Another Successful ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle!

ARBO’s 2015 Annual Meeting took place June 21-23 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The meeting was attended by 107 individuals, including 79 delegates from 41 Member Boards. The attendees participated in discussions, presentations, workshops, and conducted the business of the association. A great time was had by all!

Sunday morning began with some pre-meeting sessions including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Workshop where Dr. Jack Terry, NBEO CEO, brought the attendees up-to-date on the current activities of the NBEO. Later in the morning, there was a breakout session for Board Administrators and Executive Directors in which Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry Executive Director Pat Bennett moderated a group discussion regarding staff experiences with electronic processes and initiatives in their respective jurisdictions.

The 96th Annual Meeting was officially called to order by President Roger Pabst, OD, on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Christopher Barry, Chair of the Washington State Board of Optometry, and Dr. Dale Dergousoff, Chair of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia, welcomed the delegates to Seattle. The meeting continued with reports from ARBO’s President, Dr. Pabst; Executive Director, Lisa Fennell; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Greg Moore; and the approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes. Next, there was a report from Dr. Pat O’Neill, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee, an overview of the nominating/election process by Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Moore, and a report from Dr. Jim Bureman, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Member Orientation, conducted by Drs. Mike Ohlson and Don Crouch, and the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) report and Board Member Training by Dale Atkinson, Esq., ARBO’s legal counsel and FARB Executive Director, rounded out the early afternoon.

Later in the day, there were Member Board breakout sessions for attendees to discuss current events in optometry as well as news and issues from their respective jurisdictions, followed by the annual report of the National Board Exam Review Committee (NBERC) which was given by Dr. Marla Moon, Chair; Dr. Mary Lou French; Dr. Bob Smalling; and Dr. Rick Orgain. The afternoon concluded with the ARBO/NBEO Director’s report given by Drs. Jill Martinson-Redekopp; Bill Rafferty; Jerry Richt; and Jack Terry.

The meeting resumed Monday morning with the always popular legal update session and a review of some of the top regulatory cases of the year by Dale Atkinson, followed by the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) report by AOSA Vice-President Alex Conley. Next was the COPE Committee report given by Chair Dr. Susy Yu and the COPE Committee. A group discussion followed between committee members and delegates regarding the upcoming changes to the COPE accreditation criteria and processes.

Later in the morning, Mario Gutierrez, ED of the Center for Connected Health Policy, gave a presentation on the history and fu-

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A Letter from the President

What a privilege to take on a leadership role for an organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the public! As part of ARBO, I have expanded my role from an individual clinician to one that advocates for population care management and public health. Changes in the health care environment are demanding greater transparency and measurement of health outcomes. The public protection role of licensing boards is evolving from entry-level licensure to assurance of ongoing maintenance of competency and improved patient health. How can ARBO, as a national organization representing licensing boards, support this shift?

ARBO’s key strategic programs are designed to provide its member licensing boards with the tools to support the mission of protecting the public:

- **NBER Committee connects member boards to and provides oversight for the NBEO entry level licensing examinations.** The vast majority of ARBO member boards accept NBEO Part I, II, and III as part of their licensing requirements. This committee provides the structure to review the test question development process and ensures that the content meets the needs of licensing boards.

- **COPE criteria assure that accredited continuing education meets high quality standards, is free from commercial bias, and measures outcomes.** The updated criteria mirror that of other health care professions, including medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. A 2007 draft report from the Federation of State Medical Boards (ARBO’s equivalent for medicine) Special Committee on Maintenance of Licensure concludes, “For a variety of reasons, state medical boards devote few resources to prospectively ensuring the ongoing competence of licensees. In contrast to the rigorous standards for initial licensure, state medical boards have few requirements in place to ensure licensed physicians maintain their competence throughout their professional careers...State medical boards recognize that such practices are no longer acceptable. Rapid advances in technology and medical science are revolutionizing medicine, making it increasingly difficult for physicians to meet their professional responsibility to stay current... In order to meet increased public demands for greater accountability, state medical boards will need to broaden their responsibilities to include facilitating the continued competence of all licensees.” The credit for the foundations of this momentous effort goes to Dr. Jerry Richt and Dr. Jill Martinson-

In addition to these programs, ARBO is working on a number of other key initiatives: Dr. Mike Ohlson is leading the effort of developing guidance around social media and tele-health as part of addressing Contemporary Issues. Dr. Greg Moore and Dr. Paula Garshowitz are addressing the expanding global issues, as ARBO takes on a more international flavor with its newest member boards.

