



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

**COUNCIL REGIONAL  
MEETINGS  
Sunday Oct. 28, 2018**

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AMERICAN ACADEMY™  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

**Region: Great Lakes**

**Chair: Jeffrey W. Perkins, MD**

**Co-Chair:**

**Staff: Scott Haber**

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Jeffrey Perkins, MD – Chair, Ohio
- Andrew Tharp, MD – Councilor, Indiana
- Kathryn Colby, MD- Councilor, Illinois
- Anne Nachazel, MD- Councilor, Michigan
- Tim Page, MD- Councilor, Michigan
- Bernard Perla, MD, Councilor, Ohio
- Sohail, Hasan, MD, Councilor, Illinois, OPHTHPAC Committee

Guests and Staff

- John Roarty, MD, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, OPHTHPAC Committee
- Michael Hodges, MD, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Reggie Fields, MD, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Todd Baker, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Carla Ford, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Philip Hessburg, MD, Ex-Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Aaron Holtebeck, MD, Secretary for State Affairs, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kim Williams, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology Executive Director
- Theresa Cooney, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Maura Campbell, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Executive Director
- Yara Catoira-Boyle, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology, President
- Scott Westhouse, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Ruth Williams, MD, Board of Trustees, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Joseph Coney, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Eric Ostermann, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Rich Paul, MD, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, State Exec

**II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information**

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Aaron Holtebeck, MD*

- Very active year for scope of practice battles at the state level
- Victories in 11 states, including Iowa, Massachusetts, and Maryland.
- Injection and scalpel surgeries were being pushed in many of these states.



- Many of these states will have continued battles, with more on horizon in 2019. Other states like Arkansas, Kansas, and West Virginia could have fights.
- The Academy has had success due to investments in the Surgical Scope Fund and the ability to create and maintain important relationships with legislators in key states.

#### B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Sohail Hasan, MD- Illinois*

- Successful year for OPHTHPAC and commitment from members helped success on a variety of issues including regulatory relief and prior authorization.
- OPHTHPAC does need continued support by councilors but also the broader membership. Great Lakes has performed the best in terms of regions supporting OPHTHPAC
- OPHTHPAC donates to members of both parties, with a close to 50/50 split between Republicans and Democrats. The Academy's Congressional Advocacy Program can connect members to lawmakers in their district. We are looking for much greater involvement and more members to become advocates.
- OPHTHPAC has also been successful with use of Mobile Cause.

### III. Key Society Highlights

#### Ohio Ophthalmological Society

- In Ohio, focus remains building key contacts in legislature and specifically with those on health committee.
- State society is leveraging ties with state medical association.
- Todd Baker, MD, spoke about efforts to build relationships to ensure physician perspective can be heard. Also spoke about importance of building ties to candidates in election cycles, like 2018, as they can play an important role in the future.

#### Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Major challenges continue to exist in Illinois with ODs pushing for ability to do surgical procedures.
- Dr. Hasan spoke to challenges with optometry seeking to achieve priorities through rule-making process in state legislature.
- Reiterated what Ohio mentioned in terms of building relationships with members of the legislature, mentioning that they had a state senator that opposed them and now they have hired him on as a lobbyist.

#### Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Expecting big change in state legislature, including many newly elected members, and have opportunity for engagement with new administration.
- Spoke to need for defining ophthalmology in better terms than optometric opponents, improving way that ophthalmology advocates for profession.
- Identifying new interesting ways to engage with legislators is a focus, including visiting Lansing.

#### Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology

- No major scope battles in Indiana but working to improve ways to get state society members involved and engaged with legislators.
- Spoke to effort to make things easy on state society members, providing names/emails of legislators on their state meeting badges.



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#### Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology

- Quiet legislatively in Wisconsin but continue to focus on building relationships and monitoring optometry action.

