ARBO Holds Centennial Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 100th Annual Meeting took place June 16-18 at the Four Seasons Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting was attended by 104 individuals, which included 76 delegates from 39 member boards. The attendees celebrated ARBO’s 100th anniversary, participated in discussions, presentations, small group breakout sessions, and conducted the business of the association. It was a very productive and informative meeting.

The meeting was called to order by ARBO President Dr. Richard Orgain on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Kyle Brost, President of the Missouri State Board of Optometry welcomed the delegates to the meeting. Next was Dr. Orgain’s President’s report followed by reports from ARBO Executive Director Lisa Fennell, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Patrick O’Neill, and the approval of the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. This was followed by a report of the activities of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee by Dr. Kenneth Lawenda, Chair, and the Nominating Committee from Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin, Chair.

Dr. Orgain presented the 2019 John D. Robinson Founder’s Award to Anna Hartsel, Office Manager for the Minnesota Board of Optometry, and Dr. Mariah Smith, Board Member of the Nevada State Board of Optometry. This was followed by Board Member/Regulator Training by Dale Atkinson, Esq. Next, Dr. Larry Brown, on behalf of Committee Chair Dr. Mary Lou French who wasn’t able to make the meeting, gave the attendees a report on the activities of the OE TRACKER Committee.

The COPE Committee report followed, given by Dr. James Campbell, Chair of the committee. Later in the afternoon the House of Delegates entered into an Executive Session to discuss confidential issues related to the Association. The day concluded with a Member Board breakout session for attendees to meet in small groups to discuss their major activities over the past year and current events in optometric regulation.

The meeting resumed on Monday morning with the Finance Committee Report including the proposed 2020 budget and proposed member dues increase from Dr. James Campbell, Vice-President. This was followed by a legal update on regulatory issues from Dale Atkinson. Next, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director, gave the delegates an update on the activities of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

The morning concluded with three presentations on telehealth. First, Dr. Melissa Bailey, Associate Professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, gave a presentation entitled “Autorefraction and Telemedicine.” Next, Dr. Jorge Cuadros, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of Informatics Reasearch, University of California in Berkeley, Optometric Eye Center and Founder of EyePACS, gave a presentation entitled “Telehealth and AI to Engage Patients and Prevent Blindness.” Finally, Dr. Howard Fried, President, Digital Optometrics, LLC, gave a presentation entitled “Telemedicine Innovation Digital Optometrics.”

Continued on page 4.
It’s that time of year that summer begins to segue into fall. Vacations are over, children are headed back to school, and the ARBO Board, staff and committees are revving up for another year of service. It seems like just a few days ago we were gathered in St. Louis for the annual ARBO meeting. If you were in attendance, I hope you had a worthwhile experience and found that we could assist you in your mission of protecting the public. If you weren’t in attendance, I would challenge you to seriously consider attending next year’s meeting. The format and agenda of the meeting is driven by the needs of our member boards and feedback from those in attendance. The feedback from this year’s meeting was outstanding. The ARBO Board of Directors and the ARBO staff have spent much time and effort to streamline the agenda and focus on what matters most to you. There is information shared at this meeting that isn’t available from other sources.

I am Jim Campbell, and it is my privilege to serve as the President of ARBO. I appreciate the support you have given, and I honor the trust you’ve shown. It is my plan to continue the work of the many gifted folks who have preceded me. Health care delivery and technology is evolving at such a fast pace that it is necessary to make regulatory changes that will incorporate new discoveries and yet continue to insure public protection. Change has been a key word of ARBO processes the past five years or so, and I anticipate it will continue occupy front stage in our functions for some time. In recent years the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) has achieved substantial equivalency with medicine and other health care professions. This was followed by inclusion in the Joint Accreditation for the Interprofessional Continuing Education collaborative.

We are excited to share that over the past eight months agreements were enacted that placed representatives nominated by the Association of School and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) on the COPE Committee, which is now known as the COPE Governance Committee. OE TRACKER continues to grow by offering auditing services to our member boards and is looking at an expanded premium service for OE TRACKER members. We continue to work with NBEO to structure an agreement with changes that will allow increased input from our member boards to ensure that the entry-level exams meet your needs. We’ve also been working to develop resources to assist you with the regulation of telehealth, which is a big change affecting all of healthcare. Sir Winston Churchill once stated “To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often.” We have changed often, but we make no claim to perfection. We do work hard and make changes to respond to your needs, and we will continue to do so.

The Board is finalizing the committee appointments for the next year. I’d like to thank everyone who volunteered to serve. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization, and we really need you to accomplish all of our goals. With your help we are looking forward to a very productive 101st year for ARBO. Finally, our raison d’etre is to represent the needs of our member boards in protecting the public. I stated this in my opening paragraph, and I repeat it in my closing. The ARBO staff is as efficient, knowledgeable, and helpful as any organization I’ve been associated with. The ARBO volunteers are genuinely dedicated to their mission, and they possess a wealth of information and experience. That being said, we welcome your input and invite any requests for information or assistance that is within our realm. Please feel free to contact me personally with comments, suggestions, or any other assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

James S. Campbell, O.D.
President ARBO
idok@suddenlink.net
A Note from the Executive Director

It was great to see everyone in St. Louis at our centennial annual meeting! We had an awesome 100th anniversary celebration. There were 23 first-time attendees at the meeting, which is a record for us. We are delighted that you were able to come, and we hope that you’re able to join us again next year. The feedback we received from the meeting was that the presentations, discussion, and information sharing was extremely valuable. For those of you who weren’t able to be there, you were definitely missed! We really hope you’ll be able to join us for the meeting next June in the DC area.

