ARBO Annual Meeting in Boston a Success!

ARBO’s 2016 Annual Meeting took place June 26-28 at The Westin Boston Waterfront in Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting was attended by 115 individuals, including 88 delegates from 43 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 a few pre-meeting sessions including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Workshop where Jack Terry, OD, PhD, NBEO CEO, and Brett Foley, PhD, of Alpine Testing Solutions, gave the attendees a report on the NBEO exams. 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 and Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry Executive Officer Jan Murray moderated a group discussion regarding news and updates in their respective jurisdictions.

The 97th Annual Meeting was officially called to order by ARBO President Dr. Susy Yu, MBA, FAAO, on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Paul Elliot, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Optometry, welcomed the delegates to Boston. The meeting continued with Dr. Donovan Crouch giving an invocation and memorial service for colleagues who have passed since ARBO’s last meeting. Following this were reports from ARBO’s President, Dr. Yu; Executive Director, Lisa Fennell; Secretary-Treasurer, Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD; and the approval of the 2015 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 Vice-President Dr. Greg Moore, and the Nominating Committee Report from Dr. Jim Bureman, Chair. Rounding out the afternoon were Board Member Training by Dale Atkinson, ARBO’s legal counsel, the annual OE TRACKER Committee Report from Chair Dr. Jeff Yunker, and a presentation highlighting the Virginia DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center given by Director Elizabeth Carter, PhD, Executive Director of the Virginia Board of Health Professions.

Later in the day, the annual report of the National Board Exam Review Committee (NBERC) was given by Dr. Robert Smalling, Chair. This was followed by the ARBO/NBEO Director’s report given by Drs. Jill Martinson-Redekopp; Bill Rafferty; Jerry Richt; and Jack Terry. The Bylaws Committee Report was presented by Dr. Yu, who noted that the Board of Directors was proposing a minor bylaws amendment to allow the Executive Director to be the representative to the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB). The afternoon concluded with Member Board breakout sessions for attendees to discuss current events in optometry as well as news and issues from their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting resumed Monday morning with a report from the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee by Dr. O’Neill, the Finance/Budget Committee Report from Dr. Moore, and the much anticipated legal update session with a review of some

Continued on page 4
I want to initially thank you for electing me six years ago and again two years ago to serve on the Board of Directors for ARBO. I also want to thank our current Board of Directors for electing me as this year’s President. I am humbled and honored by your trust and confidence.

While in Boston for our annual meeting, I had the opportunity to re-enact the Boston Tea Party. As my daughter and I threw “Tea” into the harbor, we learned that the location of the actual ship was about 500 yards away on a spot where now stands a 20 story office building. It made me think of how much that city has changed over the past 250 years. I thought about Ben Franklin inventing the first pair of bifocals and how relatively little vision care changed over the next 200 years. Then the 1970’s hit and what a decade of significance that was for optometry. Franklin’s bifocals started being replaced with progressive lenses, contact lens technology moved from rigid to soft. In 1976, West Virginia became the first state to allow therapeutic prescriptive authority for optometry. That decade of change was the foundation for change over the next twenty years in which every state had prescriptive authority. Today most states allow some form of surgery with Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Louisiana permitting laser surgery for optometrists.

What amazed me as I took my mental walk down our profession’s memory lane is the realization that RIGHT NOW we live in an unprecedented time of change. The passage and implementation of the affordable healthcare act has affected every one of us, regardless of our mode of practice, and will for years to come. In addition to the drastic financial challenges we are experiencing, science and technology continues to advance. Over the next 5 to 10 years, refracting and selling glasses will not be the core revenue streams of an optometrist’s practice. We now have tools to provide eye healthcare to patients that were not even dreamed of just a few short years ago. On an international level, optometry is growing throughout the world and how optometry is defined is as varied in different countries as it is here in the different states. In some parts of the world optometry is still restricted to women who have ever served on a regulatory board of optometry. Every advancement optometry has made since 1901 has come under the jurisdiction of the state boards that have required demonstration of those new skills before the licensee was granted privileges to provide them. We live in a time of heightened scrutiny, rapidly changing diagnostic and therapeutic tools, and challenges to the regulatory authority granted boards in all of health care. That is most evident with the ever increasing number of “Super Boards” being introduced in so many states. To your credit, optometry has a rich heritage of strong, independent regulatory authorities that maintain the public’s trust. Our history has demanded it, and so will our future. ARBO is here to help serve your needs in that endeavor.

