ARBO’s 88th Annual Meeting
a Rousing Success!

A record number of attendees representing 42 states were in attendance at ARBO’s 88th Annual Meeting that took place June 24-26 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, Massachusetts. The delegates participated in discussions, workshops, continuing education on new technology and ethical issues of particular interest to our member boards, and conducted the business of your organization. A good time was had by all! We have included a number of photos of the meeting in this issue; maybe yours is among them!

The Sunday morning prior to the official opening of the Annual Meeting is always devoted to workshops for board members. Dale Atkinson, ARBO’s legal counsel, started the day with Board Member Training. A concurrent session for Executive Directors and Administrators discussed issues related to optometric competence. Later in the morning attendees learned more about current activities of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

The Annual Meeting officially opened with a stirring flag ceremony conducted by the Middlesex County Volunteers Color Guard and Fifes and Drum. The drum and fife corps played the National Anthems of both countries (Canada and the US) represented by the delegates. Later Bruce Rakusin, OD, Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry gave a warm personal welcome to the delegates. The day continued with reports from ARBO’s President and Executive Director and from several committees. Two highlights of the afternoon were the lecture given by William Rafferty, OD on “Alternative Medicine in Optometry and Related Regulatory Considerations” and a special presentation made to Congressman John Boozman (R-Arkansas). Elsewhere in this issue we have a complete report on this award!

Monday’s meeting continued with reports to the delegates on all of ARBO’s programs, including COPE, CELMO, and OE TRACKER. Dale Atkinson gave his always popular legal update, in which he discusses cases of interest to regulatory boards that have been litigated over the previous year. Later in the day there were again concurrent workshops: Board members enjoyed a COPE-approved presentation by Paul Karpecki, OD on “New Therapeutics That Will Affect the Practice Act”, and the Member Board Executive Directors/Administrators attended a presentation and discussion on OE TRACKER and how it can be best utilized to assist ARBO’s member boards. The official proceedings ended with a report from the American Optometric Association President Tommy Crooks, OD, and reports from Christina Sorenson on the recent 2020 Summits and Sherry Cooper on regulatory issues of interest.

Of course, a highlight of every meeting is the President’s Reception held Monday evening after the close of business. This special event gives attendees and their guests a chance to mingle and continue the discussions of the day.

One highlight of the final day of the Annual Meeting is always the ARBO elections. Three positions on the Board were up for election, and two of those positions were contested. It is always good to see such interest in the future of our organization! The final day also featured an industry panel on future developments in the profession, as well as a participatory presentation by Richard Weisbarth, OD on “Ethical Considerations in Optometric Practice”. Dr. Weisbarth left the attendees with a lot to think about regarding the boundaries of ethical practice.

The meeting concluded with the passing of the gavel, as President Easton ended his term and ARBO’s newly elected President, Dr. Christina Sorenson of Arizona, took over. Special recognition was given to Dr. Easton for his year of service. Perhaps the most touching moment of the meeting came when Dr. Sorenson rose to also recognize the two retiring members of ARBO’s Board of Directors, Drs. Russ Jones and Roger Seelye. Both will be missed! (cont. on page 3)
Mike Ohlson, OD of Iowa Elected to ARBO Board of Directors

Dr. Mike Ohlson, a member of the Iowa Board of Optometry, was elected to the ARBO Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts in June. Dr. Ohlson graduated from Buena Vista College and received his doctorate from the University of Houston College of Optometry. He has served as a clinical preceptor to optometric interns, coordinator of a residency program, and as a clinical examiner for the NBEO. Dr. Ohlson’s previous experience with ARBO includes work as a COPE course reviewer and as a member of the Contemporary Issues/Continuing Competence Committee.

Dr. Ohlson practices in West Union, Iowa. His volunteer efforts include InfantSEE, Lions Club International-Special Olympics Opening Eyes, and Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity/International. In 2004 he was awarded the honor of Diplomate status in the American Academy of Optometry’s Primary Care Section. His favorite activity, however, is spending time with his wife Joleen and their daughter Samantha.

Give Sight, Give Hope

World Sight Day is October 11, and Optometry Giving Sight is encouraging all optometrists (and their staff and patients) to join the World Sight Day Challenge. The campaign will give sight to the estimated 13 million children who are blind or vision impaired simply because they do not have a pair of glasses. Optometrists and staff can participate in the World Sight Day Challenge by signing up for a regular donation as little as $5 per month and donating exam fees on World Sight day and asking patients to add $5 to their invoices through the month of October.

Optometry Giving Sight is the only global initiative that specifically targets the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to refractive error.

Optometrists can register and get more information at www.givingsight.org.

President’s Report -- Christina Sorenson, OD

I am thrilled and honored to serve as your President of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry this year. I look forward to a productive and exciting term. Your Board of Directors stands ready to continue to expand and improve on ARBO’s programs to meet our stated mission of representing and assisting member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare.