We had 39 of our member boards attend the annual meeting this year. We were very happy to see all of you there, but there were still a number of you that weren’t able to come. I’d love to hear the reasons why you didn’t attend. Was it a budgeting issue? Does your jurisdiction have limitations on travel? Is there something ARBO can do to enable you to be able to come next year? In the current anti-regulatory climate, regulatory boards are being challenged every day. ARBO’s annual meeting provides an environment where you can get together with other regulatory agencies to discuss the challenges you face and learn about possible approaches to address them. You’ll also learn about the tools ARBO provides, which can allow you to increase efficiency and do more with less.

As part of our 100th anniversary celebration, we put together a timeline of ARBO’s accomplishments over the past 100 years. You can find the timeline on pages 8-17. I encourage you to take a few minutes and read through it. I’m sure you’ll be impressed with everything this small organization has been able to achieve. You may also learn a few things about ARBO. I know I definitely learned a lot as I was combing through the archives gathering the information.

This year has flown by, and the summer is coming to an end. That means cooler weather (thankfully!) but it also means that CE events are going to be starting up and our staff is going to get very busy, very quickly. We are looking forward to working with the new committees over the next year. We’ll be focusing on additional ways to support our members with new resources and programs. If you have any thoughts on how we can help you, please reach out to me and let me know what you need.

We will also be continuing our communication efforts to make sure our members are well informed about regulatory issues and all of ARBO’s programs and projects. Our newest resource is our blog. You can find it at blog.arbo.org. Recent blog posts discuss the NBEO exams, and plans to restructure the Part III exam. Please let me know if you have any topics you’d like us to write about, or if you want to volunteer as a guest blogger. Feel free to contact me at lfennell@arbo.org with your suggestions or questions.

Patricia Bennett, MSW, Elected to ARBO Board of Directors

At its June 2019 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) elected Ms. Patricia Bennett, MSW, to its Board of Directors.

Ms. Bennett has more than 24 years of experience within the health regulatory arena, including 5 years as Staff Social Worker with the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners and 19 years as Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Ms. Bennett has been involved with ARBO for over 18 years and previously served as Chair and Co-Chair of the Member Board Executives Committee, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, and Consultant to the ARBO Board of Directors. She is the first Member Board Executive elected as a voting member of the Board of Directors, and she brings the unique perspective of an Executive Director to the Board. Please join us in congratulating Pat on being elected to the Board!
After lunch, the three telehealth presenters participated in a question and answer session with the delegates, which was moderated by Dr. Coby Ramsey. This was followed by an update on the activities of the Contemporary issues Committee by Dr. Coby Ramsey, Co-Chair of the committee. Next, Dr. Paul Barney, former Board member of the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry, gave the delegates a presentation on the Alaska Optometric Scope Legislation. Following this, Dr. Bill Rafferty, Executive Director of the North Carolina Board of Optometry, gave a presentation on the North Carolina Opioid Prescribing Requirement. This was followed by a presentation on NBEO’s plans to restructure the Part III Clinical Skills Examination from Dr. Brianne Hobbs, NBEO Associate Director of Examination Innovation; Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director; Dr. Brett Foley, Senior Psychometrician, Alpine Testing Solutions; and Dr. Brooke Midkiff, NBEO Associate Director of Psychometrics and Research. Next, Dr. Patrick O’Neill, Chair, introduced the NBER Committee members and reviewed the committee’s report and recommendations regarding the NBEO exams.

Later in the afternoon, Ms. Margaret Whelan, Co-Chair of the MBE Committee, introduced committee members and reviewed the committee’s activities over the past year. After this, Dr. Richard Orgain asked each member breakout group to give a report on the activities of the jurisdictions in their group, issues of concern, and possible ways that ARBO can assist. The afternoon concluded with Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin giving the Nominating Committee’s final report of their nominations for the open positions on the ARBO Board of Directors. The nominees were each given a few minutes to address the delegates. The day ended with Dr. Orgain hosting the President’s Reception and 100th Anniversary Celebration on Monday evening, which was sponsored by VSP.

Tuesday morning began with the approval of the 2020 Budget. Next, the delegates approved a member dues increase starting in 2020. This was followed by the election for the Board of Directors. Dr. James Campbell was re-elected for a second four-year term, and Ms. Patricia Bennett was elected to her first four-year term. Next, Dr. Kenneth Lawenda announced that no resolutions had been submitted to the Resolutions Committee. A presentation by Dr. W. Lee Ball from Johnson & Johnson Vision followed. After a short break, Dr. Orgain announced the new officers for the 2019-2020 year. Dr. James Campbell was elected President, Dr. Patrick O’Neill was elected Vice President, and Dr. Coby Ramsey was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Orgain will serve as Immediate Past President.

Later in the morning, Dr. Lewis Reich, President, Southern College of Optometry, gave a presentation entitled “Quantity and Quality of Optometry’s Applicant Pool.” Following this, Dale Atkinson, Esq. gave the delegates a presentation on recent regulatory activities found in the news. Next, Dr. Darin Paulson, ACOE Chair, presented the ACOE report. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all ARBO Presidents ending with Dr. Richard Orgain (2017-2019) passing the gavel to Dr. James Campbell (2019-2020).

We encourage you to start making plans to attend ARBO’s annual meeting next year in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting dates are June 21-23, 2020. ARBO’s annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn about the issues facing other regulatory agencies and to exchange ideas on how to approach the challenges you encounter in your jurisdiction. You’re definitely going to want to be there!

2019-2020 ARBO Officers Elected

At the 100th Annual Meeting in St. Louis, ARBO elected new officers for their Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 term. The new officers are:

- **President:** James Campbell, OD
- **Vice President:** Patrick O’Neill, OD, FAAO
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Coby Ramsey, OD
- **Immediate Past President:** Richard Orgain, OD

The other members of the ARBO Board this year are:

**Directors**
- Patricia Bennett, MSW
- Thomas Bobst, OD, FAAO
- Steven Odekirk, OD
- Jerry Richt, OD
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO
- Jeffery Yunker, OD

**Participants**
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Consultant
Start Making Plans for ARBO’s 2020 Annual Meeting!

