

THE GREENSHEET

Summer

2023

ARBO's Annual Meeting Celebrates Regulation

The 2023 ARBO Annual Meeting took place at the Hilton Old Town Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia, June 18-20, 2023. The meeting was attended by 82 individuals, which included 57 delegates from 32 member boards. There were 25 other attendees, comprising guests, invited speakers and staff.

Dr. Coby Ramsey, President, called the meeting to order on Sunday, June 18, 2023. He introduced Dr. Lisa Wallace Davis, President of the Virginia Board of Optometry, who welcomed the delegates to Virginia. Dr. Ramsey thanked the delegates for attending the meeting. He then recognized the ARBO Board of Directors and noted some of the accomplishments of the Board over the past year. Next, he introduced ARBO's Executive Director, Ms. Lisa Fennell. Ms. Fennell thanked the delegates for attending, introduced the staff and reported some of the staff accomplishments over the past year.

Dr. Jeffery Yunker, Vice President, presented the 2022 Financial Report. This was followed by the delegates approving the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. Next, Dr. Carey Patrick, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's report. Dr. Patrick announced that two four-year terms and one two-year partial term on the ARBO Board of Directors are to be filled: one 4-year term for the position of Dr. James Campbell, who is not eligible for re-election; one 4-year term for the Member Board Executive position in which Ms. Margaret Whelan has served a one-year partial term and is running for re-election; and a two-year partial term to replace Dr. Kenneth Lawenda who passed away before he could complete his term.



Dr. Coby Ramsey presides over the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Patrick then announced the committee's slate of nominees for each position:

For Board of Director Position 1 (4-year term): Dr. Linda Tharp

For Board of Director Position 2 (4-year term for a Member Board Executive): Ms. Margaret Whelan

For Board of Director Position 3 (2-year partial term): Dr. Gerard Lozada

This was followed by a presentation by Dale Atkinson, Esq., on why government is involved in professional regulation and recommendations for Boards to consider in regulating the practice of optometry.

The morning concluded with Dr. Coby Ramsey asking each member Board in attendance to report on the activities in their jurisdiction, new legislation, and issues that they may need assistance with.

After a break for lunch, Dr. Terri Haley, Chair, introduced the NBER Committee members and reviewed the committee's report and recommendations regarding the NBEO exams. Next, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director; Dr. Jill van den Heuvel, NBEO Director of Psychometrics and Research; Dr. Nicole Jerge, NBEO Director of Part II PAM, TMOD and LSPE gave the delegates an update on the activities of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Dr. Coby Ramsey then introduced the members of the Task Force that had drafted ARBO's Model Practice Act for Optometry as a resource for member Boards. The purpose of the model act is to provide standardized terminology and consistency in decisions related to licensure, renewal, discipline, and other board activities to

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Dr. Jeff Yunker is the
President of ARBO

I am honored to be elected this year's president of ARBO at our annual meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. Our mission is to assist you in regulating the practice of optometry by upholding your jurisdiction's rules and regulations, accrediting continuing education (which is a board's primary and the only way to assure competence of licensees), and verifying that your licensees comply with your requirements, all to protect the public.

Some of the notable accomplishments to assist you this past year were:

- COPE accredited continuing education adopted format changes (synchronous/asynchronous) to allow more flexibility for presenters and learners while maintaining quality. The COPE Committee is in its fourth year of combined governance with ASCO and the Academy. The combined talents of the four members from each organization have put COPE on a great path. The emphasis this year is communicating and educating the benefits of accredited CE to our member boards, providers and administrators.
- NBEO will soon be announcing the new part III PEPS Examination. PEPS is an acronym for Patient Encounters and Performance Skills exam. NBEO has put a great deal of effort in developing a state-of-the-art examination that will bring licensure examinations to a new level. The combined boards of ARBO and NBEO recently observed pilot testing of the new exam. We were very impressed with what we saw, and we're excited for this enhanced tool to be launched to assist our

A Letter from the President

members in ensuring the competence of new practitioners.

