

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

## PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FOR STATE OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETIES

AAO departments dedicated to state ophthalmology society staff, leaders, issues/programs:

- Ophthalmic Society Relations Department (OSR)
- State Governmental Affairs Department (SGA)

### Secretariat for State Affairs

The Academy's Secretariat for State Affairs is charged by the Academy's Board of Trustees with addressing issues of concern to ophthalmologists in the states. This Secretariat is made up of two physician committees: the Committee for State Governmental Affairs and the Committee for State Organizational Development. Each ophthalmologist serving on the Secretariat serves as an Academy liaison to the leadership of 3-4 state ophthalmology societies on state organizational and state governmental affairs issues. Secretariat members also function as an "early warning system" bringing problems in state ophthalmology societies to the Academy's attention and assist in providing funding to state societies via the Surgical Scope Fund and other resources. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

### State Society Executive Directors' Meetings

The Secretariat for State Affairs and the Ophthalmic Society Relations department (OSR) sponsor two meetings per year for state society executive directors: one in conjunction with the Academy's Mid-Year Forum in April and the other in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting in the Fall. Notes are developed for these meetings and are distributed to all state society executive directors. The Secretariat for State Affairs encourages state society presidents to send their executive directors to these valuable meetings which provide networking opportunities and important exchange of information both among executive directors and between the Academy and the executive directors. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### State Society Executive Director Orientation & Mentoring

OSR collaborates with leaders of the executive director group to mentor new execs, assigning "veteran" execs to new hires for orientation and networking purposes. OSR provides an orientation packet to newly hired state society executive director, sends a broadcast announcement to all society executives regarding the new hire and holds conference calls with new execs prior to the Academy's Annual Meeting to orient them to all the various meetings and events they should attend. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

The Secretariat for State Affairs and OSR developed a template *Executive Director Job Description* available upon request. In addition, a document entitled *Benefits of Hiring a State Society Executive Director* is available from OSR. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager of Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### Access to *Member Only* Content of www.AAO.org

State society executive directors are provided with a personalized login that provides them with access to nearly all sections of the Academy's web site, including "member only" sections. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

## Communication

State society executive directors and physician leaders are sent regular email communications from OSR and SGA departments. State society executive directors receive email blasts of Academy member alerts and newsletters, including *Academy Express*, *Washington Report Express*, and *Council News* to help keep them up-to-date on Academy activities on behalf of its members. All state society executive directors also receive the monthly *EyeNet* Magazine in the mail. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

SGA collaborates with state societies to hold conference calls regarding advocacy issues. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org*

## Promotion of Society Efforts in *EyeNet*

OSR collaborates with state society executive directors and physician leaders to develop an article for publication in the Academy's monthly magazine, *EyeNet*, which highlights a state society's program/activity or a collaborative AAO/state society effort. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

## Leader & Academy Staff Visits to State Societies

OSR collaborates with state society executive directors and leaders to arrange for presentations by the Academy President and/or members of the Secretariat for State Affairs at state society annual meetings. The respective state society is consulted regarding issues they would like to have presented. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

## Council Representation

OSR manages the Council, the Academy's policy advisory to its Board of Trustees. Fifty-two (52) state societies (includes Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. societies) are represented on the Council based on the number of ophthalmologists in a state. The *Council Advisory Recommendation* (CAR) is a vehicle by which state society Councilor(s) may bring forward, for consideration by The Council, issues of concern to society members or ideas for new Academy programs/efforts which have been identified by the Councilor(s) in cooperation with the board of the Councilor(s) respective state society. A searchable online database of all CARs considered by the Council from 2000 to present is available at [www.aao.org/about/governance/council/index.cfm](http://www.aao.org/about/governance/council/index.cfm) (log-in required). Eye M.D.s currently serving on The Council can participate in the Academy's online community group (group name: "The Council"). *Contact: Gabrielle Naughten, AAO Program Manager (Council), Ophthalmic Society Relations gnaughten@aao.org*

## Public Information

The Academy's EyeSmart™ public awareness campaign empowers Americans to take charge of their eye health. EyeSmart emphasizes the need for Americans to know their risk factors for eye diseases, infections and injuries, and how ophthalmologists can help prevent, diagnose and treat eye conditions. OSR provides state societies with monthly template news releases and related materials to promote eye health and participate in the EyeSmart campaign. These materials may be used for media interactions, or for the society's web site and print publications. The Academy's Communications & Marketing division also partners with state societies regarding media inquiries and requests for medical or clinical information. *Contact: Allison Neves, AAO Director of Public Relations, aneves@aao.org*

## State Society Leader Contact Information

OSR maintains information on a variety of state society leader categories in the Academy database. OSR formally requests updates of this information each quarter from the state societies, but make changes to the data throughout the year.