#### **IV. New/Other Business**

- **Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons discussed their efforts with Leader Dogs for the Blind.**



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS  
SUNDAY, OCT. 28, 2018**

**Region: Heartland**

**Chair: Jessica Claussen, MD**

**Staff:** Megan Tweed

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Michelle K. Atchinson, MD, Councilor, North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jessica A. Claussen, MD, Councilor, South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Elizabeth H. Gauger, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
- Thomas A. Graul, MD, Councilor, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Amanda "Amy" Maltry, MD, Councilor, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Linda M. Tsai, MD, Councilor, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Paul D. Weishaar, MD, Councilor, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Louis B. Cantor, MD, Senior Secretary, Board of Trustees, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Sandra Conlin, Executive Director, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
- Timothy J. Daley, MD, Member, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
- David B. Glasser, MD, Secretary, Federal Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeff S. Maltzman, MD, Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- D. Scott Penman, Associate Director, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- John D. Peters, MD, Associate Secretary, Committee for State Governmental Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Tyler J. Verry, CAE, Executive Director, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeffrienne S. Young, MD, Member, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *John D. Peters, MD*

- The 2018 Surgery by Surgeons campaign has netted safe surgery victories in 11 state battlegrounds:
- IL and PA have scope battles that will go through state legislature rules committee.
- In the next year, 20 surgery bills will likely be introduced, including:
  - The 13 battleground states from 2018
  - Including Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, Texas, Utah West Virginia, and Wyoming.
- There will be 26 states with scope of practice battles, next year.
- These battles will require commitments of large sums from the Surgical Scope Fund.
- With this information, please consider contributing to Surgical Scope Fund.
- Some proactive initiatives occurring in ophthalmology include:

- Indiana enacted anti-scleral tattooing legislation.
    - Wisconsin enacted a prescription eye drop refill bill.
  - Anti-refractive technology legislation was defeated in Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Washington.
  - From a regulatory standpoint, watch state optometry board efforts to expand their scope of practice.
- B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Jeff S. Maltzman, MD and Jeffrienne S. Young, MD*
- Thanked the state societies for their input on candidates in the midterm elections.
  - OPHTHPAC monitored many candidates that could be future friends of ophthalmology.
  - Eighty-one percent of councilors invested in OPHTHPAC this last cycle.
  - Asked councilors to consider investing in OPHTHPAC online, at the booth or via text message.
  - Dr. Young discussed current federal affairs issues, such as:
    - Simplifying the new Medicare physician payment system;
    - Addressing the rising cost of prescription drugs;
    - Protecting fair reimbursements for Medicare physicians; and
    - Delivering regulatory and penalty relief
  - The new Congress will have at 66 new lawmakers. The committee will be working to find and pair new congressional advocates with members.
  - Reminded the group to please attend Mid-Year Forum 2019 and to participate in Congressional Advocacy Day.

### III. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- **Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology**
  - Met with legislators, hosted meetings and tours at clinics and practices.
  - Contributed to key campaigns.
  - Hosted a state capitol day in January.
  - Participated in the state specialty society's physician day, which was very effective.
  - Scope of practice fight- every Wednesday members would have meetings with 3-4 legislators at the state capitol.
  - There is also an ophthalmologist running for office in the State Senate.
  - Have experienced a lack of PAC contributions from private practice physicians, as they prefer to contribute to candidates directly.
- **Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - Optometry's PAC has \$240,000 and appears to be gearing up for a large-scale legislative battle.
  - Need more financial support as ophthalmology's state PAC does not have a comparable amount of financial resources.
  - State society is working with VoterVoice to set up a grassroots system.
  - They are working to establish a PAC reporting system and hire a lobbyist.
  - Discussed the red flags in catching a hazardous bill in the policy pipeline and how to address it. They discussed the need for strategies to get ahead of these bills before they gain traction.