Mark Your Calendars for June 21-23, 2020, to attend the 101st ARBO Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 2020 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town. The Hilton Alexandria is located in the historic Old Town Alexandria neighborhood. It is one of the most convenient hotels in Alexandria, Virginia, for business and leisure travelers visiting Washington, DC.

Explore two cities in one trip – Alexandria & Washington D.C. Located on vibrant King Street; it’s just a quick stroll to enjoy the boutique shops, waterfront restaurants and unique architecture of Old Town Alexandria. The Hilton Alexandria Old Town also offers easy access to National Harbor and MGM Casino.

The Hilton Alexandria Old Town

Old Town Alexandria is full of restaurants, shops, and entertainment.

The DC metro is located across the street from the hotel to go sightseeing.

The Alexandria waterfront is full of activities and has water taxis to Georgetown and National Harbor.

More information and online registration will be available in early 2020.

We look forward to seeing you in Alexandria/DC!
Photos from the 100th ARBO Annual Meeting
ARBO’s 100th Anniversary Timeline

Our story begins...

1901: Passage of first state law recognizing and regulating the practice of optometry — Minnesota. (All states had optometry laws by 1921)

1904: AOA officially adopts term “optometrist” and urges its general use by opticians who refract.

1910: First University courses in optometry, Columbia University (1910-1956), a big step toward recognition of the optometric profession.

1919: Objective - The object of this Association is to bind together in one Association all State, Territorial and Provincial Boards of Examiners in Optometry for the interchange of ideas, promoting friendly intercourse, elevating the standard of Optometric Education, mutual help to the several Boards or their members and to further the establishment of uniform minimum standards of Optometric Education and uniform legislation as to basis for reciprocity in Optometric licensure.

1919: Texas optometrist Fred Baker arrested for charging a fee. In 1921, he won the case against him and Texas became the final state to approve an optometry licensure law.

1913: Members of various state boards of examiners in optometry together with the several leaders in optometric education met in the city of Rochester, New York, to discuss plans for grouping together these boards for mutual benefit and for the betterment of optometric education. A tentative association was formed but the work of completing the organization was not finished until 1919, when the boards met again and drew the Constitution and By-Laws of the newly formed International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry (IBBO).

1915: In the case of Martin vs. Baldi the PA Supreme Court rules that optometry is a calling separate from medicine and cannot be regulated by the state board of medicine as a “minor branch” of that profession.

1920: The IBO is the accrediting body for optometry schools for two decades until the creation of the Council on Optometric Education of AOA in 1940 (now called COE). The two ARBO representatives on the Council are reminders of IBO’s seminal and continuing role in the accreditation of optometric educational institutions.

1922: First Conference on Optometric Education held in St. Louis, establishing optometric educational standards. These standards for Optometry Schools were adopted by the IBO.

1923: IBO Newsletter begins publication to meet one of the stated missions: to exchange information.

Member Dues = $10.

Voted to have Annual Meeting held prior to and at same place as AOA.

1923: Pennsylvania College of Optometry awards the first Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.
1924: IBB appoints a committee to draft a bill requiring all applicants for licenses to operate motor vehicles to undergo a test of visual acuity.

IBB working to develop a uniform syllabus to stabilize the optometry education in the schools and in the Boards of Examiners.

Resolutions:
- All Boards will adopt in their laws or rulings a minimum professional requirement of not less than 2 years in college.
- All Boards require in their examinations a practical demonstration.
- All Boards will use their effort and authority to have established in their Bureau of Motor Vehicles a visual acuity and color test.

1925: IBB Discussion - It is our belief that a certain percent of accidents are caused by imperfect sight, and having the welfare of the public at heart we are willing to contribute our services free for the purpose of making a survey to find out what percent of danger is due to imperfect vision.

1925: IBB established a National Commission on Vision Tests for Motor Drivers.

1925: 28 members in the IBB.

1926: IBB approves a report grading and classifying all recognized optometric schools and colleges into Class A and Class B, also recommending no recognition of Class C, those schools being considered very unsatisfactory.

1927: Dr. J. Fred Andree, IBB Secretary. "If Optometry is to take its rightful place among the professions we must see that our Optometrists are educationally fit. The grading of the Optometry Schools and Colleges enables the Optometry student to select the school capable of teaching the subject the way it should be taught. Two important problems confronting us at this time are Reciprocity and Standard Examinations. Other matters of moment are mail order glasses and uniformity in the various Optometry laws."

Resolutions:
- That due credit be given to Optometry for its selfless and patriotic interest in the welfare of humanity in promulgating the compulsory visual examinations of applicants for drivers' licenses of motor vehicles.
- That all members contact the department, commissioner or officer in charge of motor vehicle laws to point out what is being done in other states for the safety of street and highway driving through examinations of the eyes for applicants for drivers' licenses and prevail upon said departments, commissioners or officers to institute and demand similar examinations of the eyes of applicants for drivers' licenses.

1931: Resolution: that the minimum standard eye examination should include.

1932: The Education committee's task is to find out what is being taught, how it is being done and how it can be improved upon. The school or courses must meet definite standards to acquire a rating and the committee is keeping an annual record of all student bodies, of graduates, all those examined and registered.

1932: The Advisory committee has prepared the outlines for State Board Examinations procedures in an effort to bring about a standard of examination among practitioners.

Resolutions: To facilitate reciprocity, states/provinces are requested to standardize educational requirements and establish uniform standards of examination.

1928: The Education Committee surveyed and rated the optometry schools and courses and distributed their report in a booklet entitled "The Minimum Requirements for Classified Optometry Schools".
- The committee recommends a 4 year college degree.

1928: New York adopted a law that in 1930 they would require a Bachelors Degree and graduation from an optometry school connected with a university.