This information is available upon request by any state society. OSR also provides contact info for all state ophthalmology society executive directors and presidents to anyone (Academy members, state society leaders, members of the public, etc) upon request, and often get requests for this information from ophthalmic companies that are interested in advertising in state society publications or exhibiting at their meetings, etc.

OSR maintains the *State Ophthalmological Societies Directory* on the State Societies page of the Academy's Web ([www.aao.org/member/related/state\\_directory.cfm](http://www.aao.org/member/related/state_directory.cfm)) including links to state society Web sites and names/e-mail contact information for the state society executive director and president. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, [lpinkston@aao.org](mailto:lpinkston@aao.org)*

## Meeting Promotion

OSR requests information from state societies on their annual meetings and other CME meetings so that state society meetings can be promoted on the Academy's Web site. OSR also makes this information available upon request to potential meeting exhibitors and other interested persons or organizations. To assist in promoting their educational meetings, OSR provides complimentary mailing labels to state societies for their state and/or contiguous states up to two times each calendar year. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, e-mail: [lpinkston@aao.org](mailto:lpinkston@aao.org)*

## Membership Development/Recognition

In order to assist state societies with membership development and database maintenance, on a bi-monthly basis, OSR sends each state society a list of ophthalmologists who have moved into or out of their state. In order to evaluate trends in state society membership and to recognize state society members at the Academy's Annual Meeting (via a state society ribbon), OSR annually asks each state society to review and update a list of state society members as currently recorded in the Academy's database. This data is also used to highlight state society members via a 'state society member' designation found in the *Member Only Details* section of *Find an Eye M.D.* online member directory listing for each Academy member ([www.aao.org/find\\_eyemd.cfm](http://www.aao.org/find_eyemd.cfm)). (Academy members and state society executive directors who are logged into the Academy's web site will gain access to the member only content, which includes email address and fax number.) *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, [lpinkston@aao.org](mailto:lpinkston@aao.org)*

## Mailing Labels/Lists

Each calendar year, OSR offers state societies represented on the Council the opportunity to obtain up to two free sets of mailing labels or lists of ophthalmologists in their state and/or contiguous states for use in promoting educational meetings or for use with the society's membership development efforts. To obtain labels or lists, the society should submit its request via email to OSR and provide a sample of the printed piece that will be sent in order to ensure the use of the labels or list is in accordance with Academy policy. If the society wishes to obtain this information in electronic format, the society will need to sign a confidentiality agreement with Academy. All other requests for mailing labels or lists must be submitted to the Academy's Member Services department ([member\\_services@aao.org](mailto:member_services@aao.org)), and the requesting society will be charged a fee.

Due to limitations imposed by Federal and California law, it is the Academy's policy that it will not provide member email addresses to other organizations or persons. However, in some circumstances joint

messages may be sent from the Academy and state society leaders in support of state society matters.  
*Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### **Potential Member Reports/Interstate Address Changes**

Every two months, OSR generates reports from the Academy's database showing address changes of Eye M.D.s who have 1) moved into a state or 2) moved out of a state during the previous 2-month period. These reports are sent to state society executive directors and membership chairs for their use in maintaining their member database and soliciting potential members. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### **Purchasing Academy Products**

State societies may purchase Academy products at the member price, and may receive a volume discount on large purchases of Academy brochures. To obtain this pricing, the society needs only use the Academy ID number assigned to it. The society may contact OSR for information on its ID number and for details on how to obtain member pricing on Academy products. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### **Leadership Development Program**

OSR manages this program established by the Secretariat for State Affairs to develop future leaders in organized ophthalmology. In the spring state, subspecialty, and specialized interest societies may nominate one of their members to participate in the program. An LDP Selection committee then determines participants via a competitive selection process on the basis of applications submitted by the nominees. Those admitted to the program attend four training sessions over the course of a year: (1) at the Academy's Annual Meeting; (2) in San Francisco in January for an intensive 2 1/2-day meeting; (3) at the Mid-Year Forum; (4) at the following Annual Meeting. LDP graduates and their efforts are highlighted in the quarterly electronic newsletter *LDP Alumni Newsletter*. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

