Another Successful ARBO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia!

ARBO’s 2014 Annual Meeting took place June 22-24 at The Westin in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by 106 individuals, including 76 delegates from 38 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 the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Workshop where Dr. Jack Terry 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 ARBO Program Manager Sierra Rice updated the group on ways to use OE TRACKER in their auditing process followed by group discussion of current events in their respective jurisdictions.

The 95th Annual Meeting was officially called to order by President W. Ernest Schlabach on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Marla Moon, Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Board of Optometry, welcomed the delegates to Pennsylvania, followed by a color guard presentation of the flag by local Philadelphia military veterans. The meeting continued with unanimous approval of the membership of the New Zealand Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board by the House of Delegates. Reports from ARBO’s President, Dr. Schlabach; Executive Director, Lisa Fennell; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Susy Yu; and the approval of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes followed.

Next, there were reports from Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee and Dr. Robert Smalling, Chair of the Nominating Committee. This was followed by a Member Orientation with Drs. Michael Ohlson and Donovan Crouch and Board Member Training by Dale Atkinson, Esq., ARBO’s legal counsel. Later in the afternoon, there were Member Board breakout sessions for attendees to discuss news and issues in their respective jurisdictions. The annual report of the National Board Exam Review Committee (NBERC) and the ARBO/NBEO Director’s report followed.

The afternoon concluded with a report from Dr. Richard Orgain, Chair of the OE TRACKER Committee, which advised the attendees of the progress OE TRACKER has made over the year and included a demonstration of the mobile app for submitting attendance at CE courses to the OE TRACKER database. The committee also asked some interactive questions of the delegates regarding their knowledge of OE TRACKER and their auditing processes using the program. See page 8 for more information on these interactive questions. Following the OE TRACKER report, the committee invited the attendees to join them in a toast to celebrate OE TRACKER reaching 2 million course uploads and to speak with committee members about using OE TRACKER in their CE auditing processes.

The meeting resumed Monday continued on page 4

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I’d like to thank all of our members who attended the 95th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Many Boards are still hindered by travel and financial restrictions, so I appreciate the effort you made to join us for this important meeting. My sincere thanks go out to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, chaired by Donovan Crouch, and the ARBO staff for putting together another successful meeting. There was some frank discussion at the meeting and I think the Board got great direction from our members as to where ARBO should be headed in the future. You can read more about the highlights of the Annual Meeting starting on page 1. Please also join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest member from down under, the New Zealand Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board. Welcome to ARBO and we look forward to working with you.

I’ll be working with the staff over the next few weeks to appoint committees for the next year. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to participate on one of our committees. We’ll let you know which committee you are assigned to very soon. I’m excited to establish a new committee this year, as instructed by our members, to study online dispensing. The committee will be doing research into the regulation and non-regulation of online dispensing of contacts, glasses and other optical devices and will report back at the next Annual Meeting in June 2015.

Recently, the AOA sent out a letter expressing support of an independent CE accrediting body for optometry. I’d like to note that from ARBO’s perspective, it is the independence of the CE content that is important, not the perceived independence of the accrediting body. COPE is an independent accrediting body that is free from the profession’s many conflicts of interest that could influence CE content. ARBO wholeheartedly welcomes the AOA’s support of continuing education that is independent from commercial bias.

ARBO agrees that equivalency in optometry’s CE accreditation process with other health care colleagues, such as medicine, would be an advantage to the profession. We have been working closely with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to learn from their experience and success to evolve COPE into a system that improves knowledge, performance and patient outcomes. In support of this, our members passed a resolution at our recent Annual Meeting in Philadelphia directing COPE to pursue joint inter-professional accreditation of continuing education with other health care professionals. The full text of the resolution can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

As you know, the COPE Committee has been diligently working to expand COPE’s process to allow for accreditation of providers in addition to COPE’s traditional accreditation of courses. COPE’s provider model of accreditation is being designed to be equivalent with medicine, pharmacy, and nursing’s CE accreditation models. A major obstacle for optometric CE providers these days is loss of industry support for their meetings. The proposed changes to COPE’s accreditation process will ensure that optometric CE remains independent and in compliance with recent federal regulations to allow for continued industry support.