The pinnacle of ARBO’s endeavors is clearly the Annual Meeting. Thanks to Dr. Don Crouch, Lisa Fennell, and staff who have executed another successful conference in Seattle this past June. The Annual Meeting is the opportunity for Member Boards to connect with each other, to provide support and feedback to the Board of Directors, and to continue to define the role of licensing boards, as optometry aligns with other health care professions in the ongoing effort of improving the health of an entire population of people.

I am fortunate to be working with a wonderful team of individuals, each of whom brings his or her unique perspective for the common interest of public protection. We are going to have a fantastic year!

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

It was great to see everyone in Seattle! We had our first ever paperless meeting this year. All the meeting materials were provided electronically, which saved ARBO a lot of money and allowed us to be more environmentally responsible. Another benefit of the electronic meeting site is that the meeting materials will be available for a whole year. So, if you want to look at any of the presentations again or share the information with your Board members who didn’t get to come to the meeting, you can just log back into the site at any time.

We also set an attendance record this year with 41 of our Member Boards attending the meeting. I really hope we can beat the record again next year. This is such an important opportunity to communicate with other Optometry Boards that have the same challenges and experiences that you do. I encourage you all to start planning and budgeting now for the 97th annual meeting taking place next June in Boston.

The new committees for 2015-2016 have been appointed by Dr. Yu and the Board of Directors and they will soon be getting to work. Please see pages 7 and 8 for the committee lists. The staff and I are excited to be working with all of the new committees. Thank you to our volunteers for all that you do for ARBO, the profession, and the public we serve.

As we look forward to the upcoming CE and license renewal season, I expect things to pick up with COPE and OE TRACKER very quickly. The amount of data we receive every day in the office continues to increase, which keeps everyone working very hard. I have no doubt that our wonderful staff will continue their high level of service to keep everything running smoothly.

We’re also working on increasing communication with our members. One thing that was brought up at the annual meeting was that some board members don’t get our updates. I want to make sure that we’re sharing information about ARBO’s activities with all our members, so if you aren’t getting regular e-mails from our office, please let me know.

If you have any questions about any of ARBO’s programs, just give me a call (704.970.2755) or send me an email (lfennell@arbo.org). I welcome your suggestions on any new projects we should consider or improvements we can make.

2015-2016 ARBO Directors Elected

At the 96th Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, ARBO elected new officers for their Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 term. The new officers are:

- **President**: Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- **Vice President**: Gregory S. Moore, OD, West Virginia
- **Secretary-Treasurer**: Michael J. O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska
- **Immediate Past President**: Roger D. Pabst, OD, Minnesota

The other Directors of the ARBO Board for the 2015-2016 term are:

- James S. Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Michael W. Ohlson, OD, Iowa
- Richard C. Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- William B. Rafferty, OD, North Carolina
- Jerry A. Richt, OD, Tennessee
- W. Ernest Schlabach, OD, Virginia
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Consultant

James Campbell, OD, Elected to ARBO Board of Directors

ARBO is pleased to welcome James S. Campbell, OD, to the ARBO Board of Directors, as elected by the House of Delegates at the 96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Campbell is a graduate of Southern College of Optometry who practices optometry in New Martinsville, West Virginia. In 2008, Dr. Campbell was awarded West Virginia Optometrist of the Year. He has served on the West Virginia Board of Optometry since 2009 and has been the President since 2012. Dr. Campbell is a current member and past President of the West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians and has served as a volunteer on SECO International’s Education Committee. He also holds memberships with the Southern Council of Optometry and the AOA.

Dr. Campbell is an active COPE committee member and reviews courses for COPE approval. He comments, “I consider it an honor to serve on the ARBO Board of Directors. I am proud of the advancements in optometric care that have evolved since I graduated in 1978. I’m excited about the possibility of contributing to the future of this great profession, as our future is tied to implementing advancements and new technology through improved continuing education methods.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Campbell!
ture of telehealth in medicine. Following this, delegates had the opportunity to attend an impromptu COPE Committee working session that covered the upcoming changes to the COPE accreditation process discussed earlier in the morning. Concurrently, there was an Executive Director/Administrator lunch workshop where Dale Atkinson discussed legal issues related to electronic processes.

Monday’s afternoon session began with a presentation about telemedicine in the VA, given by Dr. Tony Cavalierano, VA Office of Telehealth Services, followed by a presentation from Margo Adams Larsen, PhD, President of the North Dakota Board of Psychologist Examiners, on technology and regulatory board considerations. Next, the OE TRACKER Committee report was given by Dr. Jeff Yunker, Committee Chair.

