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Become One of a Select Few!!

Please consider becoming a certified reviewer of courses submitted for COPE approval. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will promote fair and uniform course evaluations across the country. In the end, these quality control measurers will benefit practitioners as well as the public that we serve.



What do I need to do to become certified?

- You must complete and submit a Course Reviewer Questionnaire.
- You must be endorsed by your optometry board; this endorsement will be secured by ARBO once you volunteer.
- Once endorsed, you will receive instructions to complete the online COPE reviewer training that consists of four 5-20 minute self-paced educational modules followed by a short self-assessment.
- Once the training has been successfully completed, you will receive your congratulatory packet of information, including a certificate suitable for framing and a lapel pin.

How much time will this take from my already busy schedule?

COPE reviewers are not requested to review more than two courses at any given time. The review of a course typically takes 30 to 60 minutes.

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process.
For more information please email arbo@arbo.org.



Editor: Janet L. Carter, O.D.

September 2008

ARBO 89th Annual Meeting a Rousing Success!

The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) had a very educational, entertaining, and successful 89th Annual Meeting June 22-24, 2008 in Seattle, Washington. The meeting was attended by 97 individuals, which included representatives from 38 member boards with 37 voting delegates. The other attendees included guests, invited speakers, and staff.

As is traditional, the ARBO meeting opened with a variety of workshops for attendees. Dale Atkinson, ARBO General Counsel, gave a training session for board members. There was also a presentation from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, which featured updates on the restructured examinations as well as statistical analysis of the previous year's candidate performance. The Member Board Executive Directors/Administrators enjoyed a workshop on ARBO programs and how they can be best utilized by board staff.

The Annual Meeting officially started with a stirring opening ceremony Sunday afternoon featuring a performance by the Seattle Taiko Kokon drummers. The Sunday reports to the delegates included those of the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Interim Executive Director. Reports were given from the National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC), as well as from the ARBO/NBEO Directors. Dale Atkinson, JD gave his always-popular Legal Update. The Bylaws Committee concluded the afternoon by presenting proposed changes to the Bylaws that were to be considered by the delegates later in the meeting.

Monday's meeting featured further reports from the Nominating, Resolutions, and Bylaws Committees. There were reports as well from the Optometric Competence Committee, CELMO, the International Affairs Committee, COPE, and OE Tracker. A number of changes to the Bylaws were discussed and voted upon. Among those passed with the required 2/3 votes were a number of "housekeeping" changes that clarified language in the existing Bylaws, as well as several proposed substantive changes. The substantive changes to our Bylaws that were approved included an increase in the required number of Active Member Boards for a quorum at the Annual Meeting, clarifications in the role

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of the Nominating Committee, and changes in the qualifications for ARBO positions on the NBEO Board of Directors. The ARBO Bylaws as amended at the Seattle Annual Meeting are posted in full on the ARBO website, www.arbo.org.

The meeting continued Tuesday with further business, including the official introduction of Diane L. Nickolson as the next ARBO Executive Director, and the announcement that the ARBO headquarters would be relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina. The most important order of business on Tuesday was the elections. Christina M. Sorenson was re-elected to a second term to the Board of Directors by acclamation. There were two contested races for the other open board positions. Dr. Ernest Schlabach of Virginia was elected to a four-year term, and Dr. Stephen Lewis of Louisiana was elected to a three-year term. Four nominees for the ARBO Candidates for the ACOE appointment, Drs. Jon Ishihara of Hawaii, Dr. David Reed of Maryland, Dr. Robert Sorrell of Ohio, and Dr. Robert Weiland of Iowa were also elected. A special thanks to all those willing to serve!

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President's Report

I hope that you all had a great summer and are enjoying the cooler days and nights as we approach the fall season. It certainly has been a busy time for ARBO! Our Annual Meeting in Seattle was capped by the introduction of our new Executive Director, Diane Nickolson (Diane had been serving as ARBO's interim director for the last several months). Diane has been very, very busy "getting up to speed" and preparing for the transition to a new job, a new home, and a new office! Thank you, Diane! Even as this transition occurs, ARBO continues its work to increase OE Tracker utilization, and to refine the COPE Standards for Commercial Support. Of course, we continue with our bread-and-butter work to support our programs such as COPE and CELMO.



