



# Focal Point

*Newsletter of the Arizona Optometric Association*

## In This Issue

2016 Spring Congress



President's Message



New Members



Legislative Updates



Improved AZOA Website



Award Nominations



2016 Dues Notice



Blast from the Past



Getting To Know Our  
Members

## - 2016 Spring Congress -

### New Resort Venue & Earlier Dates!

Relax and recharge at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

The 2016 AZOA Spring Congress is being held April 22-24 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, AZ.

Whether you explore the best of Tucson or enjoy the stunning Catalina Mountain range, you can consider them your desert oasis. A 4.3-mile drive from Sabino Canyon, this chic, adobe-style hotel and its golf courses are also 6 miles from Fort Lowell, a historic cavalry post. Warm, refined rooms offer free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and iPod docks, plus sitting areas and Keurig coffeemakers.

There are 4 restaurants, plus a lakeside spa, a fitness center and 2 heated outdoor pools with Jacuzzis. Other amenities include 2 golf courses, tennis courts and 24 meeting spaces, plus a ballroom.

The 2016 Spring Congress Brochure is available on the AZOA website ([www.azoa.org](http://www.azoa.org)) under the CE/Events tab. ■

2016 Spring Congress / April 22 - 24  
 New Location! - Loews Ventana Canyon Resort  
 7000 N Resort Dr, Tucson, AZ 85750  
 (520) 299-2020 / Use Group Code: AOA421  
 AZOA Rate is \$159 a night if made by 3/31/2016

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BY DR. LILIEN VOGL

This past weekend I traveled to Albuquerque for the annual AOA President's Council. Electronic health records, merit based pay, value based health care – cost, quality, access, HEDIS scores, disease registries, AOA MORE, unproven technology, affordable care organizations, rethinking eye care, insurance contracts, UPP, material change notices and corporate meddling in the doctor patient relationship were on the minds. Overwhelming yet this is what every Arizona optometrist is facing in the next few years.



We have an opportunity now to determine how these health care changes will affect us in Arizona. This however will require money but importantly, the commitment of one of your most valuable resources-- TIME. It will take all of us to tackle these pressing issues. What history are we going to write? I believe the future is bright. Visiting practices around the state I am reassured to see the talented optometrists we have in Arizona. You are some of the most caring and “big hearted” people I know.

Your AZOA board believes that strength in numbers will lead to a more secure and enjoyable future. We believe together we can do more. Our AZOA relationships bring us more collective wisdom. Every OD has something to offer the profession. Legacy and experience are important. We're a powerful voice and we are the only voice for the profession in Arizona!

I am proud of those of you who have given your time for the betterment of the Arizona optometry and the citizens of this state by serving on committees, visiting legislators, attending events and planning for the future. Because of the efforts of the membership committee and all of you we have over 60 new members! Thanks to all the AZ OD's who have generously given to OPACA this year.

My challenge to you today is not to wait until someone asks you to help. Lend your talents and your heart no matter your years in optometry. Come and join us as we write the continuing successful history of optometry in Arizona. ■

*Vision without action is only a dream. Action without vision is just passing the time. Vision with action can change the world. - Joel Barker*

Proud AZOA President  
Lilien Vogl OD

P.S. I want to acknowledge and thank specifically some of our dedicated members for their hard work in making things happen lately.

Legislative committee – Drs. Annette Hanian, Caroline Griego and Stacey Meier

Membership Committee – Drs. Todd Smith, Bart Pemberton, Jeff Bergeson, Joel Ackerman, Mary Fisher, Armanae Mancha, Bob Mulgrew, Gail Bass and Josh Baker

Drs. Lars Carlson, Art Epstein, John Rinehart and Frank Akers

# MEMBER NEWS

## AZOA Welcomes NEW MEMBERS!

(since October 2015)