Later in the afternoon, there were reports from Monday’s Member Board group breakout sessions. Following this was the Contemporary Issues Committee report and a contemporary issues discussion moderated by Dr. Mike Ohlson, Committee Chair, and committee members Drs. Don Crouch; Paula Garshowitz; Carrie Hruza; Rick Orgain; and Susy Yu. The afternoon session ended with the Nominating Committee’s final report of their nominations for the open positions on the ARBO Board of Directors, which was given by Dr. Bureman.

Late that evening, Dr. Pabst hosted the President’s Reception for meeting attendees, presenters and guests, which was sponsored by Allergan and VSP.

Tuesday morning began with the annual elections for the ARBO Board of Directors. Two positions were open for election. Dr. Susy Yu was reelected to another 4-year term and Dr. Jim Campbell was elected to his first 4-year term on the Board. Drs. Mike Ohlson; Chris Olson; Pat O’Neill; and Ernie Schlabach were nominated for the ARBO ACOE appointment.

Next, the delegates approved the 2016 Budget and the final report of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee was delivered by Dr. O’Neill. Two resolutions were passed: a resolution honoring Dr. Roger Pabst and presenting him with life membership for his many contributions to ARBO and an amendment to a resolution from the 2011 ARBO Annual Meeting regarding utilization of ARBO’s Programs by Member Boards. Please see page 6 for the full text of the resolutions.

Breakout sessions followed with presentations by industry representatives on new developments of interest to the regulatory boards. The presenters were Kevin Roe, OD, from Alcon; Marcy DeWalt from Allergan; and Milliecent Knight, OD, from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. There was a concurrent breakout session for the Executive Directors and Administrators in which ARBO Program Manager Sierra Rice presented updates on OE TRACKER and uses for the Member Boards. Following the breakout sessions was a report on regulation in the news from Dale Atkinson.

After a short break, Dr. Pabst announced the new offic-
The GreenSheet

ARBO 96th Annual Meeting (continued)

ers of the Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 year. Dr. Susy Yu was elected President, Dr. Greg Moore was elected Vice President, and Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Roger Pabst completes the Executive team as Immediate Past President. Later in the morning, there were reports from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) given by Dr. Bart Campbell, Chair; the American Optometric Association (AOA) given by Dr. David Cockrell, President; the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) given by Dr. Brett Bence, President; and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) given by Dr. David Heath, Interim President-Elect.

Following the reports, during the new business discussion, a motion was introduced by the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners and seconded by the West Virginia Board of Optometry asking the ARBO Board of Directors to send copies of the notes and action items to the members from all committee meetings within 30 days of the meetings taking place. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all former ARBO Presidents who were in attendance to the new President, Dr. Yu.

We encourage all our members to start making plans to attend our next meeting. The 97th Annual Meeting will take place June 26-28, 2016, in Boston, Massachusetts. ARBO’s Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to learn about the issues facing your fellow regulatory boards and to exchange ideas on dealing with the many challenges you encounter every day. Optometry regulatory board members, board staff, public members, and attorneys can attend the meeting.

If you haven’t attended an ARBO Annual Meeting yet, join us in Boston to see what you’ve been missing. Boston is an exciting city full of history and culture. You will definitely want to be there!
WHEREAS, the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), the Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO), and Optometric Education (OE) TRACKER are all critical programs of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) and are widely utilized by our member boards, and other jurisdictions, and numerous continuing education (CE) providers, and CE administrators, and the profession of optometry; and

WHEREAS, these programs have evolved and been made more effective in influencing and improving the reporting and quality of optometric continuing education for licensure of Doctors of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, these programs are used effectively by ARBO member boards and other jurisdictions in their mission to protect the public by insuring appropriate licensure of practitioners and therefore add significant value to the profession; and

WHEREAS, ARBO and the profession have invested substantial human and financial resources in the development and implementation of COPE, CELMO, and OE TRACKER; and

WHEREAS, ARBO has offered the use of the COPE accreditation program, OE TRACKER database system, and CELMO license mobility program to all organizations within the optometric profession as a framework to utilize in their programs consistent with those of ARBO and the profession; and

WHEREAS, all students of optometry are assigned OE TRACKER numbers upon creation of their National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) profile, and the OE TRACKER number is used by NBEO for the accurate identification of exam scoring sheets, CSE videographies, and remote examiners as well as by some institutions as a student ID in lieu of a social security number; and

WHEREAS, the OE TRACKER number is an essential identifier that has been assigned to all optometrists entering the profession and uniquely designed to serve as the cornerstone for life-long learning and continued professional development; therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) House of Delegates and its member boards that we reaffirm our commitment to the utilization of the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), Optometric Education (OE) TRACKER, and the Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility in Optometry (CELMO) as unique means of monitoring and enforcing the quality and appropriateness of optometric continuing education for continuing competence, maintenance of licensure (MOL), and mobility of licensure; and be it further

RESOLVED that should other professional organizations in optometry develop a need for a continuing education accreditation program, optometric database/tracking system and/or license mobility program, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) House of Delegates encourages these organizations to consider utilizing the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry’s (ARBO’s) established programs in lieu of duplicating these programs.

