COPE Plans Training Workshop in Chicago

COPE is holding a training workshop to educate CE providers on its new accreditation criteria and changes to the accreditation processes. The workshop is taking place on Friday, April 1, at the Loews Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. Topics at the workshop will include: planning CE around identified practice gaps and measuring learning outcomes. COPE’s activity accreditation process and COPE’s new provider accreditation process will both be discussed in detail.

The purpose of the workshop is to educate CE providers on the changes being made to the COPE accreditation requirements. The workshop will assist optometric CE professionals in developing strategies to ensure their organizational compliance with the COPE Accreditation Criteria, Standards for Commercial Support, and COPE policies. The registration fee for the workshop is $250 and interested attendees can go to the ARBO website to register. A block of rooms is being held for attendees of the COPE Training Workshop at the group rate of $139.00/night + tax. Reservations must be made by March 10, 2016, to ensure the group rate.

COPE announced its proposed new accreditation criteria and process changes in May 2015. The announcement continued COPE’s ongoing effort to move its CE accreditation system towards equivalency and ultimately joint accreditation with other healthcare professions, to support the overall direction towards collaborative, interdisciplinary care for better patient outcomes and improved community health.

A call for comment was sent out to COPE Administrators, ARBO Member Licensing Boards, COPE Reviewers and other stakeholders. There were some common themes in the responses that were received.

- Support for COPE’s goal of quality education that results in improved patient outcomes.
- Support for moving COPE’s accreditation system towards equivalency with other healthcare accreditors.
- Support for moving COPE’s accreditation system in an interprofessional direction.
- Concerns about the additional workload with the new process.
- Concerns about not allowing courses to be presented more than once.
- Concerns about requiring COPE Administrators to submit courses for COPE review.

Following the call for comment, some changes to the program were made.

- Courses can be presented multiple times, but the approval time will be reduced from 3 years to 1 year.
- The database of courses will continue to be available.
- Courses can be submitted for review by the instructor or the administrator.
- Two small providers, the Iowa Optometric Association and the Minnesota Optometric Association, were also added to the COPE Advisory Committee to bring the perspective of the smaller CE providers.

Dr. Jim Campbell, COPE Committee Chair, commented, “The changes COPE is making are necessary to bring optometric CE up to the level of the other healthcare professions. The workshop will provide a vehicle to bring COPE administrators together to learn the new processes and get their questions answered. We understand that implementing change requires a transition process and the workshop will give our administrators the tools they need to be successful with the new system.”

More information and registration for the workshop is available on the ARBO website: https://www.arbo.org/cope_workshop.php

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Letter From the President
- Southern Regional Meeting Info
- 2016 Annual Meeting Info
- OE TRACKER Individual Upload Form
- ARBO Committee Updates
- NBEO Update
As we reflect on ARBO’s endeavors and achievements in the past year, one common theme echoes across all of our programs: what is our mission? Are we here to advocate for our profession, or are we here to protect the public? Many who have not had regulatory responsibility assume that what is best for optometry is good for the public. Those who have served on a regulatory board understand that our primary objective, our True North, should always be public protection. In the long run, focusing on public protection will ultimately improve and promote the profession of optometry.

It is hard to argue with the general principal that public protection should be paramount. However, sometimes we become bogged down by minor details and artificially complex debates on issues that are relatively unimportant in the big picture. ARBO is dedicating its efforts to promote and structure programs in the best interest of the public.

**COPE Governance**

There is broad agreement among all of the major optometric organizations on the criteria for COPE accreditation. All parties agree that optometry must continue to integrate with other healthcare providers in order to provide the best patient care. There is uniform agreement that the expanded COPE program will enhance optometric continuing education and thus help protect the public. There is also a deep consensus that the new COPE program will be a major advancement in the campaign for parity of optometry with medicine and other healthcare fields. It is hard to see how any controversy could exist over such an important program. The answer, of course, lies in the recently-raised and rather perplexing objections regarding the governance of COPE.