- *OE TRACKER* continues to grow as more Licensing Boards are using *OE TRACKER* to perform 100% audits. The primary way to assess maintenance of competence is continuing education compliance. If you are auditing less than 100% ask yourself if it is enough. Coming soon the *OE TRACKER* mobile app will have an improved look including a graphic to show your progress towards completing your CE requirements for each jurisdiction. The hours will also be broken down by category.
- Our Model Practice Act for Optometry is continuing to be refined. We will be circulating a draft version soon and asking for your feedback. When it is finalized, the Model Act will be another tool that will help provide uniformity in scope of practice expansion which ultimately result in ease of license mobility.

ARBO is supported by a small but very efficient and hardworking staff. Volunteers are the life blood of our organization. I would encourage you to volunteer for a committee assignment or become a COPE reviewer. Get involved and help keep our great profession moving forward.

J. B. Yunker, OD

Jeffery B. Yunker, OD

Want more regulatory information?

Check out our blog at

blog.arbo.org

Visit ARBO's Facebook page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Regulatory-Boards-of-Optometry/127983077242338?ref=ts>



New ARBO Board Members and Officers Elected

ARBO is pleased to welcome Dr. Linda Tharp and Dr. Gerard Lozada to the Board of Directors. They were elected to the Board during the annual meeting in Alexandria, Virginia in June.

Dr. Tharp is a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry. She practices in Memphis, Tennessee. She has served several terms on the Tennessee Board of Optometry since first being appointed in 2006. She is a member of the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians and the American Optometric Association. Dr. Tharp is active in her community and currently serves on the Board of the Memphis Zoological Society. She has been involved with ARBO for many years and has served on the CELMO, Nominating, and Resolutions Committees as well as the Model Practice Act Task Force.

Dr. Lozada graduated from University of Houston College of Optometry and he practices in Overland Park, Kansas. He has served on the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry since 2015 and was also previously appointed by the Governor of Kansas to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality and the Governor's Child Health Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Kansas Optometric Association and the American

Optometric Association. Dr. Lozada has been active with ARBO for several years serving on the National Board Exam Review Committee and the NBEO Part III Exam Restructure Committee.

Ms. Margaret Whelan was also re-elected to the Member Board Executive position on the Board. Ms. Whelan served a partial term from June 2022-June 2023 and was elected for a full four-year term at the annual meeting. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Lozada, Dr. Tharp and Ms. Whelan on being elected! We are very excited to have them on the ARBO Board of Directors.

At the meeting, the Board also elected officers for the 2023-2024 term. The new officers are:

President—Jeffery Yunker, OD
Vice President—Patrick O'Neill, OD
Secretary-Treasurer—Terri Haley, OD
Immediate Past President—Coby Ramsey, OD.

Other members of the Board include: James Campbell, OD; Glenn Kawaguchi, OD; and Donovan Crouch, OD (consultant to the Board).



A Note from the Executive Director

It was great to see everyone in June at our annual meeting! About 40% of the meeting attendees were there for the first time which I think is the most new attendees we've ever had. I really enjoyed meeting all the new board members and regulatory staff. We made quite a few changes to the meeting this year and we hope you liked the new format. The purpose of ARBO's annual meeting is to educate you on best practices in regulation and keep you up-to-date on regulatory issues. It is a great opportunity to interact with regulatory colleagues and discuss hot topics and shared concerns. There is no other meeting like it for regulatory board members and staff.

We were very happy to see all of you who came to Alexandria for the meeting, but there is still a number of you that didn't attend. I'd love to hear the reasons why you didn't come. Is there something ARBO can do that would enable you to be able to come next year? We've increased our travel stipends and scholarships to help you overcome budgetary issues. More information on those will be released early next year. Was it the timing of the meeting? The Board is discussing the possibility of moving the meeting to a different time of year and we're looking for your feedback. I will be sending out some correspondence soon with questions about the meeting date and location. Please review it with your boards and send us your thoughts.

