

The Eye Opener

ALAMEDA CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY

President's Message

Shelley Wu, O.D., F.A.A.O.

January/February 2008

Happy New Year, I hope all you had a wonderful start for your new year.

ACCOS will start this New Year with a general membership meeting on 1/15 at Scott's Seafood with Dr. Tim McCulley, a faculty member at U.C.S.F. on the topic of Blepharotosis. Thanks to the generous sponsorship by Hoya. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Our appreciation also goes to our tireless board members, who have excellent topics and programs planned for the remainder of the term. We also have been very fortunate to have partnership with sponsors to provide our members with economical CE programs during membership meetings. Please keep your calendar updated for the future events.

As the heat of the political process for presidential race intensifies, I want to encourage all of you to participate in our ever important political process, C.O.A. House of Delegates, in February 8-9 in Sacramento. It's an ideal opportunity for you to voice your opinions if you wish, and vote for the policies and leadership that affect our profession. Have you ever wondered who leads our profession in C.O.A.? What impact do they make in our profession? What do they believe in? What direction do they wish to take our profession to? How were the policies written? Why wouldn't C.O.A. adopt certain policies? What can they do to enhance my membership? If you ever wonder about this organization that belongs to all of us, I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting. It's a very educational experience to learn how this organization governs. Please contact me or any of our current board members if you would like to participate. A \$150 stipend will be provided for one day participation, or \$250 for two days.

New Year is also the time to look ahead for new ideas and improvements. Do you feel disconnect with other members when you attend general membership meetings? Do you feel rushed to wrap up a conversation with friends during general meetings? Do you wish to meet more colleagues, both members and non-members? Do you wonder how can we reach out to our colleagues who are not yet members? We would like to strengthen the connection between our existing and potential new members. We want your ideas and involvement in planning a networking function to meet with your colleagues, both members and non-members. Write down your most successful social event experience, and the A.C.C.C.O.S. body will be the judge to vote for the best. Not only will you witness the idea been implemented this year, you will also receive a \$100 award. We look forward to learning your most successful experience! Please contact me or other current board members to submit your proposal.

As you look ahead for your professional development in this New Year, perhaps you want to consider getting more involved in A.C.C.C.O.S. by becoming a board member. It's an excellent opportunity to establish great friendships with the fellow board members. And also a rewarding experience to see your concepts becomes reality, and the impact on your society and other communities. Please contact me or any current board members if you have interest or questions regarding the board positions.

Until we meet again on January 15 at Scott's Seafood in Walnut Creek, have a splendid new year.



Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	2
Legislative Comments	3
January General	4
Announcements	5
Sponsors' Contact Information	7



Calendar of Events

January

- 1/8/08 A.C.C.C.O.S. Board Meeting
Casa Orinda, 7pm
- 1/10/08 InfantSEE Workshop, Berkeley
- 1/12-1/14 Berkely Practicum, Berkeley
- 1/15/08 General Membership Meeting
Scott's Seafood, Walnut Creek, 7pm
Dr. Tim McCulley on Blepharoptosis

February

- 2/8 – 2/9 COA House of Delegates, Sacramento
- 2/5/08 Pre-HOD meeting
7pm. Location TBD
- 2/12/08 A.C.C.C.O.S. Board Meeting
Phone Conference, 7pm
- 2/19/08 General Membership Meeting
Spenger's, Berkeley Marina. 7pm
Dr. Dave Kading on Dry Eye and Allergy

March

- 3/13-3/16 OptoWest, Long Beach
- 3/18/08 General Membership Meeting
Scott's Seafood, Walnut Creek. 7pm
Michael Gagnon, MD on Cornea Transplant/Dry Eye

April

- 4/2/08 Keyperson Day, Sacramento
- 4/27/08 ACCCOS Continuing Education and Installation -
Blackhawk Country Club, Danville 8am -12:30pm (4 hours C.E)
Drs. Judy Tong and Mark Saramura





Legislative Comments

"I'm considering discontinuing my membership to COA/AOA. I don't think I really benefit much from my membership"

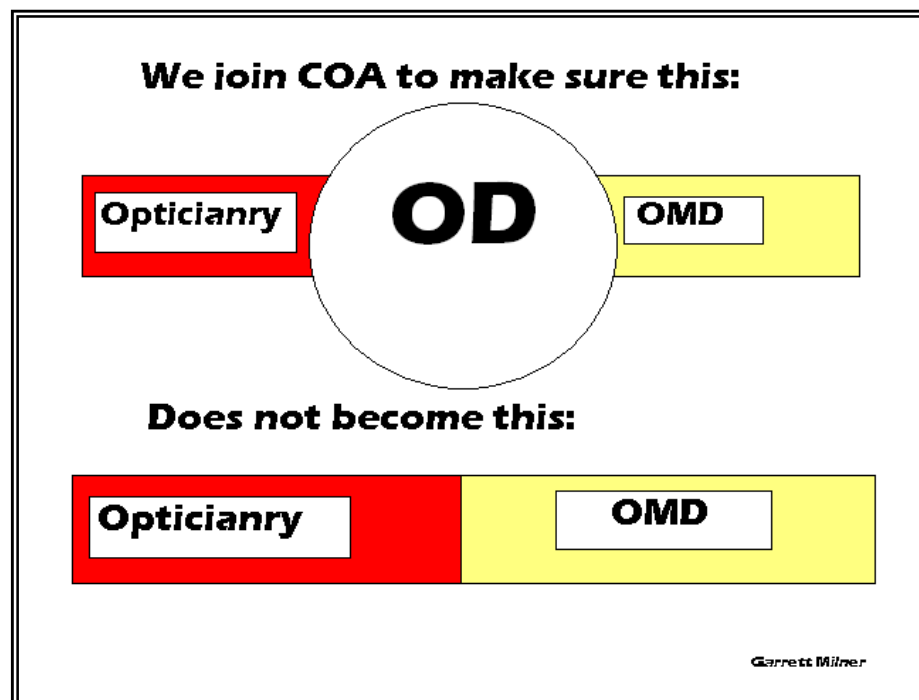
How often have you heard this comment from your friends or even have had the same thought yourself? I won't get too longwinded and lose your attention in the process.

