

Nebraska Optometric Association

2025 PRIMARY EYE CARE CONFERENCE

February 20-22, 2025

University of Nebraska
Innovation Campus
Conference Center

Lincoln, Nebraska



Conference Highlights

The Nebraska Optometric Association will hold its Primary EyeCare Spring Conference on February 20-22, 2025 in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center. The Scarlet Hotel is the designated conference hotel.

Continuing Education for Optometrists and Paras

The two-and-a-half-day conference features 15 hours of COPE Accredited continuing education for optometrists. It also features a full-day conference for paras on February 21 with an offering of 6 continuing education credits. Paras will also participate in a networking luncheon.

Engaging Speakers

Key presenters include Dr. Joe Pizzimenti and Dr. Skip Legge. Dr. Pizzimenti serves on the faculty of the Rosenberg School of Optometry at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. He is presenting lectures for both optometrists and paras. Dr. Legge is an assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, where he is particularly focused on the education of residents and medical students. He also serves patients through Nebraska Medicine. Other speakers include Dr. John Goertz of Omaha, Dr. Kyle Klute of Omaha and Dr. Scott Ronhovde of Wayne. Dr. Belinda Starkey, AOA Trustee, will present an AOA update.

Nebraska Legislative Luncheon

The NOA Legislative Luncheon will be on Friday, February 21st at noon at the Scottish Rite Temple with bus transportation provided. Members will discuss with state senators the importance of having a modern scope of practice for Nebraska's licensed optometrists and the impact on the workforce. Update your state senator about the work being done to reform Nebraska's Credentialing Review Program (407 process) through legislative, regulatory and administrative changes. Provide your state senator with an update about the latest work that the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision is doing to provide eyecare services for children across the state.

Networking

Time will be available during the conference for socializing and networking. On February 20 at 5:30 p.m. you're invited to a complimentary cocktail reception at the Barred Owl located on the top floor of the Scarlet Hotel on Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Support for NFCV

You also have the option to participate in a fundraising activity to benefit the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision (NFCV) on the first day of the conference. Purchase strands of beads to wear and then see if luck is on your side as beads are eliminated during a heads or tails game. The last individual still wearing beads wins half the cash with the remaining proceeds from the game benefiting the work of NFCV.

Thursday, February 20

OD Conference Sessions

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 9 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Russell Crotty, NOA President

9 - 11 a.m.

The Choroid Chronicles

Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(2 COPE Accredited CEs)

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Partner Exhibits and Lunch

1 - 2:50 p.m.

How OCT Forever Changed the Retina

Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(2 COPE Accredited CEs)

2:50 - 3 p.m.

Break

3 - 5 p.m.

The Eye in Sleep Apnea

Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(2 COPE Accredited CEs)

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Networking Cocktail Reception

Barred Owl - The Scarlet



NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Friday, February 21

OD Conference Sessions

7 - 8 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8 - 9:50 a.m.

What to Prescribe When: Systemic Medications

Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(2 COPE Accredited CEs)

9:50 - 10 a.m.

Break

10 - 11 a.m.

American Optometric Association Update

Dr. Belinda Starkey, AOA Trustee

11:30 - 11:45 p.m.

Transportation to Scottish Rite Temple

Coach Bus Service from Conference Center

11:45 - 1 p.m.

Nebraska Senators Luncheon

Scottish Rite Temple

1 - 1:30 p.m.

Transportation to Conference Center

Coach Bus Service from Scottish Rite Temple

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**Anxiety & Depression in Retinal Disease and Vision Loss:
From Hopeless to Hopeful**

Dr. Scott Ronhovde
(2 COPE Accredited CEs)

3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Ocular Surface Disease Management in Primary Care Optometry

Dr. Kyle Klute
(1 COPE Accredited CE)



NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Friday, February 21

Paraoptometrics Conference

9 - 10 a.m.
Registration

All paraoptometrics lectures are located on the first floor
of the conference center in room A1.

10 - 11 a.m.
Assessing the Posterior Segment and Optic Nerve
Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(1 CE)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Intro to the Medications Your OD Prescribes
Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(1 CE)

12 - 1 p.m.
Lunch
Second Floor Banquet Hall

1 - 2 p.m.
The ABCs of the OCT
Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(1 CE)

2 - 3 p.m.
Special Testing for Retinal Disease
Dr. Joseph Pizzimenti
(1 CE)

3 - 3:15 p.m.
Break

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
What Makes a Good Clinical Eye Image
Dr. John Goertz
(1 CE)

4:15 - 5:15
Good and Bad Candidates for Anterior Segment Surgery
Dr. John Goertz
(1 CE)

5:15 p.m.
Paraoptometrics Conference Adjourns



NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Saturday, February 22

OD Conference Sessions

7 - 8 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8 - 9:00 a.m.

**Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment:
What is it, Diagnosis, Screening**

Dr. Skip Legge

(1 COPE Accredited CE)

9 - 9:50 a.m.

**Strabismus Surgery and Vision Therapy:
Perspectives Through Case Studies**

Dr. Skip Legge

(1 COPE Accredited CE)

9:50 - 10 a.m.

Break

10 - 11 a.m.