A key objective this year is to continue to improve our flagship program, COPE (the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education). We will be introducing new standards for commercial support, and a great deal of effort will be involved in informing Member Boards and CE providers as to these changes. In addition, we hope to fully institute a program of onsite audits, with instructor feedback from the COPE monitors. You will be hearing a lot more about these two aspects of COPE as the year progresses.

The OE TRACKER system will continue to expand and improve over the coming months. My goal is to make it workable for all venues and meeting sizes. I also would like to see CELMO (Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists) grow and be accepted by more states as a significant credential in determining eligibility for practice. ARBO will continue to actively participate in the Joint Board Certification Project Team to insure that Member Board interests are represented in any future developments in this arena.

Perhaps my most important goal for the coming year is to be responsive to and increase interaction with our Member Boards. I hope to accomplish this through our state liaisons on the Board of Directors, regional and annual meetings, electronic newsletters, and increased volunteer recruitment and retention. I want the Board of Directors to be accessible to our Member Boards and responsive to their needs.

Finally, let me be the first to welcome ARBO’s newest member, the province of British Columbia, Canada. We are very excited to have you on board, and look forward to meeting members of your board and staff in the near future.

Again, Thanks to all ARBO Board Members, staff, and volunteers for giving me this opportunity to give back to our organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help make ARBO better assist you and your board. My email address is Sorenson.Christina@mayo.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!
WELCOME TO ARBO’S NEWEST MEMBER: BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Canadian province of British Columbia is the newest voting member of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry. The House of Delegates at ARBO’s 2007 Annual Meeting unanimously approved British Columbia’s application for membership. “We are very pleased to have the British Columbia Board join ARBO and we look forward to their participation,” stated Dr. Christina Sorenson, ARBO President. She continued, “We look forward to seeing them at next year’s Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.”

The British Columbia Board of Examiners in Optometry has six optometrist members elected by the profession at large and three public members appointed by the Ministry of Health. The board was formed by the passage of the first Optometry Act in B.C. in 1921. As of January 1, 2007, there are 537 licensed optometrists in British Columbia, of which 444 are in active practice in the province. The board’s email address is optometry_board@telus.net, and their chief administrative officer is Ms. Stanka Jovicic in Vancouver. The board’s website can be viewed at www.optometrybc.com.

British Columbia is the westernmost of Canada’s 10 provinces and the third largest. Its area is larger than that of Germany and France combined, and the province is home to 4.31 million people. Its capital is Victoria, on Vancouver Island. The city of Vancouver, home to the optometry board, is the third largest city in Canada.

ARBO welcomes our newest member and we look forward to meeting the board soon!

Annual Meeting (cont. from page 1)

If you haven’t attended one of ARBO’s Annual Meetings, you have missed lots of opportunities to learn and to enjoy the fellowship of board members and administrators like yourself. Throughout the meeting board members are given an opportunity to report on issues of interest in their jurisdictions, and to ask questions of fellow members who may have similar concerns. Every year we learn that the challenges we face are very similar no matter where our jurisdiction, and we learn from our colleagues how others have dealt with these issues. Please mark your calendars now: ARBO’s 2008 Annual Meeting will be held June 22-24, 2008, at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle, Washington. This is a lovely venue in a vibrant city, and you will want to be part of the excitement!

Welcome Dr. David Cockrell, AOA Liaison Trustee to ARBO Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. David Cockrell as our liaison from the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees to ARBO for the 2007-2008 year. Dr. Cockrell practices in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He has the added distinction of being the current Vice-President of the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners in Optometry, and has been a delegate to several ARBO meetings.

In his introductory letter to the ARBO Board of Directors Dr. Cockrell states: “It promises to be an exciting year with many important issues to address.” We welcome Dr. Cockrell as our AOA liaison, and agree with his statement that “it will be especially pleasant to work with special friends.”

Dr. Roger Seelye (MI) Bestowed Life Membership in ARBO

The ARBO House of Delegates unanimously voted to approve a resolution, submitted by the Michigan Board of Optometry, bestowing Life Membership on Dr. Roger Seelye (Michigan) at the 88th meeting of ARBO, held June 24-26, 2007, in Boston, MA. Dr. Seelye was elected to the ARBO Board of Directors in June, 2005, and most recently served as ARBO’s Secretary-Treasurer in 2006-2007.