1929: 38 members in the IBB.

1930: IBB publishes the first edition of a manual entitled "Optometric Jurisprudence" suggesting uniform standards including optometric law, licensure education and reciprocity.

1930: 44 members in the IBB.

1930: Total number of registered optometrists -- 21,901.

Resolutions: Use of various titles by members of the profession is confusing to the public, resolved that we emphatically recommend the use of the word Optometrist exclusively.
1936: Resolution: All boards only accept applicants from IBB rated, inspected and approved optometry schools.

1937: Resolution to adopt a 4 year optometric course as minimum for all Class A optometry schools.

1937: Questionnaires sent out to the State Boards revealed that no two states seemed to be in agreement on the matter of reciprocity.

1937: Bill introduced in Pennsylvania which would define the scope of practice as that taught in optometry schools.

1937: “Optometry on Trial” published in Reader’s Digest. Written by Roger Riis, it contained untrue and unfair statements about optometry that set off turmoil and controversy between optometrists and ophthalmologists.

1939: IBB endorses the creation of an Educational Council as a departmental activity of the AOA. Within this council the IBB will have representation.

1942: Membership – Delaware, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Wyoming only states NOT affiliated.

1943: Schools suffering due to war – lack of new students.

1943: Wisconsin and Rhode Island are now members.

1943: IBB Library of Questions and Answers established and made available to any Board who requests them.

1933: The Education Committee rates optometry schools/colleges.
- There were 23 establishments that called themselves colleges – some of them were merely small places that they rented as a shop in the day time where they fitted glasses and taught at night.

1934: Rating of schools completed.

1934: 21,128 registered optometrists.

1935: Discussion regarding ophthalmologists vs. optometrists. Nurses and teachers have been performing eye testing and results indicated many children with defective eyes continue their studies with a great disadvantage. IBB wants an understanding between the two professions. Optometrists have no desire to encroach upon the rights of the ophthalmologists but have a desire and ambition to protect our school children’s eyes.

1935: 37 members, District of Columbia has been added.

1935: Resolution to end discrimination against optometry – various boards to obtain copies of the new school syllabuses to supply various governmental departments and boards of education so that they may be informed of the scope and character of optometric educational qualifications.

1935: Pennsylvania College of Optometry increases graduation requirement to four years of coursework, up from three.

1941: “The work of the IBB is as wide as its membership; it extends to every state and province. In matters of legislation it is a potent force, helping to shape and create such legislation as will promote and maintain the highest ideals of the profession of optometry. In matters of education the IBB probably has its greatest responsibility as well as its greatest opportunity. It sets the standards of preliminary education. Thus the IBB, first, through its own organized effort and second, through the legal authority vested in the individual member boards, represents the most effective force in establishing and maintaining optometry as a profession.” Harry Goodman, IBB President.

1941: Article called “The Optometry Problem” published in the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otologyogy bulletin detailing recognition of the profession by medicine. Interprofessional relationship is new emphasis.

1941: Organization of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry formed.

1944: IBB Annual revenue: $2702.74.

1944: IBB Annual dues are $35 a year. Each board asked to pay as much as possible. Many boards pay up to $60 a year.

Many states using IBB questions and answers for licensing exams.
- Fee for the use of the IBB Q&A Library is $7.50 per year.

Resolution: “…that the Examination Committee prepare a manual of procedure for giving examinations, including marking examination papers and conducting complete examinations.”

1945: IBB Committee on Education suggests a curriculum to place more emphasis on biological sciences.

1945: "We as members of Examining Boards have a grave obligation. We have the responsibility of determining who are properly prepared and capable of practicing Optometry in an upright, ethical manner. Ethical practitioners devote their lives to human welfare, first, last and always. In Optometry these practitioners give the public eye care beyond reproach." E.A. Kuntz, IBB President.

1946: Many Boards have in their rules that they will only accept applications from schools accredited by the IBB. IBB recommends these boards to change this ruling to one in which the Council of Education and Professional Guidance of the AOA is the specified body.

1946: Contact Lens Resolution:
- Resolved, that all optometric schools be requested to add the fitting of contact lenses to their courses; and, be it further
- Resolved, that all State Boards of Examiners in Optometry be requested to include questions on contact lenses in their regular examinations for applicants desiring to practice optometry.
- Model Application for Examination form released to be used as a guide for each Board in making up new forms that are modern while covering the necessary information.

1946: IBB turns over the inspection and rating of optometric schools to the Council on Education.

1949: Examination Committee: "The Examination Committee is directed to study the requirements, the methods employed in examination, the character of the questions and the rating or gradings of the examination papers of the various Boards of Examiners in Optometry, and shall offer suggestions and recommendations when deemed necessary to the end that the requirements, examinations, and ratings of all Boards shall be uniform."

1949: Concerns by member boards that candidates presenting themselves for examination haven’t had as much clinical experience as might be desired.

1951: 45 member boards in the IBB.

1951: Proposal to raise the dues $15.00.
- One state says they have no funds to pay their dues so they asked their State Association to pay it and “out of the goodness of their hearts they have paid it so far.”

1951: Suggested Model Optometry Law presented by the Advisory law Committee.

1951: Proposed constitution for NEBO approved and adopted.
- Composed of 7 members, 5 of them nominees of the IAB and 2 of them nominees of ASCO.

1951: “Doctor of Optometry” recognized as the proper and desirable professional degree.

1947: Resolutions: A committee is appointed to investigate changing to a shorter name.
- Resolution for IBB to contact all member boards and recommend they give a comprehensive practical examination since the students do not receive enough clinical experience during college courses.
- Resolution disfavoring the word “glasses” when reference is made to corrective lenses and all reference to same be made by using the term “correction” or “prescription”.

1947: Optometrists first commissioned in the U.S. Army and placed on the staff of Veterans Administration Hospitals.

