COPE Releases Call for Comment on New Accreditation Criteria and Processes

As part of COPE’s ongoing effort for continuous improvement, COPE is moving its CE accreditation system towards equivalency and ultimately joint accreditation with other healthcare professions, including medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. Equivalency in CE accreditation supports the overall direction towards collaborative, inter-disciplinary care for better patient outcomes and improved community health.

Comments will be collected until May 29, 2015, on the following concepts under consideration for COPE policy changes:

1. The revised COPE accreditation criteria will include new requirements about educational planning, practice gaps and outcomes measurement. The intention is for educational content to be tailored towards the learners’ needs and for the impact of the educational activity to be measured. [see COPE Accreditation Criteria on page 3]

2. New COPE Accreditation processes will allow larger organizations the option to accredit at the provider level and smaller organizations to accredit at the individual activity level.

3. Course fees and Event fees to be collapsed into a single, per hour activity fee. Instructors will no longer submit courses for review. COPE administrators and providers will submit courses and activity information as part of the accreditation process. Courses will be valid for that specific, single activity.

4. ARBO to establish an Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) comprised of representatives from stakeholders in the optometric profession, accredited providers, and ARBO appointees. The primary function of the ARC is to review and recommend accreditation of providers and activities, based on the COPE accreditation criteria. The COPE Advisory Committee will continue to provide input and recommendation on the COPE accreditation criteria.

Comments will be reviewed by the COPE Committee and the COPE Advisory Committee. Policy changes will be presented to the ARBO Member Boards at the Annual Meeting in June and to the optometric community shortly thereafter. Training events for COPE Administrators and organizations interested in becoming COPE Accredited Providers are planned for spring 2016.
Dear Colleagues:

You won’t want to miss this year’s ARBO Annual Meeting. The House of Delegates will be discussing a number of significant issues that will impact the optometric community in the future, including: telemedicine, changes to the COPE accreditation process, and several contemporary issues such as online dispensing of optical products, social media, and license mobility.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee, chaired by Don Crouch, has secured some very informative speakers to talk about optometric regulation in the electronic era including:

- **Telehealth Policy & Practice: Past, Present, and Future**, Mario Gutierrez, National TeleHealth Policy Resource Center
- **Reasonable State Regulation in an Electronic Era**, Barbara Safriet, JD, LLM
- **Telehealth in the VA**, Tony Cavallerano, OD, VA Office of Telehealth Services
- **Cloudy with a Chance of Technology**, Margo Adams Larsen, PhD

Dale Atkinson will be there to give us his always popular legal update and to talk about recent regulation in the news. There will also be small group breakout sessions for our members to discuss issues of importance in their jurisdictions and separate sessions for the Executive Directors and Administrators. The ARBO committees and colleagues from other optometric organizations will also be giving reports on their activities over the past year.

I hope you’re able to join us to help set the stage for the future of our profession and the public that we serve. I look forward to seeing you in June at the 96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Roger Pabst, OD
ARBO President

Spring is here and there are only a few weeks left to make your plans to attend ARBO’s 96th Annual Meeting. The 2015 Annual Meeting is taking place at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle, Washington on June 21-23. The planning committee has developed a full and informative meeting agenda. You definitely will not want to miss it!

We’ve added more time to the meeting agenda this year for Member Board breakout sessions and discussion of contemporary issues. See pages 5-6 for the full meeting agenda.

This year we’re asking each Board to answer three questions on some important, current issues in optometry:

1. **What is your Boards’ policy or rule regarding CE requirements for license renewal for active duty military personnel and their spouses?**

2. **Does your Board regulate the dispensing of spectacle/optical products?**

3. **Does your Board have a policy or rule regarding social media?**

These questions are designed to spark a lively discussion during the discussion of contemporary issues session on Monday afternoon. We hope you come prepared to share your opinions on how these issues relate to our mission of public protection.

Also, just a reminder: if you haven’t sent me your Board report yet, please send it asap. It’s important to give an update on the activities of your Board even if you’re not able to come to the meeting. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in the Emerald City next month!