Remember that ARBO is your association and our purpose is to provide programs and services to help our members increase efficiency and do more with less. We added a new resource for you this year, the Member Dashboard. The dashboard gives you information about your licensees' CE attendance and also provides resources to assist you in your regulatory role. To view the dashboard in action, just log in to your member board account on our website. If you'd like me to come to one of your board meetings to do a demo of the dashboard or talk about any of ARBO's programs, just let me know.

The Board is finalizing the new committees and the staff is looking forward to working with them. We are also increasing our communication efforts to make sure you are well informed about important regulatory issues and all of ARBO's programs. I'd encourage you to visit our blog at blog.arbo.org frequently to find useful regulatory information. If you have any topics you'd like us to write about on the blog, or if you want to volunteer as a guest blogger, please let me know.

As always, feel free to contact me at LFennell@arbo.org with your suggestions or questions.

Lisa

ARBO Annual Meeting Recap (continued)

promote uniformity in regulation from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. He noted that the Task Force will be reaching out to stakeholders for feedback, refining the Model Practice Act, and will present a final document for approval by the members at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Later in the afternoon, the COPE and OE TRACKER Committees held workshops for the attendees. Dr. Eric Bailey, OE TRACKER Committee Chair, reviewed the activities of the OE TRACKER Committee including updates to the member CE dashboard and plans for a new version of the OE TRACKER mobile app later this year.



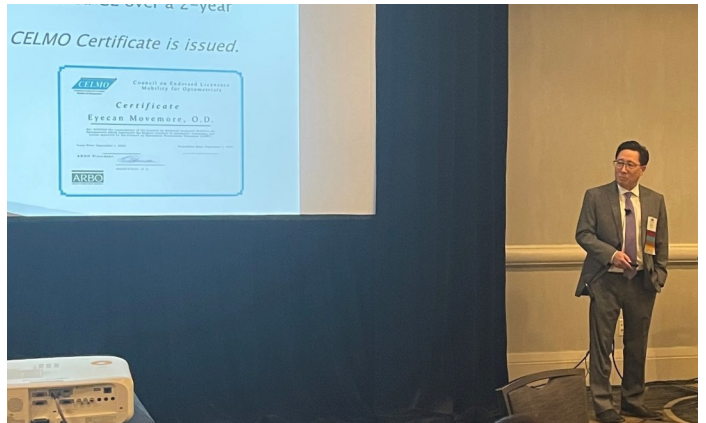
Dr. Eric Bailey gives the attendees an update on the OE TRACKER program.

Dr. Brett Bence, COPE Governing Committee Chair, and Ms. Sierra Powell, ARBO's Manager of Accreditation Services, also reviewed the activities of the COPE Committee. Discussion included an overview of COPE's accreditation requirements, changes to the COPE formats, and COPE's Standards for Integrity and Independence in CE. Dr. Bence also introduced COPE Committee Liaisons to the member Boards to improve communication and ask for feedback about the COPE Accreditation process.



Dr. Brett Bence gives the attendees an update on the activities of the COPE Governing Committee.

After the workshops, Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi, CELMO Committee Co-Chair, discussed license mobility and portability and gave the attendees an overview of ARBO's CELMO program.



Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi discusses the CELMO program for license mobility.

Next, Dr. Ramsey called for nominations from the floor for each open position on the Board of Directors. There were no nominations made. Dr. Ramsey then allowed each nominee to address the delegates for a few minutes. The afternoon concluded with Dr. Ramsey inviting all the delegates to join him for the President's Reception.

Dr. Coby Ramsey reconvened the House of Delegates on Monday, June 19, 2023. He then introduced Dr. Linda Tharp, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee. Dr. Tharp introduced the committee members and reported that there were no substantive resolutions from the 2022 ARBO Annual Meeting for the committee review. She then presented the one ceremonial resolution that had been approved by the committee this year for the delegates' consideration. Next, Dr. Jeffery Yunker, Vice-President and Chair of the Finance Committee presented the proposed 2024 Budget that had been distributed.