The key point here is that there is uniform agreement as to what changes are being made to the COPE accreditation standards. The only disagreement is over who should run COPE.

Who should control the accreditation of continuing education? The responsibility of maintenance of licensure rests with the regulatory boards. Fulfillment of accredited CE requirements is a measure of competence. The state and provincial boards are legally mandated to regulate both the maintenance of licensure and the provision of continuing education. The regulatory boards, and ARBO as their national representative, are the natural owners of the responsibility of accreditation. Of course, in order to develop a strong COPE program, input from the entire profession is critical. ARBO is continuing the dialogue with all the relevant stakeholders and we expect that we will be able to reach an arrangement which will be satisfactory to all parties. However, the key right now is to focus on the primary objective of improving COPE, which will protect the public and help advance the profession of optometry.

We invite everyone to attend our COPE training meeting in Chicago on April 1, 2016, where we will be reviewing the updated COPE accreditation standards.

**Telehealth**

What guidelines and policy examples can ARBO set for its member boards to support quality clinical care in the telemedicine arena? There is a deluge of questions in this arena for all health care professionals, and particularly for optometry as a regulated profession. Which laws should apply? Those where the patient is located or those where the doctor is located? What if there is an adverse outcome?

Consumers are demanding greater convenience, transparency, and engagement in their health care. Optometry cannot bury its head in the sand. Lawsuits by Apple did not stop Microsoft Windows. Regulatory challenges by taxi and limousine commissions did not stop Uber and Lyft. Technological change and telehealth is coming and the profession of optometry needs to be proactive. We need guidelines to ensure standards of care. We need ways to protect the public from telehealth practices that fall below the standard of care. ARBO needs to work with our fellow optometric organizations to keep up with the rapid pace of change.

Discussions and controversy present a great opportunity for us to reinforce the concept that our real objective is to ensure that ARBO’s programs meet the high standards of public scrutiny and protection. Let’s continue the dialogue.

Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO
ARBO President
A Note from the Executive Director

Happy New Year from the ARBO office! Time is really flying by. It’s hard to believe that it’s 2016 already and our Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Hopefully, you’re already making your plans to travel to Boston to attend our 97th meeting. The Planning Committee, led by Dr. Donovan Crouch, is hard at work and they’re making some changes to the program that I think everyone will enjoy. Boston is an exciting city to visit with a lot of fun things to do. Hopefully, you’ll have the opportunity to take in some of the historic sights while you’re there.

Our committees have been hard at work since the last meeting. Plans for implementation of the new COPE accreditation processes are being finalized and marketing plans are in place to increase utilization of OE TRACKER. The National Board Exam Review Committee is working on some excellent recommendations for improvements to the National Board Exams, and the Contemporary Issues Committee is busy researching telemedicine, license mobility and other issues that affect the regulatory boards. All the committees will be giving you an update on their activities at the Annual Meeting. Our incredibly dedicated group of volunteers is vital to this organization and I can’t thank them enough for all they do in helping us achieve our mission of protecting the public.

In the office, the project to upgrade our database is nearing completion. This investment is going to really pay off by improving functionality for our members, our customers and our staff. The staff has also been extremely busy as the spring CE activities start ramping up. COPE course submissions are at an all-time high and OE TRACKER will soon reach the 3,000,000 milestone of courses uploaded. We’re also working on planning the COPE Training Workshop on April 1st. It’s very exciting to see all the hard work that’s been done by the COPE Committee over the past few years finally coming to fruition.

I hope that all our members are able to take advantage of the tools that ARBO provides. If there’s anything that we can do to help you, or any questions that you have, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you all in Boston this summer!

