ARBO Holds 99th Annual Meeting!

ARBO’s 2018 Annual Meeting took place June 17-19 at the Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel in Denver, Colorado. The meeting was attended by 111 individuals, which included 81 delegates from 44 member boards. The attendees participated in discussions, presentations, and small group breakout sessions, and conducted the business of the association. It was a very productive and informative meeting.

The meeting was called to order by ARBO President Dr. Richard Orgain on Sunday morning. Dr. Kerry Jarvis, President of the Colorado Board of Optometry, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. Next was Dr. Orgain’s President’s Report, followed by reports from ARBO Executive Director Lisa Fennell, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Patrick O’Neill, and the approval of the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting. This was followed by a report of the activities of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee, given by Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin, Chair, and the Nominating Committee, given by Dr. James Bureman, Chair. Dr. Orgain presented the 2018 John D. Robinson Founder’s Award to Caren Jenkins, the Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Optometry, followed by Board Member/Regulator Training by Dale Atkinson, Esq.

Next, Dr. Larry Brown, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, reported on the three proposed bylaws amendments. Dr. Brown reviewed each proposed amendment. Proposed Amendment #1 consisted of changes for accuracy and consistency with best practices. Proposed Amendment #2 designated one seat on the Board of Directors for a Member Board Executive. Proposed Amendment #3 would discontinue having Directors who are elected to the NBEO Board remain as ex-officio members of the ARBO Board after their term ends. After this, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director, gave the delegates an update on the activities of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. The morning concluded with a report on the activities of the OE TRACKER Committee by Dr. Mary Lou French, Chair.

The afternoon began with a presentation on the NBEO’s exam development and analysis process by Brett Foley, Ph.D., from Alpine Testing Solutions. Next, the annual report of the National Board Examination Review Committee was given by Dr. Patrick O’Neill, Chair. Following this, Drs. Tom Bobst and James Campbell, Co-Chairs of the COPE Committee, gave a report on the activities of the committee. Next, Dennis Maynes, Ph.D. from Caveon, gave the delegates a presentation on NBEO Exam Security.

Later in the afternoon, Joshua Batkin, Director of Council Relations at the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, gave a presentation entitled, “Exercising Your Voice,” about communicating with policymakers to promote reasonable regulation. Concurrently, the Member Board Executives held a breakout session to discuss their activities and issues of interest. The day concluded with a Member Board breakout session for attendees to meet in small groups to discuss their major activities over the past year and current events in optometric regulation.

The meeting resumed on Monday morning with the
A Letter from the President

Good day everyone. I hope your summer has been fabulous. We all had a great time at the annual meeting in Denver, but now it’s time to get back to work. As the famous Yogi Berra once quipped, “It’s deja vu all over again.” I’m Rick Orgain and I am once again the President of ARBO. No politics, no funny business, just the practical aspects of having common sense succession within the ARBO Board. We have had a busy year and are continuing to move forward representing the interests of each of you.

The entire concept of continuing education is changing, and ARBO is attempting to keep optometry aligned with the other healthcare professions. It has been a sometimes tedious process trying to work with our optometric colleagues, explaining the changes that must take place in order to keep us from being left out of many aspects within the healthcare system altogether. The perfect example is the recent inclusion of COPE in the Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education collaborative (the organization comprised of medicine, nursing and pharmacy CE/CME accreditors). Optometry is now included as well, thanks to all the hard work of the COPE Committee over the past 5 years to evolve the COPE system to be aligned with these other professions.

We have had ongoing discussions with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) concerning our decades-long relationship with their organization and are working on the continuation and further mutual bonding moving forward as we do our due diligence to represent each of our member boards. We’ve also had in-depth discussions with the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) to elicit their expertise and participation within our COPE Committee. They each can bring much needed knowledge and experience as we continue to mainstream our COPE accreditation process into the full scope of the healthcare arena. The dialogue and discussions with these three organizations has been very productive, and we look forward to completing these efforts in the near future.

The Board of Directors is also in the process of appointing our committees for the next year. If you haven’t already volunteered for one of our committees, I’d encourage you to do so. We’re going to be addressing some new issues this year, such as license portability and telemedicine, and working on developing resources to assist you. Your input is critical as we move forward with these new endeavors.