The resolution, which has been approved by ARBO’s Judicial Council, follows:

Resolution #2 of 2007:

WHEREAS, Dr. Roger R. Seelye has unselfishly provided dedicated service to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his two years on the Board of Directors, including service as Secretary-Treasurer, 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry has substantially benefited from Dr. Seelye’s contribution of assiduous leadership throughout his terms as Director and Secretary-Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seelye has a long record of outstanding service to the profession of optometry through his volunteer leadership roles in the Michigan and American Optometric Associations, and as Chair of the Michigan Board of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, the member boards of this Association wish to formally acknowledge Dr. Seelye’s contributions to the Association and the profession; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 88th Annual Meeting, expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Roger R. Seelye for his distinguished service and outstanding contributions, and bestows upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.
ARBO’s 2007 Annual Meeting
June 24-26, 2007
Boston, Massachusetts

Ceremony

Luxury

State & Committee Updates
Good Food

Good Friends

Elections

Recognitions

Networking

Education
Russ Jones, OD Awarded Life Membership in ARBO

Dr. Russell Jones was honored at the 88th Annual Meeting of ARBO for his long-time dedication to the organization, and was bestowed Life Membership by the delegates. Dr. Jones recently retired from the ARBO Board of Directors after serving for nine years. During his tenure he held all the offices of ARBO, and served as our President in 2001. He also served twice as President of the Arizona Board of Optometry, and served as an ARBO representative to the NBEO.

Christina Sorenson, OD, current chair of the Arizona Board, accepted the Life Membership award on behalf of Dr. Jones. Dr. Jones had hoped to attend the 88th Annual Meeting, but was unable to do so because of illness. Dr. Sorenson stated that she knew he was there in spirit, and publicly thanked him for his years of distinguished service.

Dr. Jones is known throughout ARBO for his quiet leadership style, dry wit, and constant good humor. Russ and his wife Daphne are enjoying their retirement in Flagstaff, Arizona. They truly appreciate the emails, phone calls, and well-wishes received from many of their ARBO friends, and encourage all of you to “stay in touch.” Russ and Daphne hope to be able to join us at the 89th Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The Resolution granting Dr. Jones Life Membership read as follows:

Resolution #1 of 2007:

WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Jones has performed outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his thirty years in attendance and his nine years on the Board of Directors, including service as President, 2001, and Vice President, 2000, and Secretary – Treasurer, 1999, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones has twice served as President of the Arizona Board of Optometry, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones has served on the National Board of Examiners Board of Directors 2002-2006 as our Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry representative, and

WHEREAS, his service has been exemplified by sterling qualities of leadership for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, the member boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Dr. Jones’ contributions to the Association and the profession; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 88th Annual Meeting, expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Jones for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions, and bestows upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.

Mark Your Calendars Now for the ARBO 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle!

Plans are already underway for ARBO’s 2008 Annual Meeting June 22 through 24 at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel. This beautiful property is the Pacific Northwest’s only AAA Five Diamond Hotel, a designation it has held since 1984. The Fairmont Olympic provides impeccable service as well as two award-winning restaurants. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is ideally located in the heart of Seattle, just short walk from the city’s most exciting attractions, including the famous Pike Place Market, the Seattle Waterfront, and the Space Needle. The Fairmont offers 26,000 square feet of stunning meeting space and countless amenities, including a full service health club, spa, and indoor swimming pool.

The Seattle area is beautiful in June, and the weather usually picture-perfect. We are sure that this will be one of the nicest ARBO venues yet!! Please plan on joining us!
## Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- Dr. Donovan L. Crouch, Chair
- Dr. Janet L. Carter
- Dr. William B. Rafferty
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt
- Dr. Robert W. Smalling

## Executive Committee
- Dr. Christina M. Sorenson, Chair
- Dr. Robert M. Easton
- Dr. William B. Rafferty
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt

## Finance/Budget Committee
- Dr. William B. Rafferty, Chair
- Dr. Michael W. Ohlson
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt

## Industry Relations Committee
- Dr. Donovan L. Crouch, Chair
- Dr. Michael W. Ohlson
- Dr. Robert W. Smalling
- Dr. Robert L. Sorrell
- Dr. Steven H. Eyler - Consultant
- Dr. William W. Rafferty - Consultant
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt, Consultant

## Legislative Affairs Committee
- Dr. Robert M. Easton, Chair

## Optometric Competence Committee
- Dr. Steven H. Eyler, Chair
- Dr. Donovan L. Crouch
- Dr. William B. Rafferty
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt
- Dr. Robert W. Smalling

## Liaison Appointments

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<td>AAO</td>
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<td>JBCPT</td>
<td>Drs. William B. Rafferty &amp; Christina M. Sorenson</td>
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## Other Appointments

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<tr>
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<td>The GREENSheet Editor</td>
<td>Dr. Janet L. Carter</td>
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<td>Legal Counsel</td>
<td>Mr. Dale Atkinson</td>
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<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Dr. Janet L. Carter</td>
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<td>Public Relations Consultant</td>
<td>Mr. John McLendon</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Phillips</td>
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## Committees