- **Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology**
  - Members offered to host legislators for tours/meetings at practices and facilities.
  - New this year, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology hosted two physician legislators to address their membership and provide their unique perspective.
  - Also, new this year, they began coordinating an Ophthalmology Day at the state capitol.
- **Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - Holds an annual Eye Screening Day, also known as a Health Review Day in Jefferson City.
  - The goal of the event is to bring legislators to practices and connect lawmakers and their staff with local ophthalmologists that can deliver care and create new connections.
  - Roughly 60 patients attend the event annually.
  - During their Annual Meeting, the Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons host an advocacy event aimed at connecting ophthalmologists with lawmakers in the state legislature.
  - The event is modeled after the Academy's Congressional Advocacy Day.
  - The state society also has a PAC and scope of practice fund to contribute to leadership candidates and champions and to assist in legislative battles on the state level.
- **Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - Hosted a Glaucoma Screening Day
  - Now partnering with Nebraska Medical Association to host a breakfast and meet with legislators.
  - Fundraising has been a challenge- trying out a subscription method for PAC checks.
  - Expecting a scope of practice bill in January.
- **North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons hosts A Doctor A Day program that allows for one doctor to meet with legislators daily to discuss important policy concerns.
  - North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons also mentioned that they recently had a lunch meeting with Candidate Kelly Armstrong.
- **South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology**
  - Partnered with the South Dakota Medical Society to coordinate a Doctor of the Day program at the state capitol. However, there is not a huge amount of ophthalmology engagement in this event.
  - South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology has a small PAC that works with the South Dakota State Medical Association to vet candidates.
  - Looking at finding relationships between members, patients and legislators.

The group shifted their discussion to legislative issues that state societies are concerned about.

## **Tele-health**

- **Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - Concerned about the anti-technology bill and tele-health issues

#### **Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs)/Eye Banks**

- **Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology**
  - Highlighted concerns over eye banks and organ procurement issues. There is a current battle to keep contracts causing shortage issues with local eye banks stock of tissue.
  - Dr. Glasser provided some clarification on this issue, stating that these new organizations, like SightLife and CorneaGen, are offering to cover expenses of OPOs causing local eye banks to lose stock, staff and resources.
  - Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology is in a difficult position because some members support local eye banks while others support CorneaGen.
  - **ACTION:** Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology requested that the Academy take a stance on the issue.
  - Dr. Glasser recommended that the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology should obtain legal counsel and seek their guidance on the best way to address this issue.
- **South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology**
  - South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology asked, what are the quality repercussions of an OPO?
  - Dr. Glasser and the group described their concerns with accessing emergency cornea tissue quickly.
- **North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons mentioned anti-trust issues that arise with OPOs and that the organization has sought out legal counsel.

#### **Stem Cells**

- **Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**
  - Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons highlighted the stem cell treatment issues that have occurred and noted that the Academy put out a statement on the issue.

#### **IV. CLOSE**

- Adjourned at 3:17 pm





**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS  
Sunday October 28, 2018**

Region: Metro East

Chair: John Stabile, MD: New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

Staff: Brendan Marr

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Dorothy Moore, MD: Councilor, Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology; OPHTHPAC Committee Member.
- David Armesto, MD: Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- David Silbert, MD: Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Sharon Taylor, MD: Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Scott Mm Goldstein, MD, Alternate Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Amjad Hammad, MD: President and Councilor and President, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Martin Lederman, MD: Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Gareth Lema, MD, PhD: Councilor, New York State Ophthalmology Society
- Arnold Prywes, MD: Alternate Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Grace Sun, MD, Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Cecily Lesko, MD, FACS: Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology; Surgical Scope Fund Committee Member

Guests and Staff

- Kurt Heitman, MD: Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Denise Alber, MD: Regional Representative, Secretariat for State Affairs
- John Dugan, MD, President, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Don Cinotti, MD: New Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ralph Lanciano, DO: Council Emeritus and Board Member, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Matt Halpin: Executive Director, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Robin Pellegrino: Executive Director, New York State Ophthalmology Society
- Rebecca Doctrow: Assistant Executive Director, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Denise Alber, MD***

- The 2018 Surgery by Surgeons campaign has netted safe surgery victories in 11 states
- The Secretariat for State Affairs is still working closely with the IL and PA state societies to defeat OD surgery efforts in Illinois:
- A Mandated OD surgery training study was completed.
  - The state regulatory agency supports OD expansion proposal.
  - A joint legislative oversight committee is considering administrative rules.