Roger Pabst, OD
ARBO President
New COPE Accreditation Criteria (continued from page 1)

**ACCREDITATION CRITERIA**

**A. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE**
Criterion 1: The provider has a CE mission statement for the organization that includes the expected results articulated in terms of changes in competence, performance or patient outcomes that will be the result of the program.

**B. EDUCATIONAL PLANNING**
Criterion 2: The provider incorporates into CE activities the educational needs (knowledge competence, or performance) that underlie the professional practice gaps of their learners.

Criterion 3: The provider generates activities/educational interventions that are designed to change competence, performance, or patient outcomes as described in its mission statement.

Criterion 4: The provider ensures that content of the CE is validated, the intervention has scientific and educational integrity and contains customary and generally accepted optometric and medical practices. (Standards for Commercial Support 5)

Criterion 5: The provider chooses educational formats for activities/interventions that are appropriate for the setting, objectives, and desired results of the activity.

Criterion 6: The provider develops activities/educational in the context of desirable professional (i.e. optometrist) attributes. (e.g. Institute of Medicine’s Core Competencies for Health Care Professionals, ASCO Attributes of Students Graduating from Schools and Colleges of Optometry, or ABO/ACGME/ABMS Competencies)

Criterion 7: The provider develops activities/educational interventions independent of commercial interests. (Standards for Commercial Support 1, 2, & 6)

Criterion 8: The provider appropriately manages commercial support. (Standards for Commercial Support 3)

Criterion 9: The provider maintains a separation of promotion from education. (Standards for Commercial Support 4)

Criterion 10: The provider promotes improvements in health care and NOT proprietary interests of a commercial interest. (Standards for Commercial Support 5)

**C. EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT**
Criterion 11: The provider analyzes changes in learners (competence, performance, or patient outcomes) achieved as a result of the overall program’s activities/educational interventions.

Criterion 12: The provider gathers data or information and conducts a program-based analysis on the degree to which the CE mission of the Provider has been met through the conduct of CE activities/educational interventions.

Criterion 13: The provider identifies, plans, and implements the needed or desired changes in the overall program (e.g. planners, teachers, infrastructure, methods, resources, facilities, interventions) that are required to improve on ability to meet the CE mission.

*COPE has adopted the ACCME® Accreditation Criteria. Used with the permission of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).*
96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle Rapidly Approaching

Meeting Information

ARBO’s 2015 Annual Meeting will be held at The Sheraton Seattle Hotel on June 21-23, 2015. Members and staff of the Regulatory Boards of Optometry in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are invited to attend this important meeting to discuss current regulatory issues. You definitely won’t want to miss this meeting! To register, please visit our website: https://www.arbo.org/2015_meet.php

Registration Fee: $450 for both voting and non-voting delegates.

PLEASE NOTE:
ARBO is going paperless this year for the meeting materials. Be sure to include your e-mail address when you register and remember to bring your laptop, tablet, or other web-enabled device with you to the meeting.

Hotel Information

The Sheraton Seattle Hotel is a contemporary urban retreat in the heart of downtown Seattle, Washington. The Sheraton is steps away from exciting nightlife, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment. Walk to all of the top things to do in Seattle, such as Pike Place Market, the Seattle Waterfront, Seattle Center, Space Needle, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Aquarium, Washington State Convention & Trade Center, and the Washington State Ferries.

Hotel reservations can be made through the ARBO website or by calling 888-627-7056 and referencing the ARBO meeting.

The Sheraton Seattle
1400 6th Ave
Seattle, Washington 98101
Phone: 206-621-9000 or 888-627-7056
http://www.sheratonseattle.com/

Group Room Rate:
$255/night, single/double (plus taxes and fees)
You must make your room reservation before May 18 in order to receive the group rate.

Check-in and Check-out:
• Check-in: 3:00 PM
• Check-out: 12:00 PM

In Room High-Speed Internet:
Free for ARBO meeting attendees!

Parking:
Valet parking fee: 48 USD (plus tax) daily

Travel Assistance Available Again This Year!

If you require travel assistance in order to attend the Annual Meeting, please let us know. ARBO and NBEO are jointly offering two financial support programs for the 2015 meeting:

$500 Travel Stipend: Travel stipends will be available to one person from each jurisdiction who attends both the NBEO Workshop and the ARBO Annual Meeting. This stipend is available to those jurisdictions that REQUIRE parts I, II, TMOD or III of the National Board Exam. To apply or for more information, please contact Andrea Moss of the NBEO at 704.332.9565 or moss@optometry.org.