Even if your position as an associate/employee is primarily to refract and work up post- and pre-op patients, that alone is the value of your membership!

Don't forget that (including Canada) there are many countries that have refracting opticians and ophthalmologists and no (or a rare existence of) optometrists in between? Optometrists may have proliferated in these countries at one time but health care reform and new laws that did not protect optometrists' rights to practice or receive reimbursement have allowed refracting opticians to be a more fiscally sound option.

You are able to practice optometry any way you choose because you continue to pay people in COA to fight for legal rights for you to do so. Lobbyists are expensive and health care reform is being seriously considered all over the country including California, there is no law that protects optometrists from being excluded from health care reform bills. Don't forget these facts.

Do you think your membership in AOA/COA is of any value to you???





The Alameda/Contra Costa Counties Optometric Society Presents:

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Timothy J. McCulley, M.D.
Blepharoptosis

Applied 2 hours of C.E. credit, approval pending

Scott's Seafood Restaurant
(Shell Ridge Room)
1333 N. California Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 934-0598

6:30 p.m. no-host bar (come early & mingle!)
7:00 p.m. dinner and lecture

Salmon & Chicken Duet or Vegetarian Wellington

\$10 ACCCOS members whose RSVPs with payment are received by Thurs, Jan. 10th
\$25 COA Members (non-ACCCOS)
\$50 Non-Members & Late RSVPs (Space is Limited)
Students Free (Limited to 10)

RSVP with name and check payable to ACCCOS to:
Selin Khayatan, OD

RSVP Deadline: Thursday, January 10, 2008
Questions? E-mail: skhayatan@gmail.com

Payment is required in advance to obtain the reduced fee.
Please note that a penalty fee of \$25 will be incurred for those who RSVP and do not attend the meeting. Cancellations are requested at least 48 hours in advance.

We would like to give a special "thank you" to Hoya for their sponsorship of this meeting.





Garoni Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!

Our annual fundraising for the Garoni Scholarship has begun! Once again, one worthy 3rd year optometry student will be eligible to receive \$500 from ACCCOS for his or her voluntary contributions to society. The volunteer work must be done outside optometry. Submissions for the scholarship are accepted beginning January. The Garoni Scholarship is in honor of Charlie Garoni, a long-time friend of optometry and ACCCOS in particular. Charlie worked at the COA offices in Sacramento and Oakland, then upon retirement, he worked exclusively for ACCCOS, arranging schedules for meetings and events, as well as making sure all our papers were in order. Charlie Garoni dedicated his life to optometry. Many of us remember him attending all the meetings of our society. In his honor, ACCCOS established the Garoni Scholarship. Raffle tickets to help support the scholarship will be available at each general membership meeting. Please look for Dr. Maziar Haririfar to purchase your tickets at the next meeting you attend.



Treasurer Needed

The California Vision Foundation (CVF) is seeking a Treasurer as part of its board of directors. If you are interested, please contact Philip Ong at pongod@ix.netcom.com

Keyperson Day

Save the Date:

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Sacramento Convention Center -- Sacramento

Come meet colleagues and state legislators in the State Capitol. Due to term limits and historical budget deficits, it has become increasingly important for health care professionals to get involved in the political process.



The COA relies on its Keypersons and Keyperson Coordinators to advance the concerns of optometrists and their patients.



SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors provide strong support for our society and, without them, the high caliber of continuing education and other programs we provide would not be possible. When they visit your office, please allow them to speak with the staff member who makes purchases. Please support them the way they support us.



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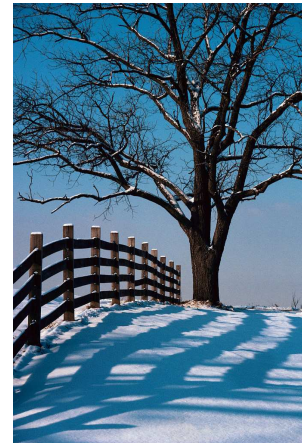
Lori Fontana, Regional Sales Manager
925-389-1516

HOYA Vision Care

Frank Magher, Territory Sales Manager
1-866-812-8893 x 31573

Zeiss/Meditec

Doug Smith, Regional Sales
510-366-8030



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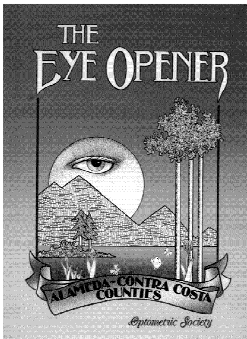
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**Address Correction
Requested**



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