- ODs (and the regulatory agency) have until the end of 2018 to formally submit their proposal to this committee for formal consideration
- In Pennsylvania:
  - The latest amendments would allow the treatment of systemic diseases, injections, prophylactic, rehabilitative and cosmetic lasers and most other surgical modalities excluding scalpels. In 2019, the Secretariat expects OD surgery attacks in both rural and populous states.
- 20 surgery bills will likely be introduced in 2019 including:
  - The 13 battleground states from 2018.
  - Plus - Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, Texas, Utah West Virginia, and Wyoming.
- These Battles will require commitment of large sums from the Surgical Scope Fund.

#### B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Dorothy Moore, MD*

- The goal of OPHTHPAC is to get pro-medicine, and specifically pro-ophthalmology candidates elected to Congress.
- Dozens of physicians have declared their candidacy for office in 2018.
- Current fundraising is for the 2018 election cycle.
- Fundraising goal is \$2 million for the cycle.
- OPHTHPAC dollars helps ophthalmology build and maintain good relationships with key decision makers on Capitol Hill.
- Current federal advocacy is focused on the following issues:
  - Delivering regulatory and penalty relief
  - Evolving Medicare’s physician payment system
  - Protecting patients with continued global surgical payments
  - Preventing ill-conceived programs for controlling part B drug costs
  - Repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board
  - Maintaining access to compounded treatments
  - Keeping ambulatory surgery centers as sustainable venues of care
  - Fighting new requirements in the Contact Lens Rule
  - Supporting veterans’ access to quality eye care
  - Securing funding for federal vision research

### III. Review of Roundtable Discussion

#### Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

- The society held two political fundraisers for “rank and file” legislators.
- The society held a fundraiser for the Pennsylvania House Speaker.
- The society held a fundraiser for the House Majority Whip.
- Political fundraising strategy has been focused on targeting legislative “choke points” – meaning those legislators powerful enough to block any legislation they deem necessary.
- A key challenge has been finding enough doctors to put in the logistical work and to give money.
- Since few people are willing to donate, it becomes necessary to illustrate optometric scope of practice attempts as a “crisis.” This in turn also helps build membership.
- Younger ophthalmologists need to become more active.

#### New York State Ophthalmological Society

- Successful lobbying day included participation of residents.
- Hosted a dinner the night before presenting campaign donations and legislative awards to certain legislators.
  - Key committee members were invited to the dinner.
- The New York Ophthalmological Society is currently in flux with search to retain a new lobbying firm.

#### Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

- Since there is no ophthalmological society political action committee, they are heavily integrated with the state medical society.
- DELPAC is the major political action committee for the state's House of Medicine
  - The Medical society hosts major legislative fundraisers and pools money with other specialty societies.
- This gives the medical society the strongest voice on issues affecting all specialties.

#### New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

- The society focuses its fundraising on “choke points” - legislators powerful enough to block any legislation they deem necessary.
  - Senate President
  - House Speaker
  - House/Senate Majority Leader
  - Key Committee Chairs
- The society's lobbying firm represents many interests that raise large sums for state legislators. Fundraisers hosted by the lobbying firm help the society get recognition among the targeted legislators

#### **IV. CLOSE**

- Building and retaining membership remains a problem
- One way to develop solid relationships with key lawmakers is to volunteer on their campaign and recruit other volunteers as well.
- Private Equity ownership poses a challenge to the healthcare delivery system



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS  
SUNDAY, OCT. 28, 2018**

**Region: Mid-Atlantic Region**

**Chair: Julie S Lee, MD, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

**Staff: Michael Levitt**

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Julie S Lee, MD, Councilor, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Alan L Wagner MD FACS, Councilor, Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Edgar C Gamponia MD, Councilor, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Leslie S Jones MD, Councilor, Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society  
Lee Snyder MD, Councilor, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Renee Bovelleville MD, Councilor, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Sonny Goel MD, Member, Board of Trustees
- Laura Green MD, Member, Secretariat for State Affairs
- Stephanie Marioneaux MD, Member, OPHTHPAC
- Anthony Viti MD, Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Andrew Prince MD, Member, Board of Trustees
- Kim Ebert, Executive Director, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Liz Roach, Executive Director, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Laura Green MD

