ARBO’s 93rd Annual Meeting A Huge Success!

ARBO’s 2012 Annual Meeting took place June 24-26 at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting was attended by 114 individuals, including 71 delegates from 39 Member Boards. The attendees participated in discussions, workshops and presentations, and conducted the business of the Association. A great time was had by all!

Sunday morning began with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Workshop where Drs. Jack Terry and Sandra Neustel brought the attendees up-to-date on the current activities of the NBEO. Later in the morning, there were breakout sessions for Board members and their administrative staff. Dale Atkinson, ARBO’s legal counsel, conducted Board member training, and in a concurrent session for Executive Directors and Administrators, Sierra Rice, ARBO’s Program Coordinator, discussed the uses of OE TRACKER for Member Boards. During lunch, there was a new attendee orientation to learn more about ARBO policies and meeting procedures.

The 93rd Annual Meeting was officially called to order by President Michael Ohlson on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Mary Lou French from the Illinois Board of Optometry welcomed the delegates to Chicago, and they were treated to a rousing performance by the Blues Brothers. The meeting continued with reports from ARBO’s President, Managing Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and the approval of the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes. Later that afternoon, there were reports from the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee and the Nominating Committee, followed by reports from the Member Boards.

Next, Dale Atkinson gave a presentation on top cases impacting regulatory boards, followed by the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Report. FARB is comprised of 15 professions, including optometry, and offers board member and attorney training annually. Following this, there was a report from the OE TRACKER Committee, which demonstrated the new iPhone app for tracking attendance at CE courses. The Optometric Competence Committee gave its report next with details about the new Continuing Professional Development program that is being established. The committee asked some interactive questions of the delegates regarding their potential participation in a beta project of the program. See page 7 for more information on the questions and answers from this session.

The National Board Exam Review Committee then presented its annual report, followed by the ARBO/NBEO Directors Report. The afternoon session concluded with a presentation by Dr. Linda Casser, Dean of Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Dr. Casser brought the delegates up-to-date on the PCO Scholars Program and discussed how the licensing Boards might address issues related to licensure that arise when an optometry student chooses an accelerated program of study.

The meeting resumed Monday morning with additional reports from... Continued on page 4

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A Letter from the President

Greetings from Iowa. I hope you’re all having a pleasant summer. I am pleased to report that the ARBO Annual Meeting in Chicago was quite successful. The planning committee did another great job of putting the meeting together and I want to commend them for their work. During the meeting, the COPE Committee presented an excellent white paper regarding continuing education accreditation. If you haven’t had a chance to read it yet, you can find the white paper in the COPE downloads section of our website.

In addition, the OE TRACKER Committee demonstrated the iPhone version of an app they developed to monitor CE course attendance. I believe that is the first time spontaneous applause has ever occurred during an ARBO House of Delegates meeting. The Android version will be available very soon and we expect CE providers to begin using the app to track attendance at their meetings this fall.

This year brings new duties to our organization. The House of Delegates passed a resolution supporting the development and implementation of a provider model of continuing education accreditation. This is no small task. Thankfully, our volunteers can and will rise to the occasion. Speaking of volunteers, thanks to all who volunteered to serve on one of our committees for the next year. We’re currently working on finalizing the committee assignments and we’ll be in contact with you soon.

We also announced to the House of Delegates that the third National Optometric Continuing Education Conference will take place in 2013. Planning for the conference has begun and the date and location will be announced as soon as they are finalized. The conference will bring multiple stakeholders together to review the current CE system and help determine the future direction of CE for the benefit of the public.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Lisa Fennell has been promoted to Executive Director of ARBO. She has done an excellent job and I thank her for all her hard work. I also want to be sure to thank the ARBO staff for everything they do to keep all our programs running.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of ARBO. It is my pleasure and honor. I want to thank you in advance for your support in the coming year. As always, I welcome your feedback. If you have any questions or concerns about ARBO or any of our programs, please feel free to email me at president@arbo.org.

