COPE Achieves Substantial Equivalency with ACCME!

The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE®) CE accreditation system has been deemed Substantially Equivalent to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) CME accreditation system. To achieve this status, COPE submitted to an extensive, voluntary, external review process and was deemed substantially equivalent to the ACCME in: accreditation requirements, criteria, policies, and decision-making process. The process also included an accreditation interview and verification of the successful implementation of the COPE provider accreditation program.

CE/CME Accreditors are considered substantially equivalent by the ACCME if they support CE/CME that: enhances physician performance; is based on data describing physicians’ educational needs; has effectiveness assessed as it relates to physician performance or health status improvements; and is developed with the control of the content, quality and scientific integrity being the responsibility of the CE/CME provider.

To meet the needs of a continuously changing environment, COPE has adapted over time to be consistent with the CE/CME accreditation community. In 2010, COPE implemented Standards for Commercial Support (SCS) and later adopted the ACCME SCS aligning with other healthcare professions. Uniformity in the principles and outcomes of accredited CE/CME is valuable to licensing boards and physician learners by providing assurance that educational programs meet consistent and high standards regardless of profession.

COPE has made great efforts to align our accreditation requirements with the other healthcare professions based on resolutions passed by the ARBO House of Delegates (2012, 2014). The COPE accreditation criteria were adapted to be equivalent to other CE/CME accreditors and now require: education planning designed to positively affect skills, strategies, or patient outcomes of learners; assessment of the outcomes of educational activities; and quality improvement measures to better future activities. The result is accredited CE that is independent, free from commercial bias, based on valid content, and effective in improving the quality of care and better patient outcomes.

COPE has historically accredited individual CE activities. In January, an option was introduced for accreditation of CE providers similar to the provider accreditation system used by medicine. Provider accreditation allows for greater freedom and flexibility in the planning and presentation of CE. “We’ve modernized the COPE accreditation system to align with other health professions. CE/CME is no longer simply about getting hours because you need them for license renewal. Research shows that CE/CME is most effective when it’s based upon practice-based needs assessment and focused on outcomes. With these changes, we’re joining the gold standard of accreditors in healthcare (medicine, pharmacy and nursing) and will be able to demonstrate that COPE accredited CE has positive effects on optometrists’ knowledge, performance, and patient outcomes,” says Dr. James Campbell, COPE Committee Chair.

Dr. Richard Orgain, ARBO President, commented, “We’re very excited that COPE has achieved substantial equivalency with ACCME. With healthcare moving towards a team-based approach, CE/CME now often requires collaborative education efforts. With COPE’s accreditation process recognized as equivalent to the other healthcare professions, the door is open for optometrists to participate in interprofessional continuing education.”
Greetings,

My name is Rick Orgain, and I was installed as your new President in June during the annual ARBO meeting. I grew up in Virginia, moved to Tennessee after optometry school and just had my fortieth optometry school reunion several weeks ago. I have been an AOA member for those 40 years, State Association President, Legislative Chair, Public Communications Director, and on the Tennessee Board of Optometry for the maximum of two five-year terms. This is a very honorable and humbling position to be in, and I have had the honor of serving with the most wonderful and dedicated group of optometric leaders.

I’d like to add that our outgoing president, Greg Moore, was tireless and totally committed to serving the public and our profession. Two former presidents, Michael Ohlson and Roger Pabst, rotated off of the Board after years of total focus to your (our) organization. They all have been extremely valuable as leaders and mentors to all of us and to the member regulatory boards. I can’t thank the three of you enough for the impact all your efforts have had on ARBO and our membership.

As a review for the new and less informed Member Board members, I would want to give a brief history concerning our new status of COPE being deemed substantially equivalent to the ACCME. Having this status means that your COPE CE accreditation process is finally on an equal basis to that of medicine’s CME accreditation process. For years optometry has been criticized by medicine as having CE that is deficient to the CME of medicine. We first began this process back in 2012 after a resolution passed by the House of Delegates to implement a provider accreditation process similar to that used by medicine. It has been a long road, but we’re finally there.

For many years, ARBO has been repeatedly criticized by the AOA over COPE. They have been joined by ASCO and the AAO in complaining that they have had little or no official input into the development of present day COPE. In spite of that stance, many ARBO and COPE Committee members are members of those organizations. Additionally, it is important to note that everything ARBO does relates to public protection and regulatory oversight, while the other entities have very different missions: to represent optometry. To them, the public interest is secondary.