Optic Nerve Anomalies

Dr. Skip Legge

(1 COPE Accredited CE)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pediatric Nystagmus: More Than You Could Possibly Want to Know

Dr. Skip Legge

(1 COPE Accredited CE)

12 p.m.

Conference Adjourns



NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Speakers and Courses



John Goertz, OD

Dr. Goertz specializes in the pre- and post-operative management of refractive and cataract surgery patients and corneal disease and glaucoma cases. He also brings extensive refractive co-management experience to Vance Thompson Vision in Omaha.

Dr. Goertz began his optometry career shortly after the excimer laser was approved by the FDA in 1995, and he has been a respected member of the optometric community in Omaha for more than 20 years. Because his career started at the same time as laser surgery, his skill and expertise has grown right along with the industry. To date, he has cared for more than 60,000 LASIK patients.

Dr. Goertz is a member of several optometry organizations and enjoys lecturing on refractive and cataract surgery.

What Makes a Good Clinical Eye Image (1 hour)

This course is designed for the optometric technician to have a better understanding of what eye scans are available to image the various aspects of the human eye.

Good and Bad Candidates for Anterior Segment Surgery (1 hour)

This course is designed to review various anterior segment surgeries and who is a good and bad candidate for each.



Kyle D. Klute, OD

Dr. Kyle Klute is an optometrist with advanced training in treating diseases of the eye.

He received his optometry degree from Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago and then completed additional training at a Veteran's Medical Center in Battle Creek, Michigan. He then worked at an ocular disease referral center exclusively managing sight-threatening conditions of the eye.

Now, he brings that wealth of knowledge and experience to primary care, striving to identify these sight-threatening conditions earlier before they manifest into life-altering situations. Originally from the small town of Hampton, in south-central Nebraska, Dr. Klute strives to bring that small town, personable experience to health care.

Ocular Surface Disease Management in Primary Care Optometry (1 hour)

Ocular surface disease (OSD) is a common but often underdiagnosed condition in primary care optometry. This course provides a structured approach to OSD management, covering diagnosis, treatment pathways, and key practice metrics. Attendees will learn practical strategies to enhance patient outcomes, streamline care, and integrate in-office treatments effectively.



Richard H. (Skip) Legge, MD

Richard (Skip) Legge, MD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he is particularly focused on the education of residents and medical students.

He completed his medical degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, followed by an ophthalmology residency at Boston University, and a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at Tufts University-New England Medical Center.

He also provides patient care through UNMC's primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine.

Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment: What is it, Diagnosis, Screening (1 hour)

This one-hour course will review the current understanding of cortical visual impairment, its etiologies, diagnosis, screening procedure, and the work of the National Institutes of Health. The Nebraska CVI Project will also be introduced.

Strabismus Surgery and Vision Therapy: Perspectives Through Case Studies (1 hour)

This course will present case studies, and invite audience participation regarding the management of 10 strabismus cases. The discussion will be towards the consideration as to whether the doctor would recommend vision therapy, strabismus surgery, both or neither.

Optic Nerve Anomalies (1 hour)

This course will review the recent literature on new technology to allow the more accurate diagnosis of buried optic disc drusen. A quiz bowl will also be held to allow participants to challenge their knowledge on common and uncommon optic disc anomalies.

Pediatric Nystagmus: More Than You Could Possibly Want to Know (1 hour)

This course will review all recognized forms of pediatric nystagmus, the appropriate work up for these disorders, their medical associations and treatment strategies.



Joseph J. Pizzimenti, OD, FAAO, FORS

Dr. Joseph J. Pizzimenti received his Doctor of Optometry from the Illinois College of Optometry and completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Rehabilitative Optometry at the University of Houston. He is a recognized clinician and educator and a Fellow of both the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and the Optometric Retina Society (ORS), serving as ORS President from 2012-2014.

Dr. Pizzimenti's areas of clinical research include diabetes, age-related macular degeneration, and vitreomacular adhesion. His scientific articles have appeared in a host of peer-reviewed journals, and he regularly lectures on posterior segment disease. Dr. Pizzimenti was awarded a Fellowship by the World Council of Optometry in 2006, resulting in an appointment to teach and evaluate optometric education programs in Central Europe.

Dr. Pizzimenti has been a faculty member at Nova Southeastern University and the University of the Incarnate Word, serving with distinction at both institutions. Dr. Pizzimenti enjoys living in central Florida as well as traveling with his wife and grown children.

The Choroid Chronicles (2 hours)

The choroid has never been more accessible to clinicians. The goal of this presentation is to provide useful clinical information on the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment/management of diseases that involve the choroid.

How OCT Forever Changed the Retina (2 hours)

Vitreoretinal and macular disease are on the rise. OCT and OCTA have greatly enhanced our ability to visualize tissue microstructure, as well as assess risk for and detect early signs of retinal disease. This course provides clinically relevant information about OCT/OCTA, emphasizing the essentials of analysis, interpretation and clinical applications.

The Eye in Sleep Apnea (2 hours)

Sleep apnea is a disease characterized by recurrent complete or partial upper airway obstructions during sleep. This course provides clinically relevant information about sleep apnea and its many ophthalmic implications.