Jason Bailey  
Richard Baim  
Mackenzie Black  
Amy Champ  
Laksiri De Mel  
Sonal Desai  
Ryan Felten  
Eric Giese  
Robert Giles  
Stuart Greenberg  
Lindsay Greiten  
Amro Habib  
Kimberly Hardin  
Jamie Hiscox  
Len Koh  
Julie Lam  
Kelley Lawrence  
Juliette Makijew  
Caitlin Miller  
Amanda Misinco  
David Nanni  
Geetha Parasuram  
Joshua Perkins  
Sylvie Pham  
James Reed  
Jordan Rothlisberger  
Kyle Ryff  
Sasha Lue Sang  
Peter Suchsland  
Mai Tsai  
Vivian Trieu  
T. Lance Williams

## 2015 - 2016

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Dr. Lilien Vogl  
*President*

Dr. Todd Smith  
*President-Elect*

Dr. Dave Coulson  
*Vice President*

Dr. Beth Pyle-Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Dr. Cheryl Schmitt  
*Immediate Past-President*

#### Directors

Dr. Lindsey Clyde  
Dr. Leslie Falcon  
Dr. Justin Jones  
Dr. Jon Wold

#### Staff

Dr. Stacey Meier  
*Executive Director*

Kate Diedrickson  
*Communications/Events Manager*

JoAnne Edmonson  
*Accounting Manager*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BY DR. ANNETTE HANIAN

Legislation Committee is unique, in that plans and information changes on a frequent and rapid basis. The best way for you to be informed is to read the Legislation Update Eblasts that the committee sends out on a regular basis. These will include the most accurate and pertinent information.

1-800 Contacts and Rep. Heather Carter are proposing legislation this session that at minimum extends the length of a contact lens prescription. As of this writing, we have not seen bill language and there is no bill number. She has until Feb 12th to formally submit a bill. We expect a bill to be heard in Health Committee at 2pm on one of these days: Tuesday, Jan 25th, Tuesday Feb 2nd, 9th or 16th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We are doing all we can to prevent the passage of this bill. Many of you have been very influential. Art Epstein has been stellar in formulating outside-the-box ideas and using his expansive array of personal contacts and speaking gifts. Jeff Bergeson has been an ideal key-person by taking the initiative and cultivating an activist legislator for our side. Tom Determan has huge influence in Yuma and continues to be

the go-to resource for the legislators in his district. Stacey Meier, Caroline Griego and I have spoken with 64% of the legislature since the start of January by attending fundraisers, and in-office meetings. There are more scheduled.

So many of you have written letters to your legislators and that is HUGELY helpful for legislators to hear directly from their constituents. It reinforces the message when we meet with them. Many of you have asked ophthalmologists to participate in writing letters and that has been very useful. It is refreshing for us and for the legislators to have eye care professionals united in our concern for patient safety.

In the past session (November 2014 to date), we have had more doctors contributing than any other two year session since 2005 and have raised more money for campaigns than in any other year since 1999. Many of you dislike politics or do not have the time to be directly involved, so your financial contributions make it possible for those activities to continue.

*legislative updates cont'd next page*


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BY DR. ANNETTE HANIAN

I cannot publish numbers in the setting, but we can discuss at the Spring Congress meeting in April.

We are talking to and forming alliances with many eye care related groups. Your suggestions and connections have been very helpful. I cannot disclose in this article.

I am sure there is more and it will surely change before this article is published. Watch the eblasts for the most important information. The next 4 weeks will be frantic.

Thank you for everything you do to support the Legislation Committee and the AZOA legislative agenda. It truly is a group effort; and we have a really great group. ■



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**The AZOA's Annual:  
"OPTOMETRY DAY AT THE CAPITOL"**

**Wednesday, March 9th, 2016**  
Serving corndogs, chocolate-dipped strawberries and fresh-squeezed lemonade from 11AM-1PM on the Capitol Lawn.

***Volunteers are needed. Set up (9am-11am) & clean up (1pm-3pm)***

***Please contact Annette at [drhanian@completevisioncare.com](mailto:drhanian@completevisioncare.com)***

A special THANK YOU to SAOS for their generous \$6500 contribution to our efforts as well as AADO's \$600 donation. We greatly appreciate all the financial contributions we have received recently.