At our annual meeting in DC in June, the House of Delegates passed a resolution for the Board to continue in good faith discussions and explorations with AOA, ASCO and AAO on relevant stakeholder representation on COPE. We have asked for their input and expertise multiple times. So far, their response has been that if ARBO has any oversight, then they aren’t interested in participating. We will keep trying, but it now looks like they are moving ahead with developing a second accrediting body for optometric continuing education. In order to have another accreditation process that is equal to medicine, they will have to design a program that has the same requirements as COPE. Why would regulatory boards be satisfied with something new being created when your own program has already been in existence for 25 years?

I have repeatedly stated that another CE accreditation process would be redundant, a wasteful use of limited resources, and confusing for optometrists. I have asked each of the other boards to join us in our efforts with COPE. There are new opportunities for COPE to pursue that will allow us to offer accredited continuing education to other healthcare professions. However, the premier optometric CE provider and the optometry schools are following the AOA and refusing to participate unless COPE decision making is completely independent from ARBO. Since ARBO’s only mission is to represent licensing boards, (which are extensions of state government), it’s a control that’s not ours to give up.

What does this mean for you as a regulatory board? You are the agencies that are required by statute to utilize CE as a measure of continued competence for license renewal. The COPE program was created by ARBO’s members to provide quality assurance and uniformity in CE accreditation. As a member of ARBO, you have direct involvement in the COPE CE accreditation process. Should you accept CE that does not meet the same standards as COPE (and medicine)? COPE has been your CE accreditation program for 25 years. You have participated in setting the standards, policies and requirements. Why would you use any other program?

As a final note, the ACCME has stated publicly that COPE is the envy of the accreditation community because it is independent from industry, advocacy, and commercial interests. I encourage each of you to think about the importance of CE in the relicensure process. It is the only thing we have in optometry to demonstrate the continued competence of our licensees. We all need to work together to continue to protect the public and support the lifelong learning of optometrists.

Richard C. Orgain, O.D.
A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see everyone in DC at our 98th Annual Meeting. We tie the record with the number of boards in attendance this year and also had a record number of first time attendees! It was great to meet all the new members. I hope that you found the meeting valuable and plan to come back next year. For those of you who weren’t able to come, I encourage you to start planning and budgeting now for next year’s meeting in Denver. This is a critical time for regulatory agencies with so many changes happening, and the ARBO Annual Meeting is a great venue to learn how other Boards have addressed the same challenges you have and how ARBO’s programs can assist you in your regulatory efforts.

Dr. Orgain and the Board of Directors have appointed the new committees for 2017-2018, and they are already working on their plans for the year. You can find the committee lists on pages 8-9. Thank you to our many volunteers for all that you do for ARBO. We couldn’t do everything that we need to do without you. If you’re new to your Board, or if you’ve been around for a while, please consider volunteering for one of our committees. You can send me an email and let me know where your interest lies.

The staff and I are very excited to be working with all of the committees this year! Speaking of the staff, I’d like to introduce our newest member, Deirdre Baker. Deirdre joined ARBO in May as a Program Coordinator. Deirdre is responsible for providing customer service, uploading attendance into OE TRACKER, and working with the OE TRACKER Committee. Deirdre has been a wonderful addition to our team. Hopefully you’ll be able to meet her in person next summer in Denver and welcome her to the ARBO family.

As usual, this year has been extremely busy. We now have over 3.5 million attendance records in OE TRACKER with more of our members using it than ever. If you’re not using OE TRACKER to do your CE audits, contact us and we’ll be happy to explain how the program can save you time and money. Our staff has also been busy with the implementation of the new COPE requirements this year. We’re so happy to hear from our COPE administrators and providers that the new process is easier than they expected. If you have any questions about the new requirements, or you’d like someone from ARBO to come to one of your Board meetings to talk about COPE, just let me know. We’d be happy to talk to you!

We will also be continuing our efforts to increase communication with our Member Boards to make sure you are well informed about all of ARBO’s programs and projects. I welcome your suggestions on any new services we can implement or improvements we can make. Feel free to contact me at lfennell@arbo.org with your questions and ideas.