### Bylaws Committee
- Ms. Patricia Bennett, Chair (MD)
- Ms. Penny Bowie (KS)
- Dr. Jeffrey L. Kraskin (DC)
- Dr. Murray J. Turnour (ON)
- Dr. Robert L. Sorrell—Consultant
- Dr. Janet L. Carter - Board Liaison

### Contemporary Issues Committee
- Dr. Murray J. Turnour, Chair (ON)
- Dr. D. William Lakin (MI)
- Dr. Jeanne Murphy-Moore (MD)
- Dr. Christopher Olson (IA)
- Dr. Roger D. Pabst (MN)
- Dr. William B. Rafferty—Board Liaison

### Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE)
- Dr. Jerald F. Combs, Chair (KY)
- Dr. Larry J. Barger (OH)
- Dr. Dane F. Dansie (UT)
- Dr. Frederick P. Darin (MI)
- Dr. Jill R. Martinson (ND)
- Dr. Bruce L. Rakusin—MA
- Dr. William B. Rafferty—Consultant

### International Affairs Committee
- Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Chair (AR)

### Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee
- Dr. Elizabeth A. Carter, Chair (VA)
- Dr. Jeffrey L. Kraskin (DC)
- Dr. Hal V. Marsell (UT)
- Dr. James D. Sandefur (LA)
- Dr. Janet L. Carter—Board Liaison

### National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC)
- Dr. Stephen W. Lewis, Chair (LA)
- Dr. Frederick P. Darin (MI)
- Dr. Gregory A. Foster (WI)
- Dr. Caroline Grego (AZ)
- Dr. Bruce L. Rakusin (MA)
- Dr. Alice Sterling (FL)
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt—Board Liaison

### Nominating Committee
- Dr. Jeffrey L. Kraskin, Chair (DC)
- Dr. Larry J. Barger (OH)
- Dr. Denise M. Dobbins (KY)
- Dr. Caroline Grego (AZ)
- Dr. Alice Sterling (FL)
- Dr. William B. Rafferty—Board Liaison

### OE TRACKER Committee
- Dr. Frederick P. Darin, Chair (MI)
- Dr. Dane F. Dansie (UT)
- Dr. Howard F. Flippin (AR)
- Dr. Benjamin Ty Hubbard (MS)
- Dr. Michael W. Ohlson (IA)
- Dr. Richard C. Orgain (TN)
- Dr. Roger D. Pabst (MN)
- Dr. Jack E. Terry—Consultant
- Dr. Robert L. Sorrell—Board Liaison

### Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO)
- Ms. Laurie Mickelson, Chair (MN)
- Dr. W. Ernest Schlabach (VA)
- Dr. Linda L. Tharp (TN)
- Dr. Marcie D. Welsh (NY)
- Dr. Jack George Zarybinski (ID)
- Dr. Sharon M. Green—Consultant
- Dr. Jerry A. Richt—Consultant
- Dr. Penny E. Walter—Consultant
- Dr. Steven H. Eyler—Board Liaison

### Member Board Execs/Administrators Committee
- Ms. Laurie Mickelson, Chair (MN)
- Mr. Joe Baker, Jr. (FL)
- Ms. Penny Bowie (KS)
- Dr. Elizabeth A. Carter (VA)
- Ms. Margaret Whelan (AZ)
- Dr. Michael W. Ohlson—Board Liaison

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- Dr. David Cockrell
CONGRATULATIONS
ARBO Volunteers
Christina M. Sorenson, O.D., ARBO President and
Commander Penny E. Walter, O.D., CELMO Committee
on their selection as OD of the Year

Dr. Sorenson was selected as the Arizona Optometric Association’s OD of the Year. In addition to her tireless duties on ARBO’s Board of Directors, she consistently finds time to perform free school and nursing home screenings for the underprivileged in Phoenix. Her other many duties include (but most certainly are not limited to) serving as Director of Eye Services for the Mayo Clinic Ensenada Medical Mission, serves as Director and Treasurer of the Arizona Optometric Charitable Foundation, serving her second four-year term on the Arizona State Board of Optometry, and has served as a low vision consultant for the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix for the last 12 years. She is a member of the AzOA Legislative Committee and serves on the AOA Advanced Clinical Competence Team.

Dr. Walter currently serves on the CELMO Committee and has served on the Committee for the last 3 YEARS. She serves as a Senior Analyst on the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. She previously served as Executive Officer at the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity in Yorktown, VA. While there she directed a 130-member team and managed a $16 million budget. In the past she liaised with the USMC and the Program Executive Office to facilitate combat eyewear prescription inserts. The ballistically tested combat eyewear program was implemented within 60 days and more than 70,000 inserts have been issued to deploying troops. Dr. Walter also spearheaded the updated multi-service “Frame of Choice” program, a major quality of life upgrade, which has received rave reviews.

ARBO is extremely proud to have both of these outstanding optometrists in its volunteer structure.