This was followed by Dale Atkinson, Esq., who gave the attendees an update on the current regulatory legal landscape and some cases having regulatory implications. Next, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director; Dr. Richard Castillo, NBEO Senior Director of Clinical Examination Development and Administration, gave a presentation to the attendees on NBEO's new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills Examination.

Later in the morning, John Whyte, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer of WebMD, gave the attendees a presentation on Telehealth Trends and Advancements. Following Dr. Whyte's presentation, Dr. Ramsey informed the attendees about ARBO's telehealth model language which can be found on the new member resources page of the ARBO website.

ARBO Annual Meeting Recap (continued)

After a break for lunch, Daniel Carey, Chief State Advocacy Officer at the American Optometric Association, gave the attendees a state legislative update. This was followed by Dr. Patrick O'Neill and Dr. Terri Haley, who introduced ARBO's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement:

The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) recognizes the existence of intolerance, exclusion, racism, and other forms of discrimination and bias. ARBO is committed to promoting equity and justice in all its business and regulatory practices and policies.

Next, Dr. Joy Harewood, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging at SUNY College of Optometry gave a presentation on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Licensing and Regulation. Dr. Harewood discussed the importance of increasing diversity of the healthcare workforce, examining organizational policies and practices, and consideration of educational standards.



Dr. Joy Harewood discusses Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Licensing and Regulation.

The afternoon concluded with two workshops for the attendees. We're on a Role, with Dale Atkinson, Esq., who discussed the importance of recognizing the role of government regulation as differentiated from the role of trade and promotion of the profession; and Licensing Exams and Security with NBEO and Pearson VUE who discussed today's testing environment and security trends.

Dr. Coby Ramsey reconvened the House of Delegates on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. The morning began with the proposed 2024 Budget being approved by the delegates. After that, Dr. Coby Ramsey presided over the election for the Board of Directors.

- **Position 1** (4-year term): Dr. Linda Tharp was elected by acclamation by the delegates.

- **Position 2** (4-year term for a Member Board Executive): Ms. Margaret Whelan was elected by acclamation by the delegates.
- **Position 3** (2-year partial term): Dr. Gerard Lozada Lozada was elected by acclamation by the delegates.

The delegates then approved the candidates for the open position on the ACOE that were presented. Next, Dr. Linda Tharp reviewed the resolution that had been presented. The resolution which recognized the service of Dr. Kenneth Lawenda to ARBO and bestowed on him the status of Honorary President was approved by the delegates. The full text of the resolution can be found on page 6.

After that, Dale Atkinson, Esq., gave a presentation on practice acts, regulations, and delegation of authority. Next, Dr. Richard Castillo, Senior Director of Clinical Examination Development and Administration at NBEO gave the attendees a presentation on New Technologies in Optometry and how they may affect regulatory Boards.

Dr. Coby Ramsey then announced the officers for the 2023-2024 administrative year:

President: Dr. Jeffery Yunker
Vice President: Dr. Patrick O'Neill
Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Terri Haley
Immediate Past President: Dr. Coby Ramsey

Next, Dr. Timothy Petito, ACOE Chair, presented the ACOE report to the delegates. The meeting concluded with all ARBO past Presidents in attendance lining up to pass the gavel. After the passing of the gavel, new ARBO President, Dr. Jeffery Yunker, thanked the delegates and gave a brief overview of his plans for the next year. Then, Dr. Coby Ramsey adjourned the meeting.



ARBO Past Presidents Dr. Donovan Crouch, Dr. William Rafferty, Dr. Michael Ohlson, Dr. Susy Yu, Dr. Gregory Moore, Dr. James Campbell, Dr. Patrick O'Neill, and Dr. Coby Ramsey pass the gavel to newly elected President Dr. Jeffery Yunker.