I’m looking forward to another productive year for ARBO, and I thank you for your support and participation.

Steven Odekirk, OD Elected to ARBO Board of Directors

ARBO is pleased to welcome Steven Odekirk, OD to the Board of Directors, as elected by the House of Delegates at the 99th ARBO Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

A graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry, Dr. Odekirk now resides in Charleston, West Virginia, and has served on the West Virginia Board of Optometry since 2013. He currently holds the position of President of the West Virginia Board and has also served as Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Odekirk is an active member of the American Optometric Association and West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians.

Since attending his first ARBO meeting, Dr. Odekirk has become actively involved with the organization, serving on the OE TRACKER Committee from 2014-2016 and COPE Committee from 2016 to present. He became a COPE Reviewer in 2014 and is now one of three course auditors within the COPE Committee. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Odekirk!
A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see so many of you in Denver at our annual meeting! It's always fun to meet our new attendees and to catch up with those of you that I haven't seen since last year. The feedback we received on the meeting was that the presentations, discussion and sharing of information was extremely valuable. For those of you who weren’t able to come, you were definitely missed. We really hope you’ll be able to join us in St. Louis for our centennial celebration next year!

There were 44 member boards that attended the annual meeting this year. We were very happy to see you there, but there were still many of you that weren’t able to come. I’d love to hear the reasons why from you. Was it a budgeting issue? Does your jurisdiction have limitations on travel? In the current anti-regulatory climate, regulatory boards are being challenged every day. ARBO’s annual meeting provides an environment to join other regulatory agencies to discuss the challenges you face and learn about possible approaches to address them. You’ll also hear about the many tools ARBO provides, which allow you to increase efficiency and do more with less.

The summer is rapidly coming to an end, and the staff and I are excited to begin working with the new committees over the next year. I’m sure it will be another productive year for all of them. Speaking of the staff, we have two awesome new additions to our team: Hannah Brown and Katrina Thornburg. These two ladies joined us a few weeks ago, and they're doing a great job of coming up to speed on all of ARBO’s programs and services. I know they will provide you with the same excellent customer service that you’ve always received from our staff. Next time you call or visit the office, make sure you say “hi” to them!

We’re working on some big plans for the upcoming year. We’ll be launching our new website and looking into additional ways to support our members with new resources that address telemedicine and license portability. If you have any thoughts on how we can help you with either of these issues, or if you want to volunteer to join one of the committees that will be working on these topics, please let me know.

We are also continuing to increase our communication efforts with our members to make sure you are well informed about all of ARBO’s programs and projects. If you haven’t checked out our blog yet, I encourage you to do so. You can find it at blog.arbo.org. Some of our recent blog posts include: “What is the Responsibility of a Regulatory Board Member” and “OE TRACKER – The Solution for Tracking and Auditing Optometrists’ CE Attendance.” Please let me know if you have any topics you’d like us to write about, or if you want to volunteer as a guest blogger. Feel free to contact me at lfen nell@arbo.org with your suggestions or questions.

2018-2019 ARBO Officers Elected

At the 99th Annual Meeting in Denver, ARBO elected new officers for their Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 term. The new officers are:

- **President:** Richard Orgain, OD
- **Vice President:** James Campbell, OD
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Patrick O’Neill, OD, FAAO
- **Immediate Past President:** Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO

The other members of the ARBO Board this year are:

**Directors**
- Thomas Bobst, OD, FAAO
- Steven Odekirk, OD
- Coby S. Ramsey, OD
- Jerry A. Richt, OD
- Jeffery Yunker, OD

**Participants**
- Patricia Bennett, MSW, Member Executive Liaison
- Donovan Crouch, OD, Consultant
ARBO Annual Meeting Recap (continued)

Finance Committee Report from Dr. James Campbell, Vice President, followed by a legal update on regulatory issues from Dale Atkinson. Next, there was a presentation by Wallace Lovejoy, JD, from Lovejoy Eyecare Consulting, LLC, entitled, “Consumer Protection without Protectionism: Regulation of Optometry in the Age of Telemedicine.” The morning session ended with a presentation by Marschall Smith, MPA, Executive Director of the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact Commission, entitled, “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact: The New Expedited Pathway to Medical Licensure.”