Earlier this year, ARBO formed a committee composed of multiple stakeholders and consultants within the optometric CE enterprise to act in an advisory, consultative, and technical capacity to COPE. I’d like to thank the AOA, ASCO, ACOE and AAO for actively participating in the COPE Advisory Committee. This committee was established to provide meaningful input to improve optometric CE within the context of the needs of State Board requirements for maintenance of licensure and the needs of other organizations for maintenance of certification. I welcome the support of all these organizations as COPE moves forward with developing their new accreditation standards.

I’m also looking forward to further interaction with the AOA, ASCO, and NBEO at the next IOCCC meeting in September. I hope we can continue to keep the lines of communication open between our organizations to discuss issues of concern as they arise. It is my honor to serve as President of ARBO this year. We have a very busy year ahead of us which will bring many changes our way. Thank you in advance for your support. I welcome your feedback and I would like to hear your comments and suggestions. Feel free to contact me through e-mail at president@arbo.org.

Roger Pabst, OD
ARBO President
A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual meeting in Philadelphia. Those of you who attended the meeting seemed to really enjoy the program this year. We did some things differently this year and feedback was positive. For those of you who weren’t able to come to the meeting this year, I encourage you to start planning and budgeting now for next year’s meeting in Seattle.

Next year our meeting will be held June 21-23, 2015, at the Sheraton Seattle. Seattle is a great place to visit with many things to see and do. Also, next year we’re very excited for our meeting to go green! We announced in Philly that next year all the meeting materials will be provided electronically. This will save ARBO a lot of money on paper, printing and shipping costs and will allow those members who can’t attend the meeting to still have access to the meeting materials.

Dr. Roger Pabst is working with the Board of Directors to appoint the new committees. Thanks to all of you who have already volunteered. If you weren’t at the meeting and you’d like to volunteer, just send me an e-mail and let me know which committee you’d like to work with. The staff and I are looking forward to working with the new committees. As always, I can’t thank our volunteers enough for all that they do. We couldn’t do everything we do without them.

I also wanted to let you know that we’re working on creating a message board for our members to interact with one another and have discussions on topics of interest. This was a suggestion that was made at our annual meeting. We should have it up and running in a few weeks. I’ll let you all know when it’s ready to try out. It will be a great way to increase communication among our Member Boards.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions on new services we can provide or improvements we can make. Give me a call or send me an e-mail. I’m always happy to hear your feedback.

2014-2015 ARBO Leaders Elected


The new officers are:
- **President**: Roger D. Pabst, OD, Minnesota
- **Vice President**: Susy Yu, OD, California
- **Secretary-Treasurer**: Gregory S. Moore, OD, West Virginia
- **Immediate Past President**: W. Ernest Schlabach, OD, Virginia

The other Directors of the ARBO Board for the 2014-2015 term are:
- Michael J. O’Hara, JD, PhD, Nebraska
- Michael W. Ohlson, OD, Iowa
- Richard C. Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- William B. Rafferty, OD, North Carolina
- Jerry A. Richt, OD, Tennessee

Richard Orgain, OD Elected to Board of Directors

At the 95th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the House of Delegates elected a new member to the ARBO Board of Directors. ARBO is pleased to welcome Richard C. Orgain, OD. Dr. Orgain is a graduate of Southern College of Optometry who practices optometry in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Dr. Orgain has served two terms on the Tennessee Board of Optometry and is a past Chairman of the Board. He currently represents the Board on Tennessee’s Controlled Substance Database Committee.

Dr. Orgain is also a Past President of the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians. He has served on ARBO’s OE TRACKER Committee since 2007 and was Chair of the Committee for four years. When asked what he looks forward to most about serving on the Board of Directors, Dr. Orgain says, “I am looking forward to helping cultivate the relationships between ARBO and its Member Boards in order to discuss current issues facing the profession and ideas on how to best respond to these issues.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Orgain!
The GreenSheet
ARBO 94th Annual Meeting (continued)

morning with the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee report from Dr. Kraskin and the presentation of the proposed 2015 budget from Dr. Roger Pabst, Chair of the Finance/Budget Committee. This was followed by Member Board Reports from the breakout sessions held on Sunday. Next, The American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) report was given by AOSA Vice-President Jennifer Turano. Dale Atkinson then gave his yearly legal update which was followed by the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Report from Dr. Schlabach.