ARBO Southern Regional Meeting Being Held at SECO

ARBO invites members and staff of the Boards of Optometry in the Southern Region to attend the 2016 Southern Regional Meeting. The meeting will be held in conjunction with SECO 2016 in Atlanta, GA. Meeting details are as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, February 27, 2016  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, International Ballroom AB-M2-North Tower

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

Please contact ARBO at 866-869-6852 or 704-970-2710 with any questions. Breakfast will be provided. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

ARBO Board Members Attend Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Summit

ARBO President, Dr. Susy Yu, and Past President, Dr. Bill Rafferty, recently attended the ASCO Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Summit held at the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University. The Summit brought together representatives from ASCO member institutions, non-optometry health professions institutions, and other organizations involved in interprofessional collaboration to share current best practices and ideas about future development of interprofessional education and collaborative practice.

Discussion at the summit included growing interprofessional practice and education programs, changing the culture to encourage team-based collaboration, using IPE to train students for the future of healthcare, and communicating the value of IPE to educators, patients and healthcare providers. Dr. Yu remarked, “The changes we are making to COPE fit right in with the direction optometric education is taking. We are changing our CE accreditation system to be equivalent with the other healthcare professions so we are all speaking the same language which will ultimately result in improved health outcomes. Interprofessional education as a student is the foundation for collaborative practice, integrating optometrists among other health professions with accredited continuing education and continued professional development for the public welfare.”
Register Now for the 97th ARBO Annual Meeting in Boston!

Meeting Information

ARBO’s 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at The Westin Boston Waterfront from June 26 –28, 2016. 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. The ARBO Annual Meeting provides an excellent forum for keeping up-to-date with regulatory issues. This is a great opportunity to interact with your regulatory colleagues discussing hot topics and shared concerns in the regulatory community. You definitely won’t want to miss this meeting! To register, please visit our website: http://www.arbo.org/2016_meet.php

Registration Fee: $475 for Voting and Non-Voting Delegates.

SPECIAL RATE: Register one delegate at full price by May 13, 2016, and get a second delegate registration at no charge!

PLEASE NOTE: Meeting materials will be provided electronically. Be sure to include your email address when you register and remember to bring your laptop, tablet, or other web-enabled device with you to the meeting.

Hotel Information

The Westin Boston Waterfront is located in the heart of the emerging Boston Seaport district less than three miles from Logan International Airport. You’re just blocks away from historic Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, the New England Aquarium and Financial District. Boston’s waterfront is bursting with new shops, public Green space and brilliant social and cultural activity.

Hotel reservations can be made through the ARBO website or by calling 800-228-3000 and referencing the ARBO meeting.

The Westin Boston Waterfront
425 Summer St
Boston, MA 002210
Phone: 617-532-4600 or 888-627-7116
www.westinbostonwaterfront.com

Group Room Rate:
$239 (plus taxes and fees) per night (single/double)

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

Parking:
36 USD daily (Self); 46 USD daily (Valet)

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 2016 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 888-703-4848 by May 26, 2016.
Upload Your CE Hours with the New OE TRACKER Online Upload Form

ARBO recently introduced a new way for optometrists to submit attendance data into OE TRACKER. In addition to faxing and e-mailing CE certificates, optometrists who are current on their OE TRACKER subscription fee can now submit CE credits for uploading into OE TRACKER via a new online upload form. The online upload form can be used for both COPE and Non-COPE course hours and requires the optometrist to attach a scan or picture of the official CE certificate. Once the form and CE certificate are submitted, ARBO staff verifies the data and uploads the credit hours into OE TRACKER. Optometrists then receive an automated e-mail from OE TRACKER confirming the hours have been inputted.

ARBO created the online upload form to meet the needs of the increasing number of optometrists who have requested the ability to input their own CE hours into OE TRACKER. Jeff Yunker, OD, Chair of the OE TRACKER Committee comments, “The online submission process is quick, simple and yet another way for OE TRACKER to store a complete record of an optometrist's continuing education. As a State Board Chair, OE TRACKER is a wonderful tool to ensure CE compliance has been met prior to relicensure.”

