



# The Eye Opener

Alameda Contra Costa Counties Optometric Society

July/August 2008

## President's Message Yuka Akera, O.D.

As the ACCCOS year gets underway, our board continues to explore new ideas and direction, as well as maintain the standards we have worked to achieve. We are looking into ideas from others as well as within our own organization. In June, I attended my first AOA conference ever in Seattle. Although I did not attend as a delegate, the sheer magnitude of the convention was something to behold. All through the meeting and outside in casual conversations, I heard doctors of optometry discussing interesting cases, treatment options, things we have dreamed of doing here in California, and hope to be able to do so soon through the continued efforts of many of our legislative supporters. Thanks to Drs. Yarwood and Ong for their ongoing and tireless work in this area.

For those of you who responded to my invitation last month to voice your opinion on our general membership meetings, thank you for your input. We will not be looking at increasing our dues anytime in the near future. We appreciate the help of our sponsors, and will continue to work with them to give all of you quality educational programs as part of our general membership meetings. Please keep in mind that our meetings are where we are able to give you information and are available to answer questions face to face over a variety of issues we cover as your board of directors. We continue to welcome comments and suggestions as to how we can better serve you.

It has come to our attention that we have an increasing no show rate at our meetings. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you, our members, that we require a commitment from you for attendance. Currently, 10-15% of the RSVP's do not attend the meeting. We can all appreciate last minute schedule changes, and encourage you to let our Director of Education, Dr. Chris Gee, know as soon as possible when you are not able to attend. However, once meals have been ordered, it becomes an added cost to our society to cover all the no show doctors. Therefore we will be enforcing our policy of an added \$25 to doctors who RSVP but do not attend the meeting. The total \$35 just covers the cost of the meal. Thank you in advance for your understanding of our policy.

At the last BAOC (Bay Area Optometric Council) meeting in June, we voted to send our BAOC bulletin electronically only. We also voted to drop the fee for doctors seeking employment for all members. If you belong to ACCCOS, you are also a member of BAOC. For those of you recent grads, or just looking for a new situation, please contact Jim Heitzig to place your ad. He can be contacted at [jimbocando@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbocando@sbcglobal.net). BAOC is also updating the referral list for optometrists in the area. If you have a particular area of interest such as low vision, vision therapy, or speak a foreign language, please be sure to update your information with Jim Heitzig to be included in the current referral listings.

We at ACCCOS have also decided to follow suit and will be delivering this bulletin electronically only as well. If you still prefer the paper delivery method, please contact Dr. Michel Wong Nadel, our editor, at [mwnadel@gmail.com](mailto:mwnadel@gmail.com) and let her know. Stepping more into the electronic age, we have updated our website, [accos.net](http://accos.net), and encourage all of you to visit the site for information. We are looking into expanding the site to be interactive soon, so you can RSVP and pay for general membership meetings, as well as look for information on upcoming events. Less paper means a big cost savings for our society, and we are currently looking at ideas for new projects. With the expected expansion of our scope of practice, we hope to lead the way into the future of California optometry by offering our society members the latest updates and ability to practice to the fullest of our licensure. It is a pleasure to be able to be a part of the organization that makes this possible for all optometrists in California.

## Inside this issue:

<i>Legislative Updates</i>	2
<i>No-Show Policy</i>	2
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	3

# Notes from Our Directors of Legislation

## 1) Small Steps from You Can Help Pass SB 1406

Assembly Business and Professions Committee will be reviewing and deciding the fate of SB 1406 on Tuesday June 24. Two members of that committee belong in ACCCOS's district: Assemblymembers Hayashi (Hayward, San Leandro etc.) and Torrico (Union City, Fremont, etc.).

Those who live in these districts were contacted by VOCUS to fax letters to the legislators for support. After the passage of SB 1406 from this committee, its next step would be the Appropriations Committee. Since this bill has little impact, if at all, fiscally then it will be spending limited time there.

SB 1406 would then travel its way back to Senate Business and Professions Committee to review the changes in this spot bill (since it departed from this committee and after many negotiations with CMA). Please contact Julie Andrade at COA at (800)877-5738 to ensure that you are receiving updates via email or your preferred form of communication (jandrade@coavision.org).

The future of your profession along with this new technology begs for minimum participation and effort on your part to still make a significant difference in how you will be practicing optometry. Do your part in any little way (ie. through guidance from VOCUS) that you can because it does count in a big way-eventually!

The message still remains with regards to SB 1406: remove glaucoma restrictions from the last bill and allow optometrists to provide the community access to quality primary eye care to the full extent of their training and education.