So, what does ARBO do to help you face those challenges? First and foremost it must be understood that all of our efforts are driven by you, our member boards. To that end, we have a lot on the table. Here is what the coming year looks like with some of the things ARBO is working on to help you protect the public:

1. We have all heard the call for independent governance for CE Accreditation by the AOA. Discussions on this topic were held at our annual meeting and you gave us our directive. Stay the course and continue the dialogue with other CE stakeholders. ARBO has already offered options to the AOA for continued dialogue, and hopefully a process that will help us find common ground. In the interim, ARBO will continue your directive, through COPE, to pursue substantial equivalency with the ACCME.

2. ARBO and NBEO have signed a one year contract extension. A group of Directors from ARBO and NBEO are working on an agreement for the future and we will have information to share with you in time for our annual meeting next June. In October, our National Board Exam Review Committee will travel to Charlotte, North Carolina to participate in the NBEO Council meetings and will provide feedback on the needs our member boards on the exams NBEO provides you as part of the licensure process.

3. OE TRACKER usage continues to increase throughout the US and Canada. If you are not doing 100% audit, this is a great tool to help your board’s staff, no matter how small, facilitate that.

4. Each year ARBO receives requests from other countries to assist them in regulatory matters. This past year it was with Germany and the British Virgin Islands. We will continue to offer those services...
A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see everyone in Boston at our 97th Annual Meeting. We had a record number of attendees this year and I enjoyed being able to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Those of you who were able to come to the meeting seemed to really enjoy the program this year. For those of you who didn’t get to come, I encourage you to start planning and budgeting now for next year’s meeting in Washington, DC. It will be an excellent venue for our 2017 meeting, because there are so many great things to see and do there.

Dr. Moore and the Board of Directors have appointed the new committees for 2016-2017 and they will be getting to work soon with their plans for the next year. You can find the new committee list on pages 7 and 8. I expect it to be another busy and productive year. The ARBO staff and I are excited to be working with all of the committees this year. Thank you to our many volunteers for all that you do for ARBO and the public we serve.

As the busy CE and license renewal seasons begin, I expect COPE and OE TRACKER activity to pick up very quickly. The amount of course, event, and attendance data we receive every day continues to increase, which keeps everyone here in the office working very hard. I have no doubt that our wonderful staff will continue their high level of service to keep everything running smoothly.

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.

Warmest Regards,

Gregory S. Moore, OD
ARBO President
Email: gregorymoore@upike.edu
Cell: (304) 549-2015

2016-2017 ARBO Directors Elected

At the 97th Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, ARBO elected new officers for their Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 term. The new officers are:

- **President**: Gregory S. Moore, OD, West Virginia
- **Vice President**: Richard C. Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- **Secretary-Treasurer**: James S. Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- **Immediate Past President**: Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California

The other Directors of the ARBO Board for the 2016-2017 term are:

- Michael W. Ohlson, OD, FAAO, Iowa
- Patrick W. O’Neill, OD, FAAO, Minnesota
- Roger D. Pabst, OD, Minnesota
- William B. Rafferty, OD, FAAO, North Carolina
- Coby S. Ramsey, OD, Wyoming
- Jerry A. Richt, OD, Tennessee
- Donovan L. Crouch, OD, Consultant

ARBO is also looking to revitalize our Optometric Competence Committee’s efforts this year. Through this we hope to provide a tool individual optometrists can use to measure their own skillset. While not designed to be punitive in nature to the optometrist seeking self-improvement, it can potentially be a tool for a board to use when assessing the skillset of a licensee who has issues that have been brought before the board.

Our next annual meeting will be in Washington, DC, in only 10 short months. We are already making plans to make it as productive as possible. It will be held June 18-20, 2017. Please mark your calendars and make arrangements to attend.