### **Organizational Development Clearinghouse/State Resources Web Page**

OSR maintains a clearinghouse of chapter policies, activities, programs, and other ideas to facilitate sharing between state executive directors and to avoid "re-inventing the wheel" by societies. Additionally, materials are made readily available online via the *State Resources* page on [www.AAO.org](http://www.AAO.org). State society executive directors and leaders are encouraged to suggest ideas on additional resources to include on the *State Resources* page. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### **Coding/Socio-Economic Education**

The Academy's Meetings division offers state societies the opportunity to cosponsor socio-economic and coding seminars via the CodeQuest Coding College. State specific coding education (plus CME, JCAHPO and AAPC credit), along with an opportunity for revenue sharing with state societies is available. *Contact: Sue Vicchilli COT OCS, Academy Coding Executive, svicchilli@aao.org*

### **Joint Sponsorship of Continuing Medical Education (CME)**

As an accredited provider of Continuing Medical Education (CME), the Academy receives requests from state societies to jointly sponsor continuing medical education activities for ophthalmologists and other physicians. A Joint Sponsorship Portal (log-in required) can be found on the Academy's web site for state societies to apply for CME joint sponsorship. Sample documents related to: educational mission; policy to

monitor and resolve potential conflict of interest; policy for disclosing financial relationships to learners; selection criteria for members of planning committee and; policies of honoraria and reimbursement are available. Detailed information on advanced aspects of planning a CME activity including gap analysis, needs assessment, learning objectives and activity evaluations are available. *Contact: Beth Wilson, AAO Director, CME & Programs, bwilson@aao.org*

### **Advocacy Ambassador Program**

OSR manages this program which the Secretariat for State Affairs established in 2004 to engage residents early in their careers regarding the importance of political action and being involved in organized ophthalmology at both the state and national levels. The Secretariat collaborates with state ophthalmology societies and ophthalmology training programs to support residents' attendance at the Academy's annual Mid-Year Forum (MYF) and Congressional Advocacy Day (CAD) held in Washington, D.C. In 2006, the program was expanded to also encourage subspecialty and specialized interest societies to support the MYF and CAD attendance by those in fellowship training programs. At CAD, residents and fellows are paired with seasoned ophthalmologists for visits with legislators and key legislative health care staff on Capitol Hill to discuss key issues affecting ophthalmology and medicine. Residents and fellows also attend the Academy's MYF sessions and the Council meeting to learn about hot topics and issues facing the profession. OSR provides a template PowerPoint presentation to Ambassadors following their participation to present at their respective training programs. The template presentation includes slides promoting active involvement in state societies. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director, Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

### **Residents' Advocacy Program**

The Residents' Advocacy Program, or "RAP," is an informational session for ophthalmologists-in-training developed by the Secretariat for State Affairs and implemented by state societies at ophthalmology departments across the country. It provides residents in ophthalmology training programs with practical insights on the value and importance of getting involved and staying involved in advocacy for their patients and their profession. The program had been successfully presented at over 100 training programs. *Contact: Michael Levitt, State Governmental Affairs AAO Manager, mlevitt@aao.org*

### **Surgical Scope Fund (formerly State Legislative Fund)**

This political advocacy fund was established by the Secretariat for State Affairs to assist efforts to oppose/limit expansion of optometric surgical scope of practice. Contributions to the fund are solicited from ophthalmologists and Eye M.D. associations (state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies) nationwide. A telemarketing campaign is undertaken bi-annually, and the fund is promoted at Eye M.D. society meetings and Academy events such as the Subspecialty Day sessions held in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting. Additionally, the Academy makes a matching contribution to the fund each year.

This national effort provides support for individual states as the need for assistance arises. This is not a political action committee. The proceeds from the Fund may not be used to support political candidates, nor are they tax-deductible. *Contact: Anne Berger, AAO Manager, State Governmental Affairs, aberger@aaodc.org*

### **One Vision, One Voice Program**

This program defines political action and political partnering goals for every state society. The goal is to support state decision-makers with political contributions and eye health care policy information. Many states have already increased their PAC funds significantly, and thereby enhanced their ability to deal with

eye health care policy issues as they arise. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org.*