Annual Meeting Approved Resolution

2023 Resolution Honoring Dr. Kenneth Lawenda

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Lawenda was an outstanding volunteer for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his service on various committees and on the Board of Directors of ARBO since he was elected in 2021. Dr. Lawenda served on the Board of Directors for two years and served one term as Secretary-Treasurer in 2022-2023, and,

WHEREAS, his service was exemplified by sterling qualities of leadership which contributed to his personal successes and those of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Lawenda also gave outstanding service through his roles on the Vermont Board of Optometry, the California State Board of Optometry, and the College of Optometrists of British Columbia and in various other capacities; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Lawenda unfortunately passed away on April 16, 2023 and was not able to complete his term on the Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, the member boards of this Association wish to offer condolences to Dr. Kenneth Lawenda's family and to formally acknowledge his distinguished contributions to the Association; now, therefore be it;

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 104th Annual Meeting, express its sincere appreciation of Dr. Kenneth Lawenda's many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions and bestow upon him the status of **Honorary President** of this Association for the 2023-2024 year.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates June 20, 2023.

COPE Reviewer Webinar Planned

COPE Reviewers are invited to join us for a webinar on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023**, at 2:00 pm ET / 1:00 pm CT / 12:00 pm MT / 11:00 am PT. On the webinar COPE staff will be discussing the course review process and common mistakes made when doing reviews. There will also be plenty of time for Q&A.

This is a great opportunity for new reviewers to learn more about COPE and for experienced reviewers to get a refresher on some of intricacies of the review process. You will also get to meet other reviewers

and have the chance to exchange your best tips on doing course reviews.

If you have any questions or you are interested in attending the webinar, please send an email to Donna DeLay, Program Manager/COPE Administrator, at ddelay@arbo.org by September 1, 2023. A zoom link will be sent out about a week in advance of the webinar. We appreciate all that our reviewers do for COPE and we look forward to meeting with them on September 12th!



Start Making Plans for ARBO's 2024 Annual Meeting!

Mark Your Calendars for June 16-18 to attend the 2024 ARBO Annual Meeting!

The 105th ARBO Annual Meeting is taking place in Nashville, Tennessee. ARBO's 2024 Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Nashville. Located in the heart of downtown Nashville, the Renaissance Nashville Hotel offers modern and inspiring features with Southern hospitality. Discover one of the greatest music cities in the world, while staying in the heart of it all. The Renaissance is attached to Fifth + Broadway and steps from attractions such as Bridgestone Arena and Ryman Auditorium. You will definitely want to be there!



The Renaissance Nashville Downtown Hotel



Nashville, Tennessee

More information and online registration will be available in early 2024.

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville !

ARBO's CE Auditing Service for Member Boards

OE TRACKER[®]

ARBO has a benefit for member boards that you may not be aware of: CE auditing services using *OE TRACKER*. Member boards have been able to utilize various auditing reports generated from *OE TRACKER* for many years. Now, ARBO is going a step further and will complete the audit process for you. This comes after numerous member boards have shown increasing interest in completing more extensive audits, but have expressed concern about internal resources and the time it takes to complete an audit.

Included in ARBO's auditing services are a verification of jurisdictional CE requirements and review of the CE hours earned by each licensee/registrant to determine if the requirements for license renewal

are met. ARBO is also able to send deficiency notices to licensees/registrants that are not in compliance, if desired. Member boards who are already utilizing ARBO's auditing services include the Tennessee Board of Optometry, Louisiana State Board of Optometry, and College of Optometrists of Ontario.

Fees for ARBO's auditing service will vary depending on your jurisdiction's CE requirements, number of licensees/registrants and percentage being audited.

If you or your board is interested in learning more about ARBO's auditing service, please contact Lisa Fennell at lfennell@arbo.org.

Introducing the ARBO Member Dashboard

If you have logged into your member board account on our website recently, you may have noticed some changes. We have added a new member dashboard that provides access to important regulatory resources and key information about the continuing education attendance of the optometrists licensed in your jurisdiction.

In the new Member Board Resources section you will find model documents, feedback from member queries, new legislation affecting regulatory Boards, and access to recordings of past ARBO regulatory webinars.

On the *OE TRACKER* CE Dashboard, you will see the number of licensees with *OE TRACKER* accounts and the percentage of licensees that have completed the CE requirements for the current licensing period. The *OE TRACKER* CE dashboard is dynamic and the data changes daily as your licensees add CE credits to their accounts.

