A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Letter from the President
Vera Kohler, CPOA

PPA is very pleased with the great attendance at our meeting in Pittsburgh. The education was fantastic!!! Thank you to our speakers: Susan Klacik, Jackie Okeefe and a special thank you to Dr Caldwell and Dr Eiss for taking time out of their busy schedule to also provide us with great education.

Election of officers for 2018 was held.
Congratulations to our new board:

President: Vera J Kohler CPOA
President Elect: Roberta Beers CPOT
Vice President of Education: Lisa Scarborough CPOA
Vice President of Communications/Public Relations: Cindy Whitman CPO
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Lunsford CPOA

I am looking forward to working with all of you to improve and expand our association.

We have an exciting year coming up. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary next year in Seven Springs. We are planning great education and a celebration for all of you that have made PPA the association that it is. Mark your calendars now so you can be part of this special occasion.

Congratulations to our Paraoptometric of the Year: -
April Conde CPOA
Amy Hoover, CPO – Young Paraoptometric of the Year
Dawn Deppe CPO – Past President Incentive Award.

Hope all of you enjoy your free education and plan to attend the meeting in Seven Springs.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun filled summer!!!

Yours in Paraoptometry,

Vera J Kohl
Message from the Vice President of Continuing Education:
Amanda Lunsford, CPOA

Hello All,

My name is Amanda, I will be taking over this position for the remainder of 2017 for April Conde. We are sorry to see her go. I am excited that we had such a great turn out to our education in Pittsburgh in May. The speakers were awesome, hope everyone learned something new! Unfortunately, we will not be having a fall education this year. We will be putting our focus on Spring Congress 2018, since it is our 40th Anniversary. The 40th Anniversary will take place at Seven Springs Resort. Make sure to look for the next copy of Para Eyes to see the exciting speakers we are lining up for 2018.

Have a Fantastic Summer

Message from Vice President Communications and Public Relations:
Cindy Whitman, CPO

Summer is upon us, warm weather, picnics and great fun. I hope everyone has a great summer while the board prepares for next spring’s Education in Seven Springs.

The Library has had no new requests for materials. The dates for testing and deadlines are on the POA website under the Paraoptometric section, education/testing.

It is a great opportunity for the doctors to help their para’s achieve their goals to further their careers and provide quality care for the patients.

If you know of any leaders who would like to participate with our Girl Scout Patch program, please give them my contact information.

Cindy Whitman, CPO
PPA VP of Communications/Public Relations
PPA Loaner Library Committee Chair
PPA Girl Scout Awareness Patch Chair

Message from Secretary/ Treasurer
Lisa Scarborough, CPOA
Pennsylvania Paraoptometric Association

We had a total of 57 Paras attend Spring Congress in Pittsburgh in May with 30 of them being new members.

We have a total of 121 members including our 3 honorary members and 40 new members.

We have $3,672.82 in our checking account and 15,310.65 in our savings account.
A CPOC™ is a person who has attained national recognition via certification by demonstrating proficiency, expertise, and validating superior knowledge in an optometric coding environment.

**WHAT TASKS DOES A CERTIFIED PARAOPTOMETRIC CODER (CPOC™) PERFORM?**

Paraoptometric coders are responsible for ensuring that all the information about diagnoses and procedures for patients is accurate and complete. This prevents delays in reimbursement from insurance companies or denials of claims. A certified paraoptometric coder can be the first line of defense against non-compliance and improper coding for the provider. Another benefit of employing a certified coder is maintaining compliance with state and federal laws. This is especially important since the government has started focusing on identifying, decreasing and fining or prosecuting for fraudulent claims.

*This is a general description of the duties that a paraoptometric with a minimum of two years of full-time coding experience in the optometric eye care field could be expected to perform. It is not meant to be a full description, nor restriction, of the duties that an employer may require or allow a CPOC to perform. Scope of practice is controlled by each state’s legislature. To get a better understanding of your state’s laws and any restrictions, please contact your state’s optometric association.*

“Employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 20 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. Employment growth will result from the increase in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be performed. As the population continues to age, the occurrence of health-related problems will increase,” according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**WHAT'S THE EXAMINATION ABOUT?**

The CPOC examination is open-book and consists of 125 multiple-choice questions related to anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, CPT® and ICD-10-CM codes, medical records, claim filing, and compliance matters. Candidates will have two hours in which to complete the examination.

**WHAT CONTENT DO I NEED TO STUDY?**

The full content outline is shown in the [Certified Candidate Handbook](#). Testing in 2017 will cover ICD-10. Standard or professional editions of 2016 or 2017 Codes for Optometry and CPT® books may be available from the [AOA Marketplace](#) or other supplier. The 2016 or 2017 editions of these books are the only reference books permitted for use during testing.

If you have any questions about Paraoptometric Coding Certification (CPOC), please call 1-800-365-2219 Ext. 4210.

**October 3, 2017 (9:00pm EDT) Testing Begins:**

**November 4 Testing Ends:**

**November 18 Applications are only accepted until 9:00 PM Eastern time on the application deadline date.**

No late applications are accepted. All paraoptometrics who hold a certification granted by the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPCTM) are required to participate in eye care related continuing education for the duration of their certification.

Every third year they must meet the renewal requirements in effect at that time to retain a current certification status. The requirements for renewal include submission of proof of having attended acceptable and documented continuing education (as outlined in the renewal guidelines) with payment of the appropriate renewal fee by the renewal deadline. Failure to meet all of the requirements for renewal by the posted deadline will result in loss of certification and credentials.