Michael Ohlson, OD, FAAO
ARBO President
A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see so many of you in Chicago at our Annual Meeting. It’s always fun to get to catch up since I only get to see many of you once a year. We had a record number of first-time attendees this year and the feedback from them was that the information they received at the meeting was invaluable. Those of you who have attended in the past also seemed to really appreciate the presentations, discussion and sharing of information. We really hope those of you who weren’t able to come this year will be able to join us in San Diego in 2013.

The summer is rapidly coming to an end and the staff and I are excited to begin working with all of the ARBO Committees over the next year. I’m sure it will be another productive year for all. As always, I can’t thank our volunteers and committee members enough for all that they do for us. We have big plans for the upcoming year. We’ll be launching a new website, rolling out the OE TRACKER smartphone apps, working with COPE to develop a model of provider accreditation, as well as other projects that are on the horizon.

As the busy CE season approaches, we’re working to keep up our high level of service while continuing to stretch our resources. We will also be continuing our efforts to increase communication with our member Boards to make sure you are well informed about all of ARBO’s programs and projects. I welcome your suggestions on any new services we can implement or improvements we can make. Feel free to contact me at lfennell@arbo.org with your questions and ideas.

Lisa Fennell
Executive Director

Meet ARBO’s New Board Member

At the 93rd Annual Meeting in Chicago, the House of Delegates elected a new member to the ARBO Board of Directors. ARBO is pleased to welcome Michael J. O’Hara, J.D., Ph.D. Dr. O’Hara is currently a Professor in the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the Co-Editor of The Earnings Analyst, an academic journal of the American Rehabilitation Economics Association and the Collegium of Pecuniary Damages Experts and has served on the Board of Directors of several corporations.

Dr. O’Hara became acquainted with ARBO in 2009, when he was first appointed by the Nebraska Board of Health as the Public Member on the state’s Board of Optometry. In 2010, Dr. O’Hara became Secretary of the Nebraska Board of Optometry, as well as taking his first step with ARBO as an active member of the OE Tracker Committee. In 2011, Dr. O’Hara also served on ARBO’s Judicial Council / Resolutions Committee. Dr. O’Hara looks forward to his increased involvement as a member of the ARBO Board of Directors.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. O’Hara!

2012-2013 ARBO Leadership

At the Annual Meeting, the ARBO Board of Directors elected the officers for the 2012-2013 term. Dr. Michael Ohlson from Iowa was re-elected President of the Board of Directors. Rounding out the Executive team are Immediate Past President Dr. Jerry Richt from Tennessee, Vice President Dr. Roger Pabst from Minnesota, and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Ernest Schlabach from Virginia.

The remaining ARBO Board members are: Dr. Gregory Moore from West Virginia, Dr. Michael O’Hara from Nebraska, Dr. William Rafferty from North Carolina, Dr. Christina Sorenson from Arizona (ex-officio) and Dr. Susy Yu from California.
ARBO 93rd Annual Meeting (continued)

the Member Boards, followed by a report from the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) and a presentation by Dr. Jack Terry on the NBEO's Ethics Program. Later in the morning, the COPE Committee gave its report and asked some interactive questions of the delegates about their Board’s CE approval process. See page 6 for more information on the questions and answers from this session. Next, Dr. Michael Ohlson discussed the white paper that was written detailing the history and evolution of COPE accreditation with the delegates.

Later in the morning, Dr. Murray Kopelow, ACCME Chief Executive, spoke about the ACCME’s CME provider accreditation model. Dr. Kopelow told the delegates that CME providers should be guided by what is in the best interest of the public. He added that CME providers must always defer to independence from commercial interests, transparency, and CME separate from product promotion as basic guiding principles. He also said that provider accreditation takes advantage of economies of scale, which can benefit organizations doing many activities, but can also be complicated and more demanding than individual course accreditation. He recommended that organizations weigh the value of the benefits with the costs in deciding which model to implement. The morning concluded with a very informative presentation by Dr. Charles Mullen, which discussed changes that could be made to the optometric clinical training model to allow optometry to be included in the graduate medical education program.

