



The Delineator

2730 Devine Street • Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 799-6721 • FAX (803) 799-2305

President's Message: ***WE ARE...SCOPA!***

What is SCOPA, some of you may be wondering. SCOPA stands for "South Carolina Optometric Physician Association". Yes, you read it right. By virtue of our training, licensure, scope of practice, we ARE Optometric Physicians. Optometry schools are calling student doctors "Optometric Physicians". Their level of competency is increasing every year and they are given the charge by their professors to refer to themselves as such as they go out into practice. There are six states that now refer to their Association and themselves as Optometric Physicians; Alaska, Idaho (their practice act refers to them as physicians), Washington State, Oregon (they had reimbursement issues and that was one of the main reasons they changed), Oklahoma, and New Jersey. Pennsylvania is currently investigating this issue and Florida has it already established in their law. Our state board has ruled that we can call ourselves Optometric Physicians and we certainly practice optometric medicine.

This issue was discussed at planning board '07 and it was determined to further investigate our Association's use of the words "Optometric Physician". Medicare on a national level has designated us as physicians. The AOA is fighting for us to get Medicaid to classify us as physicians as there is potential legislation that would lock us out of Medicaid reimbursements due to currently not being listed as physicians. Nationally, there is talk of establishing more "medical home" models that would have patient access controlled by physicians. We ARE the primary eyecare physician and we need to make sure that we continue to be. Part of that equation is how we refer to ourselves to the medical community, our patient base, and to the payor industry. We are healers, through refractive/optical means, vision therapy, treatment of ocular disease, and treatment and management of ocular manifestations of systemic disease. Our profession has evolved and so should the name of our profession to keep up with the level of how we practice. That is not to say we are not proud of our "roots" but just as some of our colleagues were against using diagnostics, then some of us were against using therapeutics, change is sometimes uncomfortable for some. Let that not stop you from looking at this with an open mind and understand that this could actually turn into a reimbursement issue which will affect most of our livelihoods if we are not PROACTIVE versus being REACTIVE.

I ask that you think long and hard, discuss among yourselves, discuss with your executive committee members, and then I ask you to join me in being PROACTIVE and continue to lead our Association in the 21st century and beyond and rename our association to the "SOUTH CAROLINA OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATION". I want to thank Lori Donovan for her contributions in research on this issue. Regards, Peter



Dr. Peter Candela, SCOA President

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Local Society Information

Catawba

President: David Oliver, O.D.
406 North Wilson Street
PO Box 2935
Rock Hill, SC 29732
803-327-1181
dbo_10s@rhtc.net

Treasurer: William (Bill) Hundley, O.D.

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm
April 15 - Fishbones Grille, Fort Mill
October 21 - TBA

Coastal

President: Michele Donovan, O.D.
2015 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29407
843-763-2247
mickeyeod@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Joseph Pitcavage, O.D.
Secretary/Treasurer: Jennie Smith, O.D.

Meetings: March 25 - High Cotton at 6:30 pm

Midlands

President: Melissa Binder, O.D.
1057 Broad Street, Suite 48
Sumter, SC 29150
803-775-8951
mbinderod@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Van Forrester, O.D.
Secretary/Treasurer: Laura Belka, O.D.

Meetings:

April 22- Bull Market - 6:30 pm
May 21
June 17
August 19
September 17
October 14
Legislative Reception - October 21

Low Country

President: Michelle McKenzie, O.D.
2010 Browning Gate Road
PO Box 298
Estill, SC 29918
803-625-3384
dhmeyedoc@hargray.com

Vice-President: Jennifer Switak, O.D.
Treasurer: Dianne Williams, O.D.
Secretary: David McKenzie, O.D.

Meetings: no set schedule

Pee Dee

President: Caryn West, O.D.
211 North Washington Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-775-9314
cwestod@ftc-i.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Emily Walck, O.D.

Meetings: mid-month on Wednesday at 6:30 pm
April 17 - Café Florentine at 6:30 pm

Piedmont

President: Louis Martin, O.D.
399 East Henry Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
864-585-0208
louismartin1977@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Sean Stevens, O.D.
Secretary/Treasurer: Malissa Mathis, O.D.