As you can see, it will be a busy year for ARBO. I encourage each of you to feel free to contact me (my contact information is provided below) anytime if you feel ARBO can better serve your needs in your mission to protect the public.

Warmest Regards,

Gregory S. Moore, OD
ARBO President
Email: gregorymoore@upike.edu
Cell: (304) 549-2015
ARBO 97th Annual Meeting (continued)
of the year’s top regulatory cases by Dale Atkinson. Next was a presentation on Criminal Background Checks by health regulatory boards and Minnesota’s startup experience given by Minnesota Criminal Background Program Coordinator Sean McCarthy, JD, and the International Committee Report given by Dr. Paula Garshowitz.

Later in the morning, Kristi Weeks, JD, Policy Counsel, Washington State Department of Health, discussed Washington’s history with legalizing marijuana, along with the regulatory obstacles that the state faced. Following this, delegates once again broke out into Member Board breakout sessions to continue discussions from Sunday afternoon. Concurrently, there was an Executive Director/Administrator workshop where Dale Atkinson discussed legal issues of interest to regulatory board staff. This was followed by a working lunch moderated by Pat Bennett and Jan Murray for the Executive Directors/Administrators to discuss their favorite resources for consumer safety.

Monday’s afternoon session began with a presentation about regulation in the electronic era, given by Barbara Safriet, JD, LLM, Law Professor, followed by the COPE Committee Report from Drs. James Campbell, Chair; Michael Ohlson; and Jill Martinson-Redekopp.

Later in the afternoon there were reports from each Member Board breakout group. Following this, the delegates voted to approve the Bylaws Amendment. Next, the Contemporary Issues Committee gave a report on their research over the past year, and the delegates participated in a contemporary issues discussion moderated by Dr. Richard Orgain, Chair. Concurrently, there was a breakout session, hosted by Dr. Martinson-Redekopp and ARBO Program Manager Sierra Rice, to discuss the upcoming COPE process changes. The afternoon session ended with the Nominating Committee’s final report of their nominations for the open positions on the ARBO Board of Directors, given by Dr. Bureman, and remarks from each candidate that was nominated for open positions on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Yu hosted the President's Reception on Monday evening for meeting attendees, presenters and guests, which was sponsored by VSP.

(Continued on page 5)
ARBO 97th Annual Meeting (continued)

Tuesday morning began with the approval of the 2017 Budget, presented by Dr. Moore, and the annual elections for the ARBO Board of Directors. Two positions were open for election. Dr. Pat O’Neill (Minnesota) and Dr. Coby Ramsey (Wyoming) were elected for 4-year terms on the Board. Please see page 6 for full bios on the two new ARBO Directors. Next, the final Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee Report was delivered by Dr. O’Neill. One resolution was passed honoring Dr. Susy Yu for her many contributions to ARBO and presenting her with life membership to the organization. Full text of the resolution can be found on page 6.

Next was a presentation on regulation in the news given by Dale Atkinson. A breakout session followed with presentations by industry representatives on new developments of interest to the regulatory boards. The presenters were Kevin Roe, OD, FAAO, from Alcon and Millicent Knight, OD, from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. There was a concurrent breakout session for the Executive Directors and Administrators in which Dr. Martinson-Redekopp explained the upcoming COPE process changes and answered questions in regards to how this may impact board licensure requirements.

After a short break, Dr. Yu announced the new officers of the Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year. Dr. Greg Moore was elected President, Dr. Rick Orgain was elected Vice-President, and Dr. Jim Campbell was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Susy Yu completes the Executive team as Immediate Past President. Following this was a report from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) given by Dr. Bart Campbell, Chair, and a presentation on the purpose and value of continuing education given by Brett Bence, OD, FAAO, President, American Academy of Optometry and Director of Optometry, Northwest Eye Surgeons.

The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all former ARBO Presidents who were in attendance to the new President, Dr. Moore.