As you may know, the ARBO Board of Directors is moving its office to Charlotte, North Carolina. It was the decision of the Board that this would result in cost savings to the organization, as many of our IT activities are centered there already. (ARBO already shares IT staff with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, and there is potential for further pooling of resources). I would like to give my heartfelt thank you to the St. Louis staff members who have been so helpful during this transition. Good work, guys!! We also welcome our two new ARBO board members who have jumped right in to help with all that needs to be done. ARBO is in the process of finalizing a lease for space in Charlotte. We hope that the move is complete by mid-Fall. If you're in Charlotte, pay us a visit! Our toll-free numbers and email address should remain the same.

Again, thanks to all for the hard work you do on behalf of the public interest. During this campaign season it is good to remember that the work of government could not be done without help of volunteers such as you who help administer the laws that protect the public and regulate practitioners. Thanks!! ☐

Christina M. Sorenson, O.D.
President

Mark Your Calendars for June 21-23, 2009!

... to attend the 90th ARBO Annual Meeting in the historic area of Washington, DC. You won't want to miss this special meeting celebrating 90 years of ARBO representing and assisting member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare. This historic annual meeting will be held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.



Washington, DC visitors enjoy access to an impressive list of free and fascinating attractions, from the powerful monuments and memorials on the National Mall to inspiring cultural treasures like the Smithsonian Institution, Library of Congress and National Gallery of Art. A diverse and beautiful world capital, DC invites visitors to step beyond these federal landmarks to explore charming neighborhoods like historic Georgetown, eclectic Adams-Morgan and trendy U Street. DC's neighborhoods tempt visitors with chic boutiques, hip new restaurants and bars, world-class theatres, art galleries and peaceful parks and gardens.

For more information or to register, go to the ARBO website at www.arbo.org! ☐



ARBO acknowledges and extends thanks to the following volunteers for their generous contributions of time and expertise to ARBO Committees and activities.

ARBO Board Committees

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Murray J. Turnour, OD - Ontario
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Beth De Spiegelaere, O.D. - Minnesota
Murray J. Turnour, O.D. - Ontario
Susy Yu, O.D. - California
Stephen W. Lewis, O.D. - Board Liaison - Louisiana
William B. Rafferty, O.D. - Consultant - North Carolina

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Steven H. Eyler, O.D. - Consultant - North Carolina
Jerry A. Richt, O.D. - Consultant - Tennessee
Ernest Schlabach, O.D. - Virginia - Board Liaison

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Jeanne Murphy-Moore, O.D. - Maryland

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Beth De Spiegelaere, O.D. - Minnesota
Jill Martinson, O.D. - North Dakota
Bruce L. Rakusin, O.D. - Massachusetts
David K. Talley, O.D. - Tennessee
Robert W. Smalling, O.D. - Consultant - Arkansas
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Hal V. Marsell, O.D. - Utah
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Joe Baker, Jr. - Florida
Penny Bowie - Kansas
Howard F. Flippin, O.D. - Arkansas
Margaret Whelan - Arizona
Michael W. Ohlson, O.D. - Board Liaison - Iowa

NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION REVIEW (NBERC)

Caroline Griego, O.D., Chair - Arizona
Doug Ayre, O.D. - Kansas
Gregory A. Foster, O.D. - Wisconsin
Martha Greenberg, O.D. - Alabama
Joseph Sullivan, O.D. - Kansas
Mike Weideman, O.D. - Wyoming
Michael W. Ohlson, O.D. - Board Liaison - Iowa

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Denise Dobbins, O.D., Chair - Kentucky
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Gregory A. Foster, O.D. - Wisconsin
Caroline Griego, O.D. - Arizona
Janet L. Carter, O.D. - Board Liaison - Nevada

OE TRACKER

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Jeffrey L. Kraskin, O.D. - District of Columbia
Richard Orgain, O.D. - Tennessee
Roger D. Pabst, O.D. - Minnesota
Joseph Sullivan, O.D. - Kansas
Susy Yu, O.D. - California
Steven H. Eyler, O.D. - Consultant - North Carolina
Jack E. Terry, O.D., Ph.D. - Consultant - North Carolina
Donovan L. Crouch, O.D. - Board Co-Liaison - Iowa
Ernest Schlabach, O.D. - Board Co-Liaison - Virginia



Introducing Stephen L. Lewis, O.D.