1948: Resolutions: “...that the IBB go on record as favoring the adoption by the schools and colleges of optometry of a minimum of five academic years at the college level...”
- There exists a shortage of professional optometrists in our country and the Armed Forces are not receiving a sufficient number of applicants for commission in the Optometric Corps, so be it resolved that the Surgeon General be urged to defer optometric students from military service.

1950: Discussion of how to increase enrollment at optometry schools.

1950: Concerns about the percentage of failures on the state board examinations.

1950: There are 41 member boards. Hawaii is the newest member.

1950: The Examination Committee develops lists of courses and texts used at each optometry school.

1950: Resolution: “That the President of the IBB is hereby instructed to appoint a special committee... for the purpose of establishing a National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NEBO)... its chief purpose to establish a qualifying examination of such high character of optometry by all state boards of optometric license without further examination.”
1954: Decision to start using acronym IAB instead of IBF.

1954: Membership dues: $35 per year.

1954: Objective to aid and assist the NEBO. "The activities of this committee can be extremely valuable to the profession and cannot help but reflect credit on its parent body, IAB."

1954: The Reciprocity Committee states that, "It is the general feeling of the members that reciprocity is not generally favored and probably will not be generally favored or accepted until some equitable system is worked out that would be fair to all 48 states."

1954: A 6 year optometry curriculum discussed. Many administrators in optometric educational institutions report that the broad areas of instruction covered in the optometric curriculum are difficult to crowd into the present 5 year program.

1959: 47 member boards in the IAB including the District of Columbia and Ontario.

1959: The Education Committee collects lists of textbooks being used at the various optometry schools and lists of state board exam questions.

1959: Concerns about student recruitment. "The IAB has a responsibility to the public to provide a sufficient number of well-qualified optometrists to assure them of adequate vision care...We as Board members should do everything possible to encourage desirable young men and women to make optometry their career." Clarence Strobel, OD, IAB President.

1959: The Executive Council recommends that the IAB go on record as opposed to any but optometrists or physicians performing any optometric services-refractions-visual training or orthoptics-contact lenses.

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1953: Continued concerns of the quality of optometry school graduates and their ability to pass the Board exams.

1953: Concerns about declining enrollment in optometry schools.

1953: Pennsylvania becomes a member.

1953: The Education Committee releases a report showing how the various schools of optometry fared, by percent and numbers in passing State Board examinations.

1955: Change to structure of COE with 9 members:
- 1 shall be the trustee who shall have been elected director of the Department of Education.
- 4 are optometrists not affiliated with any school or college of optometry or members of a state board.
- 2 are active members of the IAB and sitting as members of their state boards.
- 2 are associated with optometric educational institutions accredited by COE.

1958: A list of textbooks used at each school presented to members.

1958: A report from the NEBO: "State Boards and IAB have been most generous in their support of the NEBO. The various schools and colleges have been very generous in helping the NEBO obtain graders and consultants for the preparation of examinations."

1960: Resolution: "that the IAB suggest to the AOA to increase budgetary allotments to the Council on Education so as to enable an annual inspection of each of the presently accredited schools and colleges of optometry and a full scale accreditation survey at intervals not to exceed three years."

1960: Proposed Model Law introduced to members at annual meeting.

1961: Alaska becomes a member.

1961: IAB members have discussions about helping military optometrists get licensed in other states.

1961: Pennsylvania optometrists introduce a bill to authorize the use of ophthalmic diagnostic pharmaceutical agents, but it is defeated.
1962: Arizona, Wyoming, and Puerto Rico became members. All states are now members except for New Mexico and Texas.

1963: Report on an IAB international survey done on the profession of optometry in countries around the world. The words “optometry” and “optometrist” are not generally understood in most foreign nations. These words are limited primarily to the English-speaking nations.

1964: Quebec is the newest member after establishment of a Board of Examiners in the province.

1964: Equivalent Standards Committee begins efforts to establish recommended minimum requirements for application for licensure to practice optometry in all states and affiliated countries of the IAB.

1966: NBEO is now a separate entity from IAB.

1966: IAB still compiling lists of textbooks used by the schools as a resource for the member boards.

1966: The Ethics and Information Committee compiles information regarding the post-graduate educational requirement for re-licensure of optometrists.

1967: New Mexico is the last state to become a member of the IAB.

1970: The IAB begins holding regional meetings of state boards.

1970: The IAB does a survey of continuing education (CE) requirements in each state.

1970: IAB begins work on a National Registry of optometrists by gathering information from state boards at the time of licensure or relicensure.

1971: Resolution: “…that the IAB recommends that all of its constituents institute a program of meaningful compulsory continuing education apart from the convention atmosphere and under supervision of academic institutions.”

1971: First DPA Law passed – Rhode Island. This was the first law to specifically authorize optometrists to use ophthalmic drugs for diagnostic purposes. (By 1989 all states and D.C. had DPA laws).

1972: Resolution: “…that the IAB study the feasibility and desirability of consumer representation on Optometric Licensing Boards…”

1972: First meeting of National Associations representing state licensing agencies held.

1965: The IAB, in full recognition of the responsibilities of its member boards to assure the public of superior and fair improving vision care, adopts and promulgates, as an Affirmative Program, the best care of the vision needs of mankind. To that end that this purpose becomes a reality the IAB proposes to:

- Establish and maintain meaningful liaison with other groups in matters affecting the visual welfare of the public.
- Assure the proper training, regulation and supervision of ancillary ophthalmic personnel utilized by the ophthalmic professions, and prevent such ophthalmic personnel or other lay persons from performing acts involving professional judgment or minimization.
- Institute remedial action in industrial vision care programs where adequate professional control is not assured.
- Discourage and deter perimetric influence or control over the practice of the profession of optometry that interferes with the independent professional judgment or title essential to the practice of the profession.
- Assist the AOA in the continuance and enlargement of its clearing house for all court decisions, legislative matters, state board rules and regulations and current litigation.
- Encourage and assist in the wider use of rules and regulation making powers by state boards of optometry.
- Continue to recommend guidelines for the updating of optometric statutes.
- Encourage and foster legislation needed to guarantee every citizen his inherent right of freedom of choice of a licensed professional in the vision care field.
- Eradicate unprofessional, commercial and corporate practice of optometry.
- Encourage and assist state boards in the development and supervision of realistic programs of continuing optometric education.