Meetings: no set schedule

April 21 - place TBD at 6:30 pm

Waccamaw

President: Owen Johnson, O.D.
407-A Church Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-546-2244
dr.owenjohnson@verizon.net

Vice President: Sandra Diamond, O.D.
Treasurer: John Mills, O.D.

Meetings: April 8 - place TBD

Society Spotlight

Each month we are going to focus on each of our state's Society President's. This month, let's take a closer look at the **Piedmont Chapter President, Louis Martin, O.D.**

Education: Obtained Undergraduate Degree from Samford University, Optometry Degree from the Southern College of Optometry, and performed his residency at Hampton VA Medical Center in Virginia.

Current Employer: Partner in practice with Alva Pack, OD in Spartanburg.

Goal for the Profession: I appreciate the hard work that many ODs have done to obtain the level of practice that we currently have. I would like for our perception of the high level of eye care that we are able to provide to continue to grow in our society.

Hobbies Outside of Work: I enjoy running. I have completed several marathons with my wife, Janell. I enjoy being involved in my church. I love to travel when I can, but also enjoy the comforts of home!

The Latest Member News

Dr. Gordon Johnson and wife Jana had their second daughter, Gracie Gayle, on February 21, 2008. She weighed in at 4lbs. 6 oz. All are doing well.

Dr.'s Thomas and Emily Tran of Beaufort welcomed to their family a new baby girl, Halle Katherine, on February 17, 2008. She was 7 lbs. 5 oz, and 18 1/2 inches.

Welcome New SCOA Members

Regular - Lloyd W. Nethercutt, O.D. - Corley Vision Center

Students - Roger A. Juarez - University of California - Berkeley, CA

Past Presidents Council

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Past Presidents Council. Its purpose is to act in a supportive and advisory role to the executive committee. This will be a great way to tap into their knowledge and wisdom when needed by the executive committee. Dr. Michelle Reeves will be the first chair of this council and she will be organizing, on a rotating basis, one member to attend every executive committee meeting starting at the March meeting. My personal thanks to the current executive committee to those past presidents serving on this council.

- Peter Candela, O.D.

Executive Committee

Peter Candela, O.D.
President

PO Box 614
Blythewood, SC
eyedoc48@bellsouth.net

Edward Lemon, O.D.
President-Elect

267 Main Street
Barnwell, SC 29812
maydoc@bellsouth.net

Tim Stafford, O.D.
Past President

PO Box 493
Newberry, SC 29108
staffordta@yahoo.com

Michael Wood, O.D.
Vice President

1760 Woodruff Road
Greenville, SC 29607
visionplus@sprintmail.com

Lori Donovan, O.D.
Trustee

Belle Hall Eye Care
644-L Longpoint Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
ldonovan@bellehalleyecare.com

Philip Flynn, O.D.
Trustee

2757 Laurel Street
Columbia, SC 29204
pdflynn@hotmail.com

Melissa Schwebach, O.D.
Trustee

1090 Spratt Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715
sceyedoc@hotmail.com

James Vaught, O.D.
Trustee

1406 Main Street
Conway, SC 29526
JamesVaught@sc.rr.com

In the News

Special Olympics-Opening Eyes Using Our Optometric Talents to Give Back to the Community By: Jennie Smith, O.D.

The Special Olympic Mid-Winter Games were held at the Citadel in Charleston on March 7-9, 2008. As part of the Healthy Athlete Program, Optometrists joined together at the Opening Eyes Screening to provide vision care to the athletes.

The mission of Special Olympics/Lions Club International Opening Eyes Program is to improve the quality of life for the millions of individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities by optimizing their vision, eye health, and visual skills through quality eye care. The objectives of Opening Eyes include: 1. providing screenings to Special Olympics athletes, 2. educating athletes, parents, and coaches of eye care professionals about the vision care needs of persons with intellectual disabilities worldwide, and 3. increasing knowledge of visual and eye health needs of persons with intellectual disabilities through research. Past research conducted with the athletes at Special Olympics events has revealed that 68 percent have not had an eye examination in three years, 37 percent needed glasses, and 18 percent of the athletes were wearing clinically incorrect glasses. The generous support of the Opening Eyes Partners enables Special Olympics to reach and assist more members of one of the world's most underserved population, those with intellectual disabilities. Opening Eyes Partners include: Lions Club International, Essilor (provide all of the lenses), Luxottica Group (provide designer frames and sunglasses), Liberty (provide sports goggles), and Santinelli International (provide edgers.) The Opening Eyes program is represented in all 50 states and worldwide! Anywhere you find the Special Olympics you will find the Opening Eyes Program. The screenings include visual acuity, color testing, stereo vision, cover testing, pupil

testing, anterior and posterior health of the eye, intraocular pressure measurement, refraction and, if needed, a complete pair of glasses and/or sports goggles are made at no cost to the athletes or their families.