Optometrists can access the online upload form 24/7 by logging into their OE TRACKER accounts. To access the form, simply log into OE TRACKER and click on the link for “Submit Credits into OE TRACKER from CE certificates”. Please note that images of CE certificates must be submitted in their original size in order for ARBO staff to review the information. If an optometrist has not paid their OE TRACKER subscription fee, they can do so when they are logged into their OE TRACKER account.

If you have any questions or cannot remember your OE TRACKER username or password, please contact ARBO at 704-970-2771 or toll free at 866-869-6852.

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ARBO Staff Attends ACEhp 2016 Annual Conference

ARBO Executive Director Lisa Fennell and Program Manager Sierra Rice recently attended the Alliance for Continuing Education in Health Profession (ACEhp) 41st Annual Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. The conference, which was held January 13-16, drew continuing education professionals from multiple healthcare professions to collaborate with their cohorts to benefit continuing education and professional development. Ms. Fennell and Ms. Rice attended numerous workshops focused on different aspects of continuing education including standards for commercial support, the role of technology in the future of continuing education and measuring and analyzing the success of continuing education programs.

The Alliance is a membership community of over 2,000 healthcare continuing education professionals dedicated to accelerating excellence in performance through quality education, innovation, advocacy and collaboration. Founded in 1975, the Alliance is the recognized leader and trusted partner striving to close gaps in healthcare delivery by transforming the best science and knowledge into effective professional development.

The Alliance constituents and stakeholders include the broadest universe of medical and healthcare professions, including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, among others. Members also include healthcare continuing education professionals who represent federal healthcare, healthcare education organizations, hospital health systems, industry, medical education companies, medical schools, medical specialty societies and state medical societies.

The Alliance’s mission is to “connect healthcare education professionals to promote best practices that improve patient care.” Membership is open to any individual that is involved with continuing education and professional development for a healthcare profession. For more information, visit www.acehp.org
COPE Advisory Committee Adds New Representatives

Two new representatives were added to the COPE Advisory Committee in November 2015. After reviewing the responses that were received to the COPE Call for Comments, Advisory Committee members agreed that it would be advantageous to add representation from a small CE provider. Invitations were sent out to several State Optometric Associations that met the criteria agreed upon by the committee: 1) the organization currently presents COPE accredited courses and events; 2) the organization holds 2-4 meetings per year; and the organization has a small staff.

After reviewing the responses that were received, Brian Kirschling, OD, representing the Iowa Optometric Association, and Beth Coleman, Executive Director of the Minnesota Optometric Association, were added to the committee. The other members of the COPE Advisory Committee currently are: 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 ARBO/State Boards of Optometry.

The COPE Advisory Committee was established in 2014 by the ARBO Board of Directors to bring multiple stakeholders and consultants within the Optometric CE enterprise together to act in an advisory, consultative, and technical capacity to COPE. The committee has met several times to provide input into the changes to the COPE accreditation standards, the implementation timeline, the composition of the Accreditation Review Committee, and planning for the COPE Training Workshop. Dr. Susy Yu, ARBO President and Chair of the COPE Advisory Committee, commented, “I’m very excited to have input from smaller providers as COPE is making changes to its accreditation process. Meaningful feedback from CE providers is critical to developing COPE into a robust accreditation system. Brian and Beth bring a unique perspective that will be very valuable as we move forward with implementation of COPE’s new criteria.”

OE TRACKER Committee Meets

The OE TRACKER Committee held their annual committee meeting on February 6, 2016, in Charlotte, North Carolina. During the meeting the committee reviewed OE TRACKER administrative and financial statistics from 2015, as well as upgrades to the OE TRACKER mobile app and OE TRACKER program that happened in the past year including the new online web upload form that allows optometrists to input their own CE hours into the database along with a copy of their original CE certificate for verification by ARBO staff.

