

# THE GREENSHEET

Spring

2015

## Ontario Implements *OE TRACKER* Program

**A**RBO is pleased to announce that the College of Optometrists of Ontario will be using the *OE TRACKER* program for their next renewal cycle, which started in January 2015. Ontario is the first Canadian Province to utilize *OE TRACKER* for CE tracking and auditing.

ARBO has worked with the College of Optometrists of Ontario over the past few months to assign all Ontario licensees an *OE TRACKER* number. *OE TRACKER* cards have been mailed to these licensees with instructions on how to set up their *OE TRACKER* accounts. The Ontario licensees have been extremely responsive in contacting the ARBO office to set up usernames and passwords and have already begun submitting CE certificates to add continuing education hours into their accounts. The feedback from the Ontario optometrists has been very positive and they are eager to begin using *OE TRACKER*. ARBO staff has also been in contact with the major continuing education providers in Ontario to advise them of the different ways that they can submit attendance information to be added into *OE TRACKER*.

*OE TRACKER* Committee Chair Dr. Jeff Yunker comments, "As the cur-

rent Chair of the *OE TRACKER* Committee, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the College of Optometrists of Ontario for its decision to utilize *OE TRACKER* for its entire membership. I became involved with *OE TRACKER* when the North Dakota State Board of Optometry decided to require a 100% audit of CE. Our Board can now quickly and accurately assess CE compliance, and the individual optometrists have an efficient and reliable paperless means to record and store their education data. Hopefully, more jurisdictions will soon realize the inherent value of *OE TRACKER*."

*OE TRACKER* was designed to assist ARBO's Member Boards with verification of continuing education hours for license renewal purposes. In addition, *OE TRACKER* aids optometrists in tracking their continuing education attendance information, including licensing board requirements, licensure renewal period information, and individual CE certificate and transcript printing. The program became live in January 2005 and has grown immensely since then, reaching 2 million course uploads in June 2014. Currently, over 90% of optometrists in *OE TRACKER* have CE data in their accounts and 75% of optometrists have usernames and passwords set up to access their accounts.

ARBO's Member Boards use *OE TRACKER* to electronically review and audit the CE attendance of their licensees, allowing them to quickly and easily audit 100% of their licensees. Using *OE TRACKER* reduces the amount of paper used to print CE certificates and saves Boards valuable time that was previously spent going through paper certificates by hand. ARBO's Member Boards utilize *OE TRACKER* in a variety of ways for auditing purposes. Some Member Boards have set up online renewal programs that link to the *OE TRACKER* database, while others log into *OE TRACKER* to audit licensees using the detailed and summary reports provided by ARBO. In addition to requiring *OE TRACKER*, North Dakota, Maine, West Virginia, Tennessee and Ontario all pay for their licensees' *OE TRACKER* subscription fee so their licensees have full access to their *OE TRACKER* accounts.

For more information on how *OE TRACKER* can assist your Board in your license renewal and auditing process, or to arrange for someone from ARBO to come and speak to your Board about *OE TRACKER*, please contact Sierra Rice, ARBO Program Manager, at 704-970-2771 or [srice@arbo.org](mailto:srice@arbo.org).



Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc.

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Dr. Roger Pabst is the  
President of ARBO

## A Letter from the President

Happy New Year everyone! Winter is still in full force here in Minnesota, but hopefully some of you are starting to see signs of spring. It's that time of year where planning for the ARBO Annual Meeting starts ramping up and our planning committee, led by Dr. Donovan Crouch, is working hard to develop an interesting and educational meeting agenda. The theme this year is "Optometric Regulation in the Electronic Age." I hope that you're all making your plans to attend the meeting in Seattle.

The annual meeting is ARBO's number one opportunity to engage in discussion with and receive direction from our members, and we really want to hear from you. We're making some changes to the meeting format this year to allow more time for small group breakout discussions and member reports. Based on feedback from last year's meeting, we're also expanding the contemporary issues discussion time. Some of the hot topics that will be covered this year are: telemedicine, online optical sales, and social media. All of these issues have an impact on optometric regulation and we're expecting some lively discussions. Please talk about these issues with your Board at your next meeting so you'll be prepared to come and join in the debate.

Utilization of *OE TRACKER* is continuing to increase among our Member Boards as they look for ways to do more with less and yet still meet our mission of protecting the public. I'd like to welcome the College of Optometrists of Ontario as the first Canadian province to use *OE TRACKER* for their CE auditing. I hope our other members will soon follow Ontario's lead and start using *OE TRACKER* for 100% electronic audit, while saving time and freeing your staff up for other projects. The use of *OE TRACKER* by CE providers and optometrists who realize the value that the program offers has also increased. CE data is being submitted to the office in record numbers and we now have over 2.2 million records in *OE TRACKER*!