We encourage you to start making plans to attend our next meeting, June 18-20, 2017, in Washington, D.C. 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 daily. As the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., holds rich history and has many exciting things to see and do. You will definitely want to be there!
2016 Annual Meeting Resolution Honoring Dr. Susy Yu

WHEREAS, Dr. Susy Yu has performed an outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during her service on the Board of Directors of ARBO since being elected in 2009. Dr. Yu has served one term as President 2015-2016, one as Vice President 2014-2015, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2013-2014; and

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Susy Yu has given outstanding service to the profession of optometry through her service on the California Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 97th Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, express its sincere thanks to Dr. Susy Yu for her many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry, and bestow upon her the status of Life Member in this Association.

Two New Directors Elected To ARBO Board of Directors

ARBO is pleased to welcome Patrick W. O’Neill, OD, FAAO and Coby S. Ramsey, OD, to the ARBO Board of Directors, as elected by the House of Delegates at the 97th ARBO Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. O’Neill is a graduate of Ferris State University (now Michigan College of Optometry) who practices optometry in Northfield, Minnesota. After practicing in the private practice sector for 10 years, Dr. O’Neill joined his practice with a large multidisciplinary medical group. In 2004 he formed the River Valley Vision Centers, now called River Valley Eye Professionals. Dr. O’Neill was the Medical Director for Eye Services for the Allina Medical Clinic. He is the eye care director for the local nursing care facilities as well as the skilled care unit of the local hospital, and is an adjunct faculty member at Southern College of Optometry and Indiana University College of Optometry.

Dr. O’Neill is a past-president and current member of the Minnesota Optometric Association and the North Central States Optometric Council. He has served on the Minnesota State Board of Optometry since 2009 and has held the Chair position since 2015. He has also served on ARBO’s Nominations Committee and was the 2015 Committee Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee.

Dr. Ramsey is a 1995 graduate of Pacific College of Optometry and has practiced optometry at his private practice in Rock Spring, Wyoming, for nearly 20 years. He is a past president of the Wyoming Optometric Association, a current AOA MORE Registry member and has served as Co-Chair for the Northern Rockies Optometric Conference since 2005.

Dr. Ramsey is the current president of the Wyoming State Board of Examiners in Optometry and has served in this role since 2011. He played an integral role in the Board adopting their OE TRACKER requirement for Wyoming licensees, as well as requiring 100% audits using OE TRACKER. Dr. Ramsey has also served on ARBO’s OE TRACKER Committee.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. O’Neill and Ramsey!
ARBO 2016-2017 Committee Members

**Board Committees:**

**Executive Committee**
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, Chair
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Finance/Budget Committee**
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Chair
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**Industry Relations Committee**
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair
- Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota
- Coby Ramsey, OD Wyoming
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff

**Committees:**

**Contemporary Issues Committee**
- Paula Garshowitz, OD, Ontario, Chair
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD, Virginia
- Jeffrey Kraskin, OD, District of Columbia
- Mary Lou French, OD, Illinois
- Tamara Mathison, OD, North Dakota
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Lisa Fennell, Staff

**International Affairs Committee**
- James Bureman, OD, Missouri, Chair
- Paula Garshowitz, OD, Ontario
- Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas
- Norm LaPlante, Maine
- Doug Clark, OD, Alabama
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee, Board Liaison
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Ron Cassel, Staff

**COPE Committee**
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia, Chair
- Jill Martinson Redekopp, OD, North Dakota
- Jerry Richt, OD, Tennessee
- Robert Smalling, OD, Arkansas
- William Rafferty, OD, North Carolina
- Michael Ohlson, OD, Iowa
- Steven Odekirk, OD, West Virginia
- Thomas Bobst, OD, Ohio
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Greg Patera, OD, Michigan
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Donna DeLay, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff
- Sierra Rice, Staff