1965: Efforts begin to make NBEO a separate legal entity.

50th Anniversary

1969: Annual revenue: $6,257.50.

1969: Dues range from $50-$100. Some states voluntarily increased their dues to $150-$200.

1969: Pilot program of regional meetings: the first was held at the North Central States Conference.

1969: Outreach to Texas and New Mexico urging them to become members. Texas joins IAB and attends Annual Meeting in July.
1974: Incorporation of Federation of Associations of Health Regulatory Boards (FAHRB). IAB is one of the original incorporators. Dr. John Robinson, IAB Secretary, is Vice Chairman.

1974: Formation of Commission on Continuing Education.
- One responsibility of commission: “to establish a central registry and data bank of continuing education credit acquired by individual optometrists as service to them and to the state licensure boards…”

1975: First joint meeting of IAB, ASCO, NBOE.

1975: IAB School of Optometry offers an innovative method of utilizing the current literature for continuing education by mail. IAB offers its endorsement.

Resolution: “…that pharmacology be made an integral part of the NBOE examinations and the score be computed in the final grade for pass/fail of NBOE examinations.”

1983: IAB newsletter is distributed called the State Board Forum.

Resolution: “…that the IAB recommends to its affiliated member State Boards that they review policies that do not allow credit for courses related to patient management and practice administration …and that the IAB explore avenues to recommend uniform guidelines for the approval of such courses for continuing education credits for license renewal.”

Resolution: “…that the IAB direct its professional staff to begin developing specific plans and programs for the implementation of a national data base for the profession in cooperation with the member Boards of this Association.”

1973: Bill introduced in North Carolina to authorize optometrists to use and prescribe pharmaceutical agents for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

1973: National Optometric Manpower Survey conducted by IAB.

1973: An agreement to continue meaningful dialogue between IAB and NBOE with the end in view of recreating a closer and more responsive working relationship.

1973: An agreement by NBOE to replace in the IAB Treasury of the monies supplied by IAB in the past as “seed money”.

1973: A committee appointed to study changing the name of the IAB.

1976: Expansion in scope of practice in optometry by the enactment of legislation to allow the use of diagnostic drugs by optometrists, and in one instance, West Virginia, the use of therapeutic, as well as diagnostic drugs.

Resolution: “…that the IAB recommends to its member boards that the “Accredited” status bestowed by the Council on Optometric Education be accepted by the member boards of the IAB for accrediting purposes as might be required by state laws.”

1979: IAB, in cooperation with the NBOE, publishes An Optometric Clinical Practicum Examination Model booklet designed to begin the development of an understanding of a structured clinical assessment examination for state boards.

1986: The IAB develops a standardized and valid test of Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease which may be used as a measure of cognitive knowledge both on an entry level and for already licensed practitioners.

Resolution: “…that the IAB requests its member boards to make CPR certification a prerequisite for licensure, rather than part of the licensure process itself.”

Resolution: “…the IAB requests that ASCO ask its member academic institutions to require their students be certified in CPR….”

1986: Medicare parity legislation allows optometrists to be reimbursed for health-related services performed on nonphakic patients. Signed by President Reagan in October, the law (PL 99-509) became effective April 1, 1987.
1987: The TMOD exam is required or recommended by 44 states.

Resolution: "...that the member boards of the IAB be encouraged to require that all providers of continuing education use the Continuing Education Classification System (CECS) to classify all courses of continuing education as a condition to their approval as meeting their individual state requirement for license renewal.

Resolution: "...that when states deem it necessary or advisable to seek outside clinical testing they be urged to use the IAB to contract directly with any recognized and qualified testing agency to provide clinical testing or related services."

1990: A new working agreement between the NBEO and the IAB begins on October 1, 1990. The agreement provides a much-needed stabilization and enhancement of revenue to the IAB in return for which the IAB will provide the National Board with services regarding that organization's development of its entry-level examinations into the profession of optometry as well as promotion of the NBEO examinations to the IAB member state boards. The IAB will provide an annual audit of the NBEO’s entry-level examinations by way of an Oversight Committee.

1990: With the new agreement, the IAB will be endorsing future administrations of the TMOD exam as a NBEO exam.

1992: Guam and Ontario (readmitted) become members.

1992: A Data Collection Committee is established to create a database with all licensed optometrists which has never been done with an accurate count. Precursor to OE TRACKER.


1993: 55 member boards in the IAB.

1993: International Committee established.

1993: Unified database of all licensed optometrists in the United States presented at the annual meeting.

1995: IAB establishes a presence on the internet for the benefit of member boards and other interested parties.


1995: IAB becomes an Associate Member of the World Council of Optometry (WCO).

1991: New revenue sharing agreement with NBEO. Formation of “oversight” committee to review the examinations on an annual basis to assure that they continue to meet the needs of the member boards.

1991: British Columbia becomes a member.

1991: In July, the NBEO administers a Clinical Skills Exam for the first time. The first states to utilize the exam were Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Montana and Utah.

1991: IAB receives a contract from the US Bureau of Health Professionals to provide a report on the feasibility of developing and maintaining a national optometric information system for the profession.


1994: IAB starts a National Board Workshop at annual meeting.

1994: The House of Delegates endorses the establishment of COPE.

1994: International Committee charged to make initial assessments of the impact of NAFTA and GATT as they relate to licensing issues for the profession.