Later in the morning, Dr. William Rafferty presented the Optometric Competence Committee (OCC) Report. The audience participated in some lively discussion and a poll asking the members’ opinions on using the CPDO exam as part of the OCC program. See page 10 for more information on the questions and answers addressed. This discussion was followed by a presentation on the FDA’s efforts in surveillance and control of illegal decorative contact lenses from Dr. Bernard Lepri of U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Office of Device Evaluation Division of Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose, and Throat Devices. Dr. Lepri was joined by R.P. Struckner, Senior Special Agent, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations.

Monday afternoon began with a presentation by Dale Atkinson on the role of Optometry Boards in Board Certification. The COPE Committee Administrative Report, given by Dr. Douglas Ayre was next. Dr. Larry Alexander then gave a presentation with audience participation on measuring outcomes of CE. This was followed by another COPE report from Dr. James Campbell to update the attendees on the progress of the development of a provider model of accreditation.

Later in the afternoon there was an interactive discussion of the benefits of distance learning in healthcare presented by Dr. Larry Alexander. Dr. Yu, COPE Committee Chair, then gave a wrap-up of the changes that COPE is making to its accreditation criteria with the goal of participating in inter-professional CE accreditation. Dr. Kevin Roe followed with a presentation on how compliance is changing and its impact on the optometric industry. Next, Dr. Schlabach moderated a discussion on contemporary issues that included Board Certification and the use of NBEO’s CPDO examination for the OCC program.

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. Smalling. Later that evening, Dr. Schlabach hosted the President’s Reception for meeting attendees, presenters and guests, where a Benjamin Franklin impersonator entertained with the history of eyeglasses.

Tuesday morning began with the annual elections for the ARBO Board of Directors. Two positions were open for election. Dr. Gregory Moore was reelected to a second 4-year term and Dr. Richard Orgain was elected to his first 4-year term on the Board. Dr. Roger Pabst was elected President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Susy Yu was elected Vice President, and Dr. Gregory Moore was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Ernest Schlabach completes the Executive team as Immediate Past President.

Next, the final report of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee was delivered by Dr. Kraskin and three resolutions were passed. A resolution honoring Dr. Ernest Schlabach and presenting him with life membership for his many contributions to ARBO was presented and unanimously passed by the House of Delegates. A resolution supporting COPE in continuing to improve its accreditation process through joint inter-professional accreditation of continuing education with other health care professions was also approved. Additionally, the members approved a resolution directing the ARBO Board of Directors to es-

(Continued on page 5)
ARBO 94th Annual Meeting (continued)

Establish a committee to gather data on the regulation and non-regulation of online dispensing of contact lenses, glasses and other optical devices and report back at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

A panel of industry representatives followed with information about new developments of interest to the regulatory boards. The panel consisted of Kevin Roe, OD, Director, Professional Relations at Alcon, Carey Reynolds, Senior Manager, Optometry Marketing at Allergan and Millicent Knight, OD, CHC, FAARM, Head of Professional Affairs at Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. There was a concurrent breakout session for the Executive Directors and Administrators in which Laura Burns, MSW, Public Analyst, Division of Practitioner Data Banks, Bureau of Health Professions, spoke about what the Member Boards should know regarding the National Practitioner Data Bank. Following this was a presentation from Dr. Charles Brownlow regarding how to fit the doctor/patient relationship into the health care environment that exists today.

Later in the morning, there were reports from the American Optometric Association (AOA) given by Dr. Mitchell Munson, President of the AOA; the Veteran’s Administration (VA) given by Dr. John Townsend, Director of Optometry Service, US Department of Veterans Affairs; the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) given by Dr. Bernard Dolan, MS, FAAO and President of the AAO; the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) given by Dr. J. Bart Campbell, ACOE Chair; and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) given by Dr. Jennifer Smythe, ASCO President. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all former ARBO Presidents who were in attendance to the new President, Dr. Roger Pabst.