The committee also discussed recent Member Board and State Association utilization of OE TRACKER. Member Boards in Maine, North Dakota, Ontario, Tennessee and West Virginia continue to pay their licensees’ OE TRACKER subscription fees and require OE TRACKER for license renewal. Two state associations- Colorado and Iowa- also pay for their members’ OE TRACKER subscription fees as a member benefit. ARBO staff continues to reach out to Member Boards who may be interested in utilizing OE TRACKER for license renewals and audits.

Committee Members: Jeff Yunker, O.D., North Dakota, Chair; Madhu Chawla, O.D., California; Dale Dergousoff, O.D., British Columbia; Mary Lou French, O.D., Illinois; Greg Moore, O.D., West Virginia, Board Liaison; Steve Odekirk, O.D., West Virginia; Coby Ramsey, O.D., Wyoming; Jim Vaught, O.D., South Carolina; Susy Yu, O.D., California, Ex-Officio; Lisa Fennell, Staff; and Sierra Rice, Staff.

NBER Committee Attends NBEO Council Meetings

The National Board Exam Review Committee attended the NBEO’s Council Meetings in early December 2015 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The committee members rotated among the three phases of the NBEO test creation process and participated in reviewing the NBEO examinations to ensure that questions and contents are appropriate to meet the needs of the ARBO member licensing boards.

Committee members are now working on a report that the committee will present at ARBO’s Annual Meeting in Boston in June 2016. Members of the NBER Committee include: Bob Smalilng, OD (Arkansas), Chair; Gary Avallone, OD (Louisiana); Thomas Bobst, OD (Ohio); Freddie Mayes, OD (Kentucky); Clay McLaughlin, OD (Oklahoma); Greg Patera, OD (Michigan); Jim Campbell, OD (West Virginia), Board Liaison; and Ron Cassel, Staff. This year’s NBER Committee is one of the largest committees to date, with all but Dr. Smalilng and Mr. Cassel serving as first-time NBER Committee members.
ARBO Board Holds Strategic Planning Workshop

The ARBO Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning Workshop in December in Atlanta, Georgia. During the meeting Board members and staff worked with a facilitator to review the prior strategic plan, the association’s mission and core membership functions. The group identified several strategic focus areas and objectives to pursue and prioritized the importance of each.

Prior to the workshop, stakeholders (including ARBO’s member Boards) were asked to participate in a survey to give feedback on key regulatory issues that will have an impact in the next few years and what programs and services ARBO can provide to assist in addressing them. The survey responses were reviewed at the workshop and the information was used to assist the Board in their discussion of strategic areas for the organization to focus on in the future.

The Board spent the day developing a strategy articulation map to use as a plan for focusing the organization’s efforts in the short and long term future. The strategic focus areas that were identified are communications/outreach, competency, evolving regulation, financial and administration, and programs and services. Some of the objectives that were determined are:

- Develop a multi-level platform for consistent communication to make ARBO an indispensable resource for member boards.
- Ensure that competency tools are responsive to the needs of all member boards and provide a positive revenue stream.
- Enable member boards to take a proactive approach to integrating emerging technology.
- Achieve financial independence and improve administration.
- Promote information gathering, exchange and uniformity.

Time was also devoted at the workshop to identify the next steps in the process for developing the initiatives that were prioritized by the Board. More details on the strategic plan will be shared by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in June.

Attendees of the workshop included: Dr. Susy Yu, President; Dr. Greg Moore, Vice President; Dr. Michael O’Hara, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Roger Pabst, Immediate Past President; Dr. Jim Campbell; Dr. Michael Ohlson; Dr. Rick Orgain; Dr. Bill Rafferty; Dr. Jerry Richt; Dr. Ernest Schlabach; Dr. Donovan Crouch, Lisa Fennell, Executive Director; Dale Atkinson, Legal Counsel; and Michael Barrett, Facilitator.