75th Anniversary

1998: ARBO establishes its own office with dedicated staff in Bethesda, Maryland.

1998: New website, optometryCE.org that is a centralized source for CE meetings.

1999: Name change to Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, ARBO.

1999: National Optometric Continuing Education Conference held in April to initiate a profession-wide analysis of the current status of optometric CE and to foster an exploration of its future direction for the benefit of the public.

1996: New mission statement developed to address the role and purpose of the IAB as it focuses on its current objectives, and also to guide the continued development of the IAB in a constantly changing professional environment.

1997: Agreement signed between the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the IAB to permit active members of ASCO to use COPE to obtain approval for continuing education.


2000: ARBO Delegates oppose the AOA's American Board of Optometric Practice (ABOP) program and declined the offer of a board director position on the ABOP. AOA ultimately ceased the implementation of ABOP.

2000: ARBO Member Dues Structure:
- Up to 200 licensees: $475.00
- 201-400 licensees: $575.00
- 401 or more licensees: $675.00

2001: COPE begins On-Site Review program.

2001: Database of state CE requirements added to the ARBO website.

2001: CDE changes name to Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).

2002: A Joint Exploratory Committee (JEC) is formed by ARBO and NBEO to explore a closer working relationship and possible new governance structure.

2002: ARBO headquarters moves to St. Louis.

2002: A Licensure Mobility committee formed with the purpose of assisting state optometry boards in determining qualifications of applicants for licensure who are established practitioners in other jurisdictions.

2003: ARBO develops form for contact lens prescribers to report complications due to contact lenses dispensed without a valid prescription.

2003: Resolution adopted by the House of Delegates to: “Develop a licensure mobility program to assist State Boards of Optometry in making decisions related to licensure by endorsement.”


2005: ARBO launches CELMO program to assist with license mobility.

2006: Second National Optometric Continuing Education Conference held.

2006: CELMO awards first certificates.
2007: British Columbia becomes a member.

2007: NBBO begins assigning OE TRACKER numbers to optometry students when they register for the NBBO examinations.

2008: COPE Committee finalizes Standards for Commercial Support. A Resolution supporting the standards is passed by the members at the annual meeting.

2009: ARBO moves headquarters to Charlotte, NC.

2009: Kansas Board of Optometry becomes the first member board to offer online license renewal using OE TRACKER.

2012: ARBO awards a contract with the Tennessee Department of Health to provide web-based continuing education services for the Tennessee Board of Optometry.

2012: A resolution is passed by the members for COPE “to implement alternative methods of accrediting continuing education similar to those used by other organizations, including the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACME) Provider Model of independent, accredited continuing education.”

2012: A smartphone app is created for OE TRACKER to track attendance of optometric CE courses.

2013: Australia becomes a member. First member outside of North America.

2013: ARBO holds third National Optometric Continuing Education Conference (NOCEC).

2013: COPE celebrates 20th anniversary.

100th Anniversary

2019: ARBO now has 7 full-time staff.

2019: Annual Budget: $1,216,500.

2019: 56,553 optometrists in OE TRACKER.

2019: Over 62,900 courses processed by COPE to date.

Celebrating 100 Years

ARBO

2010: COPE Standards for Commercial Support Finalized and Implemented.

2010: Five new Canadian provinces join ARBO bringing the total number of Canadian provinces in ARBO’s membership to eight.

2011: OE TRACKER achieves a major milestone when the one millionth CE attendance record was uploaded into the database in August 2011.

2011: The remaining Canadian provinces join: Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

2014: New Zealand becomes a member.

2015: Ontario is the first Canadian Province to utilize OE TRACKER for CE tracking and auditing.

2017: New COPE Accreditation criteria and process implemented. Provider accreditation process added to the long-standing course/activity accreditation process.

2017: COPE is deemed to be Substantially Equivalent to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACME) CME accreditation system.

2018: COPE joins the Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™ program.

2018: Over 4 million individual CE courses have been uploaded into OE TRACKER.

2018: ARBO announces CE auditing service using OE TRACKER.
OE TRACKER is a program for ARBO’s Member Boards to verify optometrists’ continuing education attendance for license renewal. The information is stored in the OE TRACKER database and can be retrieved by the Member Boards to instantly review and audit the CE data of their licensees electronically.

OE TRACKER Benefits for Member Boards:

♦ Access your licensees’ CE attendance hours using OE TRACKER and perform audits electronically.
♦ Transfer CE attendance data from OE TRACKER to use with your electronic license renewal system.
♦ Save time and paperwork! OE TRACKER is faster, easier and frees your staff up to do other things.

Don’t Have the Resources for Auditing? Let ARBO Do It For You!

* We will verify your CE requirements.
* We will review the CE hours earned and determine if each licensee has met your requirements.
* We will send you a report showing which licensees are in compliance and which licensees are not.

Contact ARBO today for a quote to do your CE audit.

OE TRACKER Is Easy To Use!

- To access your licensees’ information, go to www.arbo.org and click on ARBO Member Board Login.
- Log in using your board’s username and password. If you don’t know your username and password, contact the ARBO office.
- Simply run one of our reports to download the CE data for your licensees for a specific time period.
- The CE data from OE TRACKER includes information on each course the licensees have taken and total hours earned.

Accurate and Efficient Auditing

♦ Data from COPE-Approved and Non-COPE courses is stored in OE TRACKER.
♦ All data is verified by the ARBO staff before uploading the credits.
♦ Individual optometrists may not input CE hours themselves.

Learn More about OE TRACKER

For more information on OE TRACKER please contact Brittany Howard, Program Coordinator:
Phone: 704.970.2742
Email: bhoward@arbo.org

We are happy to come to your Board Meeting to speak with you about OE TRACKER and its features!
ARBO Offers CE Auditing Service to Member Boards

ARBO has a new benefit for member licensing boards: CE auditing services using OE TRACKER. For many years, member boards have been able to utilize various auditing reports generated from OE TRACKER. Now, ARBO is going a step further and will complete the audit process for you. This comes after numerous member boards have shown increasing interest in completing more extensive audits, but have expressed concern about internal resources and time to complete an audit.