What to Prescribe When: Systemic Medications (2 hours)

The ability to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents has enabled optometrists to become true primary health care providers. This course describes the use of drugs that are systemically administered to treat eye disease. Clinical cases are used to illustrate indications, mechanisms of action, contraindications, adverse effects, and dosage of these agents.

Assessing the Posterior Segment and Optic Nerve (1 hour)

The vitreous, retina, and optic nerve all play important roles in eye health and visual resolution. This course reviews the functional anatomy of posterior segment structures from a clinical perspective.

Intro to the Medications Your OD Prescribes (1 hour)

This course provides an overview of the major classes of topical and oral medications that are prescribed by the optometrist. Clinical indications and potential side effects of these agents are discussed.

The ABCs of OCT (1 hour)

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) has been a game-changing technology in eye care. This course uses an historical approach to detail how OCT has changed optometry and enhanced the way we practice.

Special Testing for Retinal Disease (1 hour)

This course goes beyond OCT and color retinal photography to discuss other special testing that is used in retinal diseases. Case examples illustrate the utility of FAF, ultrasonography, and electro-diagnostic testing.



Scott Ronhovde, OD

Dr. Scott Ronhovde graduated from Southern College of Optometry in 2015. Ever since, he's practiced full-scope primary eye care in Wayne, Nebraska. A self-proclaimed eye nerd, he loves finding ways to maximize his patients' vision and educate patients and staff.

He serves on the NOA board, the education committee, and the paraoptometric committee. He and his wife, Anne, enjoy raising four high-energy kids, tackling home improvement projects, and travelling.

Anxiety & Depression in Retinal Disease and Vision Loss: From Hopeless to Hopeful (2 hours)

This course details the epidemic of depression and anxiety in our growing population of low vision patients, particularly those with AMD. After completing this course, you will understand how we can help patients avoid anxiety and depression by providing low vision care or referral. We will also discuss 8 practical ways to implement low vision care within your office.



Belinda R. Starkey, OD

Belinda R. Starkey, OD, was elected to the American Optometric Association (AOA) Board of Trustees at the 124th Annual AOA Congress & 51st Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting in June 2021.

As a member of the AOA Board of Trustees, Dr. Starkey is a member of the Investment Committee and Finance Committee. She is the president of the AOA Foundation and is the liaison trustee to the Telehealth Council, Strategic Communications Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Quality Improvement & Data Committee, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and the Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety. She also serves as the liaison trustee to affiliate associations Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming. Additionally, she is the liaison trustee to optometry schools including State University of New York College of Optometry and University of Houston College of Optometry.

Dr. Starkey served as a member of the AOA's Industry Relations Committee and the House of Delegates Credentials Committee. She served on various volunteer committees for the Arkansas Optometric Association (ArOA) where she was a past president and former co-chair of the State Legislative Committee. Dr. Starkey served as treasurer of Arkansans for Healthy Eyes, a coalition group advocating for Arkansas' scope expansion law during the state's recent referendum battle.

A founder and former chair of Networking Optometric Women (NOW), Dr. Starkey received the ArOA's Optometrist of the Year and Special Service awards in 2020, the Theia Award in 2020 from Women of Optometry and the AOA's Optometrist of the Year Award in 2021.

A graduate of Southern College of Optometry, Dr. Starkey is a partner at Parenti-Morris Eyecare in Rogers, Arkansas. She lives in Rogers with her husband, Clay, and dog, Jett. Dr. Starkey enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and is an avid Razorbacks fan.

Conference Rates

NOA Members

Full Conference 14 CEs	\$550
Thursday Only 6 CEs	\$225
Friday Only 4 CEs	\$225
Saturday Only 4 CEs	\$185
Thursday/Friday 10 CEs	\$450
Friday/Saturday 8 CEs	\$450

Non-Members

Full Conference 14 CEs	\$1,075
Thursday Only 6 CEs	\$350
Friday Only 4 CEs	\$350
Saturday Only 4 CEs	\$350
Thursday/Friday 10 CEs	\$930
Friday/Saturday 8 CEs	\$930

Students

Full Conference 14 CEs	Free
------------------------	------

Para Member

Full Friday Conference 6 CEs	\$125
------------------------------	-------

Para Non-Member

Full Friday Conference 6 CEs	\$250
------------------------------	-------

Hotel Accommodations

The Scarlet Hotel
2101 Transformation Drive
Lincoln, NE 68508
531-300-6300
scarlethotelnebraska.com

Please make your reservation by January 24, 2025, to receive the discounted conference rate and reference the Nebraska Optometric Association. The Scarlet Hotel is a Tribute Portfolio Hotel and a Marriott Bonvoy property.

Parking

Conference attendees may park in the lot north of Transformation Drive and use the Passport Parking app (Zone 9900) to pay for parking. Paid parking is enforced from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Download the Passport Parking app from the Apple App Store or Google Play store. To learn more about parking at the Nebraska Innovation Campus and the parking app, visit innovate.unl.edu/parking-nic.



NEBRASKA INNOVATION CAMPUS



NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION