

The

GREEN

Sheet

The Official
Newsletter of

ARBO

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc.

Editor: Janet L. Carter, O.D.

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NBEO Examination Restructure

In 2009-10, the National Board will implement a restructured form of its 3-Part examination. This restructure, the most significant one since Part III was introduced in 1993, is in response to task force recommendations focused on enhancing the clinical relatedness or “clinicality” of the examinations. Included in the forthcoming restructure is a replacement of the current lengthy, linear, topic-based Content Outline with a shorter, grid-oriented, condition-based, integrated Content Matrix. This document will guide the content comprising the new examinations.

The restructure of the “National Boards” will include consolidating Part I and much of Part II as a new condition-based Part I examination. The new Part I will include subject-matter disciplines (e.g., anatomy, pharmacology, optics) linked to normal and abnormal conditions pertinent to entry-level optometric practice. This linkage will provide the necessary structure to generate items appropriate to audit the knowledge deemed necessary to begin the general practice of optometry. The Part I examination development processes are being realigned to more closely resemble those used for the current Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) and Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) examinations whereby subject-matter specialists will author and edit test items for the item database while subject-matter generalists will select the items to be included on the Part I examination. The Part II examination will be an expanded PAM examination and will include items related to clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, clinical correlation of basic science principles, and legal issues, ethics, and public health. The new Part II will continue to provide a separate Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) break-out score. The new Part III will be an expanded Clinical Skills Examination (CSE). In essence, the restructured examinations will be sequenced to measure clinical knowledge (I), clinical thinking (II), and clinical doing (III).

The NBEO Board of Directors released the April 2006 Examination Restructure Task Force Report last fall so that the new 3-Part Content Matrix could be shared with all of the academic institutions, state boards, and other stakeholders. Numerous constituents provided valuable comments to the Report before the Board approved the restructured Content Matrix. The debut of the new “National Boards” will be on March 17-18, 2009, for the Part I (Applied Basic Science) examination.

In utilizing the integrated conditions-based Content Matrix that is consistent across all three Parts of the “National Boards” and an item development and selection process which emphasizes testing of the most clinically relevant concepts, the NBEO will produce a more optimal assessment of the entry-level competencies necessary to enter the general practice of optometry.

Jack E. Terry, O.D., Ph.D.
NBEO Executive Director

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ARBO ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON IS FAST APPROACHING!

The ARBO Annual Meeting will be held June 24 – 26, 2007, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. A special room rate has been arranged for ARBO participants, and you may stay over through the American Optometric Association meeting that immediately follows. The Fairmont Copley Plaza is within easy walking distance of the AOA meeting location.

The deadline for registration for the ARBO meeting is fast approaching. Remember, you must be designated by your board to be a voting delegate. Also, scholarships are still available for representatives of member jurisdictions that have no designated travel funds. (These scholarships are in addition to the stipend provided for attendance at the NBEO workshop).

The Annual Meeting is always an exciting, informative event, and Boston is a premier tourist destination. Make your plans to attend today! More information and a tentative agenda is available on the ARBO website (www.arbo.org). In addition, if you click on “Online Annual Meeting Registration” on the home page you may register online. We'll see you in Boston!

President's Message



Dear Colleagues and Friends of ARBO:

Presidents of different organizations around the world normally have a theme for their year in leadership. You may recall my theme for this past year was “**Continued Competence translates to Public Safety**”. To encourage this theme, I asked all ARBO Committees to ask the question during their deliberations, “Will this action add to continued competence of an Optometrist?” I can report to you that all committees kept this in mind during their action planning and because of the extreme interest in this subject within the profession and ARBO; I added a new Board committee to the ARBO structure called the **Optometric Competence Committee**. This committee will be challenged with developing ideas for continued and advanced competence and they will work closely with the profession-wide joint sponsored task force on competence and board certification over the next 1-2 years. As you read through the rest of my report, you will see that many committees had input into our efforts on competence and furthering public protection. Public protection is at the root of ARBO's mission.