Monday’s afternoon session began with the Member Board Executive Committee Report by Emily Cronbaugh, Co-Chair of the committee. Next was a presentation by Robin Jenkins, Executive Director, Allied & Behavioral Health Boards, and Panravee Vongjaroenrat, Assistant General Counsel, both from the DC Department of Health, entitled, “Open Meetings: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”. Reports from the member breakout groups followed. This was followed by a presentation by Daniel Gilman, JD, PhD, from the Office of Policy Planning of the Federal Trade Commission, entitled, “Promoting Competition in Regulated Occupations: FTC Perspectives.”

The afternoon concluded with the delegates voting on the proposed bylaws amendments. The delegates voted unanimously to approve proposed bylaws amendments #1 and #2. The delegates voted not to approve bylaws amendment #3. Following this, Dr. James Bureman gave the Nominating Committee’s final report of their nominations for the open positions on the ARBO Board of Directors. The nominees were each given a few minutes to address the delegates. The day ended with Dr. Orgain hosting the President’s Reception on Monday evening, which was sponsored by VSP.

Tuesday morning began with the approval of the 2019 Budget. Next was the election for the Board of Directors. Dr. Richard Orgain was re-elected for a second four-year term and Dr. Steven Odekirk from West Virginia was elected to his first four-year term. The delegates then approved the nominees for the open position on the ACOE.

Next, the final Resolutions Committee Report was delivered by Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin. Three resolutions were passed by the delegates. The first recognizes the service of Dr. Richard Orgain to ARBO and grants him Life Membership in the Association. The second honors Dr. William Rafferty for his many years of service and contributions to the Association. The third encourages all ARBO Member Boards to increase utilization of COPE accredited CE. The full text of the resolutions can be found on pages 6-7.

Presentations by industry representatives followed including: Dr. Kevin Roe from Alcon, David Gibson from Allergan, and Dr. W. Lee Ball from Johnson & Johnson Vision. After a short break, Dr. Orgain announced the new officers for the 2018-2019 year. Dr. Orgain was re-elected President, Dr. James Campbell was re-elected Vice President, and Dr. Patrick O’Neill was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Orgain noted the Dr. Susy Yu will serve as Immediate Past President.

Later in the morning, Dale Atkinson gave the attendees a presentation on regulation in the news. This was followed by a report from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) by Dr. Bart Campbell, ACOE Chair. Next, a motion was passed by the delegates for the Board of Directors to establish a committee to complete research in telemedicine and develop resources to assist the members. The meeting concluded with the gavel being passed by all ARBO Presidents, ending with Dr. Gregory Moore (2016-2017) passing the gavel to Dr. Richard Orgain (2017-2019).

We encourage you to start making plans to attend ARBO’s 100th meeting next year in St. Louis, Missouri. The dates of our centennial meeting are June 16-18, 2019. ARBO’s Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn about the issues facing other regulatory agencies and to exchange ideas on how to approach the challenges you encounter in your jurisdiction.

The House of Delegates at the 2018 ARBO Annual Meeting
Come Celebrate ARBO’s 100th Anniversary in 2019!

*Mark Your Calendars for June 16-18 to Attend the 100th ARBO Annual Meeting!*

Mark your calendars to attend the 2019 ARBO Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. ARBO’s 100th Annual Meeting will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel from June 16-18, 2019. The Four Seasons is in the heart of downtown St. Louis’s entertainment district with epic views of the Gateway Arch. St. Louis, once the launching point for settlers travelling farther west, is today a destination in its own right. The city teems with cultural opportunities and a diversity of shopping and dining options. You will definitely want to be there!

*The Four Seasons*

*Missouri Botanical Garden*

*More information and online registration will be available in early 2019!*

*We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!*
2018 ARBO Resolutions

2018 Resolution #1
Resolution Honoring Dr. Richard Orgain

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Orgain 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 2014. Dr. Orgain has served one term as President 2017-2018, one as Vice President 2016-2017, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2015-2016; 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. Richard Orgain has given outstanding service through his volunteer leadership roles in the Tennessee Board of Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Member Boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Dr. Richard Orgain’s distinguished contributions to the Association; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 99th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Richard Orgain for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions and bestow upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates June 19, 2018.