We encourage you to start making plans to attend our next meeting in June 2015 in Seattle, Washington. 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. Seattle is an exciting city full of history and culture. You will definitely want to be there!
### Resolution 1: COPE Inter-Professional Accreditation of Continuing Education

**WHEREAS:** The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) has a long history for fostering excellence in optometry via its support of quality continuing education both via OE TRACKER and ARBO's Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE); and

**WHEREAS:** ARBO over its nearly 100 years and ARBO's COPE Committee over its 20 years have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement; and

**WHEREAS:** Any professions that seek continuing competency for its licensees via accredited continuing education (CE) have found that CE could be improved; and

**WHEREAS:** Accredited CE Providers are moving to strengthen their CE's quality and accredited CE Providers strive for continuous improvement through defined educational purpose and improved outcomes measurement; and

**WHEREAS:** Health care is moving toward a more interdisciplinary approach, and health care professions are evolving their accreditation processes towards recognition of interdisciplinary relationships; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry's House of Delegates, at this 95th Annual Meeting, supports COPE in continuing to improve its own accreditation processes, including pursuing joint inter-professional accreditation of continuing education with other health care professions.

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### Resolution 2: Create Committee to Study On-Line Dispensing

**WHEREAS,** the public safety and welfare may be adversely affected by the on-line dispensing of contact lenses, glasses, and other optical devices in certain settings; and

**WHEREAS,** it appears that the on-line dispensing of contact lenses, glasses, and other optical devices is unregulated in certain settings; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** at this 95th Annual Meeting of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) House of Delegates that the ARBO Board of Directors establish a committee to gather data on both the regulation and non-regulation of on-line dispensing of contact lenses, glasses, and other optical devices; and to have that committee report to the ARBO Board of Directors and appropriate governmental agencies, and report back at the next Annual Meeting on the current regulatory structures as well as recommendations to enhance the protection of the public.
2014 ARBO House of Delegates Resolutions (continued)

Resolution 3: Resolution Honoring Dr. Ernest Schlabach

WHEREAS, Dr. W. Ernest Schlabach 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 2006. Dr. Schlabach has served one term as President 2013-2014, one as Vice President 2011-2012, and two as Secretary-Treasurer 2010-2011 and 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. W. Ernest Schlabach has given outstanding service to the profession of optometry through his volunteer leadership roles in the Virginia Optometric Association, and the American Optometric Association, and service on the Virginia Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 95th Annual Meeting, express its sincere thanks to Dr. W. Ernest Schlabach 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.

ARBO Remembers Kentucky Board President
Dr. Teresa Madden

ARBO would like to extend condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Teresa Madden, a prominent and respected leader in Optometry who passed away in June. A graduate of the University Of Houston College Of Optometry, Dr. Madden served the Kentucky Optometric Association and held every office, including President in 1990.

Following her service at the state level, Dr. Madden went on to serve as the second woman to be elected Trustee on the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees. Her contributions to the profession were recognized when she was awarded OD of the Year in 1993 and the KOA Award of Merit in 2000. Dr. Madden was appointed to serve on the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners in 2007. She was elected President on November 9, 2013 and was still serving as President of the Board at the time of her passing.

Memorial donations can be made to the Kentucky Optometric Foundation marked ‘Madden’ which will be sent to the University Of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Optometry to name a room for Dr. Teresa Madden and her father, Dr. Bobby Madden. The address for the Kentucky Optometric Foundation is: P.O. Box 572, Frankfort, KY 40602.
OE TRACKER Committee Survey Results

At the Annual Meeting in Pennsylvania, the OE TRACKER Committee asked attendees to respond to some questions using an audience response system. The questions and responses are listed on the next two pages.

How many optometrists do you think are in the OE TRACKER database (approximately)?

1. 25,000
2. 35,000
3. 45,000

Have you attended an event where the OE TRACKER app was used?

1. Yes, as an attendee
2. Yes, as a provider
3. Yes, as both an attendee and provider
4. No

Who audits your licensees’ CE hours to ensure compliance?