**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Iowa, Chair
- James Campbell, OD, West Virginia
- Michael Ohlson, OD, Iowa
- Patrick O’Neill, OD, Minnesota
- Richard Orgain, OD, Tennessee
- Roger Pabst, OD, Minnesota
- William Rafferty, OD, North Carolina
- Coby Ramsey, OD Wyoming
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO, California
- Gregory Moore, OD, West Virginia, *Ex-Officio*
- Donna DeLay, Staff
- Lisa Fennell, Staff
ARBO 2016-2017 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Carper</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Cronbaugh</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Matsushima</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Jenkins</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Sieberman</td>
<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coby Ramsey</td>
<td>OD, Wyoming, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick O’Neill</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia, Ex-Officio</td>
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<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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**Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Kraskin</td>
<td>OD, District of Columbia, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Lawenda</td>
<td>OD, Vermont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Kelly</td>
<td>OD, Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Brown</td>
<td>OD, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick O’Neill</td>
<td>OD, Minnesota, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia, Ex-Officio</td>
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<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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**Affiliated Organization Liaison Appointments**

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Liaison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Academy of Optometry (AAO)</td>
<td>Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)</td>
<td>Gregory Moore, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Optometric Association (AOA)</td>
<td>Patrick O’Neill, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)</td>
<td>Coby Ramsey, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)</td>
<td>Michael Ohlson, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)</td>
<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO)</td>
<td>Jerry Richt, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Council of Optometry (WCO)</td>
<td>Richard Orgain, OD</td>
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**National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC)**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bobst</td>
<td>Ohio, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Avallone</td>
<td>OD, Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Lou French</td>
<td>OD, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freddie Mayes</td>
<td>OD, Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay McLaughlin</td>
<td>OD, Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick O’Neill</td>
<td>OD, Minnesota, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Cassel</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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**OE TRACKER Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeffery Yunker</td>
<td>OD, North Dakota, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Brown</td>
<td>OD, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clark</td>
<td>OD, Alabama</td>
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<td>Mary Lou French</td>
<td>OD, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Lawenda</td>
<td>OD, Vermont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Linas</td>
<td>OD, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blaine Littlefield</td>
<td>OD, Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Vaught</td>
<td>OD, South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coby Ramsey</td>
<td>OD, Wyoming, Board Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>OD, West Virginia, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Rice</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Fennell</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Mancuso</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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**OE TRACKER Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State/Province</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Campbell</td>
<td>Guam, Idaho, Michigan, Arkansas, Quebec, Washington, West Virginia*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Moore</td>
<td>Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ohlson</td>
<td>Atlantic Provinces, Iowa*, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick O’Neill</td>
<td>Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Manitoba, Massachusetts, Minnesota*, Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Orgain</td>
<td>Alabama, Arizona, Australia, New Hampshire, Tennessee*, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Pabst</td>
<td>Alberta, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Rafferty</td>
<td>Connecticut, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coby Ramsey</td>
<td>Missouri, New Zealand, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Wyoming*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Richt</td>
<td>Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Ohio, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susy Yu</td>
<td>British Columbia, California*, Colorado, Hawaii, Ontario, Virgin Islands</td>
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Join Us for the 2017 ARBO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC!

Mark Your Calendars for June 18-20, 2017, to Attend the 98th ARBO Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 2017 Annual Meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington, DC. The Grand Hyatt Washington is located in the Penn Quarter-Chinatown area of downtown DC. Located only 3 blocks from the convention center and close to hundreds of restaurants, bars, shopping venues, everything you need is within easy access. Grand Hyatt Washington is the only hotel to have metro access directly from the lobby and is within walking distance to most of Washington, DC’s iconic landmarks including the White House, National Mall, Smithsonian Museums and Verizon Center. You will definitely want to be there!

More information and online registration will be available in January!

October COPE Administrator/Provider Workshop Announced

ARBO is holding a workshop for COPE Administrators and Providers on October 7th to cover the new COPE accreditation criteria and changes to the COPE accreditation process that will be required starting in January 2017. ARBO’s Member Boards are also welcome to attend to learn more about changes to the COPE requirements.

Topics at the workshop include: adult learning principles; identifying the practice gaps of earners; planning CE activities around identified gaps; and educational evaluation and assessment of CE activities. Changes to COPE’s activity accreditation process and COPE’s new provide accreditation process will be discussed in detail. There will also be a separate Q&A session at the end of the day for organizations interested in becoming a COPE accredited provider.