$500 Travel Scholarships: A limited number of travel scholarships are available and will be rewarded on a first come, first served basis ($500 per jurisdiction). Scholarships are only available to those delegates whose Board does not cover 100% of travel expenses. To apply, please send a request on your Board letterhead, noting that your Board does not pay 100% of your travel expenses, to Ron Cassel of ARBO at rcassel@arbo.org or fax to 704-970-2720 by May 26, 2015.
### 96th ARBO Annual Meeting Agenda

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Workshop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Terry, OD, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Executive Director/Administrator Workshop: Share and Evaluate Your Experiences with Current and Planned Electronic Processes and Initiatives.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderated by Patricia Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Buffet Luncheon</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plenary Session:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Call to Order</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger Pabst, OD, ARBO President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Washington State Board of Optometry Welcome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Barry, OD, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>ARBO Member Orientation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donovan Crouch, OD; Michael Ohlson, OD, FAAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Board Member Training</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dale Atkinson, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20 pm</td>
<td><strong>Member Board Breakout Session I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Breakout groups TBA at the meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>National Board of Examination Review Committee (NBERC) Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:50 pm</td>
<td><strong>ARBO/NBEO Directors Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Call to Order</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger Pabst, OD, ARBO President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 am</td>
<td><strong>Legal Update/Top Regulatory Cases</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dale Atkinson, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>AOSA Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10 am</td>
<td><strong>FARB Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20 am</td>
<td><strong>COPE Committee Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Reasonable State Regulation in an Electronic Era</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Safriet, JD, LLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Buffet Luncheon for Delegates OR ED/Administrator Workshop and Luncheon:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion with Dale Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Telemedicine in the VA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tony Cavallerano, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Cloudy with a Chance of Technology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margo Adams Larsen, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>OE TRACKER Committee Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Member Board Reports from Breakout Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Contemporary Issues Committee Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Contemporary Issues Group Discussion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Final Nominating Committee Report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-8:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>President's Reception</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by VSP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
96th ARBO Annual Meeting Agenda

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015

7:00 am  Continental Breakfast

Plenary Session:

8:00 am  Call to Order
         Roger Pabst, OD, ARBO President

8:05 am  Elections

  • ARBO Board of Directors:
         4-Year Term Director Position #1 (Dr. Susy Yu, eligible for re-election)

         4-Year Term Director Position #2
         (Dr. William Rafferty, not eligible for re-election)

  • ARBO Candidates for ACOE Appointment:
         3-Year Term (Dr. Christopher Olson eligible for reappointment)

8:15 am  Adoption of 2016 Budget

8:20 am  Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee Report

8:30 am  Concurrent Breakout Sessions:

  • Industry Presentations

  • Executive Director/Administrator Workshop: What’s New with OE TRACKER?

9:15 am  Regulation in the News
         Dale Atkinson, Esq.

10:15 am Veterans Administration Report

10:30 am Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Report

11:00 am Introduction of 2015-2016 ARBO Officers

11:15 am American Optometric Association Report

11:30 am American Academy of Optometry Report

11:45 am Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Report

12:00 pm Old Business

12:15 pm  New Business
         Passing of the Gavel

12:30 pm  Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE:

ARBO is going paperless this year for the meeting materials. Remember to bring your laptop, tablet, or other web-enabled device with you to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

Save the Date for Future ARBO Annual Meetings:

June 26-28, 2016, in Boston, MA
June 18-20, 2017, in Washington, DC
June 17-19, 2018, in Denver, CO
As part of its commitment to quality eye health and vision care accessible to all and facilitating the development of optometry around the world, the WCO has developed The 1st World Congress of Optometry. Organised in partnership with the Colombian Federation of Optometrists (FEDOPTO), this is the first global event to encompass all aspects of optometry in order to share knowledge, explore clinical and technological innovation and establish an agreed holistic policy for the sector and for the future of accessible eye health care. The Congress will bring together educators, practitioners, leaders from optometric associations and representatives from the optical industry to discuss optometric education and practice across the world and help shape the future of the profession.