Dr. Stephen Lewis was elected to serve a three-year term on the ARBO Board of Directors. Dr. Lewis attended the University of Mississippi and received his doctorate from the Southern College of Optometry. He has served as clinical preceptor to optometric interns, clinical examiner for the NBEO and chaired ARBO's National Board Examination Review Committee. Dr. Lewis practices in Shreveport, Louisiana and his favorite activity is spending time with his family, wife Liz, and their sons Landon and Trenton. □

ARBO Call for Action

One of the ARBO seats on the National Board of Optometry (NBEO) will be open in December of 2008. Dr. Steven Eyer will be concluding his second term on the NBEO Board and is ineligible for re-election. In October the ARBO Board of Directors will be nominating at least three candidates from which the NBEO Board will elect Dr. Eyer's replacement. This call for action is an organizational request for potential candidates to nominate.

The NBEO is an established, non-profit corporation primarily engaged in testing and evaluation. The National Board has a full-time staff of eleven, utilizes over 750 people nationwide in support of its examination programs, and has an annual budget in excess of \$3.5 million.

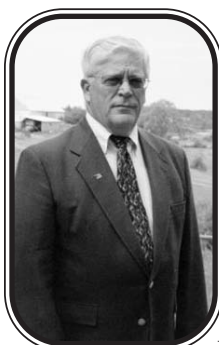
As a Board Member of the NBEO, the member must have familiarity with the profession of optometry and knowledge of the mission and programs of the organization as well as the governing documents (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws) and policies and procedures. The NBEO Board Member term commitment is for four years, with this term beginning in December of 2008 through December of 2012.

In addition, the Board Member must be willing to:

- *Serve as a member of any Board committees as appointed by the President and function as an active participant in discussions.*
- *Serve as a committee chair as appointed by the President.*
- *Communicate regularly with Board Members and the Executive Director.*

To be eligible for nomination of an ARBO seat on the NBEO Board, the candidate must currently be a member of an ARBO Member Board in good standing, or have served within the preceding twelve months. Additionally, any current members of the ARBO Board of Directors are eligible for nomination. Since the NBEO examinations are only used within the United States, it is unlikely that a member outside of the US would be elected to the NBEO Board.

If you are interested in submitting your name to the ARBO Board for consideration and you meet the requirements listed, please send your C.V. and a letter of interest to: **Diane Nickolson, ARBO Executive Director at Diane@arbo.org by September 29, 2008.** □



Introducing W. Ernest Schlabach, O.D.

A member of the Virginia Board of Optometry since 2004, Dr. Ernest Schlabach has a rich history in the profession. Having practiced for over 39 years Dr. Schlabach has served as president of the Virginia Optometric Association, the Virginia Academy of Optometry, the Shenandoah Valley Optometric Society and the Southern Council of Optometrists. He has served on many committees for the American Optometric Association, the American Public Health Association, Optometric Extension Program Foundation, and has served on the ARBO CELMO Committee.

His civic activities include contributions to the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National M.S. Society, the United Way, and the Harrisonburg Community Activity Center. Dr. Schlabach has farmed his own apple orchard and raised beef cattle for over 15 years. He is especially proud of his two champion show horses that he has raised. He lives in Harrisonburg, VA with his wife Virginia. □



Bizarre Cases

The following information was initially presented at the ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle by Joe Baker, Jr., Florida Board Executive Director and Board Executive Directors/Administrators Committee member. The presentation's title was "Discipline 101: An Overview of Difficult (and Bizarre) Cases". This is the first of a two-part series.

As our committee planned for the 2008 gathering in Seattle, we thought it might be advantageous and interesting to solicit disciplinary case information from our colleagues and then present an overview of several of the cases received. My presentation generated a good amount of discussion during the gathering of executive directors and administrators. It seems discussions surrounding the disciplinary process typically get our regulatory juices flowing and lively conversation ensued!

I will start this overview by presenting information shared by the Minnesota board on a case which lasted from 2002-2007. The initial complaint involved an allegation of intoxication by the OD; he was subsequently evaluated and signed an agreement to participate in a monitoring program. Within a year he had been discharged from program for failing to comply with random screenings. The board got back involved with the case, put him on a stayed suspension and the OD re-enrolled in the monitoring program. Three short months later guess what? Yet another positive screen which resulted in his agreeing to cease practice and to receive a chemical dependency assessment.

Shortly thereafter it is determined the OD did not cease practice as he agreed to do and was still seeing patients – all while additional positive screenings are uncovered. The stay on the suspension is lifted. The OD remained in the monitoring program but was discharged on New Year's Eve of that year for non-compliance. The board then suspends his license and he files an appeal for reinstatement. The suspension in once again stayed and the OD has since remained compliant with his monitoring program. But what a four-year roller coaster ride for the board, the OD, and his patients.