COPE continues to work on the development of a provider model of accreditation. The committee is also changing the accreditation criteria to make COPE equivalent with other CE accreditors in the healthcare professions. These changes are being made to ensure that all COPE continuing education is independent and

improves knowledge, performance, and patient outcomes. The COPE Advisory Committee, containing members from various optometric organizations, has given valuable feedback into the COPE process and they're making plans to meet again in the spring.

I also want to report that ARBO continues to work on communication with other optometric organizations. ARBO Board Members and Executive Director will be attending the third IOCCC meeting in late February. These meetings have gone a long way in helping all of the groups get a better understanding of each other and they provide a forum for exchanging ideas, which will ultimately benefit the profession of optometry.

I thank all of you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns about any of ARBO's programs, please feel free to email me at [president@arbo.org](mailto:president@arbo.org), or contact the ARBO office at [arbo@arbo.org](mailto:arbo@arbo.org). I look forward to seeing you in Seattle in June.

Roger Pabst, OD  
ARBO President



Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc.



### A Note from the Executive Director

I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year ! I can't believe it's already February. It seems like we were just all together in Philadelphia, and now we're talking about making our plans to go to Seattle. Planning for this year's Annual Meeting is well under way. Hopefully, you're planning to join us in June. It's shaping up to be a very productive and informative meeting. Registration is open now on our website along with travel assistance and hotel reservation information. This year it's very important to note that we are going paperless with our meeting materials. Everything will be distributed electronically, so please come prepared with your laptop, tablet, or other electronic device. More information on the 96th Annual Meeting can be found on page 4.

We're also going to be holding another Southern Regional Meeting this year in conjunction with SECO. This is a great opportunity to hear from ARBO Board members and connect with other regulatory Boards and schools of optometry in a smaller setting. If you're attending the SECO meeting in Atlanta please plan to attend our regional meeting on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 pm. You can find more details about the meeting and register on our website (registration is free). We're looking forward to a lively discussion in Atlanta!

The staff is very busy keeping up with all the continuing education that's going on. *OE TRACKER* has expanded into Canada and we're all very excited to begin working with the Ontario College of Optometrists and Ontario-licensed optometrists to track their CE hours. We're also in the process of doing a major upgrade to our database. This will allow us to do even more with our website and our programs and to create new tools to assist our members in even more ways. I'll be giving an update on this at the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

As always, thank you for all that you do to help us continue to achieve our mission of protecting the public. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Ansa

## ARBO Southern Regional Meeting

ARBO invites members and staff of the Boards of Optometry in the Southern Region to attend the 2015 Southern Regional Meeting. The meeting will be held in conjunction with SECO 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Meeting details are as follows:

**Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015**

**Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Location: Dogwood Room A-M1-North Tower, Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia**

There is no registration fee for this important meeting. However, please let us know if you plan to attend by registering online at: <https://www.arbo.org/southern.php>

Please contact ARBO at 866-869-6852 or 704-970-2710 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

## ARBO Remembers Past President Dr. James W. Hartzell, II



ARBO would like to extend condolences to the family of Dr. James Wylie Hartzell, II, who passed away this past December. Dr. Hartzell, the owner and president of Vision Clinic, P.C., served as ARBO President from 1999-2000.

Dr. Hartzell was a past president of the Iowa Optometric Association, the Iowa Board of Optometry Examiners and Prevent Blindness Iowa. He was also a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a member of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, National Eye Research Foundation and Heart of America Contact Lens Society.

ARBO is greatly appreciative of Dr. Hartzell's service to the organization and throughout the optometric community. He will be missed by all.

## Register Now for the 96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle!

### 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](https://www.arbo.org/2015_meet.php)

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

**SPECIAL RATE:** Register one delegate by May 15 and pay the full \$450 registration fee and get a second delegate registration at no charge.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rcassel@arbo.org) or fax to 704-970-2720 by May 26, 2015.

## OE TRACKER Committee Meets

The *OE TRACKER* Committee held their annual committee meeting on January 31, 2015, in Charlotte, North Carolina. During the meeting the committee reviewed *OE TRACKER* administrative and financial statistics from 2014 and discussed recent Member Board and state association use of *OE TRACKER* for auditing and license renewal purposes. West Virginia and Maine began paying for their licensees' *OE TRACKER* subscription fees this past summer and the Colorado Optometric Association started paying for their members in good standing. Ontario just signed on to use *OE TRACKER* for their next license renewal and recently paid for their licensees' subscriptions, as well.

The committee also discussed upgrades for the *OE TRACKER* mobile app based on user feedback, recent program enhancements including a CEE column for Transcript Quality courses, and marketing plans for 2015.