The three day itinerary is designed to appeal to all delegates. There are two parallel programmes: - a scientific programme with lectures and workshops on 17 topics, which will support delegates’ continuing education through COPE and CET accreditation, and an educators’ programme, which focuses on six key areas of optometric education. Lectures and seminars will be presented by leading experts from across the globe including Prof Brien Holden, Prof Thomas Freddo and Drs Randall Thomas and Ron Melton. The Congress will also offer an exhibition of clinical videos and photographs, a public outreach programme and a trade exhibition with more than 40 international and national exhibitors.

Susan Cooper, WCO President says: ‘The significant and increasingly recognised role of optometrists as the first point of contact for primary eye care and in the reduction of blindness and visual impairment needs to be supported at all levels. The biennial World Congress of Optometry is the ideal platform to evaluate our progress in achieving this goal for developing the collaborations needed to make positive progress. It is the essential event for anyone working in this area interested in playing a role in the future provision of high quality accessible vision and eye health care for all.’

Jose Manuel Gomez, Director of FEDOPTO, says: ‘We are delighted to take a leading role in hosting this ground-breaking event. The Congress will not only strengthen the presence of optometry globally, it will also enable us to raise awareness of, and leverage support for, optometry across Latin America and the Caribbean. We are very optimistic about the lasting and positive legacy the Congress will leave for the region.’

The 1st World Congress of Optometry takes place 14 – 16 August 2015 in Medellín, Colombia and is the first of an ongoing series of biennial global conferences to be held in different regions across the five continents.

Registration is open and further information is available at www.worldcongressofoptometry.org
ARBO Committee Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on an ARBO committee for the 2015-2016 administrative year, please consider the committee(s) that interest you. A list of current committees is shown on the following page. The Board of Directors will be making committee appointments and volunteers will be notified of appointments in early July. The Directors attempt to have all committees regionally balanced; therefore you may or may not be selected to serve depending on a variety of circumstances.

☐ I wish to be considered for the following ARBO Committee(s) for 2015-2016:

1. ______________________________
2. ______________________________
3. ______________________________
4. ______________________________
5. ______________________________
6. ______________________________

Your Jurisdiction: _________________________________________________________________

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

Office Phone: ____________________________  Cell Phone: _______________________________

Email Address: __________________________________________________________________

Expiration of Your Board Term (if applicable): _______________________________________

Please fax, or scan and email, the completed form to Lisa Fennell at 888.703.4848 or lfennell@arbo.org by June 5th.

Forms will also be available onsite during the Annual Meeting.
ARBO Committees

Bylaws Committee
This committee reviews the ARBO Bylaws to recommend changes to be voted upon at the following year’s Annual Meeting.

Contemporary Issues Committee
The purpose of this committee is to research and gather information on contemporary issues in optometry and report their findings and recommendations to the House of Delegates at the ARBO Annual Meeting.

Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO)
This committee develops and implements policy/programs for a license mobility vehicle by which state optometry boards can address the difficult task and burden of how to deal with the issue of licensure by endorsement in a uniform and consistent manner.

Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE)
COPE’s primary purpose is to administer a centralized, uniform CE accreditation process of programs/events offered on a national and regional basis. The COPE Committee also: oversees the implementation of guidelines for selecting and monitoring course reviewers, evaluates the requirements for course and CE administrator approvals, conducts periodic quality assessment reviews, and continuously refines the policy and procedures for the functioning of COPE.

International Affairs Committee
This committee seeks and encourages international membership in ARBO and maintains reciprocal relations with other international organizations. The International Committee gathers information relating to licensing and regulation boards of optometry in all jurisdictions of the world, and recommends methods to establish and maintain reciprocal relations among them.

Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee
The Judicial Council’s purpose is to review and approve all resolutions passed by the ARBO House of Delegates and is charged with reviewing and screening resolutions for appropriateness when they are submitted to the House of Delegates for adoption at the Annual Meeting.

Member Board Executive Directors/Administrators Committee
The purpose of the Member Board Executive Directors/Administrators Committee is to develop content for inclusion at the Annual Meeting for the benefit and education of member board executive directors/administrators and staff.