Included in ARBO’s auditing services are a verification of jurisdictional CE requirements and review of the CE hours earned by each licensee/registrant to determine if the requirements for license renewal are met. ARBO is also able to send deficiency notices to licensees/registrants that are not in compliance, if desired. Member boards who are already utilizing ARBO’s auditing services include the Tennessee Board of Optometry and College of Optometrists of Ontario.

In order to for ARBO to complete an audit, member boards will need to:
1. Require all of their licensees/registrants to enter CE credits into OE TRACKER - this will ensure that all CE data is complete.
2. Encourage CE providers in their jurisdiction to report CE attendance to OE TRACKER - this will decrease the need for licensees/registrants to send individual CE certificates to ARBO.
3. Send a list of current licensees/registrants to ARBO annually - this will ensure that OE TRACKER is up-to-date with newly licensed optometrists.

Fees for ARBO’s auditing service will vary depending on the member board’s CE requirements, number of licensees/registrants and percentage being audited. If you or your board is interested in learning more about this new service, please contact Lisa Fennell at lfennell@arbo.org.

The New NBEO Part III Exam — Not Just a Skills Test

The National Board of Examiners of Optometry is in the process of revamping Part III CSE (Clinical Skills Exam). This is a major undertaking and will have a lot of moving parts to put it together. The reason for the update follows the path of progressive, comprehensive healthcare.

The standards of care have changed so that it is no longer adequate to simply test whether an applicant can perform a specific clinical skill. The applicant must know why the skill is important and how will it help guide treatment. As doctors in our clinics, we can teach a tech to perform many of the clinical skills we use on a day-to-day basis. What separates the doctors from the tech is the in-depth knowledge of why a procedure is being performed, to accurately interpret the results and develop a treatment plan.

The new Part III being developed by NBEO will continue to test clinical skills, but will also introduce more cognitive skills relating to specific procedures. This change will introduce a more accurate and robust indication of entry-to-practice. Your board can be assured that applicants for licensure are meeting the standards for a changing and progressive profession.

The NBEO does not work in a vacuum; feedback from stakeholders is crucial. The NBEO recently conducted a stakeholder survey to understand which skills stakeholders felt were most essential. A job task analysis, tentatively planned for early 2020, will sample a broad base of the profession to ensure that the new test accurately reflects the clinical and cognitive knowledge for entry-level practice.

- What specific clinical skills are important? Why?
- What is the thinking behind requiring a specific test or procedure?
- What will the optometrist gain from the results of a test or procedure?
- How should a minimally qualified candidate (MQC) use the skills test to guide treatment?

These are cognitive processes that optometrists do every day, so is it enough to just test the skill without testing the reasons behind it? This is the future of entry-to-practice testing.

ARBO will keep our members informed on the progress of Part III. If you have any questions or recommendations please let us know.
COPE Approves American Academy of Optometry as Accredited Provider

COPE is pleased to announce that the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) has been approved as an Accredited Provider by COPE. Founded in 1922, the AAO offers continuing education that promotes continuous improvement in patient care by providing optometrists and vision scientists with high quality, evidence-based educational activities focusing on advances in contemporary standards of eye care, vision science, and changes in the health care environment. The overall goal of the AAO’s continuing education program is to promote lifelong learning and improve patient outcomes by enhancing optometrist and vision scientist knowledge, competence, and performance in practice. The AAO has been a COPE Administrator for many years and has historically provided COPE CE that was accredited on an activity-level basis. The organization’s annual meeting includes nearly 450 hours of Lectures & Workshops, symposia, and scientific lecture and poster presentations. In order to become a COPE Accredited Provider, the AAO went through an extensive process where the organization demonstrated full knowledge of and compliance with COPE’s accreditation requirements.

AAO’s Helen Viksnins, MEd, FAAO, CAE, Senior Director, Programs comments, “The process of achieving accredited provider status was not easy! However, it was the best way for the Academy to demonstrate its commitment to setting the bar for excellence in optometric education. We look forward to not only continuing to provide the most cutting-edge evidence-based education for our practitioners, but also to new presentation formats for optimal learning at the annual meeting and throughout the year.”

COPE is unique among CE/CME accreditors in that it offers two options for accreditation of optometric continuing education: activity accreditation or provider accreditation. Larger providers such as AAO are more likely to choose provider accreditation, as it allows for creativity and freedom within the educational planning process. Activity accreditation, modified from COPE’s long-standing event accreditation process, is more likely to benefit smaller administrators that have fewer resources. CE providers are free to choose either accreditation option. The processes differ somewhat, but both provider and activity accreditation share the same Accreditation Criteria and Standards for Commercial Support (SCS).

The key components of COPE’s provider accreditation process involve submission of a self-study report and a performance in practice activity review. The self-study report is a documented narrative of the processes a provider uses in the planning, administration, and analysis of their educational activities. Providers also demonstrate their execution of COPE’s Accreditation Criteria and SCS through a performance in practice review of actual educational activities. Applicants for provider accreditation also participate in an interview with COPE to discuss their CE program and their organization’s policies and practices to ensure compliance with COPE’s requirements.

COPE accredited providers are responsible for planning and execution of their CE from start to finish, ensuring that both course content and activity content meets COPE’s requirements in the event of an audit by COPE. Individual course and activity submissions are not required, as content review can be done in-house. Data reporting happens on a yearly basis for accredited providers, as well.

More information on the COPE accreditation processes can be found on our website at www.arbo.org.
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 and click on COPE, then click on “COPE Reviewers” and “Become a Reviewer” or send an email to arbo@arbo.org.

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