2017-2018 ARBO Officers Elected

At the 98th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, ARBO elected new officers for their Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 term. The new officers are:

- **President:** Richard C. Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- **Vice President:** James S. Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Patrick W. O’Neill, OD, FAAO, Minnesota
- **Immediate Past President:** Gregory S. Moore, OD, West Virginia

The other Directors of the ARBO Board for the 2017-2018 term are:

- Thomas Bobst, OD, FAAO, Ohio
- William B. Rafferty, OD, FAAO, North Carolina
- Coby S. Ramsey, OD, Wyoming
- Jerry A. Richt, OD, Tennessee
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Jeffery Yunker, OD, North Dakota
- Donovan L. Crouch, OD, Consultant

Departing ARBO Board Members Honored with Gifts

ARBO Board members Michael Ohlson, OD, and Roger Pabst, OD, completed their terms on the Board in June. They were honored to receive handmade clocks that were created by Donovan Crouch, OD, consultant to the Board. Drs. Ohlson and Pabst both made significant contributions to ARBO during their tenure on the Board of Directors, and they will certainly be missed.
ARBO 2017 Annual Meeting Recap

ARBO’s 2017 Annual Meeting took place June 18-20 at The Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The meeting was attended by 115 individuals, including 86 delegates from 43 Member Boards. The attendees participated in discussions, presentations, workshops, and conducted the business of the association. A great time was had by all!

Sunday morning began with a few pre-meeting sessions including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Workshop where Jill Martinson-Redekopp, OD, NBEO President; Jill Bryant, OD, NBEO Interim Executive Director; Dennis Maynes, PhD, Caveon; Brett Foley, PhD, Alpine Testing Solutions; and Kyle Jennings, PhD, NBEO Psychometrician; gave the attendees a report on the NBEO exams. There was also a session for ARBO Member Board Executives in which Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry Executive Director Pat Bennett and Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry Executive Officer Jan Murray moderated a group discussion regarding regulatory activities in each jurisdiction.

The 98th Annual Meeting was officially called to order by ARBO President Dr. Greg Moore on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Jeff Kraskin, Chair of the District of Columbia Board of Optometry, and Mr. Vincent Gray, Chairperson, District of Columbia’s Committee on Health, welcomed the delegates to Washington, DC. The meeting continued with Dr. Donovan Crouch giving an invocation and reports from ARBO’s President, Dr. Moore; Executive Director, Lisa Fennell; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Jim Campbell; and the delegate approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes. Next, there was a report from Dr. Jeff Kraskin, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee and the Nominating Committee Report from Dr. Jim Bureman, Chair. Rounding out the afternoon was Board Member Training by Dale Atkinson, ARBO’s legal counsel, and the OE TRACKER Committee Report from Chair Dr. Jeff Yunker.

Later in the afternoon, the annual report of the National Board Exam Review Committee (NBERC) was given by Dr. Tom Bobst, Chair. This was followed by the ARBO/NBEO Director’s report given by Drs. Jill Martinson-Redekopp, Bill Rafferty, and Jerry Richt. The Bylaws Committee Report was presented by Dr. Moore, who noted that the Board of Directors had proposed a minor bylaws amendment for consideration by the delegates. The amendment is to allow nominees from ARBO to the NBEO Board of Directors to have served on the ARBO Board of Directors within the preceding 12 months, in addition to currently serving on the Board of Directors. Dr. Moore explained that the amendment would make the language consistent with the option to allow ARBO nominees to the NBEO Board to be current members of an active Member Board or to have served on an active Member Board within the preceding 12 months. The afternoon concluded with a Member Board breakout session for attendees to meet in small groups to discuss current events in optometry as well as news and issues from their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting resumed Monday morning with a report from the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee by Dr. Kraskin, the Finance/Budget Committee Report from Dr. Rick Orgain, Vice President, and the always informative legal update session from Dale Atkinson. Following this, delegates once again met in their Member Board breakout groups to continue discussions from Sunday afternoon. Concurrently, there was an ARBO Member Executive breakout where the Executives discussed Board Success Stories. After a short break, there was a presentation on Illegal Decorative Contact Lenses given by Bernard Lepri, OD, MS, of the Food and Drug Administration. Next, Dr. Moore presented the John D. Robinson Founder’s Award to Dr. Larry Brown of Georgia.
ARBO Annual Meeting Recap (continued)

Monday’s afternoon session began with a presentation on Advancing Continuing Education in a Changing Healthcare Environment, given by Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc, President and CEO of the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education. This was followed by the COPE Committee Report from Dr. Jim Campbell, Chair, and reports from each Member Board breakout group. Later in the afternoon, there was a panel discussion on Regulatory Board Consolidation where delegates from Arizona, Kentucky, Ohio and Wisconsin talked about how their jurisdiction has been affected by consolidation efforts.