National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC)
This committee reviews the content of the examinations developed and administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. The committee presents a report to the NBEO and to the House of Delegates at the ARBO Annual Meeting with recommendations on how examinations may be improved to meet optometry board needs.

Nominating Committee
The Nominating Committee’s purpose is to make a report at the Annual Meeting of the names selected for vacant directorships of ARBO and the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. The committee accepts names for nomination before and during the Annual Meeting. The committee reviews pertinent information regarding candidates, conducts an interview process, and presents a slate of nominees to the voting delegates at the Annual Meeting.

OE TRACKER Committee
This Committee oversees the ARBO program designed to capture attendance data at educational meetings, making it available to both the individual optometrist and their boards of optometry to verify attendance information needed for continuing education requirements for license renewal.

Optometric Continued Competence Committee
The purpose of this committee is to identify and establish educational and ethical standards and strategies for optometric licensing boards to implement lifelong learning processes to protect the public.
COPE Advisory Committee Meets

The COPE Advisory Committee had its second meeting April 23-24 in Chicago, Illinois. Attendees of the meeting included: J. Bart Campbell, OD, representing the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE); Jenny Coyle, OD, representing the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO); Helen Viksnins, representing the American Academy of Optometry (AAO); Sandra Fortenberry, OD, representing the American Optometric Association (AOA); and James Campbell, OD; Michael Ohlson, OD; Jill Martinson-Redekopp, OD; Jerry Richt, OD; and Susy Yu, OD, MBA, representing COPE.

The Advisory Committee members and ARBO staff members were able to attend the Accreditation Council on Continuing Education (ACCME) Bridge to Quality Workshop while in Chicago to learn more about the ACCME accreditation process for continuing medical education (CME). The Advisory Committee also met with Dr. Murray Kopelow, Past President of the ACCME, to discuss the benefits of accredited CE and the need for interprofessional CE in healthcare.

In a separate meeting, the Advisory Committee reviewed changes made to the COPE accreditation standards based on discussion at their last meeting. The proposed new COPE accreditation processes, the timeline for implementation, and the composition of the Accreditation Review Committee were also discussed. Committee members agreed to send out a call for comments to various stakeholders within the profession to get feedback on the proposed changes to the COPE accreditation process (see p.1). Responses will be collected until May 29th and the Advisory Committee will review the feedback that is received.

OE TRACKER Mobile App for Smartphones Upgraded

ARBO is pleased to announce that an new version of the popular OE TRACKER mobile app for smartphones will soon be available! ARBO has listened to feedback from OE TRACKER app users and has taken the next step in making the app more user-friendly by allowing optometrists who have an up-to-date OE TRACKER subscription fee to view their CE course history while logged into the mobile app. Optometrists will now be able to see a list of CE courses that are in their OE TRACKER account. Course information shown through the app will include course title, course date, course hours, instructor name, provider name, COPE course ID, course category and course format. Optometrists will also be able to filter the results for a specific date range, just like they can when they are logged into OE TRACKER on their personal computers. For those optometrists using the mobile app that do not have their OE TRACKER subscription up-to-date, the app provides a link to a page on the ARBO website where they can pay the subscription fee.

In addition to the upgrades for course attendees, COPE administrators will now have an easier way to record attendance for those optometrists who do not have a smartphone and are unable to utilize the mobile app. Administrators will now have the option to scan OE TRACKER barcodes from name badges and OE TRACKER cards in addition to entering the attendees OE TRACKER number by hand.

The OE TRACKER mobile app is FREE to use and will soon be available in both US and Canadian app stores. Optometrists attending CE courses no longer have to worry about faxing attendance certificates or waiting for the CE provider to send the attendance to OE TRACKER. They can simply download the OE TRACKER app and log in using their OE TRACKER username and password. Then, they simply scan the course-specific QR code that is provided by the course provider. Attendance of the course will instantaneously be sent to OE TRACKER and the optometrist will be sent an e-mail verifying his or her attendance.

For more information on the OE TRACKER mobile app, visit https://www.arbo.org/oet_app.php or call 704-970-2710.
Update from NBEO

The Continued Professional Development in Optometry (CPDO®) exam was developed for optometrists to self-assess their current knowledge in ‘sight and life’ optometry. The NBEO’s CPDO exam can provide an OD insight into the professional knowledge base that he/she has accumulated through years of clinical experience and self-directed continuing education. Subsequently, it can highlight those subject-matter areas in which the OD may wish to concentrate when selecting future CE coursework.