# MEMBER NEWS



## AZ Optometric Association

The vision of the AZOA is to provide doctors with a place to belong with other successful doctors to grow and evolve our profession.

CONNECT  
EVOLVE  
THRIVE

Home • Your AZOA • Membership • CE/Events • Resources • Shades of AZOA

Click button below to donate to OPACA

Donate



## WELCOME!

Welcome to the Arizona Optometric Association (AZOA): Arizona's exclusive professional association for eye doctors. Becoming a member of AZOA will expand your knowledge, build your network, protect your profession, and grow your practice by connecting you with more of your peers. We are working to evolve our profession and advocate for the practice of optometry in Arizona. Our goal is to build a thriving community of professionals like you, who care about advancing the profession and helping you to provide the best care for your patients.

To better serve our members and our profession, we've refreshed and revitalized our vision for the organization in order to foster:

- Professional camaraderie & connectivity
- A sense of ownership in our collective success
- Expanded levels of membership value

Together, we can create a stronger organization that improves lives, communities, and enhances

Not a Member? [JOIN](#)

[Forgot password](#)

Email

Password

Remember me [LOGIN](#)

FIND A DOCTOR AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

## Shades of AZOA



## Brand new website!

We, at the AZOA, felt we needed to create a space online where our members could connect, manage their membership, and learn more about being involved with the AZOA. We encourage you to login for yourself and check it out, but some of the things you can look forward to are:

- New member sign-up
- Pay your dues online
- Register for conferences
- Update your contact information
- View current classified ads

[www.AZOA.org](http://www.AZOA.org)

## 2016 AZOA Membership Dues

Dues invoices for 2016 were recently mailed to AZOA Members. Please note the following:

Dues Amount - AZOA Dues were not increased in 2016. Dues for the AOA (the portion paid to the national office) were increased by 0.7%

Good news! You can now pay your dues online! Once you receive your 2016 dues invoice, please visit [www.azoa.org](http://www.azoa.org) and select Pay Your Dues from the drop down menu under the Membership Tab or click the following link: <http://www.azoa.org/page-1075210> Please be sure to log-in with your email address and password.

You can still mail in a check to the AZOA office for your 2016 dues or pay with a credit card by sending back the form enclosed with your invoice.

Want to be hassle free? Please contact JoAnne at the AZOA office to set up automatic payments to your credit card. If you are already set up with reoccurring payments you do not need to do anything for 2016. You will not receive an invoice. How easy is that?!

## 2016 Award Nominations

It's that time of year - time to nominate an outstanding OD and Young OD to be presented at our 2016 Spring Congress. Nominations are accepted from the entire membership, and any AZOA member in good standing is eligible for nomination. Please note that all nominations are confidential. Final selections will be made by the committees and voting block as defined in AZOA policy.

Nominees for "OD of the Year" should be evaluated on the following criteria: 1. Public Service to the country or state, education, community, religious or service organization, charitable cause; 2. Service to the vision welfare of the public with sight-saving groups, legislative activities, participation in a health care program, participation in public service programs such as screenings; 3. Service to the profession of optometry; and 4. Service to AOA or AzOA.

Nominees for "Young OD of the Year" should be selected for: 1. Their special leadership; 2. Innovative thinking; 3. Organizational skills; and 4. Substantive contributions and efforts in the community. 5. In practice for less than ten years.

To submit a nomination by February 15, please contact the AZOA office via email: [kate@azoa.org](mailto:kate@azoa.org), fax: 602.264.6356, or via regular mail: 1702 E Highland Ave, Ste. 213, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Spring Congress Schedule

### Friday, April 22

- 1PM-5PM Registration (please note that registration does not open until 1pm)
- 2PM-4PM **Update on Ocular Surface Disease/DeVries/41795-SD**  
*This two-hour course will provide the latest updates in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular surface disease OSD by a clinician who practice full-scope treatment of ocular surface disease patients within their specialty dry-eye clinic. Various methods of achieving compliance during treatment of OSD patients will also be taught.*
- 4PM-6PM **Amniotic Membrane Workshop/DeVries/41863-AS**  
*This two hour lecture/wetlab is designed to give the clinician hands-on experience in placing amniotic membranes. Indications for utilization, proper coding and billing will also be discussed.*
- 5PM-7PM **Exhibit Hall & VSP Cocktail Reception**
- 7PM Dinner on Own for Attendees
- 7:30PM AZOA Board/AOA Trustee Dinner