The annual meeting is a gathering of all member boards to exchange information and to work towards the enhancement of public protection. All states have the opportunity to exchange information to improve competence and public protection. The **Annual Meeting Committee** has had ongoing conference calls to tweak our successes from past meetings. The Annual Meeting Committee has worked very hard to ensure your experience will be informative and your time in Boston historic. I've requested the committee to invite Representative John Boozman R-Arkansas, to our meeting for a report from congress and to honor him in regards to his support of the Cosmetic CL Act. We also have excellent speakers to add to your knowledge and have planned great breaks and meals for camaraderie. As you will see, we worked hard to make you aware of the annual meeting through multiple mailings and contacts from board members and we hope it will bring more attendees to the annual meeting.

As you all know, the ARBO By-Laws directs the Board in its business. At this year's annual meeting the **By-Laws Committee** will ask the fiscal year to change to January 1-December 31, beginning in 2008. This change will help improve our budgetary process for future planning.

CELMO's Committee continues to update and educate the states to consider adding rules or laws to establish licensed mobility for the optometrist. Many of our continued competence ideas were developed from information gathered within CELMO and its development will play a part in the profession's future.

The **GREENSHEET** continues to be a great educational guide for the member boards. We actually produced an additional one this year to be sure you were well informed. Our editor and staff have done a great job in getting the news out to you in a timely manner. If you would like to see other kinds of info within the *Greensheet*, please inform the Editor and staff at ARBO.

The **Contemporary Issues Committee** was expanded to accommodate many of the items gathered from ARBO's Educational Summit and the three AOA Summit Meetings. The committee met with COPE and CELMO in a joint effort to begin the development of action plans to further ARBO's efforts on continued competence. Many of the ideas from this joint committee within ARBO jump started the Board's **Optometric Competence Committee**.

The **COPE** Committee has been re-evaluating all state CE laws to ensure COPE is in compliance with each state law. In addition, the committee has studied the outcomes of the ARBO Educational Summit and has recommended an overall change in the guidelines to increase the integrity of the COPE program. The ARBO board supports these new COPE guidelines and they will be presented to the member boards at the annual meeting.

The **Industrial Relations** Committee has been active all year and continues to find ways of funding new programs to help ARBO become more effective with their member boards. The **IRC** works hard to keep our dues dollars at a minimum and they have enhanced new programs through unrestricted grants provided by Industry.

The **Information and Data Committee** has continued to expand its data base of Optometrists through communication with State Boards, State Associations and interested Optometrists. Within the Information and Data Committee, **OE TRACKER** continues to be used by professional associations, state boards, and optometrists throughout the country. Students are now obtaining OE Tracker numbers through their application to take National Boards. Soon, OE TRACKER will be an effective tool for member boards to do compliance calculations on their licensees during their continuing medical education audits.

The **Executive Directors for Member Boards Committee** has been very active this year and has great annual meeting plans for the Executive Directors. This year we had the opportunity for the Chairperson of this committee to come to our board meetings to interface and suggest new ideas. The chair's comments were very helpful and I would suggest this be an ongoing relationship for the ARBO board.

(cont.)

President's Message (cont.)

The **National Boards Examination and Review Committee (NBERC)** met in January and had many great ideas for the **NBEO** to consider. The **NBERC** report will be given at the annual meeting and the response from NBEO will be included in your binders. If your state has requests for the **NBERC**, I would suggest you ask them at the annual meeting during your presentations.

Lastly, ARBO's Board came together in Charlotte in March of 2007 to work on a **Strategic Plan** that will guide the ARBO Board and the association to the next level. Besides my report to you, there will be so much more at the annual meeting coming up on June 24-26th.

All said, I want to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work and supporting me by being part of the ARBO committee structure, all of the board for their guidance, and the staff of ARBO for their help in meeting ARBO's mission, "The mission of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry is to represent and assist member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare." It is my hope, that as your President, ARBO has met or exceeded your expectations over the last year and I hope you will support ARBO's next President the way you have supported me.

See you in Boston!

Robert M. Easton, Jr., O.D.
President

ARBO Strategic Planning Meeting

Members of the ARBO Board of Directors and staff met in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 17th and 18th for a long-range strategic planning meeting. The purpose of this gathering was to evaluate the status of the organization, including its fundamental purpose and mission, and to analyze key ARBO programs to identify important action plans for the future.

The participants identified several key planning issues facing ARBO over the next few years. These included ARBO's management structure, governing structure, and the current physical plant. It was agreed that in order to continue its success, ARBO must be proactive in all areas, master data management, and empower our member Boards by continuing to be a strong advocate for them within the profession. The group discussed factors that might influence ARBO's future. These included government economic pressure, increased reliance on "data driven" services, and increased federal regulation and monitoring of continued competence.



