobies O.D., F.A.A.O.
Assistant Professor / Clinical Educator
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Optometry
Sharing Ideas.

The AOA and your state association are the only organizations that advocate for optometry at the federal and state levels, while educating the public on the importance of regular eye care as a vital part of overall health.

The AOA leads me when I don’t know which direction to go, has my back in the midst of the battle, and provides a friend to walk beside me.

Joseph L. Shetler, O.D.
Clinic Chief and Assistant Professor
Northeastern State University
Oklahoma College of Optometry

Together, we defend the scope of practice for every setting - from corporate eye care to private practice. We support the profession through advocacy and public education, but we can’t do it alone. Association membership is critical to optometry’s advocacy strength.

The AOA is an organization that strives for the betterment of the optometric profession and the ocular health of the population via education, advocacy, community outreach and service.

Srihari Narayanan O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O.
Professor
University of the Incarnate Word
Rosenberg School of Optometry

Involvement in the AOA shows that we recognize the importance of protecting our profession and moving it forward.

Caroline B. Pate, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Director of Residency Programs
Associate Professor of Optometry
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Optometry
Serving the Future.

You’ve dedicated your career to shaping the future of the optometric profession. The AOA and your state association are dedicated to protect it.

You teach to the highest level. The AOA supports you and the profession to the highest level, helping you do your job better.

Here are just a few ways the AOA and your state association helps you, the overall profession and your students – the ODs of tomorrow.

- Emphasize the ability of ODs to perform most treatments for good eye health.
- Work to ensure optometric services are covered on most insurance plans.
- Advocate for more uniform scope of practice for ODs in all 50 states.
- Educate and protect the public from contact lens sales without a prescription.
- Increase respect for ODs with the general public and other medical professions and ultimately influence long-term earnings potential.

But there is much more work to be done. Legislative battles in optometry today are as relevant now as in the past.

For me, for the past 35 years, the AOA has been an organization dedicated to furthering the scope of professional optometry, thus insuring the security of my career and enhancing my ability to provide quality health care to my patients.

Jacqueline G. Davis, O.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.O.
Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry
The Ohio State University
College of Optometry

Making the Connection.

Association members connect on multiple levels – professionally, personally and educationally. Support the organization that supports you!

**Professional development** – Stay current on clinical and legislative issues facing optometry and the latest technology and advocacy used to overcome them – a benefit to you and your students.

**Personal networking** – Form valuable contacts to help further your career and the careers of your students.

**Education** – The AOA, your state association and web resources offer information for both professional and educational optometrists that can be used as models for classroom discussion and assignments.

Don't let someone else decide your future. Hundreds of optometric educators just like you have already committed to supporting optometry through association membership. Join us in the fight to protect optometrists’ rights and make your voice heard at the federal and state levels.

The AOA protects all that is good in optometry and the visual welfare of the nation. It is the cornerstone of the profession.

**JW. Howard McAlister, O.D., M.P.H.**
Associate Professor
University of Missouri-St. Louis
College of Optometry

The AOA safeguards optometry! A source on health care, evidence based medicine, and professional events pooling individual resources, educating doctors, students and the public.

**Marilyn Vricella O.D.**
Assistant Clinical Professor
State University of New York
College of Optometry
Optometry’s Meeting® – Substantial member registration discounts, participation in the Optometric Educator’s Exchange (OEE) collaborative education program, opportunities to provide continuing education, connect with students and network with colleagues, involvement in the poster session and more. Visit optometrysmeeting.org.

Summer Research Institute (SRI) Participation – Facilitated by the AOA Council on Research and co-sponsored by the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), ODs and scientists in North American schools and colleges of optometry have received over $65 million in research grants since the inception of the Summer Research Institutes in 1988.

Evidence Based Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines – Developed and reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel of OD experts, specialists, patients and patient advocates, this AOA essential patient care resource combines evidence based research with expert clinical opinion to recommend appropriate steps in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of patients with various eye and vision conditions. Learn more at aoa.org/evidence.

AOA’s MORE (Measures and Outcomes Registry for Eyecare) – MORE is the key word for AOA’s anticipated optometric registry that promises to take the profession to the next level of care. More data, more access and more quality measurement solutions—AOA’s MORE, powered by Prometheus Research™, represents a technological milestone in optometry for helping ODs keep up with advances in the ever-changing world of value-driven health care.

EyeLearn™ – Take advantage of this centralized, easy-to-use online learning resource.

Exclusive Members-Only Access to the AOA website – Dedicated to serving you and your students in meeting the eye care needs of the public, the AOA website keeps you up to date on issues that matter to the profession. Visit aoa.org.