### Saturday, April 23

- 7AM Registration and **ALCON LABS SPONSORED BREAKFAST/PRESENTATION** - please arrive at 7am for breakfast
- 8AM-10AM **Update on AMD/Ferrucci/45362-PS**  
*New treatments in the fight against macular degeneration are currently under investigation. This course will review current treatments, highlight some of the new treatment modalities, as well as new technology in the treatment of AMD.*
- 10AM-12PM **Diabetes Treatment and Management/ Ferrucci/43808-SD**  
*This course provides an introduction to diabetes, with an emphasis on Type 2. The systemic medications used for the treatment of diabetes are reviewed, with some of the common side effects. The second part of the lecture is a review of the newest diabetic retinopathy classification and management recommendations.*
- 12PM-2PM Exhibit Hall/Luncheon
- 2PM-4PM **Whats New, Whats Next in Glaucoma/Fingeret/ 45260-GL**  
*This lecture will discuss recent advances in glaucoma including advances in diagnostic devices, a better understanding of intraocular pressure and ways to monitor over a 24-hour period and new glaucoma therapies. In addition, the course will discuss where future breakthroughs in regards to glaucoma care may occur.*
- 4PM-5PM AZOA Business/Membership Meeting
- 5PM-8PM Cocktails/Dinner/AZOA Awards Presentations

- 8PM Dr. Todd Smith's New President's Reception - President's Suite (**Everyone welcome!**)

Please join us at the reception honoring Dr. Todd Smith as the 2016-2017 President of the AZOA! Have a cocktail and mingle with some of your fellow Optometrists at this event which is always a crowd favorite!

### Sunday, April 24

- 7AM Registration and Breakfast
- 8AM-9AM **OCT in the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Glaucoma/ Fingeret/39751-GL**  
*This course will discuss the role of OCT in glaucoma diagnosis and management. OCT technology will be described and how it has evolved. A method to systematically evaluate printouts will be described. Artifacts associated with testing will be presented. The role of OCT in monitoring glaucoma over time will also be discussed.*
- 9AM-10AM **Progression in Glaucoma/Fingeret/42096-GL**  
*An important area in the management of glaucoma is the detection of change or progression. This course will explain the assessment of the optic nerve, retinal nerve fiber layer and visual field in watching for change, which instruments come into play, and how they enable the clinician to monitor for progression.*
- 10AM-12PM **Tucson VA Residents Present: SAVAHCS Ocular Disease & Low Vision Grand Rounds/47542-SD**  
*This course highlights various ocular disease processes. The differential diagnoses and clinical pearls to correct diagnosis will be discussed.*
- Cases:
1. *Inflammatory Masquerade: Neurosyphilis presenting as Panuveitis*  
Speaker: Tayla Meade, OD
  2. *The HAART of the Immunocompromised Patient*  
Speaker: Jaime Okamura OD FAAO
  3. *Something's Missing: Monocular Hemianopsia vs Neglect in mTBI*  
Speaker: Renee Doss OD
  4. *A New Visual Field Defect Leads to the Diagnosis of Vertebrobasilar Dolichoectasia*  
Speaker: Elizabeth Hanohano-Hong OD
  5. *2[BRAO] + CVA = CEA The Equation of Carotid Occlusive Disease*  
Speaker: Stephanie Cooper OD

easy online registration  
<http://www.azoa.org/>  
Connect

# BLAST FROM THE PAST: 1980

## Jarnagin Named "Optometrist of the Year"

Donald E. Jarnagin, O.D., of Glendale, who has an outstanding record of leadership and citizenship, was named "Optometrist of the Year" at the Arizona Optometric Association annual congress.