ARBO Attends FARB Forum

ARBO Board members and staff recently attended the FARB Forum in Clearwater Beach, Florida. ARBO Past President, Dr. Ernest Schlabach; Executive Director, Lisa Fennell; Operations Manager, Ron Cassel; and Consultant to the Board, Donovan Crouch, joined other regulatory professionals at the meeting. Other Forum attendees that might be familiar to ARBO’s membership were Dr. Steve Odekirk, Board member of the WV Board of Optometry, Leanne Duffy, Program Director of the Colorado State Board of Optometry, and Darcee Moe, Legal Counsel for the Montana Board of Optometry.

There were presentations and discussions on practice and credential terminology, occupational mobility and portability, and the use of technology by regulatory boards. Recent regulatory cases and 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.

FARB (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. The FARB Forum occurs every year and will be held on January 26-29, 2017, in San Antonio. The 2016 Regulatory Law Seminar will be held September 29-October 2, 2016, in Chicago.
After several years of consideration, the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Board of Directors made the decision during the December 2015 meeting to convert the Part I Applied Basic Science Examination (ABS) from paper-and-pencil format (P&P) to computer-based testing (CBT) format. The first CBT administration of the Part I ABS will take place in March 2017.

The CBT version of this exam will include 350-400 items administered in two 4.0-hour sessions over a single day at Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The 1-day exam will be given over 4 days in March of each year. The untargeted session will be administered annually on 1 day in August, at any PPC. The 5 distinct days of annual testing will necessitate the generation of 5 different exam forms per year.

Updating the Part I exam will bring it into line with equivalent basic science exams administered by other healthcare profession testing organizations:

- The National Board of Medical Examiner (NBME) offers the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 examination, which originally consisted of 800 multiple-choice questions but currently contains 308 multiple-choice questions. The Step 1 exam is administered during a single day in 7 hours.

- The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Medical (NBOME) gives the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination-USA (COMLEX-USA) Level 1 exam, which is comprised of 400 multiple-choice questions. Testing takes place during two 4-hour CBT sessions in a single day.

- The National Board Dental Examination Part I examination (NBDE Part I) is available to candidates on any day, is composed of 400 items, and is given over two 3.5-hour sessions during a 1-day period.

- The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) gives the Part 1 exam, which consists of 205 multiple-choice questions and is administered in 4 hours on a single day.

A compelling reason to convert the P&P Part I exam to CBT involves exam security. In 2015, 23 scores were deemed untrustworthy and were withheld from candidates due to possible breaches in exam security. These unfortunate circumstances are minimized through use of the CBT format.

A new standard setting for Part I ABS will be performed and will complement the transition from the existing P&P exam to the new CBT exam. Four separate standard setting studies will be conducted to determine the new cutoff score for the Part I ABS examination on each form. The purpose of standard setting is to determine how much knowledge is ‘just enough’ for safe and effective entry level practice and to translate that information into a passing score for a given examination.

As more information becomes available regarding the CBT Part I ABS examination, it will be posted on the NBEO website at [http://www.optometry.org/](http://www.optometry.org/).
As a regulatory board member and an optometrist, please consider becoming a reviewer of courses submitted for COPE accreditation. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will help ensure the quality and independence of continuing education. COPE accreditation benefits both practitioners in your jurisdiction as well as the public that we serve.

**What do I need to do to become certified?**
- You must complete and submit a course reviewer questionnaire.
- You must be endorsed by your optometry licensing Board; this endorsement will be secured by ARBO once you volunteer.
- You will be asked to complete the online COPE reviewer training that consists of six 10-20 minute self-paced educational modules followed by a short self-assessment.
- Once the training has been successfully completed, you will receive your congratulatory packet of information, including a certificate suitable for framing and a lapel pin.

**How much time will this take from my already busy schedule?**
- COPE reviewers are not requested to review more than two courses at any given time.
- The review of a course typically takes about 30 minutes.

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process!

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

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