*Committee Members: Jeff Yunker, OD, North Dakota, Chair; Mary Lou French, OD, Illinois; Carrie Hruza, OD, Missouri; Joseph Sullivan, OD, Kansas; Steve Odekirk, OD, West Virginia; Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Board Liaison; Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota, Ex-Officio; Lisa Fennell, Staff; and Sierra Rice, Staff.*


 The logo for OE TRACKER features the letters 'OE' in a bold, green, sans-serif font, followed by the word 'TRACKER' in a bold, black, italicized, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background with a green horizontal bar above and below it.

## COPE Advisory Committee Meets

The COPE Advisory Committee established by ARBO held its inaugural meeting September 13-14, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Attendees of the meeting included: J. Bart Campbell, OD, representing the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE); Jennifer Coyle, OD, representing the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO); Mark Eger, OD, 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. Larry Alexander, OD, another committee member, was unable to attend the meeting.

During the meeting, the committee discussed proposed changes to the COPE accreditation standards to incorporate educational planning and outcomes measurement and reviewed the framework of a new process for accreditation of CE providers. There was agreement among committee members to move the COPE accreditation process towards equivalence with other healthcare professions with a goal of participating in inter-professional CE.

"This was a great first meeting. I'm confident that each of the organizations will make valuable contributions to improving the COPE accreditation process, particularly in the implementation of the updated standards." said Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, COPE Committee Chairperson. The COPE Advisory Committee plans to meet again in April.



## NBER Committee Attends NBEO Council Meetings

The NBER Committee attended the NBEO's Council Meetings in early December in Charlotte, North Carolina. The committee members participated in reviewing the NBEO examinations to ensure that questions and content are appropriate to meet the needs of the ARBO Member Licensing Boards. The committee members are working on a report, which will be pre-

sented at the ARBO Annual Meeting in June 2015.

*Committee Members: Marla Moon, OD, Pennsylvania, Chair; Mary Lou French, OD, Illinois; Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas; Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Board Liaison; and Ron Cassel, Staff.*

## ARBO Board Members Attend Inter-Organizational Meeting

ARBO Immediate Past President Ernest Schlabach, OD, and Directors Gregory Moore, OD, and Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD, attended a meeting of optometric organizations in September to discuss issues of mutual interest to the optometric community and the public. This was the second meeting of the Inter-Organization Communication and Cooperation Committee (IOCCC).

Also in attendance at the meeting were Mitchell Munson, OD, Christopher Quinn, OD, and William Reynolds, OD, from the American Optometric Association (AOA); Jennifer Smythe Coyle, OD, David Heath, OD, MEd, and Richard Phillips, OD, from the Association

of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO); Jack Terry, OD, PhD, Nancy Peterson-Klein, OD, and Jill Martinson-Redekopp, OD, from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEEO).

Some of the items discussed at the meeting included ways to improve inter-organizational communication, the effect of new technology on optometry, multi-organizational board service, and accreditation of continuing education. The IOCCC will be meeting again in late February in Dallas.

## ARBO Attends FARB Forum

Several ARBO representatives and staff recently attended the FARB Forum in Tucson, Arizona. ARBO Immediate Past President Dr. Ernest Schlabach; Executive Director Lisa Fennell; Operations Manager Ron Cassel; and Consultant to the Board, Dr. Donovan Crouch, were at the very informative meeting. There were presentations and discussions on why we have occupational licensure, what information to include on applications for licensure and renewal, entry level competence assessment as a prerequisite for licensure, and the effect of technology on practice.

Recent regulatory cases and new legislation affecting the regulatory community were presented by Dale Atkinson, Esq., FARB Executive Director. It was clear from the discussions during the meeting that all regulatory boards share similar interests and challenges regardless of the profession involved. The information presented would be of interest to any board member, whether they represent the profession or the public, and to all board staff.

FARB, the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, is an organization that represents Associations such as ARBO that are made up of regulatory boards for a variety of professions. ARBO is a founding member of FARB, and has a representative (currently Dr. Ernest Schlabach) on their Board of Directors. They hold two meetings of interest to regulatory board members and staff each year. One is the Regulatory Law Seminar and the other is the FARB Forum.

More information on FARB and their upcoming meetings can be found on their website, [www.farb.org](http://www.farb.org). The Annual FARB Forum is usually held in late January and it will be held in Clearwater Beach, Florida, in 2016. The 2016 Regulatory Law Seminar will be held in early October in Denver, Colorado.

Members of the ARBO Board of Directors met with the AOA Board of Trustees at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Denver in November.