1. A state employee
2. A Board Member
3. A skilled administrative Board employee
4. I don’t know
5. CE attendance hours are not audited in my jurisdiction

OE TRACKER can record what type of courses?

1. COPE
2. Non-COPE
3. Both COPE and Non-COPE
4. CPR Certification
5. All of the above

CE providers can submit course attendance to OE TRACKER using all of the following except:

1. QR Codes/OE TRACKER app
2. Barcode Scanners
3. Sign-in sheets
4. Excel spreadsheet
OE TRACKER Survey Results (continued)

OE TRACKER does which of the following:

1. Promotes continued competence
2. Allows 24/7 access to individual optometrists and Licensing Boards
3. Quickly Audits CE hours
4. All of the Above

Would you be interested in having someone from ARBO come to one of your Board meetings to talk more about OE TRACKER?

1. Yes
2. No
3. ARBO has already presented OE TRACKER to my Board

OE TRACKER Celebrates 2 Million Courses Uploaded

ARBO is excited to announce that its OE TRACKER database exceeded 2 million individual CE course attendance uploads as of June 2014. OE TRACKER was designed to assist ARBO's Member Boards with verification of continuing education hours for license renewal purposes. In addition, OE TRACKER aids optometrists in tracking their continuing education attendance information, including licensing board requirements, licensure renewal period information, and individual CE certificate and transcript printing. The program became live in January 2005 and has grown immensely since then, reaching one million course uploads in August of 2011. ARBO celebrated the 2 millionth course upload with a champagne toast with attendees at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

"I am very proud of how the OE TRACKER program has evolved over the years to become such an important tool for Member Boards to utilize for auditing and re-licensure purposes," says Dr. Ernest Schlabach, ARBO's Immediate Past President and OE TRACKER committee liaison. "I look forward to increasing the capabilities of our system to meet the changing needs of our Member Boards in order to provide the best service possible."

OE TRACKER is currently used by optometrists and ARBO member licensing boards to electronically track, report, and audit CE attendance. The attendance information is usually supplied directly to ARBO by CE providers, but optometrists can also fax their CE certificates to the ARBO office to have the hours entered into their OE TRACKER account. Currently, there are over 47,000 active optometrists in the OE TRACKER database and more than 94% of them have CE attendance data in their accounts. Optometrists can log into their OE TRACKER account to view a chronological history of the CE courses they have attended, view each jurisdiction's CE requirements, and get an analysis of the CE hours they have earned and the number of hours that are deficient to fill the requirements of the current renewal period. OE TRACKER will also send optometrists an e-mail or text to remind them to check their CE hours when it's time to renew their license.

ARBO's Member Boards use OE TRACKER to electronically review and audit the CE attendance of their licensees, allowing them to quickly and easily perform 100% audit. Some of ARBO's Member Boards have set up an automatic transfer of data from OE TRACKER, so that when an optometrist applies for license renewal, their CE attendance information automatically populates the online form, eliminating the need for manually entering each course or sending paper certificates. This type of data transfer is being used by several jurisdictions and has been a huge success.

For more information on how OE TRACKER can assist you in your license renewal process, or to arrange for someone from ARBO to come and speak to your Board about OE TRACKER, please contact Sierra Rice at 704-970-2771 or srice@arbo.org.
Optometric Competence Committee (OCC) Survey Results

At the Annual Meeting in Pennsylvania, the Optometric Competence Committee asked attendees to respond to some questions using an audience response system. The questions and responses are below.

Will the ARBO Member Boards support the use of CPDO assessment for the OCC program if the CPDO is already used by name as part of the NBEO-BC program?

Yes: 32%
No: 68%

Do the ARBO Member Boards feel that a very similar test or event the CPDO could be used for NBEO-BC if rebranded for OCC?

Yes: 64%
No: 36%

Do the ARBO Member Boards feel that ARBO should in any way associate with or make endorsement for any Board Certification program?

Yes: 3%
No: 97%
Start Planning for the 96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle

Mark your calendars now for the 96th ARBO Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington!