ARBO Board members listen as Marcia Holston leads them through the strategic planning process.

A number of strategic objectives were identified for ARBO based on these discussions. These objectives included (1) an efficient ARBO management structure, (2) to define, develop and implement a competitive program for ARBO that is self-sustaining and positions ARBO as the recognized leader in this area, (3) to make ARBO financially self-sustaining, (4) to encourage OE Tracker to be used in all jurisdictions and generating its own positive revenue system, (5) to further integrate ARBO's data system, and (6) to improve communications between and among the ARBO Board of Directors, committees, staff, member Boards, and the optometric community.

Action plans were developed for each of these strategic objectives and will continue to be addressed by the ARBO Board of Directors over the coming months and years. ARBO President, Dr. Robert M Easton, Jr., was encouraged by the outcome of the Strategic Planning meeting and wishes to thank the ARBO Board and staff for their persistence and Marcia Poell Holston CAE of Harrison, Arrison, Coerver, & Associates for her excellent and very professional facilitation of the meeting.

If you have any questions or comments on these objectives, please be sure to ask any member of the ARBO Board at our Annual Meeting! ❖

ARBO Hosts “Live Meeting” for State Boards

The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry hosted a highly informative online meeting on January 12, 2007, as a free service to state boards and staff. The meeting was designed to acquaint board members and staff with the various web-based services that ARBO provides. It included a review of the various facets of OE Tracker and COPE’s online services, and provided ample opportunity to explain how OE Tracker will save time in the boards’ continuing education compliance efforts.

The meeting content and audio was recorded and is available under the “News” section on the ARBO website.

“Live Meetings” combine content delivered to the participants’ computers and an audio conference call. This method allows ARBO to communicate more regularly and economically with our stakeholders. If you have any suggestions for future content of ARBO “Live Meetings”, please contact Jennifer Parker at the ARBO office (jennifer@arbo.org). ❖

REPORT OF THE MEMBER BOARD EXECUTIVES/ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE

The Member Board Executive Director/Administrator Committee has been busy working with the Annual Meeting Committee to create two excellent programs for state board executive directors and administrators attending the ARBO Annual Meeting.

Sunday, June 24th, 8:00 am

Executive Director/Administrator Workshop

Optometric Competence at a Post Graduate Level,

“A recommendation from the National Optometric Continuing Education Conference.”

William Rafferty, O.D., ARBO Board Member

Monday, June 25th, 1:30 pm

Executive Director/Administrator Session

OE Tracker,

“What can it do and what do state boards want it to do?”

John Kohler, ARBO Information and Data Services

These two specific sessions, along with the general sessions and other networking opportunities make this an excellent meeting to attend. Look elsewhere in this Greensheet to find information on meeting registration.

There are two opportunities to receive financial support to attend this meeting. A \$500 stipend is available from NBEO/ARBO. Attendance at the NBEO Session on Sunday morning is required to receive this stipend. ARBO is also providing a \$250 scholarship to states unable to fund an attendee at the meeting. Contact Jennifer at the ARBO office for more information.

In addition to preparing for the annual meeting, the Committee was pleased to be invited to have a representative participate in ARBO Board of Director meetings this year. The Committee selected Laurie Mickelson, Executive Director from Minnesota, to represent the Committee as a non-voting participant, at these meetings. Ms. Mickelson has enjoyed her time with the Board and has learned much about the operation and management of the full ARBO organization. She has also contributed to discussions on a number of topics, by offering the regulatory board staff perspective.

The Committee looks forward to meeting with executive directors and administrators who have attended meetings in the past and those who may be attending for the first time. See you in Boston.

Member Board Executive Director/Administrator Committee

Laurie Mickelson, MN, Committee Chair

Joe Baker, FL

Patricia Bennett, MD

Elizabeth Carter, VA

Howard Flippen, AR

World Council of Optometry Holds General Delegate Meeting in Mexico City

The World Council of Optometry held a General Delegate Meeting (GDM) in Mexico City April 24-28, 2007. ARBO is an affiliate member of WCO, and the AOA is the official voting member from the United States.