AOA.org/news – Updated with a new story each day, aoa.org/news brings you the latest news on the profession where you want it: on your computer, smartphone or tablet.

AOA Week in Focus E-newsletter – This weekly update offers in-depth information on AOA activities and news you can use in your classroom.

AOA Focus – This newsmagazine offers background and perspective, stories about individual members—their practices, challenges and successes, and quick and easy tips and round-ups. Visit aoa.org/news.

AOA First Look – A daily email digest that provides an immediate, unfiltered look at news from various national sources that affects you, your students, and the general public.

The AOA has played a crucial role in the expansion of the scope of practice I am able to provide in the state of Arizona.

Alicia Feis O.D., F.A.A.O.
Assistant Professor
Assistant Director, Clinical Rotations
Midwestern University
Arizona College of Optometry
AOAExcel® - Helps students and ODs with the “business side” of optometry, including business and career coaching, how to buy or sell a practice, business and malpractice insurance, Optometry’s Career Center®, Education loans, health information technology, practice financing and more. Visit exceld.com.

Optometrystudents.com - This website was developed by students, for students, helping them connect and learn from each other. The site now also provides access to Compass, the AOA’s online interactive tool that guides your students step-by-step from college to career and beyond.

Optometry’s Career Center® - Help your students help themselves with this national, online database and career-matching service that helps ODs find jobs, partners or candidates in the optometric field across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Learn more at optometrycareercenter.org.

Contact Lens and Cornea, Sports Vision & Vision Rehabilitation Sections - Stay current on clinical and technological advancements through membership in one or all three special interest Sections.

Pediatric and Binocular (3-D) Vision - Incorporate the use of static stereoscopic testing, education, and vision therapy in your classroom. Resources include vision therapy fact sheets, 3-D news, research and patient education.

AOA Member Directory - The AOA’s searchable member directory to help you keep in touch with your colleagues, past classmates, students and more.

Social Media Channels - Connect with the AOA on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Special Economic Reports - The latest OD income insights to help your students see the “big picture.”

Volunteer Opportunities - Give back to your community as an InfantSEE® provider, or make a difference in your community as a Healthy Eyes Healthy People® grant recipient.

Public Education Materials at Member Discount Pricing - Pamphlets and fact sheets, displays and vision simulators, unique gallery frames and prints to help you and your students educate the public about eye diseases and conditions. Visit aoa.org/marketplace.

Resource Guide for the Employed/Affiliated Optometrist - Especially helpful for your fourth-year students and new graduates, contains useful information relating to lease agreements, contract negotiations and business management for the independent contractor, leaseholder, or franchisee optometrist. Visit aoa.org, go to the optometrists tab, then membership, then member benefits and services.

Maximize your AOA membership today: aoa.org/optometrists/for-educators

The AOA has provided resources and networks to help me feel more empowered in teaching, expanding and pioneering pressing topics in optometry.

Phyllis Andrejko, O.D.
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Clinical Assistant Professor of Optometry
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ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
ico.edu

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
School of Optometry
opt.indiana.edu

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
School of Optometry
optonet.inter.edu

MCPHS UNIVERSITY
School of Optometry
mcphs.edu

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
ferris.edu/mco

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY – ARIZONA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
midwestern.edu

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
neco.edu

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY – OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
optometry.nsuok.edu

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Health Professions Division
College of Optometry
optometry.nova.edu

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Optometry
optometry.osu.edu

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
College of Optometry
pacificu.edu/optometry

PENNYSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AT SALUS UNIVERSITY
salus.edu

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AT MARSHALL B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY
ketchum.edu

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
sco.edu

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
State College of Optometry
sunyopt.edu

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
School of Optometry
uab.edu/optometry

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – BERKELEY
School of Optometry
optometry.berkeley.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
College of Optometry
umsl.edu/divisions/optometry

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
College of Optometry
opt.uh.edu

UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
Rosenberg School of Optometry
optometry.uiw.edu

WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
College of Optometry
westernu.edu/optometry
The AOA is the organization that advocates for our profession both now and in the future. From ensuring that we are paid fairly for our services to ensuring that we are part of the national health care solution, the AOA is working to ensure our success.

Meredith M. Whiteside, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Associate Clinical Professor
University of California Berkeley
School of Optometry
AOA Mission:
To advocate for the profession and serve optometrists in meeting the eye care needs of the public.

Let's work together.
Your membership in the AOA completes, ensures and protects the profession of optometry and your role as an optometric educator.

Already a member? Invite your colleagues to join.
Not a member? Now's the time to become one!

For more information, visit aoa.org or check with your state association.