## 2) Invite Your Colleagues to Monterey

Registration for COA's Monterey Symposium is available. If you haven't seen the conference website, click on [www.montereysymposium.com](http://www.montereysymposium.com) to see the jelly fish swim.

We would appreciate your assistance in promoting our autumn conference by sending this email link to as many OD colleagues as you can possibly think of via mail (print and fax or mail to them) or email. Invite your colleagues to have a mini-class reunion with you at Monterey while they gain c.e. credits.

When your colleagues are not COA members, their next best contribution to helping organized optometry is through supporting income generating events like continuing education programs. Encourage your colleagues to do their part to continue helping you with your organization and profession- invite them to take continuing education with you at Monterey in November and Optowest in March!



## Reminder: ACCCOS General Membership Meeting No-Show Policy

Dear Doctors:

The portion of your society dues allocated to the ACCCOS (check your last statement) do not cover your CE costs. The meals alone at our general membership meetings can cost the society almost \$40 per guest. And when a doctor RSVPs but fails to show, we all pay for the wasted meal. The \$25 no-show fee helps us recoup the cost, and to be financially responsible with your dues, the Board needs to be more effective in enforcing this fee. A simple e-mail before the deadline would save us all the trouble.

On a similar note, the RSVP deadline is not an arbitrary date. We order the meals and confirm the number of tables the day after the deadline. Again, to be financially responsible with your dues money, we need to enforce our longstanding policies. RSVPs received after the deadline, regardless of when it was sent, no longer qualify for the \$10 charge. The difference of \$40 (for a total of \$50) will be assessed at the door upon arrival. And we do not have the resources to send bills or accept IOUs.

Thank you in advance for your support, cooperation, and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The ACCCOS Board of Directors

**ACCCOS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 7pm**  
**Casa Orinda**

**Attending: Drs. Akera, Wu, Orr, Gee, Yee, Hochstatter, Yarwood, Nadel, Khayatan, Jue-Smith, Leong, and Ms. Mata, Ms. Gilford**

**Secretary's Report: Dr. Orr**

- April minutes approved with changes. Updated board roster.

**Treasurer's Report: Dr Akera for Dr. Moy (absent)**

- Accounts being transferred to Dr. Moy from Dr. Hafen. Motion to transfer all ACCCOS accounts to Wells Fargo passed unanimously
- Discussed policy for general meeting no-shows: Will send policy statement to general membership regarding no-shows and late RSVPs at ACCCOS meetings

**Director of Education's Report: Dr. Gee**

- June meeting at Spenger's featuring Dr. Tanaka
- Discussion regarding distribution of existing awards

**Director of Sponsorship's Report: Dr. Yee**

- Reviewed status of sponsorship for 2008-2009 year

**Director of Membership's report: Dr. Hochstatter**

- COA grant fund application discussed
- Project keep leadership scholarship application to be mailed to all members

**Directors of Legislation Report: Dr. Yarwood, Dr. Ong absent**

- Update on political activities

**Director of School Vision Screenings: Dr. Jue-Smith and Dr. Leong**

- Discussed 2007-2008 school vision screenings: 51,869 children screened.
- Motion to alter fees assessed to schools for cancellation passed unanimously
- Motion to increase fee assessed to schools from \$250 to \$275 passed unanimously



**Director of Communications Report: Dr. Khayatan**

- Feedback regarding installation at Blackhawk Country Club

**Bulletin Editor Report: Dr. Nadel**

- Reviewed draft of May/June 2008 Bulletin
- Deadline for August bulletin June 29<sup>th</sup>

**UCBSO Student Representative: Ms. Gilford, Ms. Oh absent**

- Update on events at UCBSO
- ACCCOS meeting with students to encourage participation in local society

**Honorable Staff: Ms. Mata**

- Motion to cancel existing phone line due to lack of use. Passed unanimously.

**Past President: Dr. Wu**

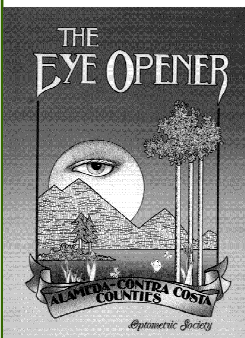
- Discussed location of 2009 installation
- Discussed feedback on sponsorship from general membership.

**President's Report: Dr. Akera**

- Discussed need for permanent mailing address – revisit at next meeting
- Explored possibility of redefining Trustee position to encourage member participation
- Discussed idea of “President's Committee” of volunteers
- Discussed location of future board meetings. No change desired from attending members

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm

## Alameda Contra Costa Counties Optometric Society



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