- There were 11 scope of practice victories in battleground states
- In Iowa, optometry's efforts to obtain injectable anesthesia was repelled.
- In Virginia and Maryland, optometry's efforts to obtain surgical privileges were defeated.
- In the District of Columbia, optometrists have been seeking opioid prescribing authority.
- Optometrists are seeking to expand privileges through regulatory routes in Illinois.
- Optometrists are seeking to expand their scope in Pennsylvania to include injections, surgery and the treatment of systemic disease.
- Even more scope battles are expected next year.
- The Secretariat for State Affairs advises states to build relationships with key legislators, build up the state society's grassroots network, and know who ophthalmology's champions are in the state legislatures.
- Contributions to the Surgical Scope Fund are critical.
- State societies should also be alert to optometry's efforts to enact anti-refractive technology legislation, bills that hinder the use of ophthalmic technicians, and any bill that relates to visual disability screenings.
- Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland have found joint dues mailings to be helpful and has had a positive impact on dues.

- Both the national and international Leadership Development Programs continue to expand.
- This year the African Ophthalmology Council established a Leadership Development Program.
- Please see the report in the agenda book for further details.

A. OPHTHPAC Update – Stephanie Marioneaux MD

- 70% of the Council has given to OPHTHPAC.
- Issues such as ensuring correct payments for ophthalmic biometry codes, rising cost of prescriptions, and fair reimbursement from Medicare are key reasons to give to OPHTHPAC.
- Find ophthalmologists who will serve as effective key contacts for representatives.
- Congressional Advocacy Day begins on April 10, 2019.
- Please see the report in the agenda book for further details.

### **III. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

#### **Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- Ophthalmologists are active in the state medical society's "Doctor of the Day" program at the state capitol.
- Lobbyists take this opportunity to take doctors to visit state legislators at the capitol.
- The society has a grassroots network organized by county and region.
- The society uses that same network to raise money for the society's political action committee.

#### **Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- The society engages state legislators by holding fundraisers for key legislators, including the Speaker of the House, key committee members, and leadership.
- The society engages legislators with visits to ambulatory surgery centers and the offices of ophthalmologists.

#### **West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- The society relies heavily on long term relationships with key legislators.
- The society is seeking new ways to engage members, given that they will be defending against a scope expansion bill in 2019.
- Though West Virginia has low participation rate for the state society political action committee, it currently stands at 40K (but in contrast to 120K for the state optometric PAC).

#### **Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- Kentucky works with residency programs to get students to the state capitol.
- The society encourages local doctors to deliver PAC checks at fundraisers.
- Members participate at a "White Coat Day" at the state capitol.
- A silent auction at the society's annual meeting has been an effective way to raise PAC funds.

#### **Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society**

- The society's outreach focuses on relationship building with the DC City Council.

- The society is highly dependent on an experienced lobbyist who maintains strong relationships with the city council.
- The society submitted a letter opposing a scope expansion effort to the DC City Council.

#### **IV. CLOSE**

- Members of the region expressed interest in further developing social media tools to enhance advocacy efforts.



## **COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS SUNDAY, OCT. 28, 2018**

**Region:** Mountain West

**Chair:** Brian Rose

**Staff:** Sarah Cartagena

### **I. Welcome**

#### Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Craig Wilkerson MD, Councilor, Montana, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology  
James Earl, MD, Councilor, Idaho, Idaho Society of Ophthalmology  
James Howard, MD, Councilor, Utah, Utah Ophthalmology Society  
Kamalesh Ramaiya, MD, Councilor, New Mexico, New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology  
Brian Rose, MD, Councilor, Arizona, Arizona Ophthalmology Society  
Rebecca Braverman, MD, Councilor, Colorado, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Jennifer Nottage, MD, Councilor, Wyoming Ophthalmological Society