Next, the Contemporary Issues Committee gave a report on their research over the past year, and the delegates voted to approve the Bylaws Amendment. The afternoon session ended with the Nominating Committee’s final report of their nominations for the open positions on the ARBO Board of Directors, given by Dr. Bureman, and remarks from each candidate that was nominated. Dr. Moore hosted the President’s Reception on Monday evening for meeting attendees, presenters and guests, which was sponsored by VSP.

Tuesday morning began with a thank you to the delegates from Senator John Boozman for all they do, followed by the approval of the 2018 Budget by Dr. Orgain. Next were the annual elections for the ARBO Board of Directors. Two positions were open for election. Dr. Jeff Yunker (North Dakota) and Dr. Tom Bobst (Ohio) were elected for a 4-year term on the Board. Please see page 10 for more information on the two new ARBO Directors. Next, the final Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee Report was delivered by Dr. Kraskin.

Two resolutions were passed by the delegates. One instructs the Board of Directors to continue discussions with AOA, ASCO and AAO on stakeholder representation on the COPE Accreditation Review Committee, and a second honors Dr. Greg Moore for his many contributions to ARBO, thus presenting him with life membership to the organization. Full text of the resolutions can be found on pages 6-7.

Next were presentations by industry representatives on compliance issues. The presenters were David Anderson from Alcon and W. Lee Ball, OD, from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. This was followed by a presentation on Regulation in The News given by Dale Atkinson. After a short break, Dr. Moore announced the new officers of the Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 year. Dr. Rick Orgain was elected President, Dr. Jim Campbell was elected Vice-President, and Dr. Pat O’Neill was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Greg Moore completes the Executive team as Immediate Past President.

A presentation on Innovations in Eye Care by Paul Karpecki, OD, was next, followed by a State Legislative Update by David Cockrell, OD, AOA Advocacy Chair. This was followed by a report from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) given by Dr. Bart Campbell, Chair. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all former ARBO Presidents who were in attendance to the new President, Dr. Orgain.

We encourage you to start making plans to attend our next meeting, June 17-19, 2018, in Denver, Colorado. ARBO’s Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to learn about the issues facing your fellow members and to exchange ideas on dealing with the many challenges you encounter daily. You definitely want to be there!
2017 ARBO Resolutions

2017 ARBO Resolution #1
COPE Resolution 2017

Whereas, the ARBO Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) that accredits optometric continuing education providers, programs and activities for the benefit of ARBO's member boards;

Whereas, the majority of optometric continuing education is for maintenance of licensure and COPE accredited continuing education is a quality assurance process designed to improve knowledge, performance and patient outcomes for the public welfare;

Whereas, the COPE program is utilized by ARBO member licensing boards as one criterion in determining licensure renewal eligibility of a government issued credential;

Whereas, final authorization of COPE standards, processes, policies, procedural applications, accredited providers/programs and renewals fall within the purview of the ARBO membership;

Whereas, the COPE program is aligned with the standards and criteria established and used by other professions, including the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education (ACPE);

Whereas, the ARBO Board of Directors has held multiple meetings with the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), and the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) to explore populating COPE related committees with ARBO defined qualified nominees from AOA, ASCO, and AAO in addition to the ARBO appointees;

Whereas, the COPE program may be enhanced through the involvement of qualified ARBO appointees nominated from AOA, AAO, and ASCO with the purpose of continuous improvement of both optometrist learners and continuing education providers;

Whereas, The ARBO Board of Directors has agreed to establish an Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) charged with reviewing COPE applications by Providers and applying the COPE Standards, Criteria and policies to such applications to make determinations as to COPE Provider eligibility;