Resolution Honoring Dr. Roger Pabst

WHEREAS, Dr. Roger D. Pabst 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 2009. Dr. Pabst has served one term as President 2014-2015, one as Vice President 2013-2014, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2012-2013; 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. Roger D. Pabst has given outstanding service to the profession of optometry through his volunteer leadership roles in the Minnesota Optometric Association, and the American Optometric Association, and service on the Minnesota Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 96th Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, express its sincere thanks to Dr. Roger D. Pabst for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry, and bestowed upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.
ARBO 2015-2016 Committee Members

**Board Committees:**

**Executive Committee**
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, Chair  
Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia  
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska  
Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota  
Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Finance/Budget Committee**
Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, Chair  
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Ron Cassel, Staff  
Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Industry Relations Committee**
Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair  
Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee  
Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Ron Cassel, Staff  
Lisa Fennell, Staff

**COPE Committee**
James Campbell, OD, West Virginia, Chair  
Douglas Ayre, OD, Kansas  
Thomas Bobst, OD, Ohio  
Carrie Hruza, OD, Missouri  
Jill Martinson Redekopp, OD, North Dakota  
Michael Ohlson, OD, Iowa  
Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee  
Bill Rafferty, OD, North Carolina  
Jerry Richt, OD, Tennessee  
Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Donna DeLay, Staff  
Lisa Fennell, Staff  
Sierra Rice, Staff

**International Affairs Committee**
Paula Garshowitz, OD, Ontario, Chair  
James Bureman, OD, Missouri  
Norm LaPlante, Maine  
Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas  
Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, Board Liaison  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Ron Cassel, Staff

**Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee**
Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota, Chair  
Larry Brown, OD, Georgia  
Marcus Kelly, OD, Montana  
Jeffrey Kraskin, OD, District of Columbia  
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska, Board Liaison  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**
Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair  
James Campbell, OD, West Virginia  
Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia  
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska  
Michael Ohlson, OD, Iowa  
Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee  
Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota  
Ernest Schlabach, OD, Virginia  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Donna DeLay, Staff  
Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Contemporary Issues Committee**
Michael Ohlson, OD, Iowa, Chair  
Mary Lou French, OD, Illinois  
Carrie Hruza, OD, Missouri  
Paula Garshowitz, OD, Ontario  
Jeffrey Kraskin, OD, District of Columbia  
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska  
Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California, *Ex-Officio*  
Lisa Fennell, Staff
### ARBO 2015-2016 Committee Members

#### Member Board Executive Directors/Administrators Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State/Province</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pat Bennett</td>
<td>Maryland, Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Murray</td>
<td>Kansas, Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Cronbaugh</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Knachel</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Matsushima</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Snyder</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Whelan</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernest Schlabach</td>
<td>Virginia, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susy Yu</td>
<td>OD, MBA, FAAO, California, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
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#### Nominating Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Bureman</td>
<td>OD, Missouri, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Moon</td>
<td>OD, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Peterson</td>
<td>JD, Massachusetts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffery Yunker</td>
<td>OD, North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Orgain</td>
<td>OD, Tennessee, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susy Yu</td>
<td>OD, MBA, FAAO, California, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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#### OE TRACKER Committee

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<tr>
<td>Jeffery Yunker</td>
<td>OD, North Dakota, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhu Chawla</td>
<td>OD, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale Dergousoff</td>
<td>OD, British Columbia</td>
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<td>Mary Lou French</td>
<td>OD, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Odekirk</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coby Ramsey</td>
<td>OD, Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Vaught</td>
<td>OD, South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susy Yu</td>
<td>OD, MBA, FAAO, California, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Rice</td>
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<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Mancuso</td>
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#### Member Board Liaison Appointments