#### Guests and Staff

Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology  
Angela Watkins, MD, President, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology  
Rachel Reinhardt, MD, State Affairs  
David Johnson, MD, OPHTHPAC Committee member  
Annette Mahler, Executive Director, Utah Ophthalmology Society  
Lloyd Williams, Legislative Chair, Utah Ophthalmology Society  
Jordana Smith, President Elect, Arizona Ophthalmology Society  
Chet Seward, Executive Director, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

### **II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

#### A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Rachel Reinhardt, MD, State Affairs*

- Surgical Scope Fund has raised 1.5 million in 2018, it is anticipated there will be 20-22 states with scope battles next year. SSF will need 2 million to fight these battles and will be difficult without it.
- North Carolina allowed scalpel, lasers and surgeries which was 80% sponsored by optometry whose PAC donated 450K to their legislators. Ophthalmology was able to gather donations and pool their checks and delivered as one unit. This worked to reverse the bill in North Carolina.
- We currently have 11 states with patient safety victories. A state where no bill is introduced counts as a victory
- There is a new trend of scleral tattoos. The entire country of Canada outlawed these tattoos. This trend should be monitored in the States.
- Ophthalmology will be on the losing side until ophthalmologists overcome their fear of being involved in politics

B. OPHTHPAC Update - *David Johnson, MD*

- Brief demonstration to the council of the mobile cause to donate to OPHTHPAC as only 80% of the council has donated.
- OPHTHPAC donations can help fight causes such as step therapy and limiting drug costs
- Relationships are built and due to incoming OPHTHPAC donations

### **III. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- The Colorado society discussed their meeting with their local representative and emphasized with persistence building relationships can be accomplished in order to invite leaders to witness eye surgery and tour surgery centers. The difficult part is establishing meetings in order to accomplish this.

Idaho Society of Ophthalmology

- The Idaho Society of Ophthalmology currently utilizes a lobbyist from the Idaho Medical Association. They are currently fighting a scope battle. Optometry is attempting to expand their scope of practice and intend to do so for the coming months. No limits on what they can or cannot do. Optometrists are able to do SLTs and YAG. Currently has a meeting in November to strategize and make action plans.

Montana Academy of Ophthalmology

- Attempt to help connect physicians with legislators. Taking into account no one reads two-page letters, the Montana Academy of Ophthalmology is attempting to have an info graphic.
- There is great difficulty in reaching out on their own and inquire how they can get their own members to take action.

Utah Ophthalmology Society

- Regularly meets with legislators and currently has a legislator that they sponsor. Usually will have medical talks with legislators and Townhall events. Some ophthalmologists have taken legislators out to lunch and donate to their campaign in conjunction. Currently have an LDP project where legislators were invited to their surgery centers to see how surgery is performed, however some ophthalmologists were not interested so it did not work well.
- There are some practices that have PA's doing intravitreal injections. This is a slippery slope that optometry can use in their scope battles. Although PA's are trained with scalpels and have a surgical background (while optometrists do not) this may not be so apparent to legislators.

Wyoming Ophthalmological Society

- Needs a sponsor to bring a bill forward. It is easier to get a bill passed if sponsored through a committee rather than a single sponsor. The current bill does not list specifics as to what is excluded for what an optometrist can perform. Ex; blephs vs. laser bleph.

### **IV. CLOSE**



Meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS  
SUNDAY, OCT. 28, 2018**

**Region: New England**  
**Chair: Jeffery D. Young, MD**  
**Staff: Matt Daigle**

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

David R Rivera MD, Councilor, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Edward S Lim MD, Councilor, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians  
Jeffery D Young MD, Councilor, Vermont Ophthalmological Society  
John Mandeville MD PhD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Linda A Schumacher-Feero, MD, Councilor, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Michael H Goldstein, MD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Nancy D Efferson-Bonachea, MD, Councilor, New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Matt Daigle, Academy staff
- Samuel Solish, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David Emmel, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- Deb Osborn, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- James Martone, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- Jennifer Chen, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Amy Gregory, Vermont Ophthalmological Society
- Mark Bidler, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Cindie Mattox, Board of Trustees