### **Pre-Kindergarten Eye Screening Initiative**

In 2001, the optometric lobby launched its nationwide Pre-K eye exam legislation project. This initiative was heavily funded by the Vision Council of America to require a “visual evaluation” by either an ophthalmologist or an optometrist for every child entering kindergarten. While the legislation proposed would ostensibly increase the number of children screened, ophthalmology has taken the position that this legislation, as written, would constitute an unfunded state mandate, and in requiring a *full* visual evaluation for every child would have a very expensive financial impact on states’ Medicare programs, could raise private insurance rates, and put an undue financial burden on parents. The Academy is working with state societies to oppose this legislation in every state where it is introduced and instead advocate for a Pre-K screening with follow-up exams for those identified as needing them. To assist in this effort, the Academy worked to develop a joint policy on pre-kindergarten eye screening with the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS). This policy was published in January 2002, and is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). *Contact: Anne Berger, AAO Manager, State Governmental Affairs, aberger@aaodc.org.*

### **Quality Eye Care Project for the States (QECPS)**

The Academy and state societies working together have increased ophthalmology’s opportunities to successfully advocate for patient quality of care issues before state legislators/regulators. Eye M.D.s are rapidly gaining political stature at state capitols across the nation, and some societies are now positioned not only to be successful from a defensive posture, but may also be positioned to take the offensive. The Quality Eye Care Project for the States (QECPS) is a state advocacy program, wherein the Academy will partner with state societies to enact state legislation/regulations that assure patient quality of eye care. State societies may apply for funding under QECPS. *Contact: Michael Levitt, State Governmental Affairs AAO Manager, mlevitt@aao.org.*

### **State Legislative/Regulatory Research and Strategy Development**

The Secretariat for State Affairs and SGA collaborate with state societies on legislative and regulatory matters, researching issues, developing strategy, developing bill/regulatory language, and more. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org.*

### **Advocacy Action Center [CapWiz]**

SGA may utilize Academy’s *Advocacy Action Center* [CapWiz] to facilitate state society member communication with officials at the state level, providing information including the addresses and telephone numbers of the elected officials’ capitol and district offices and their committee assignments, as well as suggested language for letters, email messages and/or faxes to elected officials. *Contact: Michael Levitt, AAO Manager, State Governmental Affairs, mlevitt@aaodc.org*

### **State Legislative Clearinghouse**

SGA collects and maintains information on state legislative/regulatory matters. SGA provides information and resources on state legislative and regulatory issues of concern to state society leaders upon request. *Contact: Michael Levitt, AAO Manager, State Governmental Affairs, mlevitt@aao.org*

## Reimbursement and Access

The Academy's Governmental Affairs division closely collaborates with the state societies in addressing reimbursement and access issues to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). *Contact: Cathy Cohen, AAO Vice President for Governmental Affairs, cgcohen@aaodc.org*

## Indian Health Services Initiative

The Secretariat for State Affairs is working in concert with the Academy's Federal Affairs department in establishing this program in partnership with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Minnesota and North Dakota state ophthalmology societies. The effort is geared towards providing evaluation and surgical treatment for diabetic retinopathy within high-risk American Indian and Alaska native populations that have limited access to such services. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org.*

## Secretariat Award

The Secretariat Award annually recognizes ophthalmologists for special contributions to the Academy and ophthalmology. Recipients are selected by the Senior Secretaries and Secretaries in their respective areas and approved by the Academy's Board of Trustees. The Senior Secretary for Advocacy and the Secretary for State Affairs select their Secretariat Award recipients based on their significant contributions in advancing the cause of state ophthalmology societies whether it be in the area of political advocacy, membership recruitment and retention, public service, leadership development or other society programs. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

## State Affairs Star Award

This successor to the Model State Society Program provides special recognition to state ophthalmology societies for their outstanding efforts in activities such as membership development, public information/public service, member communications, etc. As part of the Secretariat's annual organizational survey of state societies, the societies may apply for the award. The Secretariat reviews all applications and determines the award recipient(s). OSR develops template articles highlighting the *Star Award* recipients and provides it to the respective state society leaders for inclusion in the society's publications and/or Web sites.. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org.*

## Recognition Program

The Academy's Member Services division and OSR collaborate to solicit nominations from state societies for the Academy's *Outstanding Advocate Award* and the *Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award*. Award recipients are formally recognized at the Academy's Annual Meeting. OSR highlights award recipients nominated by state societies in broadcast communications to all state society leaders. *Contact: Jill Hartle, AAO Director of Member Services, jhartle@aao.org or Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

## Twinning Program

A pilot "twinning" program was established in 2005. OSR "twins" state ophthalmology societies with national Latin and European ophthalmological societies to develop symposia at international meetings including the Pan American and European Society Congresses. It provides an opportunity for state societies to participate in global outreach and cultural exchange, to further engage and improve international relations with the respective ophthalmology departments in their state as well as the opportunity to communicate to all state society members an opportunity to participate in a unique society effort. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