Whereas, the processes related to the development and modification of COPE standards, criteria and policies shall remain as is currently administered with continuing input from the profession;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the House of Delegates of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), at the 98th annual meeting, instructs the ARBO Board of Directors to continue in good faith discussions and explorations with AOA, ASCO and AAO on relevant stakeholder representation on the COPE Accreditation Review Committee;

And further be it Resolved, that ARBO’s Member Boards agree that efforts to achieve a collaborative and unified approach to accrediting continuing education in optometry would be in the interest of public health and safety.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates in Washington, DC, June 20, 2017.
2017 ARBO Resolution #2
Resolution Honoring Dr. Gregory Moore 2017

Whereas, Dr. Gregory Moore has performed an outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his service on the Board of Directors of ARBO since being elected in 2010. Dr. Moore has served one term as President 2016-2017, one as Vice President 2015-2016, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2014-2015; and

Whereas, his service has been exemplified by sterling qualities of leadership which underlie his personal successes and those of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry; and

Whereas, Dr. Gregory Moore has given outstanding service to the profession of optometry through his service on the West Virginia Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

Whereas, the member boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Dr. Gregory Moore’s distinguished contributions to the Association and the profession; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 98th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, express its sincere thanks to Dr. Gregory Moore for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry, and bestow upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates in Washington, DC, June 20, 2017.
ARBO 2017-2018 Committee Members

**Board Committees:**

**Executive Committee**
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Chair
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Finance/Budget Committee**
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia, Chair
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, California
- Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Industry Relations Committee**
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff

**COPE Committee**
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia, Co-Chair
- Thomas Bobst, OD, Ohio, Co-Chair
- Luanne Chubb, OD, Pennsylvania
- Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD, Virginia
- Kenneth Lawenda, OD, Vermont
- Jill Martinson-Redekopp, OD, North Dakota
- Steven Odekrk, OD, West Virginia
- Greg Patera, OD, Michigan
- Jerry Richt, OD, Tennessee
- Monique Root, OD, Iowa
- Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas
- Lisa Wallace-Davis, OD, Virginia
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*
- Donna DeLay, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff
- Sierra Powell, Staff

**Committees:**

**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair
- Thomas Bobst, OD, Ohio
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia
- Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota
- William Rafferty, OD, North Carolina
- Coby Ramsey, OD, Wyoming
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Jeffery Yunker, OD, North Dakota
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*
- Donna DeLay, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Member Board Executives Committee**
- Emily Cronbaugh, Wyoming, Co-Chair
- Margaret Whelan, Arizona, Co-Chair
- Pat Bennett, Maryland
- Pam Carper, West Virginia
- Paula Garshowitz, OD, Ontario
- Sandy Matsushima, Hawaii
- Jan Murray, Kansas
- Tom Ryan, Wisconsin
- Jessica Sieferman, California
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, Board Liaison
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*

**National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC)**
- Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota, Chair
- Thomas Bobst, OD, Ohio
- Luann Chubb, OD, Pennsylvania
- Doug Clark, OD, Alabama
- Clay McLaughlin, OD, Oklahoma
- Robin Simpson, OD, Ontario
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff
ARBO 2017-2018 Committee Members (continued)

**OE TRACKER Committee**

Mary Lou French, OD, Illinois, Chair  
Larry Brown, OD, Georgia  
Doug Clark, OD, Alabama  
Richard Kniaziew, OD, Ontario  
Steve Linas, OD, Virginia  
Thomas Nadeau, OD, Maine  
Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Ex-Officio  
Rebecca Sparks-Dougherty, OD, Kansas  
James Vaught, OD, South Carolina  
Jeffery Yunker, OD, North Dakota, Board Liaison  
Deirdre Baker, Staff  
Lisa Fennell, Staff  
Sierra Powell, Staff

Additional ARBO Committees are still being established by the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the Bylaws Committee, Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee, or Nominating Committee please contact Lisa Fennell at lfennell@arbo.org.