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Ed Lim, MD*

- Raise money! Send more to Surgical Scope Fund, lots of scope battles with which to contend
- \$1.8 million goal for 2019
- Watch for threats to ophthalmic tech practice
- Reminder that the Academy is pro-technology
- New LDP class graduated
- Joint dues program is still available for states to partner with the Academy
- New state leadership in Puerto Rico

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Linda Schumacher-Feero, MD*

- Give often and early!
- Council's giving (as of 5 days previous): 78 percent
- Sign up for mobile alerts
- Legislative highlights:
  - Simplifying Medicare physician payment system
  - Drug costs – Part B drugs, step therapy

- Election means we're going to need more friends, and ophthalmologists to pair with lawmakers as Congressional Advocates
- MYF/CAD is April 10-13
- Question about resources to communicate accomplishments to state society – Washington Report Express, Mid-Year Report, AAO.org put forward as options

### **III. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

#### **Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- Hard to recruit new, young physicians to engage on the political side

#### **Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians**

- Society does a Doctor Day.
- Each member was assigned someone who was running for office – get the candidates before they're "big and famous."
- Driveway conversations during the campaign – reiterate that physicians can be a resource.
- "How can we help you?" Candidates aren't as up-to-speed on the issues as you think, so discussions and friendly conversation is very helpful
- Listen and fill in the blanks
- Forget what your political leanings are, and advocate for the profession
- Physicians have trouble putting themselves in other people's shoes, so the leaders need to be out there and "door-knock" for candidates
- Offer to help phone-bank for a candidate – they remember who had their backs during the campaign
- New CAR for more money for State Affairs – Board of Trustees didn't support, so they want to put more pressure on them to up the budget – get Bob Palmer an assistant and more cash to fight state battles *this year*
- New CAR to make the scientific speakers disclose their SSF/OPHTHPAC giving, and only give them podium time at AAO events if they give to the funds – then make them include it in their disclosures to make it more socially acceptable to be known as a donor
  - Massachusetts supports the disclosure idea, but concerns about the forced donations
- Publish lists of donors by state and shame members into giving
- Giving "score card" – Issue a member participation score that includes their giving status

#### **Vermont Ophthalmological Society**

- Meet-the-Candidates forum – got good membership turnout

#### **Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- Luck as to who is friends with lobbyists.
- Hard to get members to go meet with lawmakers – so very lobbyist-driven
- Hosted a fundraiser, secured the support of a key GOP lawmaker

#### **Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- For candidates, it can be like drinking water out of a firehose, so be patient with them, guide them
- Meet your lawmakers at the early stages of their career, and stick with them throughout their career
- Tufts-Maine invites lawmakers to be "a med student" for a day to shed light on what it takes – could this be replicated for ophthalmology?

#### **New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**

- We have 450 representatives for a state of a million – we focus on legislation to pin-point who to target for PAC contributions

#### **IV. CLOSE**

- Group moves to put forward two CARs, as proposed by Connecticut, to be shared for input and support from other states societies

**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

**Region: Pacific Coast**

**Chair:** Vineet N. Batra, MD

**Staff:** Katherine Salazar-Poss

**I. Welcome**

Dr. Vineet Batra welcomed the Councilors and guests to the Pacific Coast Regional Meeting.

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Leah Levi, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- JoAnne Giaconi, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Troy Elander, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Rhoads Stevens, MD, Councilor, Hawaii Ophthalmological Society
- David Zumbro, MD, Councilor, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Hardeep Dhindsa, MD, Councilor, Nevada Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Brian Bowe, MD, Councilor, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Dinelli Monson, MD, Councilor, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
- Michael Bush, MD, Councilor, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Vineet N. Batra, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Rachel C.J. Reinhardt, MD, State Affairs
- Dan Briceland, MD, AAO, Sr. Secretary for Advocacy
- Jessica Nichols, Executive Director, Hawaii Ophthalmological Society
- Diana Shiba, MD, OPHTHPAC committee
- Craig Kliger, MD, EVP, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Aaron Weingeist, MD, Legislative Chair, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, AAO, Council Vice-Chair
- Stephen McLeod, MD, AAO, Editor-in-Chief, *Ophthalmology*