Let's go west to Hawaii for a case involving an OD with licenses in multiple jurisdictions – and different scopes of practice. Our colleagues in Hawaii report this case was their first formal discipline in over 10 years by the way. A Kentucky OD moved to Hawaii and as part of her treatment plan wrote a prescription to a patient for Tylenol 3 – a controlled substance. The pharmacist files a complaint since an OD cannot prescribe controlled substances in Hawaii. The OD's limited defense was that she could prescribe back in Kentucky – clearly a wrong assumption to make in her new home. The case was settled with a \$500 fine but the OD could face criminal sanctions based upon her action.

And now to Texas for a case with a feline twist. A complaint about cats in an OD's office was closed since it was anonymous. So a signed complaint comes back and an investigation – which includes a referral to OSHA – commences. The OD responds to the board that the cats are a "natural pest control system". The OD's employees contact OSHA directly for assistance and a citation was issued against the OD for having pets in a work environment. The board offers to close the complaint if the cats are removed from the premises. No deal says the OD. An additional complaint is received by the board from a patient alleging cats in the office and cat waste issues. The OD subsequently replies to the board that current and former staff members are trying to sabotage her. A defiant OD finally meets with the board on the case; the board offers to settle with a 3-months stayed suspension and one-year probation. The OD doesn't accept the offer, hires counsel and the case goes to mediation. An eight-hour mediation marathon resulted in agreement on a \$4,500 fine for a violation of the board's sanitary conditions rule.

Stay tuned for additional case overviews in the next GREENSheet. □

COPE Committee Meeting

The ARBO COPE Committee held a very productive meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on June 7-8, 2008. Dur-



ing the meeting they reviewed the comments received regarding the proposed new COPE Standards for Commercial Support as well as worked on the timeline and implementation schedule for the finalization of the standards. During the committee review of their mission statement and current resolutions, it was decided to submit a new resolution to the ARBO House of Delegates supporting the proposed COPE Standards for Commercial Support to enhance optometric continuing education. The resolution was accepted and passed during the June 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. A great deal of time was also spent reviewing and discussing the implementation of and enhancements to COPE. It was decided to move into a dual reviewer process to ensure consistency and transparency, move forward with establishing an onsite reviewer plan, and focus on increasing the number of approved COPE reviewers.

In attendance was Dr. Jerald Combs, COPE Committee Chair, Dr. Jill Martinson, Dr. William Rafferty, Dr. Bruce Rakusin, Dr. Jerry Richt, Dr. Robert Smalling, Dr. Christina Sorenson, Dr. Jack Terry, Diane Nickolson, Stacey Steelman and Tony Cole. □

ARBO 89th Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

The official business of the meeting concluded Tuesday with the granting of Life Membership to Past-Presidents Robert Sorrell of Ohio and Robert Easton, Jr. of Florida. A resolution from the delegates supporting the COPE standards for commercial support was also passed, and the 2009 ARBO budget approved. The ARBO Board of Directors announced that it had elected the following officers for the 2008-2009 administrative year: President, Dr. Christina Sorenson of Arizona; Vice President, Dr. Jerry Richt of Tennessee; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. William Rafferty of North Carolina, and Past President Dr. Robert Smalling of Arkansas. All ARBO Past-Presidents in attendance participated in the passing of the gavel ceremony, and after brief remarks from President Sorenson the meeting was adjourned.

Of course, the ARBO Annual Meeting is much more than just the important business conducted there. During the course of the meeting the delegates heard a number of reports from a variety of organizations, including FARB, AOSA, AOA, ACOE, the Veterans

Administration, AAO, and ASCO. Dr. David Talley gave an excellent lecture on the latest developments in eyecare and how they might impact state boards. The member board Execs and Administrators enjoyed a lively workshop and discussion headed by Joe Baker on difficult disciplinary cases. (A synopsis of Mr. Baker's workshop will be included in this and the next issue of the GREENSheet). Various corporate representatives participated in a lively panel discussion on the latest trends in eye care. Delegates had ample opportunity to present updates on happenings in their own jurisdictions, and of course there was lively conversation and sharing during breaks, luncheons, and the President's reception on Monday night.