***Annual Meeting: Surgery by Surgeons Forum***

Each year in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting, the Secretariat for State Affairs sponsors a *Surgery by Surgeons Forum* – an interactive session involving current advocacy. The Forum highlights actions and trends by state legislatures and regulatory bodies as well as cooperative efforts between the Academy, State and Subspecialty Societies that have impacted Eye M.D.s in the delivery of eye health care services. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org.*

***Annual Meeting: Resource Center***

SGA staffs an *Advocacy* exhibit booth at each Academy Annual Meeting to highlight the Secretariat for State Affairs society relations and governmental affairs services for members and state ophthalmology societies. *Contact: Bob Palmer, AAO Policy Director, State Governmental Affairs, bpalmer@aaodc.org.*

***Annual Meeting: State Society Executive Director Recognition***

In addition to those societies being recognized during the Academy's Annual Meeting with the *State Affairs Star Awards*, the Secretariat for State Affairs, OSR and SGA staff recognize outstanding State Society Executive Directors. Two State Society Executive Directors are recognized annually in the categories of *Organizational Development and Political Advocacy* before all State Society Presidents and other leaders at a special session held in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting. OSR develops a template article highlighting the *Outstanding Executive Director* award recipients and provides it to the respective state society leaders for inclusion in the society's publications and/or Web sites. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

***Annual Meeting: Residents Noontime Session***

Each year in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting, the Secretariat for State Affairs and the Young Ophthalmologist (YO) Committee sponsor a program that teaches residents about the importance of membership and active involvement in organized medicine – particularly in their state ophthalmology society. The program, entitled *Welcome to the Real World of Ophthalmology: Reality 101 for Residents and Fellows*, showcases young Eye M.D. panelists who have already demonstrated active participation in their respective state ophthalmology societies. The Secretariat requires that each panelist discuss the benefits of belonging to their state society while also providing tips on networking, referrals, and practice management. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org.*

***Annual Meeting: Presidents-Elect Meeting***

Each year in conjunction with the Academy's Annual Meeting, the Secretariat for State Affairs sponsors a session for state society presidents-elect. The goals of the Presidents-Elect Meeting include: to provide an opportunity for state society presidents-elect to meet and hear from leaders from the Academy's Board and Secretariat for State Affairs on issues that they will likely encounter as they take on the role of president of their respective societies; to learn about specific efforts from current and past society leaders; to learn about joint Academy/state society efforts, Academy resources and staff who can to assist them; and, to meet their colleagues from around the country. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

***Annual Meeting: Priority Housing***

As the result of a Council Advisory Recommendation (CAR), state society presidents, councilors and executive directors receive "priority housing status" for the Academy's Annual Meeting. "Priority Status" entitles state society presidents, councilors and executive directors to book their Academy Annual Meeting housing earlier than most Academy members. State society presidents who are in office as of May 1, will receive priority status for that year's Annual Meeting housing. Those presidents who take office after that

date will receive the benefit for the following year's Annual Meeting. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager of Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org*

### **Resident Mentor Program**

In early 2000 the Secretariat for State Affairs was asked to provide input on establishing a mentor program that would ensure active participation by residents in organized medicine at the state and national levels. The Secretariat and OSR developed a draft plan that would involve efforts of several Academy secretariats and committees, along with AUPO, state societies, and medical school ophthalmology departments. To date the mentor program concept has been presented to and endorsed by AUPO, and the Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi state societies have implemented pilot mentor programs with training programs in their states, and the Massachusetts and Washington state societies have begun efforts to implement this program. Additional targeted states are being contacted to gauge their interest in participating in an expanded program. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org.*

### **Strategic Planning Retreat Facilitation**

The Secretariat for State Affairs encourages strategic planning (long-range planning and/or annual planning) by all state ophthalmology societies. To support this objective, a member of the Secretariat and an OSR staff member may facilitate planning retreats for 1-2 state ophthalmology societies per year. Before the planning retreat, the facilitators will work with the state society staff and leaders to develop a session agenda and background materials. At the retreat the facilitators will guide discussion of key issues by the society's leaders, and help with the development of a strategic plan. *Contact: Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations, lpinkston@aao.org.*

### **Other Consultation as Requested**

A state society may request assistance in a given area at any time and staff will work with the society to provide help as needed. *Contact: Gail Schmidt, AAO Director of Ophthalmic Society Relations, gschmidt@aao.org*

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