2018 Resolution #2
Resolution Honoring Dr. William B. Rafferty

WHEREAS, Dr. William B. Rafferty 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 2005. Dr. Rafferty served one term as President (2009-2010), one as Vice-President (2007-2008), and 2006, one as Secretary-Treasurer (2008-2009); 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. William B. Rafferty has given outstanding service through his volunteer leadership roles in the North Carolina State Board of Examiners in Optometry, National Board of Examiners in Optometry, North Carolina State Optometric Society, and in various other capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Member Boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Dr. William B. Rafferty’s distinguished contributions to the Association; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 99th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, express its sincere appreciation to Dr. William B. Rafferty for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the Association.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates, June 19, 2018.
2018 Resolution #3
Utilization of COPE by ARBO Member Boards

Whereas, the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) accredits optometric continuing education providers, programs and activities on behalf of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry’s (ARBO’s) Member Boards;

Whereas, the majority of optometric continuing education is for maintenance of licensure;

Whereas, the COPE accreditation program is utilized by ARBO Member Boards as one criterion in determining initial licensure and licensure renewal eligibility;

Whereas, the COPE accreditation program utilizes Standards for Commercial Support to ensure that the content of COPE accredited continuing education (CE) is independent from commercial influence and is designed to improve knowledge, performance and patient outcomes for the public welfare;

Whereas, the COPE Standards for Commercial Support and accreditation criteria are equivalent to those accepted and implemented by the healthcare CE/Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation community to assure validity and effectiveness;

Whereas, the COPE accreditation criteria promote an ongoing quality improvement process for continuing education providers to assure the desired outcomes of improved knowledge, competencies and performance in practice;

Whereas, the COPE accreditation program has been deemed to be substantially equivalent to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) accreditation system, and COPE is now included as an option in the Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education collaborative with ACCME, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC), and American Academy of Physicians Assistants (AAPA);

Whereas, ARBO Member Boards desire the highest quality continuing education to ensure they are protecting the public welfare;

Whereas, COPE provides ARBO Member Boards with a system of standardized, defensible continuing education accreditation, providing greater legal protection and increased public protection;

Whereas, ARBO Member Boards often lack the resources to adequately validate the quality of continuing education courses;

Whereas, COPE is a valuable tool available to ARBO Member Boards to help decrease their workload and provide assurance that COPE accredited CE meets their requirements;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the House of Delegates of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), at the 99th Annual Meeting, affirm our commitment to the utilization of the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) program to ensure the quality and appropriateness of optometric continuing education for continuing competence and maintenance of licensure; and be it further

Resolved, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) House of Delegates encourages all ARBO Member Boards to increase utilization of COPE accredited CE as it is in the best interest of public health and safety.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates, June 19, 2018.
OE TRACKER Database Exceeds 4 Million Uploads

ARBO’s OE TRACKER database has reached a major milestone. As of June 2018, over 4 million individual CE courses have been uploaded into OE TRACKER. Designed to assist ARBO’s Member Boards with verification of continuing education hours for license renewal purposes, OE TRACKER also 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 began in January 2005 and has grown immensely since then, reaching one million course uploads in August of 2011 and 2 million courses uploads in 2014.

“We have seen OE TRACKER grow leaps and bounds over the past few years as more of our Member Licensing Boards are utilizing the program for CE audits of their licensees and registrants,” stated Dr. Rick Orgain, ARBO President and past OE TRACKER Committee Chair. “Along this line, an increasing number of optometrists are also discovering the value of OE TRACKER in terms of saving time and effort in keeping track of CE hours for license renewal. OE TRACKER is a great tool for our Member Boards to increase efficiency and help them better meet their responsibility of protecting the public.”

OE TRACKER is currently used by optometrists and ARBO’s Member Licensing Boards to electronically track, report, and audit CE hours. The attendance information is often supplied directly to ARBO by CE providers, but optometrists can also email or fax attendance certificates to the ARBO office for uploading or submit CE certificates through their online account or the mobile app to have the hours entered into their OE TRACKER account. Currently, there are over 54,000 active optometrists in the OE TRACKER database and more than 96% of them have CE attendance data in their accounts.