ARBO's 2015 Annual Meeting will be held June 21-23, 2015, at The Sheraton Hotel in Seattle. Located in Seattle's thriving downtown corridor, the Sheraton Seattle Hotel is steps away from exciting nightlife, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment. Walk to all of the top things to do in Seattle, such as Pike Place Market, the Seattle Waterfront, Seattle Center, Space Needle, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Aquarium, Washington State Convention & Trade Center, and the Washington State Ferries. You will definitely want to be there!

NEW!: ARBO is going paperless in 2015! The Annual Meeting materials will ONLY be available electronically. Be sure to bring a web-enabled mobile device to the meeting in order to access all program content. More information on this will be available in January when meeting registration opens.

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry
2015 Annual Meeting
June 21-23, 2015
Seattle, Washington

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!
NBEO Offers Online State Law Exams

The National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) offers its Online State Law Exam (OSLE) program for jurisdictions that wish to provide their state optometry law exams through the NBEO website. The online tests provide optometry boards with an effective approach for encouraging applicants to become familiar with the state optometry laws that will govern their professional behavior. There is no cost to state boards of optometry to set up an online exam with the NBEO.

State boards provide the questions, based on their specific laws and statutes, and they establish the level of difficulty of their law exams. The online law exams can be used in the licensing of new optometry graduates and endorsement candidates, as well as fulfilling the continuing education provision in states with a requirement for re-exposure to state optometry laws for continued licensure.

How does the OSLE system work?

State boards have the option of offering either an open- or closed-book exam based on their specific state optometry laws and statutes.

OPEN-BOOK law exams are taken at the candidate’s convenience on any computer of their choice. State optometry laws and statutes are provided on the NBEO website for candidates’ perusal as they take the exams. States using this format recognize that searching for answers to the questions, even in an open-book exam, requires candidates to carefully review the state optometry laws under which they will practice.

CLOSED-BOOK law exams are taken at the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) within the NBEO headquarters in Charlotte, NC. Typically, these law exams are taken during the same visit in which candidates take the Part III Clinical Science Examination (CSE). These are classic, proctored exams that are taken without access to study materials during the exam.

Who determines the state law exam characteristics?

State optometry boards determine every feature of their online law exam including the number of questions and when the exams will be available. Exam items may be added, deleted, or edited as often as needed. A state may choose random presentation of the questions within each exam, as well as random presentation of answers within each question.

In addition, a state board can provide as many extra items as it wishes to produce. Because of the availability of surplus items, a diverse assortment of questions will be pulled into each exam. However, a state board also can identify certain items as core questions that cover the basic, most important state optometry law issues. These items will used in all of that state’s exams. Because of the randomized rotation of excess exam items, each exam is unique.

Can the online law exam questions be shared?

The random presentation of questions and their answers, coupled with OSLE’s ability to rotate surplus items in and out of a state’s exams, results in a nearly infinite variety of unique exams dramatically enhancing exam security. Candidates undoubtedly find it simpler to search the state laws for correct answers than to attempt to find them in any other manner. It is impossible to create an answer key to circulate among potential candidates since no two exams are exactly alike.

What does it cost a state board to enroll?

Inclusion in the OSLE program involves no cost to state boards of optometry. A state needs only to e-mail a set of questions and answers to the National Board office. Within a few days, the items will be entered into the OEDIS database. Once a state board approves the entered items the new OSLE will be activated.

A state optometry board that currently is not giving a state law exam but would like to initiate one may write its own exam items or may contact the NBEO to generate a law exam. Custom exam items authored by the National Board for a specific state board are based on that state’s optometry laws, statutes, rules, and regulations. There is a nominal charge for the creation of a new exam when a state board lacks a law exam.

What has the reaction been to the online law exams?

OSLE allows candidates to post comments about their jurisprudence experience. Some of the comments that have been received are:

- “This is a great service. It saves driving time and headache. Thank you.”
- “Good format, easy to use interface, directions well explained. Overall, great job.”
- “No improvement needed. Self explanatory and easily used.”
- “Every state should implement this form of law examination! It was simple and easy to use, and I didn’t have to travel all the way to the Board headquarters to take it. The OSLE system is fantastic! Great Online exam.”

Any state board interested in enrolling in OSLE or having a custom state optometry law exam prepared can contact the NBEO at nbeo@optometry.org.
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.*