Presently a board member of the City of Glendale Housing Authority, Dr. Jarnagin has served as president of the Glendale area Cancer Society, on the Glendale Board of Adjustment and on board of directors of the Alhambra Recreational Center for the Handicapped.



## PINE LINES

### 1980 AzOA Congress Highlights

Attendance at AzOA Congress surpassed previous years: 155 doctors of optometry, 57 spouses, 65 optometric assistants and 53 exhibit booths.

Fourteen new members were added to our roster in 1980; Drs. Charles F. Roberts and Harold Freeman were recognized with 40 year AOA membership certificates; Drs. Paul Cannon, John Bragone, Richard Federhar, Nicholas Ignelzi, and C. Tod Lawrence with 25 year certificates.

Dr. Donald Jarnagin was honored as "Optometrist of the Year." It probably was no surprise to anyone, in view of his record of service to the Association as well as his community.

On the lighter side, Drs. Willis Easley, Frank Hadley and Jeff Eger walked off with the golf awards. Thanks to Dr. Joel Ackerman—but mainly his wife, Michelle—there were numerous prizes for lucky visitors to the exhibit booths. And this year justice was well-served — Michelle Ackerman was at the right booth at the right time to draw the Grand prize, a color TV!

Auxiliary members really hustled to sell their raffle tickets — and the Carmen Sandoval Scholarship Fund is all the richer to provide its assistance to worthy optometric students.

Optometric Assistants enjoyed a two-fold program — practice management and blood pressure measurement instruction. Both should provide them with better skills to serve patients.

As we have become keenly aware of the significance of politics these past few years, a new addition to our program were addresses by U.S. Senate candidates. Judging by the enthusiastic response, if Dr. Hoefert is any barometer, we will probably devote some of our business session for political purposes in the future.

Results of the business sessions were very favorable for the Association. Members voted a \$92 dues increase for the coming year to enable the Association to better meet its obligations.

And AOA President-Elect, Dr. Jack Von



Bokern, in a stimulating talk let us know about some of those obligations. Dr. Von Bokern also installed those who have assumed the responsibility for them for the coming year: Dr. Frank Hadley, president; Dr. Richard Glonek, president-elect; Dr. Edward Mach, vice-president; Dr. Mark Heltibrand, secretary-treasurer; and Drs. Tanita, Branson and Edmonds, directors.

Wish them well!

**Blast From The Past!**  
Both excerpts were originally  
printed in the May-June 1980  
issue of Focal Point.



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

Drs. Kurt and Lindsay Jung met in Memphis where they both attended Southern College of Optometry. Although they are both originally from the northeast, the great Arizona weather enticed their move.

Originally from New York, Kurt attended Stony Brook University, where he played baseball. Being an avid sports fan, he enjoys watching all sports and playing golf and softball in his spare time. Kurt currently works at Arizona's Vision where he enjoys specialty contact lens fits and ocular disease.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Lindsay attended Penn State University (also where the two wed). In her spare time, she enjoys running, traveling, and watching movies. Lindsay works at Riviera Opticare and loves working with pediatrics.

They have an 8 month old son, Maddox, who was born on Cinco de Mayo and a dog named Louie. Together they enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and frisbee golf. ■



## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2016 FALL CONGRESS!

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2016



**HILTON SEDONA GOLF  
RESORT & SPA  
90 RIDGE TRAIL DRIVE  
| SEDONA, AZ 86351**

ROOM RATE:  
\$209-249

FOR RESERVATIONS:  
1-877-273-3762

# Arizona Optometric Association

1702 E Highland Avenue, #213, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Ph: (602) 279-0055 Toll-Free: (800) 346-2020

Fax: (602) 264-6356 Email: [azoa@azoa.org](mailto:azoa@azoa.org)

[www.azoa.org](http://www.azoa.org)

## 2016 SPRING CONGRESS IS FAST APPROACHING!

### APRIL 22-24, 2016



**LOEWS VENTANA CANYON**

**7000 N RESORT DRIVE | TUCSON, ARIZONA 85750**

ROOM RATE: \$159 SINGLE/DOUBLE FOR RESERVATIONS: 1-800-234-5117

Use Group Code: AOA421