On March 8th, optometrists, Lions Club members, opticians, and optometric assistants united to make the Charleston Mid-Winter Games Opening Eyes an AMAZING success! 61 athletes were screened, 34 pairs of glasses and 10 pairs of goggles were made, and 4 athletes were referred out to optometrists from their local areas. SC Opening Eyes Clinical Directors Dr. Jennifer Smith and Dr. Michael Zolman organized and planned the event. Optometrists that participated in the screening were Dr. Greg Bailey, Dr. Lori Donovan, Dr. Keith Farley, Dr. Rahul Gupta, Dr. Jeff Magun, Dr. Jennifer Smith, and Dr. Michael Zolman.

The next SC Opening Eyes event will be held at the Special Olympic Summer Games in Fort Jackson, SC on May 3, 2008. If you are interested in participating in this event or any of the future events or would like to be put on our list for referrals please contact Dr. Jennifer Smith at jenniesmith@yahoo.com or Dr. Michael Zolman at focusedeyedoc@yahoo.com.

***"To be a healthy athlete, one
must be able to see the
finish line."***

~ Timothy Shriver, Chairman,
Special Olympics

Special Olympics-Opening Eyes Using Our Optometric Talents to Give Back to the Community



A group of ODs with some of the participating athletes.



Dr. Michael Zolman performing refractions on an athlete.



Dr. Jennifer Smith assessing the health of eyes.



Dr. Lori Donovan reviewing near vision acuity.

SCOA PAC and Legislative Update

Federal Legislative Update

By: Michelle Reeves, O.D.

In April, Drs. Ed Lemon, James Vaught, Lori Donovan and I will attend the AOA Congressional Conference in Washington, DC. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to meet with our South Carolina Senators and Representatives and talk with them about bills and issues affecting optometry. These major bills include:

HR1983 – The Optometric Equity in Medicaid Act. This bill provides for an update to the Medicaid law by applying the Medicare definition of a physician, which includes optometrists. This bill would confirm to state government bureaucrats and Medicaid third party payers that optometrists are fully able to provide medical eye care services to Medicaid patients. We need more Congressional co-sponsors.

HR2012 – Contact Lens Consumer Health Protection Act. This bill would immediately strengthen contact lens prescription verification requirements on Internet and mail order sellers and address the use by a large seller or automated “rob-calls” into doctors’ offices.

HR507/S1117 Vision Care for Kids Act. This legislation would establish a Federal grant program aimed at bolstering states’ children’s vision initiatives. Currently, this bill will not be given priority consideration on Capitol Hill unless a sufficient number of cosponsors are added. The only South Carolina co-sponsor is Rep. Jim Clyburn.

So folks, maybe this will give you an insight into the importance of supporting optometry at all levels. As for AOA-Pac, South Carolina contributions continue to come in but we still have a long way to go. To contribute online, go to www.aoa.org, click on the advocacy tab, and follow the link to AOA-PAC or send me your information and I’ll do it for you. It’s just that easy.

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” Alan Kay

2008 SCOAPAC Pledge Card

- Titanium Level Contributor --- \$1500**
 - Bill amount in full Bill \$375/qtr. Bill \$125/mo.
- Platinum Level Contributor --- \$1000**
 - Bill amount in full Bill \$250/qtr. Bill \$83.33/mo.
- Gold Level Contributor --- \$750**
 - Bill amount in full Bill \$187.50/qtr. Bill \$62.50/mo.
- Silver Level Contributor --- \$500**
 - Bill amount in full Bill \$125/qtr.
- Bronze Level Contributor --- \$250** *(Graduates from 2002-2007, Partial Practice, Dues Waivers, or Life Members ONLY)*

O.D. Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Address: _____

Bill VISA/MC # _____

Exp. Date: _____ 3 Digit Security Code (on back of card): _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Thank You! SCOAPAC appreciates your support.