ARBO offers resources for our member Licensing Boards and Regulatory Colleges. Go to the **OE TRACKER CE Dashboard** to view the status of your licensees/registrants towards meeting your CE requirements for license renewal and run **OE TRACKER CE reports**. View our **Member Resources** section to have access to ARBO's model documents, member research queries, recordings of ARBO regulatory webinars, new legislation affecting regulatory Boards, and other useful documents.

[OE TRACKER CE Dashboard](#)
[Member Board Resources](#)

ARBO Member Boards Resources

Here ARBO Member Boards are able to find resources, check below:

Model Documents

[ARBO Telehealth Model Language General Concepts and State Rules](#)

Member Queries

- [What Type of Background Checks Do You Require?](#)
- [How Does Your Jurisdiction Address IPL?](#)
- [Can Optometrists Use the Term Optometric Physician?](#)
- [Who Can Own an Optometric Practice?](#)

New Legislation

[HR 7939: Portability of Professional Licenses of Members of the Uniformed Services and Their Spouses.](#)

Other Resources

[Optometry Scope of Practice by State 2022](#)

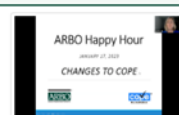
ARBO Regulatory Webinars



Update on the New NBEO Part III Exam
May 16, 2023



Don't Stop Us Now: We're on A Role
March 21, 2023



ARBO Happy Hour
January 17, 2023



Start with Why & How.
November 15, 2022
Dale Atkinson, Esq. covers the



There are several reports that you can run on the CE Dashboard to assist with your license renewal/auditing process. Utilizing *OE TRACKER* for auditing purposes is fast, easy and significantly cuts down on paperwork for your staff. If you don't know the username and password for your member board account or if you would like more information about using the ARBO Member Dashboard please contact Lisa Fennell at LFennell@arbo.org.

ARBO Member Boards Home Page

WY
Board of Optometry

2.09%
Completed Hourly Req.

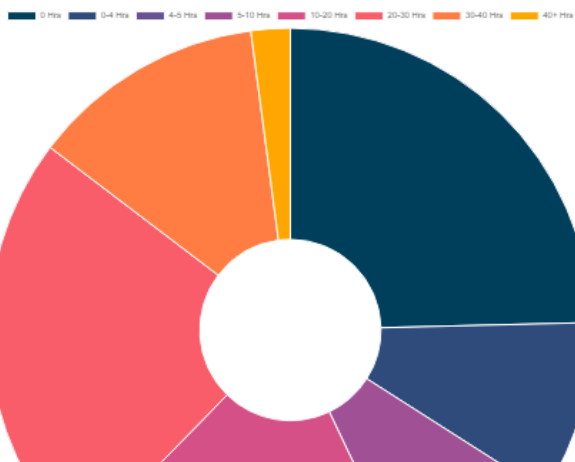
191
Licensee Records

191
Activated Accounts

180
Paid Subscriptions

From 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023
Minimum Required Hours: 40 Hours

Licensee CE Hours Completed



Licensee CE Hours Completed



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COPE Committee Attends, Presents at ACCME Annual Meeting

In an ongoing effort to stay abreast of both trends in and the evolution of healthcare education and accreditation, members of the COPE Governing Committee traveled to Chicago this past May to attend the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) annual meeting: Learn to Thrive 2023, as well as the 2023 Joint Accreditation (JA) Leadership Summit. For the first time, the JA summit was hosted in conjunction with ACCME's annual meeting. Attendees from 69 jointly accredited CE organizations came together to celebrate their achievements and discuss strategies and best practices for collaborative education in the interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) community. ARBO staff members Ms. Sierra Powell and Ms. Audrey Vazquez represented COPE, an associate member of JA, at this meeting and answered various questions jointly accredited CE providers had about COPE CE requirements.