Optometrists can log into their OE TRACKER account through the mobile app or online at www.arbo.org to view a chronological history of the CE courses they have attended. When they log in online, they can also view each jurisdiction’s CE requirements to determine their status in meeting the requirements in 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 Licensing Boards use OE TRACKER to electronically review and audit the CE attendance of their licensees, allowing them to quickly and easily perform their CE audit. Some of ARBO’s Member Licensing 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 Powell at 704-970-2771 or spowell@arbo.org.

Photos from 2018 ARBO Annual Meeting
ARBO Now Offering CE Auditing Service to Member Boards

ARBO is excited to announce a new benefit for member licensing boards: CE auditing services using OE TRACKER. For numerous years, member boards have been able to utilize various auditing reports generated from OE TRACKER. Now, ARBO is going a step further and offering to complete the audit process for you. This comes after numerous member boards have shown increasing interest in completing more extensive audits, but have expressed concern about internal resources and time to complete an audit.

Included in ARBO’s auditing services will be a verification of jurisdictional CE requirements and review of the CE hours earned by each licensee/registrant to determine if each optometrist has met the requirements for license renewal. ARBO is also able to send deficiency notices to licensees/registrants that do not meet the board’s CE requirements, if desired. Member boards who are already utilizing ARBO’s auditing services include the Tennessee Board of Optometry and College of Optometrists of Ontario.

ARBO Welcomes New Staff

Please help ARBO in welcoming two new staff members to our team: Hannah Brown and Katrina Thornburg! Hannah and Katrina are both Program Coordinators, providing daily customer service support and uploading CE credits into OE TRACKER.

Ms. Brown has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Cloud Computing. She served in the United States Air Force from 2008-2012 and has since pursued a career in IT and healthcare. In her free time, Ms. Brown enjoys shopping, spending time with her cat, Luna, and trying out new cuisine in and around Charlotte.

Ms. Thornburg has an Associate Degree in Business Manager with over 20 years of experience in accounts management and customer service fields. She also attends CPCC for continuing education classes and is currently taking Business Law. When she’s not working, Ms. Thornburg volunteers for the Wounded Warrior Project and Toys for Tots.

Be sure to welcome Hannah and Katrina next time you call the ARBO office line!

Visit our blog today at blog.arbo.org.
Photos from 2018 ARBO Annual Meeting
News from the NBEO

After several years of research, review and discussion with the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), including feedback from ARBO’s National Board Examination Review Committee (NBERC), and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), the National Board of Examiners in Optometry will begin work to revise the Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE). Initial planning meetings have begun to develop the timeline to examination implementation and will provide further information as it becomes available.

Proposed revisions include knowledge assessments, patient scenarios, and patient record documentation while maintaining a performance evaluation of the most critical clinical skills. With these planned revisions, NBEO will not include any new skills for the upcoming Part III CSE administration beginning August 1, 2018 as previously announced. However, the Injections Skills Examination will only be offered as a stand-alone examination effective August 1, 2018. Updated evaluation forms and all candidate information for the upcoming 2018-2019 testing administration are available.

To ensure that the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and contemporary optometric examinations, NBEO constantly reviews content, examination components, and clinical skills as part of its ongoing pledge to public protection and the profession of optometry. This review involves discussions with a wide range of individuals, optometric organizations, and stakeholders. “ARBO is pleased to see NBEO’s evolution of the Part III Clinical Skills Examination to involve more clinical decision making,” said Dr. Richard Orgain, ARBO president. “We look forward to continued collaboration with NBEO as it begins this important task.”

NBEO President, Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, DrPH stated, “We are excited about the future Part III examination and will be asking for feedback from ARBO, the individual regulatory boards, and other stakeholders. NBEO believes that an examination with more application to clinical knowledge is necessary and aligned with our organizational mission of service to the public and the profession. We look forward to sharing more information as this process develops.”

More information will be available on the NBEO website at www.optometry.org as it becomes available.

Become One of a Select Few!

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 and click on COPE, then click on “COPE Reviewers” and “Become a Reviewer” or send an email to arbo@arbo.org.