ARBO's Annual Meeting is always a highlight of the year. Elsewhere in this issue of the GREENSheet you will find information on the 90th Annual Meeting to be held June 21-23rd, 2009 in the Washington, D.C. area. ARBO is proud to announce that our 2009 meeting will be held at the Gaylord, the same hotel that is housing the AOA meeting later in the week. There is already a link on our website to online registration for the 2009 meeting. Start planning now to attend! ☐



From the Executive Director

The past few months have seen many changes for ARBO; it has certainly been an exciting summer! I find myself often thinking of Bob Dylan's words ... "The times, they are a-changing."

The 2008 Annual Meeting was enthusiastically received; those in attendance appreciated the open discussions, sharing of information and educational activities. Immediately following the Annual Meeting the Board appoints new ARBO Committees, many of whom have begun to work on their goals and objectives. The planning for the ARBO 90th Anniversary Celebration and 2009 Annual Meeting is well under way – you won't want to miss it! Be sure to mark your calendars for June 21-23, 2009 where we will be at the new Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, Maryland (just outside of Washington, DC). Registration is up and running on the website. There you can register online, or print and send in your materials. We will post updated information as available.

As we have been working to prepare for the busiest CE season in Optometry, COPE has been of highest importance. We have added a record number of COPE reviewers, have been fine-tuning the COPE review processes, and the COPE new standards for commercial support have generated a great deal of activity. The use of OE TRACKER has continued to grow and some of our

member boards and administrators are using the data in very creative ways. As the new committee reviews its goals and objectives staff are setting the stage for implementing improvements; 2009 should be a pivotal year for OE TRACKER.

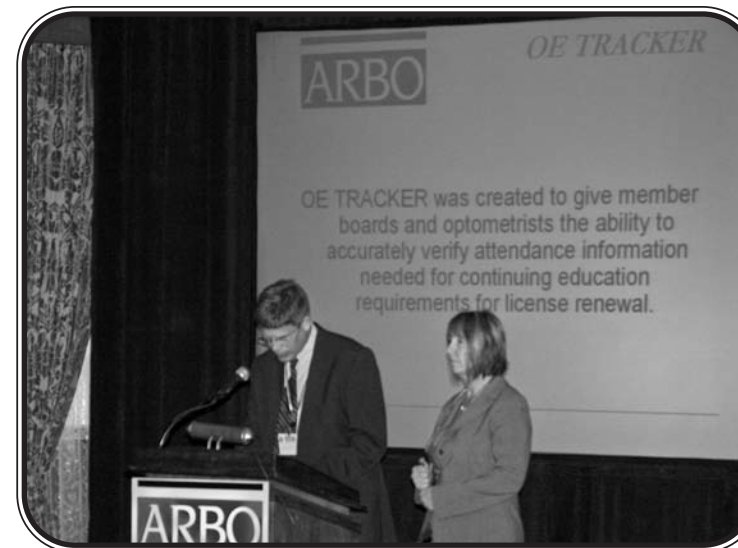
Along with everything else we are in the midst of preparing to relocate the office to Charlotte, North Carolina. Most of the St. Louis staff will not be making the move, and have secured other positions. Stacey will remain on staff to work remotely on the COPE review process. In Charlotte, office space has been secured and we have started the build-out. The search for new staff in Charlotte has begun. Watch the ARBO website for the latest information about the move (www.arbo.org).

2009 will see many new faces, new approaches and a new home for ARBO. It is remarkable that an organization which has existed for 90 years can still be flexible and adjust to meet its member requirements, as well as acknowledge the need to improve their services to support the profession. I'm thrilled to be a part of ARBO and hope to continue to support these important activities for many years to come.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge and thank all of you who have been so welcoming and willing to help. As staff we are working to keep the standards of service high even with the challenging times and stretching of resources. Thank you for your patience and support! ☐

Diane L. Nickolson

ARBO 89th Annual Meeting in Photos



Jerry Richt and President Sorenson present part of the OE TRACKER Report



The Seattle Taiko Kokon drummers "rev up" the audience at the meeting's opening ceremony



ARBO Past-Presidents (left to right: Bob Smalling, Janet Carter, Bob Sorrell, Don Crouch, Steve Eycler, and Howard Flippin) are honored by President Sorenson with the "Passing of the Gavel"



Member Board Executive Directors and Administrators listen to a workshop by Joe Baker, ED of the Florida Board



Delegates enjoy luncheon and a chance to network