COPE Governing Committee members in attendance at ACCME's Learn to Thrive 2023 were Dr. Brett Bence (Chair), Dr. Gary Chu (Vice Chair), Dr. Brian Kawasaki, Dr. Rich Madonna, Dr. Caroline Pate, Dr. Julie Tyler, Dr. Susy Yu, Dr. Jeff Yunker, Ms. Powell, and Ms. Vazquez. ACCME's 3-day meeting highlighted hot topics in healthcare continuing education, promoted creative thinking in strategic planning and execution of healthcare education programs, and encouraged collaboration among attendees in different healthcare spaces. Committee members commented on leaving this meeting with increased knowledge and understanding of DEI, exposure to connecting adult learning theory to everyday work, increased awareness of and interest in exploring interprofessional continuing education more deeply, and an appreciation of the collegiality of the different types of healthcare organizations at this meeting.

Over the last several years, COPE committee members have successfully presented multiple academic posters during the ACCME's annual meeting. This year, COPE went a step further and hosted a one-hour educational session titled "The Eyes are the Windows to Your Body: Utilizing Eyecare to Strategize and Implement Interprofessional CE." Co-instructed by Drs. Gary Chu; Caroline Pate; Susy Yu and Ms. Sierra Powell, this session focused on helping learners identify interprofessional CE opportunities with a diverse group of health care professionals, recognize gaps in knowledge and barriers related to incorporating various health care providers in interprofessional CE to improve patient outcomes, and understand the benefits of working and strategizing with other health professions, including Optometry, to improve patient outcomes. The COPE

Governing Committee plans to continue Optometry's presence at future ACCME meetings.



Dr. Gary Chu, Dr. Caroline Pate, Dr. Susy Yu and Sierra Powell led a workshop at the ACCME meeting.

While in Chicago for the ACCME meeting, the COPE Governing Committee held a separate hybrid in-person/virtual committee meeting to discuss current initiatives and future plans. Dr. Jim Campbell and Ms. Lisa Fennell joined the meeting virtually, as well as Dr. Joy Harewood who presented on the importance of DEI in optometric CE and provided suggestions on ways that COPE can help advance this topic. Following Dr. Harewood's presentation, the committee discussed working on a DEI initiative to provide resources and educational opportunities to COPE audiences and plans for public relations initiatives to connect more frequently with ARBO Member Licensing Boards, CE Providers, and course reviewers and provide more opportunities for these groups to come together via webinar to ask questions related to COPE Accreditation and share best practices.



The COPE Governing Committee met in Chicago and attended the 2023 ACCME Annual Meeting.



ARBO and NBEO Boards Meet

The ARBO and NBEO Boards of Directors met on August 4-5, 2023 in Charlotte, NC. The group was given the opportunity to observe a pilot study of the new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) Exam at the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO). Following the pilot study, NBEO revealed that the first administration of the PEPS Exam will be in August 2024. More information about this can be found on p.11.

Additional topics discussed at the meeting included: diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives; ARBO's Model Practice Act for Optometry, NBEO's Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam and its utilization by ARBO's member Boards as scope of practice continues to expand, and communication efforts between the organizations and their stakeholders.

ARBO attendees at the meeting included President, Dr. Jeffery Yunker; ARBO Vice President and NBEO Director, Dr. Patrick O'Neill; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Terri Haley; Immediate Past President, Dr. Coby Ramsey; ARBO and NBEO Director, Dr. James Campbell; Directors Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi, Dr. Gerard Lozada, Dr. Linda Tharp, and Ms. Margaret Whelan; Consultant Dr. Donovan Crouch; and Executive Director, Ms. Lisa Fennell. NBEO attendees at the meeting included President, Dr. Karla Zadnik; Vice President, Dr. Michael Ohlson; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Lewis Reich; Directors Dr. Joshua Baker, Mr. John Sicotte; Dr. Susy Yu; and Executive Director, Dr. Jill Bryant.



Members of the ARBO and NBEO Boards of Directors met in Charlotte.

Introducing COPE Webinars



The COPE Governing Committee is excited to announce a webinar series, Chat with COPE, where current information relevant to the COPE Accreditation system will be covered as well as answers to frequently asked questions by CE providers. These complimentary webinars are interactive and are open to all COPE CE Providers.