Monday’s afternoon session began with a presentation by Dr. David Hansen on diabetes and vision care. Dr. Hansen discussed the increase in prevalence of diagnosed diabetes over the past 20 years and the trend for it to keep increasing exponentially in the future. He noted the importance of teaching patients about diabetes prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Next were two presentations about health care reform—by Dr. Joe Ellis, AOA Immediate Past President, and Lina Choudhry Rashid from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Both discussed the Affordable Care Act and its potential impact on optometry. These presentations were followed by an interactive discussion of disciplinary cases conducted by Dr. Ernest Schlabach. Cases submitted by several of ARBO’s Member Boards were discussed, and the delegates enjoyed seeing how the different Boards would handle a disciplinary issue.

A discussion of contemporary issues followed where attendees were asked to respond to some important questions affecting optometry today. This year’s session included discussion on the illegal sales of contact lenses and CE accreditation. For more information on the questions and answers from this discussion, see pages 8 and 9.

Next, there was a report from the International Affairs Committee. The afternoon session ended with the AOA State Government Relations Center report from Sherry Cooper. On Monday evening, Dr. Ohlson hosted the President’s Reception which provided the delegates an opportunity to continue their discussions from earlier in the day and to mingle with other attendees.

Tuesday morning began with the annual elections for the ARBO Board of Directors. Two positions were open for election. Dr. W. Ernest Schlabach was reelected to a 4-year term, and Dr. Michael J. O’Hara was elected to a 4-year term. More information on our new Board member can be found on page 3. Dr. Michael Ohlson was re-elected President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Roger Pabst was elected Vice President, and Dr. Ernest Schlabach was elected Secretary-Treasurer. 

Continued on page 5
The GreenSheet

Dr. Jerry Richt rounds out the Executive team as Immediate Past President. Next, four candidates for the AC-OE appointment were approved by the delegates. The candidates were: Dr. Christopher Olson from Iowa, who is eligible for reappointment; Dr. Christina Sorenson from Arizona; Dr. Gregory Moore from West Virginia; and Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin from the District of Columbia.

Tuesday morning also featured a report from the American Optometric Association (AOA) and panel of industry representatives who spoke about new products that may have an impact on regulatory boards. There was a concurrent breakout session for the Executive Directors and Administrators to learn more about the National Practitioner Data Bank. Two resolutions were presented and discussed by the House of Delegates. More information on the resolutions that were passed can be found on page 10.

Later in the morning, there were reports from the Veteran’s Administration, the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). There was also a presentation from Colin Waldron, Chair of the Optometry Board of Australia, which discussed the new Australian national registration and accreditation scheme. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all former ARBO Presidents who were in attendance to President, Dr. Michael Ohlson.

We encourage you to start making plans to attend our next meeting in June 2013 in San Diego, California. ARBO’s Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to learn about the issues facing your fellow members and to exchange ideas on dealing with the many challenges you encounter every day. San Diego is a city full of fun and adventure, from sun-soaked beaches to majestic mountains. You will definitely want to be there!
Council on Optometry Practitioner Education (COPE) Survey Results

At the 2012 Annual Meeting the COPE Committee did a survey of the meeting attendees using an audience response system. The questions they asked and the responses are below.

Accredit: “To give official authorization or status” (Black’s Law Dictionary 8th Edition)
Given the above definition do you believe your state board “accredits” continuing education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Uncertain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Has your board adopted formal written standards or evaluation criteria for the CE approved within your jurisdiction?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Uncertain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does your board’s CE recognition system include any compliance or monitoring mechanisms?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Uncertain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does your board require any management of conflicts of interest or Standards for Commercial support when approving CE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Uncertain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is your regulatory board’s CE approval process:

1. More comprehensive than COPE
   - 5%

2. Equivalent to COPE
   - 18%

3. Less comprehensive than COPE
   - 76%
**Optometric Competence Committee Survey Results**

At the 2012 Annual Meeting the Optometric Competence Committee gathered information from delegates regarding a new Continuing Professional Development program that is being established. The questions they asked and the responses are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would your board/jurisdiction consider participating in the Self Assessment Beta Project as just outlined?</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you yourself be interested in participating in the Self Assessment Beta Project?</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you have to make legislative changes in order to use this type of Program for disciplinary remediation?</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual Meeting Contemporary Issues Discussion Responses

At the Annual Meeting in Chicago, the delegates participated in a discussion of contemporary issues. The attendees were asked to respond to some important questions affecting optometry today using an audience response system. The questions and responses are listed on the next two pages.

Has your Board had any complaints about illegal sales of contact lenses?

- Yes: 82%
- No: 16%
- Not sure: 2%

Does your Board have a process in place for handling complaints about illegal sales of contact lenses?

- Yes: 71%
- No: 27%
- Not sure: 2%

How does your Board handle complaints about illegal sales of contact lenses?

1. Send a letter to the offender: 40%
2. Send a letter and fine the offender: 4%
3. Send to complaint to a different office/agency for investigation: 32%
4. Other: 14%
5. We’ve never had a complaint: 10%

Is your Board doing anything proactive to make the public aware of the dangers of purchasing contact lenses?

- Yes: 78%
- No: 22%
- Not sure: 0%
Annual Meeting Contemporary Issues Discussion Responses

Does your Board approve continuing education courses or providers?

1. Courses
   - 36%

2. Providers (i.e. State Association, AOA, etc.)
   - 13%

3. Both
   - 51%

Does your Board follow Standards for Commercial Support when approving continuing education?

- Yes: 44%
- No: 41%
- Not sure: 15%

Would your Board require a rule change in order to accept CE from providers accredited by a new CE accrediting entity?

- Yes: 36%
- No: 60%
- Not sure: 4%
Resolution 1: COPE Provider Model Resolution

WHEREAS, the fundamental duty of the Member Boards of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) is to protect the public, and

WHEREAS, ARBO and the Council of Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) has worked for over 17 years accrediting quality, independent continuing education (CE) for Optometry, and

WHEREAS, accreditation of CE is currently used as a component of maintenance of licensure, and

WHEREAS, COPE has continued to evolve to meet the changes in optometric practice and the demands of our Member Boards, and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and others are using an alternative CE accreditation method, and

WHEREAS, ARBO/COPE has held periodic CE conferences for the optometric community and has another conference planned for 2013, and

WHEREAS, ARBO has traditionally approved significant changes in programs at annual meetings by the House of Delegates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the House of Delegates of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), at the 93rd Annual Meeting, mandate the Council of Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) to implement alternative methods of accrediting continuing education similar to those used by other organizations, including the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Provider Model of independent, accredited continuing education, and report to the ARBO Board of Directors and the 2013 ARBO House of Delegates.

Resolution 2: Resolution Honoring Dr. Michael Ohlson

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael W. Ohlson has performed an outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his service on the Board of Directors of ARBO since being elected in 2007. Dr. Ohlson has served one term as President 2011-2012, one as Vice President 2010-2011, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2009-2010; and

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Ohlson has given outstanding service to the profession of optometry through his service on the Iowa Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

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

RESOLVED that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 93rd Annual Meeting, express its sincere thanks to Dr. Michael Ohlson for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry, and bestow upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.
Start Planning for the 94th ARBO Annual Meeting Now!

Mark your calendars for June 23-25, 2013, to attend the 94th ARBO Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. ARBO’s 2013 Annual Meeting will be held at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina.

The centerpiece of the inspiring San Diego Bay, the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina offers resort-style relaxation. Adjacent to the San Diego Convention Center and steps from the Gaslamp Quarter, the hotel’s location provides convenient access to championship golf and popular attractions like the San Diego Zoo, Sea World San Diego and LEGOLAND California.