The 3.5-hour computer-based test (CBT) CPDO exam can be taken at the Pearson VUE Test Center of your choice within the United States.

CPDO Exam Dates:
- Thursday, September 24, 2015
- Friday, March 11, 2016
- Friday, September 23, 2016

Assessment Fee: $500

Certified CEUs in North Carolina: 12 hours

Certified CEUs in North Dakota: 12 hours

The exam is given twice each year, in March and September. The CPDO® exam material covers a broad range of patient problems that are managed within general optometric practice. The subject matter included within the CPDO examination is intended to assess practice-level knowledge and experience across nine subject matter areas involving ocular disease and related systemic conditions.

- Lids - Lashes - Lacrimal System - Ocular Adnexa - Orbit
- Conjunctiva - Cornea - Refractive Surgery
- Lens - Cataract - IOL - Pre-Operative and Post-Operative Care
- Episclera - Sclera - Anterior Uvea
- Vitreous - Retina - Choroid
- Optic Nerve - Neuro-Ophthalmic Pathways
- Glaucoma
- Emergencies - Trauma
- Systemic Health

CPDO exam eligibility requires only that examinees be actively licensed to practice optometry in any state or United States territory. Licensure classically implies proof of graduation from an ACOE-accredited school or college of optometry and proof of passage of the NBEO exams required by the state of licensure.

The CPDO exam satisfies several unique purposes, all of which contribute towards the protection of the public health and welfare. Its most basic goal is to serve as a self-assessment of an OD’s professional knowledge in ‘sight and life’ topics. Practitioners receive a 9-part test results analysis of their performance on the exam, based on the nine conditions covered within the assessment (above). Though an overall pass/fail score is provided to each optometrist who takes the test, the primary purpose of the independent CPDO self-assessment is simply to reveal an OD’s weaker subject-matter topics. The performance analysis highlights any weaker areas and can lead the practitioner to choose CE courses that will assist in filling out the knowledge gaps identified.

CPDO functions:
- Self-assessment vehicle to assist optometrists to independently determine their subject matter strengths and weaknesses
- Assessment mechanism to assist state boards of optometry to determine any gaps in their licensed practitioners’ collective knowledge bases
- Source of disease-related continuing education credits as assigned by certain state boards of optometry

State boards may determine that the CPDO serves as a unique form of continuing education in that the testing format is wholly interactive rather than passive. Sitting for the exam may lead to the learning or brushing up on specific, important optometric knowledge. State optometry board members who would like to discuss the use of the CPDO exam or the granting of CE credit for taking the CPDO exam may contact the National Board at nbeo@optometry.org.

While the National Board’s TMOD examination (Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease) is an entry-level test for optometry students, the CPDO exam can be considered the TMOD for practitioners. CPDO exam material sophistication rests between the entry-level PAM exam (Patient Assessment and Management) and the ACMO exam (Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry).

Registration is currently open for the next CPDO examination, to be given at Pearson Vue Test Centers across the United States, on September 24, 2015.

For more information or to register for the CPDO exam, click here.
ARBO 2015 Call for Nominations

Two positions will be open on the ARBO Board of Directors this year. Elections will be held at the ARBO Annual Meeting in June:

- One 4-year term – Dr. Susy Yu: Eligible for re-election (intending to run)
- One 4-year term – Dr. William Rafferty: Not eligible for re-election

One position to be nominated by ARBO is open on the ACOE this year. A list of nominees will be approved at the ARBO Annual Meeting in June:

- One 3-year term – Dr. Christopher Olson: Eligible for reappointment

Individuals wishing to be considered by the Nominating Committee for service on the ARBO Board of Directors or the ACOE shall send a statement to that effect, along with a current CV, to Ms. Lisa Fennell, Executive Director, at the ARBO office by June 1, 2015. The candidate should be available at the ARBO Annual Meeting for an interview by the Nominating Committee.

For more information, see ARTICLE V, Section 1 of the Bylaws, on the ARBO Website at www.arbo.org.