The first webinar, **COPE Basics: Pre-Activity Submission** will take place on Wednesday, **October 4, 2023** at 2:00 pm ET/1:00 pm CT/12:00 pm MT/11:00 am PT.

The webinar will provide a detailed overview of the COPE pre-activity submission process will be provided. Areas that will be discussed in specific detail include practice gap determination/writing, financial disclosure requirements, accreditation terminology, and management of commercial support. This webinar will provide crucial information to those new to COPE accreditation and act as a refresher to seasoned COPE CE Providers.

The second webinar, **COPE Basics: Post-Activity Submission & Open Q&A** will take place on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024** at 2:00 pm ET/1:00 pm CT/12:00 pm MT/11:00 am PT.

The webinar will discuss the requirements for submitting COPE Post-Activity information and attendance upon completion of a COPE activity. Data gathering will be discussed, and group discussion encouraged among attending COPE Administrators/Providers to share examples of tools they have found to be successful in compiling and analyzing learner data. This webinar will also include interactive Q&A to allow attendees to ask specific questions they may have regarding COPE Accreditation.

For more information and to register for one of the COPE webinars, visit our website at www.arbo.org/cope-webinars. Additional COPE webinars will be announced soon!

NBEO Announces First Administration of the Part III PEPS Exam

The National Board of Examiners in Optometry is excited to announce the new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) examination will launch in August 2024!

This new, restructured Part III exam is consistent with NBEO's mission of public protection and will complement the Part I and Part II exams in assessing whether candidates are qualified to enter into the independent practice of optometry. It is the combination of these three exams that represents overall competency and ultimately enables a candidate to demonstrate the optometric knowledge and skills necessary to practice. Part III PEPS has been developed to not only evaluate essential skills but also to measure a candidate's ability to apply evidence-based knowledge to patient care. The new exam moves beyond the assessment of the physical ability to perform the skill to also measure a candidate's cognitive ability to interpret the result and apply that knowledge directly to patient care.

Videos with more information about the Part III PEPS Exam can be found on the NBEO website at: https://optometry.org/PEPS_announcement

Registration for the Part III PEPS examination will open on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 9:00 pm EST. Additional information including a computer software tutorial will be available February 2024.

NBEO is appreciative to all the individuals that have contributed to this 5-year process and looks forward to the launch of this new Part III examination!

The following information for the PEPS Exam, can also be found on the NBEO website: https://optometry.org/PEPS_announcement

- Candidate Guide
- Site Information and Equipment List
- Evaluation Forms
- Anterior Segment Skills Evaluation Form
- Posterior Segment Skills Evaluation Form
- Patient Encounters Evaluation Form
- Candidate Evaluation Form
- FAQ's
- Blueprint/Model
- Orientation Video (available February 2024)
- Interactive Computer Software Tutorial (available February 2024)



About NBEO — Established in 1951, NBEO is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization whose examinations are universally accepted for optometric licensure in the United States and accepted internationally. NBEO's mission is to protect the public by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competency in optometry.



Become One of a Select Few!

As a regulatory board member and an optometrist, please consider becoming a reviewer of courses submitted for COPE accreditation. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will help ensure the quality and independence of continuing education. COPE accreditation benefits both practitioners in your jurisdiction as well as the public that we serve.

What do I need to do to become certified?

- You must complete and submit a course reviewer questionnaire.
- You must be endorsed by your optometry licensing Board; this endorsement will be secured by ARBO once you volunteer.
- You will be asked to complete COPE reviewer training.
- Once the training has been successfully completed, you will receive your congratulatory packet of information, including a certificate suitable for framing and a lapel pin.

How much time will this take from my already busy schedule?

- COPE reviewers are not requested to review more than two courses at any given time.
- The review of a course typically takes about 30 minutes.

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process!

For more information please visit our website at www.arbo.org and click on COPE, then click on "COPE Reviewers" and "Become a Reviewer" or send an email to arbo@arbo.org.

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