Certified Paraoptometric Coder (CPOC) $275 125 2 hours Reschedule Fee $200 (see “Rescheduling an Examination Appointment” for details) *Student fees have been discontinued. **All questions are multiple choice. Once the application has been received and eligibility is verified, the candidate will receive an email confirmation from support@ptcny.com at the candidate email address shown on the application.
2017 Para of the Year and Young Para of the Year Recipients

April Conde, CPOA

Amy Hoover, CPO

PPA would like to thank Luzerne Optical for their support and providing the Award Plaques.
Past Presidents Incentive Award

2017 Past Presidents award was Present to Dawn Deppe. Hope to see her at our May education in Pittsburg.

This award is presented to a Paraoptometric attending May education and the General Membership Meeting. The recipient of this Award receives One (1) free registration for any education presented by PPA within one year.
Dr. Marla Moon, State Collage

With regard to my comments RE: Certified staff and our office (I believe that we have about 3/4 of our current staff certified - several are at the A level and more have picked up their T level as well. In addition, at least 2 more will be going for their first level during the next few months - new staff).

* Having staff that has gone through the certification process provides our patients another level of endorsement of training/education - patients in our university town are looking for that. Our patients are made aware of the certification levels of most of our staff via name tags and their personal business cards (and soon to be on our website).

* It also continues to emphasize to our staff that their profession in addition to ours is constantly changing and their need for continued learning is so important to us and to the patients that we care for.

* Para certification has assisted our staff in obtaining jobs easily when they leave our office (we have some staff turnover in relationship to staff spouses/significant others working or going to school at PSU - when certified staff have left our employment and the area, it has been a seamless transfer into eye care employment - including nationally known surgery centers).

* Myself and my fellow partner doctors here at Nittany Eye Associates believe very strongly in the para certification program and support our staff in pursuing and continuing their certification - via membership dues payments, payments for review materials, testing fees, and an annual stipend to attending meetings/continuing education courses. In working with such trained staff over the past 30+ years, I find that it just makes our team that much better.
Don’t forget to join our group on Facebook (Pennsylvania Paraoptometric Association) it’s a great place to share ideas/photos and keep in touch with the other PPA members.

PPA’s Loaner Library

PPA is here to help you to improve your job skills. Need help studying for your CPO, CPOA or CPOT exam? Did you know PPA has a library has study materials for just that?

Librarian
Cindy Whitman, CPO
20 Main Street
Bradford, PA 16701
Email: cwhitman@atlanticbb.net
Office: 814-368-7090
Fax: 814-368-5855
Cell: 814-366-2095

Guidelines for Borrowing Library Materials
All materials can be borrowed on a four-week schedule. If you need to keep material longer, please contact the librarian for availability.

Inside the front cover, you will find a card with the shipping date and the date the materials should be returned to the library. The library will pay for shipping to you. You are responsible for return mailing costs back to the library.

A form is provided to you on the web site with the proper procedure for borrowing the materials.
Girl Scout Vision Awareness Patch

Girl Scouting offers a variety of opportunities and challenges. With this in mind, the Pennsylvania Paraoptometric Association would like to offer the Girl Scouts the opportunity to earn a Vision Awareness Patch, which has been approved by the Girl Scout Council. PPA is an association committed to promoting the quality of eye care. We believe the activities required for the girls to earn the patch will make them more aware of the importance of vision and good vision care. The girl's efforts may even spark an interest in Optometry or related fields. The patches are $1.00 each. If the troop is interested in the Vision Awareness Patch, please call Cindy Whitman @814-366-2095 or fax your request to (814) 368-5855 Attn: Cindy. There may be a PPA member in your area that would be willing to Assist your troop in earning this patch.
15 Facts about the eyes

1. The average blink lasts for about 1/10th of a second.
2. While it takes some time for most parts of your body to warm up to their full potential, your eyes are on their “A game” 24/7.
3. Eyes heal quickly. With proper care, it only takes about 48 hours for the eye to repair a corneal scratch.
4. Seeing is such a big part of everyday life that it requires about half of the brain to get involved.
5. Newborns don’t produce tears. They make crying sounds, but the tears don’t start flowing until they are about 4-13 weeks old.
6. Around the world, about 39 million people are blind and roughly 6 times that many have some kind of vision impairment.
7. Doctors have yet to find a way to transplant an eyeball. The optic nerve that connects the eye to the brain is too sensitive to reconstruct successfully.
8. The cells in your eye come in different shapes. Rod-shaped cells allow you to see shapes, and cone-shaped cells allow you to see color.
9. You blink about 12 times every minute.
10. Your eyes are about 1 inch across and weigh about 0.25 ounce.
11. Some people are born with two differently colored eyes. This condition is heterochromia.
12. Even if no one in the past few generations of your family had blue or green eyes, these recessive traits can still appear in later generations.
13. Each of your eyes has a small blind spot in the back of the retina where the optic nerve attaches. You don’t notice the hole in your vision because your eyes work together to fill in each other’s blind spot.
14. Out of all the muscles in your body, the muscles that control your eyes are the most active.
15. 80% of vision problems worldwide are avoidable or even curable

Get Involved with Your Local Societies

Mid Counties

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Order Form

PPA Paraoptometric Reference Manual

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Name___________________________ Phone_______________
Address __________________________________________

Checks Payable to: Pennsylvania Paraoptometric Association
Send to: Theola Amundson, CPOT
118 Scotland Ave.
Punxsutawney, PA. 15767

Association State Pins available upon request.