San Diego is a city full of fun and adventure from sun-soaked beaches to majestic mountains. You will definitely want to be there!

We hope to see you in San Diego next June!

ARBO 2013 Annual Meeting
June 23-25, 2013
Marriott Marquis & Marina
San Diego, California
COPE to Accredit CE Providers

At the ARBO Annual Meeting in Chicago, a resolution was passed by the House of Delegates mandating the Council of Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) to “implement alternative methods of accrediting continuing education similar to those used by other organizations, including the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Provider Model of independent, accredited continuing education.” The full text of the resolution can be found on page 10.

The resolution was presented the day after Dr. Murray Kopelow, the ACCME Chief Executive, spoke to the House of Delegates about the ACCME’s model of CME provider accreditation. There was overwhelming support among the delegates for COPE to investigate following a similar model of accreditation for optometric CE. The ARBO Board of Directors and the COPE Committee will be working over the next year to develop a program for COPE to accredit CE providers and will present the details at the 2013 Annual Meeting in San Diego.

When asked to comment on the resolution, ARBO President Dr. Michael Ohlson said, “This is a very exciting time for COPE. COPE accreditation is continuing to evolve, and at the same time, the public can be assured of the independence and quality of optometric CE used for maintenance of licensure. COPE worked closely with the ACCME when developing the Standards for Commercial Support and we plan to consult with them again to determine how best to implement a provider model of accreditation.”

One possibility being discussed is a hybrid model of accreditation where CE providers would be able to choose to submit their individual courses and events to COPE for review and accreditation as they always have or to go through a training program to become a COPE Accredited Provider. Which path they choose will most likely be based upon economies of scale (i.e. those that hold many activities each year may prefer to become a COPE Provider while those that only present a few courses each year may not.)

The COPE Committee Chair, Dr. Jill Martinson-Redekopp, commented on the new direction of COPE, “This is going to be a very busy year for the COPE Committee; they have a monumental task ahead of them. I’m confident that the talented group of volunteers we have working on this will come up with an accreditation model for COPE that meets the needs of optometrists, Licensing Boards, and CE providers.”

Stay Connected

Get instant access to ARBO’s website by scanning over the bar code with your smart phone.
ARBO is excited to announce that a new smartphone app has been created specifically for OE TRACKER! The app is available for iPhone and Android users and can be used to track attendance of COPE-Accredited courses. As an optometrist attending CE, you no longer have to worry about having to fax your attendance certificate or waiting for the CE administrator to send your attendance to OE TRACKER. Simply download the free OE TRACKER app and log into OE TRACKER on your smartphone using your existing username and password. Then, all you have to do is scan the QR code that is provided by the event’s administrator, and your attendance of the course will instantaneously be sent to OE TRACKER. You will receive an e-mail a few minutes after you have checked into a course verifying your attendance.

COPE Administrators will also be able to use the app to log into their OE TRACKER accounts and enter OE TRACKER numbers of optometrists who attended the course but don’t have a smartphone. This makes the process much quicker and easier for the administrator by eliminating the need to send an attendance spreadsheet to ARBO following the event. A full list of the course attendees will still be available when administrators log into OE TRACKER after their event.

To download the OE TRACKER app, iPhone users should visit the iTunes store and Android users should visit the Google Play store.
Become One of a Select Few!

As a practicing 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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**OFFICERS**
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Vice President—Roger Pabst, O.D.
Secretary-Treasurer—W. Ernest Schlabach, O.D.
Immediate Past President—Jerry Richt, O.D.

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Gregory Moore, O.D.
Michael J. O’Hara, J.D., PhD.
William Rafferty, O.D.
Christina Sorenson, O.D.
Susy Yu, O.D.

**STAFF**
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Program Manager—Anita Matthews
Program Coordinator—Sierra Rice
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