## New Video Details NBEO's Ethics Policy

NBEO wants to get the word out regarding Ethics in the assessment of competency for optometry. In order to achieve this, NBEO has created an explanatory 15-minute video in association with Main Street Teleproductions. This easy-to-understand video features optometrists, actors, and NBEO staff members to convey the important message of "Ethics in Everything We Do."

The video is very clear on the NBEO's stance regarding cheating or improper conduct in the board examination process: *zero tolerance*.

Why is the concept of Ethics so important to the NBEO and the optometry profession? NBEO takes the issue of ethical behavior seriously, because ethical behavior is necessary to carry out its organizational statement: "Advancing the Assessment of Competence." The video explains that in order for a student's competence to be accurately assessed, a standard of ethical behavior must be followed at all times. Each of the 50 United States depends on the NBEO to provide quality exams and reliable results so that a candidate's competency may be assessed for the practice of optometry.

It is this responsibility of providing and therefore protecting the public with competent and qualified optometrists that brings NBEO back full-circle to the issue of ethics. It is only through ethical behavior that an individual's true competence may be evaluated. The responsibility of ethical behavior is a shared responsibility involving not only students, but also faculty members, current optometrists, test administrators, and every individual involved in the testing process in which optometric competence is measured.

In addition to the new video, the NBEO provides other resources to define and explain its Ethics Policy. An excellent starting point is the NBEO's website, [optometry.org](http://optometry.org). From the NBEO homepage, select the *General* tab at the top of the page, and then *Ethics* in the drop-down box. It is in this location that the *Ethics Policy* is found. Also helpful is the subsequent link in the *Security Dilemmas* section. This link provides examples of specific scenarios which might arise and how to respond to them in an ethical manner.

To ensure that all candidates understand the ethics terms to which they are agreeing, the same Ethics link provides the *Exam Security Agreement*. Candidates are encouraged to read this Agreement in detail and ask all questions prior to signing. Finally, the NBEO provides a confidential procedure on this website location that can be used by individuals to report possible ethics violations.

NBEO encourages everyone involved in the profession of optometry to view the new ethics video. This concise narrative is filled with information that is essential and useful for students and optometrists alike. While some of the provided information might be surprising even for the most seasoned optometrists, a clearly defined set of standards is beneficial to everyone.

The video may be viewed with the following link: [www.optometry.org/ethics.cfm](http://www.optometry.org/ethics.cfm).

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## NBEO Conducts Standard Setting Study for Part II PAM/TMOD

In January 2015, NBEO held a two-day meeting for the purpose of hosting a Standard Setting Study for the Part II PAM/TMOD board examination. The meeting was held at the NBEO office in Charlotte, NC and was facilitated by the NBEO psychometrics staff and Alpine Testing Solutions. A panel of twenty-three optometrists (panelists) from around the country participated in this event. Because Part II PAM/TMOD now presents exam material in the new solo item and minicase formats in addition to the classic patient cases, it was necessary to develop a new Standard Setting cut score to reflect the exam content changes.

The Standard Setting Study was conducted with the diverse group of panelists in optometry and test design in order to determine the most accurate cut score for Part II PAM/TMOD. The Study consisted of group discussions, as well as careful analysis of examination questions by the participating optometrists.

## 2015 Annual Meeting Call for Nominations

In accordance with ARTICLE VI, Section 2.C of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Bylaws, I hereby announce that the Nominating Committee consists of the following individuals:

- Dr. James Bureman, Missouri, Chair
- Dr. James Campbell, West Virginia
- Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin, District of Columbia
- Dr. Jeffery Yunker, North Dakota
- Dr. Michael Ohlson, Iowa, Board Liaison
- Dr. Roger Pabst, Minnesota, *Ex-officio*

I also announce that 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. William Rafferty: Not eligible for re-election
- One 4-year term – Dr. Susy Yu: Eligible for re-election; intending to run

Individuals wishing to be considered by the Nominating Committee for service on the ARBO Board of Directors 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](http://www.arbo.org).

Gregory Moore, OD  
ARBO Secretary-Treasurer

### OFFICERS

President—*Roger Pabst, OD*  
Vice President—*Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO*  
Secretary-Treasurer—*Gregory Moore, OD*  
Immediate Past President—*W. Ernest Schlabach, OD*

### DIRECTORS

*Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD*  
*Michael Ohlson, OD, FAAO*  
*Richard Orgain, OD*  
*William Rafferty, OD, FAAO*  
*Jerry Richt, OD*  
*Donovan Crouch, OD, Consultant to the Board*

### STAFF

*Lisa Fennell, Executive Director*  
*Ron Cassel, Operations/Finance Manager*  
*Candice Cole, Program Coordinator*  
*Donna DeLay, Program Manager/COPE Administrator*  
*Tony Mancuso, Database Administrator/Web Developer*  
*Sierra Rice, Program Manager*



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