Summer Seminar Contest

The race is ON! Every year we strive to make sure all our colleagues are taking advantage of this great organization. This year we are coming to you, the member, to encourage all those who are missing out to join! For every non-member that submits an application under your referral will receive a prize!

First Place – PAID room and registration fees at Summer Seminar

Second Place – PAID room at Summer Seminar

Third Place – PAID registration fees at Summer Seminar

Hurry– the deadline is July 1st. Please email kbrown@capconsc.com for a list of non-members in your area.

Summer Seminar Information

Make plans now to attend the
2008 Summer Seminar
July 25 - 27, 2008
At the Ritz-Carlton Lodge in
Greensboro, GA

Feature Presenters will be:
Dr. Paul Ajamian
Dr. Leo Semmes
with 7 hours of CE

Summer Seminar Schedule

Friday, July 25:

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Topic TBA Dr. Leo Semmes
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Saturday, July 26:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Topic TBA Dr. Paul Ajamian
Afternoon on your own 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Reception

Sunday, July 27:

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Topic TBA Dr. Leo Semmes
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn

To make reservations, please call the resort and let them know that you are with the SC Optometric Association in order to receive the discounted room rate of \$200 per night (not including tax).

Phone: (706) 467-0600



Ritz-Carlton Lodge Information

Stroll along the secluded shores of Lake Oconee. Just 75 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia, The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation offers guests legendary service highlighted by gracious Southern hospitality. The perfect combination of surreal elegance and outdoor tranquility, our Lake Oconee hotel offers escapes such as fishing for large-mouth bass, waterskiing and canoeing.

Named among the "World's Best Places to Stay" in Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, the hotel features:

- 251 well-appointed guest rooms and suites
- 35 acres of picturesque shoreline property on Lake Oconee
- More than 15,000 square feet of meeting space, including 10 meeting rooms
- 99 Holes of championship golf designed by the games greatest architects
- A full-service spa and fitness center

Lake Oconee is the second-largest lake in the state, boasting an impressive 376 miles of picturesque shoreline at full capacity.

Lake Oconee, GA, was created in 1979, via an impoundment of the Oconee River by the Georgia Power Company, in an effort to boost the state's hydroelectric power production capabilities.

Today, Lake Oconee is famous for housing more fish per square acre than any other lake in Georgia, including large mouth bass, bream, catfish, crappie and striped bass hybrids. This serene and secluded escape also offers visitors a wealth of other recreational opportunities, including kayaking, canoeing, waterskiing and 99 holes of championship caliber golf.

Classifieds

OD Needed:

3-4 days per week at Greenville Wal-Mart. If interested, please call Dr. Joe DiPasqua at (864)567-1751.

For Sale:

HRT II like new condition. Purchased last year at SECO. Hardly used. \$16,000. If interested, please call (864)225-0474.

For Sale:

Practice in Beaufort. Call Jim (843)846-1239, after 5 pm.

For Sale:

Used Reliance (blue) chair and stand for sale, \$1895. Dr. Mike Schall (843)554-7554 or eyes@knology.net. Can email photos if serious.

OD Needed:

Full-time associate position in Savannah, GA. Great opportunity, excellent compensation package. Call John Javier at (843)837-4545.

For Sale:

Office equipment for sale. Please contact Dr. Bill Behling if interested at (843)562-2356.

For Sale:

Office equipment. Prices negotiable. Contact Dr. Michael Campbell at (843)681-6682.

OD Needed:

Motivated optometrist for new second office in Pooler, Ga. (15 min's. from downtown Savannah) full time associateship. Excellent opportunity, must have Georgia license. Please call Dr. John Janvier at (843)837-4545 or email Drjanvier@yahoo.com.

OD Available:

Professional fill-in for your practice. Have scoop will travel. Dr. Holcombe (843)522-3837.

Office Space Available:

Office space for lease in Beaufort, SC. Prime location at the Beaufort Town Center. Contact Molly Fienning at (843)476-8517 or maryalicefienning@gmail.com if interested.



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Columbia, SC 29205
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www.sc-eyecare.org