The ARBO Board of Directors has voted to request a permanent seat on the Legislation, Registration and Standards Committee. Dr. Robert Smalling has been appointed to the LRS Committee this year, and he represented ARBO in Mexico City.

Dr. Vic Connors, a past president of AOA, has served as WCO President this year, and Dr. Bob Chappell of the United Kingdom was installed as president for the next two years. Dr. George Woo of Hong Kong was elected as President-elect.

Extensive changes to the constitution and bylaws will transfer more authority to the WCO governing board from the GDM to expedite the operations of the organization. After several months of discussions, the changes were adopted unanimously.

The WCO has scheduled the second session of the WCO Globalization Conference (WCOG2) for April 11-13, 2008, in London. The first session was held in Orlando in conjunction with the ARBO/AOA meeting. WCOG2 will be entitled Global Competition and Economics Realities of Improved Health Status.

WCO released the Public Health Tool Kit: Developing Optometry's Leadership in Eye and Vision Care. The Tool Kit in CD format provides a road map to increase optometrist's awareness, capacity and participation in VISION 2020: The Right to Sight activities.

Optometry Giving Sight (OGS) made an extensive presentation on the first projects. OGS is the optometric charity to try to eliminate preventable blindness. These first two projects were to address blindness due to refractive error and low vision in Sri Lanka and East Africa. Massive fund raising activities are beginning to show results.

More of these areas will be covered in the International Committee report in Boston. ❖

ARBO NEEDS YOU!!

The ARBO Board of Directors is currently looking for volunteers for our committee structure for the 2007-08 term. ARBO committee volunteers should be sitting members or staff of one of our state or provincial boards, and public members are welcome and encouraged to participate! Although committee membership requires some travel to meetings, much of the work is done by conference call and/or email, so participation does not have to mean excessive time away from the office. ARBO committee members are reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses. You'll learn a lot by helping your organization, and you'll have fun too!

The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) is especially in need of dedicated, hard working volunteers this coming year. COPE is in the process of adopting new guidelines for optometric continuing education. If you would like to help insure that optometric CE is appropriate and effective, please consider joining the COPE Committee. The Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO) will also need added help as the licensure mobility movement grows across the United States. Of course, if you are interested in entry level competence, you should consider volunteering for the National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC). This committee meets yearly during the NBEO Exam Council meetings to overview the test development process. This committee should be especially interesting over the next few years as the NBEO works towards its restructured examinations. The NBEO Councils always meet the weekend before the Super Bowl (usually the last weekend in January) in Charlotte, North Carolina, so volunteers should be free to travel at that time.

There are also positions available for dedicated state board members and staff who wish to participate in ARBO's committee structure, but don't have much time for travel outside of the Annual Meeting. For example, the Nominating Committee is always in need of fair-minded individuals who have the best interests of the organization in mind. It is the job of the Nominating Committee to interview potential candidates for positions on the Board of Directors and make recommendations to the voting delegates. The Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee is another that plays an important role at the Annual Meeting.

For more information on ARBO's committee structure, please visit our website (www.arbo.org) or contact the office. ARBO truly appreciates all of our volunteers and your hard work. YOU ARE ARBO. Thanks! ❖



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Connie Danner
Administrative Assistant

Karen Donica
Program Coordinator

Annual Meeting Attendance Scholarship Policy

In order to increase participation in the governance of the Association by its Member Boards, the ARBO Board of Directors voted to implement a \$250 scholarship to help offset travel expenses associated with attendance at ARBO's Annual Meetings.

The following criteria must be met:

1. Available only for those states that would otherwise not have representation at the Annual Meeting due to lack of funding for travel expenses.
2. Board's membership status in ARBO must be in good standing with current year's dues paid.
3. Individual must be registered for and attend the Annual Meeting. (Note: Registration fee may be paid or reimbursed by the Board which is to be represented.)
4. Only one scholarship will be awarded per state per year.

Procedure:

1. Letter on Member Board letterhead stating travel funds are not available and requesting the scholarship must be submitted to ARBO before or during the Annual Meeting.
2. Scholarship checks will be issued the week after the Annual Meeting (upon confirmation of attendance) and will be payable to the individual in attendance.

Note: The \$250 scholarship is separate from and in addition to the \$500 stipend available for attending the NBEO Workshop.