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Campbell</td>
<td>Connecticut, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Ohlson</td>
<td>Australia, Iowa*, Illinois, Louisiana, Montana, Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael O’Hara</td>
<td>Atlantic Provinces, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska*, Utah, Virgin Islands, Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Orgain</td>
<td>Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Manitoba, New Jersey, New Zealand, Tennessee*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Pabst</td>
<td>Minnesota*, North Dakota, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Rafferty</td>
<td>Alberta, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Carolina*, South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Richt</td>
<td>Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernest Schlabach</td>
<td>Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susy Yu</td>
<td>British Columbia, California*, Hawaii, Texas, Oregon, Washington</td>
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#### Affiliated Organization Liaison Appointments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Academy of Optometry (AAO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)</td>
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<td>American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)</td>
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<td>Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)</td>
<td>OD, Virginia</td>
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<td>Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC)</td>
<td>OD, Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)</td>
<td>OD, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO)</td>
<td>OD, Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Council of Optometry (WCO)</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia</td>
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Join Us for the 2016 ARBO Annual Meeting in Boston

Mark Your Calendars for June 26-28, 2016, to Attend the 97th ARBO Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at The Westin Boston Waterfront. This award-winning hotel is located in Boston’s artfully revitalized waterfront district, less than three miles from Logan International Airport. The Boston Seaport District location provides convenient access to many things to do in Boston. Take advantage of the scenic city, and explore by walking along the harbor. The hotel is also located near bus and MBTA Silver Line T stops with transportation to downtown Boston.

Start making your plans now to join your regulatory colleagues next year in Boston. The ARBO Annual Meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest regulatory issues, to get board member training, and to network with other regulators. You will definitely want to be there!

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry
2016 Annual Meeting
June 26-28, 2016
Boston, Massachusetts

We look forward to seeing you in Boston!

More information and online registration will be available in January!
The mission of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), as described on the NBEO website, is “To serve the public and the profession of optometry by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competence.” To abbreviate and paraphrase, the NBEO mission is to protect the public.

The purposes and goals of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (www.optometry.org) are to develop examinations that discriminate between qualified and non-qualified optometry Candidates (largely students) whose ultimate intention is to seek state licensure. The NBEO’s tasks also include the administration of these exams, followed by the scoring of the exams using criterion-referenced (domain) standards. The National Board also was charged with reporting these carefully produced, valid scores to all state regulatory boards. These boards then utilize NBEO scores as they evaluate applicants who wish to obtain a license to practice optometry and provide eye care to the public.

Licensure is a regulatory function designed to protect the public by assessing and certifying the competence of healthcare professionals through rigorous testing and sophisticated, standardized scoring. In serving the profession and public for over six decades, the National Board has compiled a distinguished record of accomplishments that includes being one of the few national boards in any profession with an impressive repertoire of examinations, including the:

- Part I Applied Basic Science (ABS) multiple-choice exam;
- Part II Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) case-based exam;
- Therapeutic Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) case-based exam;
- Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) with live patients, administered at the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) in Charlotte, NC;
- Injections Skill Examination (ISE), also given at the NCCTO;
- Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) case-based exam; and
- Continued Professional Development in Optometry (CPDO) practice-level assessment.

There are many uses and needs for NBEO exams, but the essential, overriding purpose throughout the array of testing is to protect the public and to satisfy the public expectation that those providing optometric care are qualified to deliver this care.

The past four decades have provided an even greater challenge for public protection as the optometric scope-of-practice has dramatically broadened. All groups within the optometric profession have been involved in this sizeable transformation of optometry. Throughout this growth of practice capabilities, the NBEO has stepped forward and continued to protect the public by constantly updating and improving the existing exams and by introducing new ones as needed to keep pace with the ever-expanding optometric knowledge base.

Tangentially, in regard to the National Board’s insistence on ethical exam candidate behavior, every item, mini-case, or case that is included on an NBEO examination is extensively and repeatedly considered, discussed, and edited by multiple panels of subject-matter experts. Only after several lengthy, intensive reviews is exam material deemed ready for candidate use. The compromise through any manner of cheating involving NBEO exams, of even a single exam item or part of a case, is a significant loss to the National Board, and by extension, to the profession, to state boards, and to the goal of protecting the public. Beyond the considerable value of highly developed exam material, the ultimate reason the National Board chooses not to ignore any form of cheating relates to the public’s health and welfare, which are far better protected when exam material truly tests candidates’ knowledge, and when nonqualified candidates appropriately can be detected and identified.

The NBEO has been unwavering in its drive to construct exams and programs that represent the highest standards to protect the public. As Dr. Larry Davis, former President of the NBEO Board of Directors so aptly put it, constantly “advancing the assessment of competence” is the vision that drives the NBEO’s activities. The motivation behind the NBEO changes have been consistent: Do what is right from a public protection perspective!
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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