- **Date and Time**: October 7, 2016, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- **Location**: Loews Chicago O’Hare Hotel, Rosemont, Illinois
- **Purpose**: The purpose of the workshop is to bring together a community of optometric CE providers to share their experiences and ideas and to educate them about the changes being made to the COPE accreditation requirements. The workshop will assist optometric CE professionals in developing strategies to ensure their organizational compliance with the COPE Accreditation Criteria, Standards for Commercial Support, and COPE policies.
- **Registration Fee**: $250 per person (includes breakfast and lunch)
- **Hotel Rooms**: A block of rooms is being held for attendees of the COPE Training Workshop at Loews Chicago O’Hare Hotel at the group rate of $169.00/night + tax (single/double occupancy). Reservations must be made by Thursday, September 15, 2016, to ensure availability at the group rate.

For more information and to register visit: [https://www.arbo.org/cope_workshop.php](https://www.arbo.org/cope_workshop.php)
The NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam (LSPE)

The NBEO soon will offer a standardized, national credentialing examination for any practitioner who performs or wishes to perform certain laser procedures and specific ocular surgical procedures. The National Board will welcome professionals who would like to demonstrate and document proficiency in these several ocular anterior segment procedural skills. Research and development are well underway toward the launch of the National Board’s new Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE), to be administered at the NBEO’s National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Efforts to bring this new, elective examination to fruition have been ongoing for a number of years, through several meetings, and will continue into the future. The Laser Task Force met in January 2012, followed by gatherings of the Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam Development Committee in April 2016 and August 2016. The group will meet again in January 2017.

The LSPE will consist of two sections. First, a written test (tentatively 75 items) will be given in computer-based testing (CBT) format at the NCCTO in its CBT test center. This venue currently hosts the in-house Online State Law Exams (OSLEs). Subject matter will cover fundamental knowledge that should be known by practitioners involved in the practice of laser and surgical procedures. Second, a laser and surgical procedures clinical skills test will be provided in the designated LSPE exam room at the NCCTO, home of the Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE).

Laser and surgical procedures skills that successfully have been incorporated into the exam include selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT), YAG capsulotomy, chalazion excision, and suturing.

Skills that may be included in the LSPE if appropriate eye models can be identified, procured, assessed, and accepted are laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI) and skin tag removal with infiltrative anesthesia.

An assortment of sample equipment components have been purchased and are undergoing intense appraisal. The most significant acquisition was the state-of-the-art Lumenis Selecta® Duet™ laser, which was selected, acquired, and installed in the LSPE exam room in the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO). All eye models and equipment ultimately chosen for use in this exam will be available on the LSPE Site Information and Equipment List on the NBEO website prior to the inaugural administration of the examination.

During the recent August 2016 exam development meeting, four practitioners experienced in performing laser and surgical procedures were invited to serve as Phase I LSPE Pilot Study Candidates for the clinical skills portion of the exam. These ‘candidates’ took the exam as if they were standard NCCTO examinees. Their performances were captured on video, as are all exams taken in the NCCTO exam rooms.

After all four pilot ODs had completed their exams, the committee reviewed their videos, evaluated their performances, and solicited their comments. The clinical skills segment of the exam was appreciably amended in light of the invaluable feedback gleaned from the pilot candidates and the results of the pilot study.

During the next exam development committee meeting, in January 2017, the Phase II LSPE Pilot Study will be conducted. Another round of administrative and/or equipment improvements will be devised and implemented. The committee also will work to finalize the items for the written, CBT portion of the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination.

It is anticipated that the exam will be offered for use by practitioners in mid-2017. As time passes, interested parties will find additional information on the NBEO website (www.optometry.org) and in future issues of the NBEO newsletter, TestPoints. Any questions or comments may be emailed to nbeo@optometry.org.
As a regulatory board member and an optometrist, please consider becoming a reviewer of courses submitted for COPE accreditation. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will help ensure the quality and independence of continuing education. COPE accreditation benefits both practitioners in your jurisdiction as well as the public that we serve.

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

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

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process!

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