**Member Board Liaison Appointments**  
*Board Member’s Home Board*

Thomas Bobst: Ohio*, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Quebec, Alberta  
James Campbell: West Virginia*, Idaho, Michigan, Arkansas, Washington, Guam  
Gregory Moore: Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Carolina  
Patrick O’Neill: Minnesota*, Delaware, Maine, Manitoba, Maryland, Montana  
Richard Orgain: Tennessee*, Arizona, Australia, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Texas  
Coby Ramsey: Wyoming*, Pennsylvania, Missouri, New Zealand, Oregon, Utah, Atlantic Provinces  
Jerry Richt: Alaska, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Virginia  
Susy Yu: California*, British Columbia, Colorado, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Virginia  
Jeffery Yunker: North Dakota*, Indiana, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Ontario, Vermont

*Pictures from the 2017 ARBO Annual Meeting*
At its June 2017 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) elected Thomas M. Bobst, OD, FAAO, to its Board of Directors. Dr. Bobst is a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry and practices optometry in North Olmsted, Ohio. Dr. Bobst has served on the Ohio State Board of Optometry since 2011 and was President of the Board in 2014.

Prior to being elected to the Board of Directors, Dr. Bobst served on ARBO’s COPE and National Board Exam Review Committees and was Chair of the National Board Exam Review Committee from 2016-2017. Dr. Bobst is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a member of the American Optometric Association and Ohio Optometric Association.

At its June 2017 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) elected Jeffery B. Yunker, OD, to its Board of Directors. Dr. Yunker is a graduate of Indiana University School of Optometry and practices optometry at Lifetime Vision in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Dr. Yunker has served on the North Dakota Board of Optometry since 2005 and has been Chairman of the Board of Optometry for eight years.

Prior to being elected to the Board of Directors, Dr. Yunker served on ARBO’s OE TRACKER and Nominating Committees and has been Chair of the OE TRACKER Committee since 2014. Dr. Yunker is also a member of the American Optometric Association, North Dakota Optometric Association, and Professional Eye Care Associates of America.

The ARBO Board of Directors is excited to announce that they invited Ms. Patricia Bennett, MSW, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry, to participate as a consultant to the Board for the next year (through the 2018 ARBO Annual Meeting in June). Ms. Bennett has agreed to serve in this capacity, and in this role she will attend meetings and conference calls of the Board of Directors to bring the unique perspective of an ARBO Member Board Executive Director. The ARBO Board is thrilled to have Pat working closer with them and they think that she will be a very valuable addition due to her many years of experience working with the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry and various other regulatory boards.
Join Us for the 2018 ARBO Annual Meeting in Denver!

Mark Your Calendars for June 17-19, 2018, to Attend the 99th ARBO Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 2018 Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. The Sheraton Denver is located on a mile-long pedestrian promenade of outdoor bistros, microbreweries, shopping and entertainment, and is situated in the heart of Denver’s financial and business districts. Hop on the free shuttle and you’ll be whisked around the area which also includes some top Denver downtown attractions like the Denver Performing Arts Complex, Colorado Convention Center, and the city’s major professional sports stadiums.

More information and online registration will be available in early 2018!

Pictures from the 2017 ARBO Annual Meeting
Did you know the NBEO has an Online State Law Exam Program?

Purpose of the NBEO Online State Law Exam (OSLE) Program

To assist the state boards in administering their optometry jurisprudence examinations.

www.optometry.org/law.cfm

Benefits & Information

Available as multiple choice, true/false, and essay
Customizable
Participating state boards maintain control
Easily accessible
User friendly
Registration and completed exam notifications
Reports are provided
Can easily look up past exam results

Format Options

NBEO offers three computerized exam formats:
Remote, open-book
In-house, open-book
In-house, proctored, closed-book

Interested? Join other states participating in the OSLE Program! To find out more, contact Whitnie Foster at whitnie.foster@optometry.org.

NBOE Mission Statement

The mission of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry is to serve the public and the profession of optometry by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competence.
Become One of a Select Few!

As a regulatory board member and an optometrist, please consider becoming a reviewer of courses submitted for COPE accreditation. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will help ensure the quality and independence of continuing education. COPE accreditation benefits both practitioners in your jurisdiction 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 licensing Board; this endorsement will be secured by ARBO once you volunteer.
- You will be asked to complete the online COPE reviewer training that consists of six 10-20 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 about 30 minutes.

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process!

*For more information please visit our website at [www.arbo.org](http://www.arbo.org) and click on COPE, then click on “COPE Reviewers” and “Become a Reviewer” or send an email to arbo@arbo.org.*