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Rachel C.J. Reinhardt, MD*

1. Scope battles are heating up across the country. Twenty to twenty-two states have some proposed or pending scope legislation.
2. In the best years we need a budget of 1.2 million. This year 2 million is just the minimum required to meet the challenges.
3. Everyone one needs to donate to the Surgical Scope fund.
4. Keep your ears to the group for news of new scope battles.
5. There have been many victories such as in Massachusetts, but there is no time to rest. State PACs are an important tool.

OPHTHPAC Update - *Diana Shiba, MD*,

1. A big thank you to Council for its support! 81% of Councilors have contributed to OPHTHPAC.
2. Importance of advocacy text alerts and how to use them explained. Everyone should get on board and help colleagues to participate.
3. Pacific Coast is pivotal politically. Most spent in this region. There could be 16 freshman legislators after midterms.
4. The strength of our federal relationships is shown by the fact AMS reached out to our DC office (Cathy Cohen) first after president announced his new drug plan.
5. Important to get the word out - educate as leaders our colleagues, not about who we support in Congress, it's about advocacy for our profession.
6. Appreciate the opportunity to serve.

### **III. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: HOW DO YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR LEGISLATORS?**

Hawaii Ophthalmological Society

- Importance of going to MYF, getting to meet your representative and their staff person.
- Also, important to drop by their office and build relationships with staff. Unfortunately, congress person took a position during recent Supreme Court nominee hearings that was so alienating that it is hard to know what to do now.
- Response from group: focus on patient advocacy. It is not a right or left issue.
- Get to know the state lobbyists. Hawaii shares lobbyist with the medical society, which is very effective.

California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Hosting fundraisers the earlier in the politicians career the better is a good way to build relationships. They provide an opportunity to meet family members, who may have personal eye issues that are important to them.
- Get to know congressmembers' staff. Even though there is high turnover, build relationships when possible. Follow up o MYF contacts.
- Prior to primary involving Congressman Stark, patients and others were invited to a townhall meeting held at an ophthalmology ASC. The candidate defeating Congressman Stark was very grateful and remembers this effort, keeps in touch.

Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Fundraisers for congressional and state legislators build relationships. Academy used eblasts to state society plus other friends to let them know the social gathering is a fundraiser.
- Make MYF contacts a priority and follow up. Repeated contacts are critical.

Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology

- The academy was able to organize a program on the medical substance of particular legislation and present it before the legislature. This depended upon the relationships that had been established.

Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- It all seems to be about relationships. The optometry Board has been trying to establish a weekend instruction program in YAG laser now that it is allowed. They are pushing the self-regulation button. They have the upper hand in relationships with legislature.

Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology

- Ophthalmologist stepping up contributions as they see the Optometry Board itself is proposing legislation.
- As scope battle heats up, pressure put on individual ophthalmologists who rely on referrals from optometrists. They have the power to decimate a practice. How can this be avoided?
- Responses: this starts at the training stage. It involves understanding what constitutes an ethical practice. Physicians cannot operate their practices in response to fear or veiled threats. They can work with primary care physicians and become active in their state societies. If they have evidence that an organization such as the state optometric society has them on a “blacklist” or boycott list, they can get help from their state Attorney General or Federal Trade Commission representative.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED**

None

#### **V. New/Other Business**

Meeting adjourned



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

Region: Southeastern  
Chair: S. Anna Kao MD, GA  
Staff: Bob Palmer

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Todd Gwen, MD, South Carolina Councilor
- Steve Kerrey, MD, Alabama Councilor
- Christina Ferrari, MD, Puerto Rico Councilor
- Stuart MacCracken, MD, North Carolina Councilor
- Mark Ewald, MD, Tennessee Councilor, MD
- Mark Michaels, MD, Florida Councilor
- Stephen Schwartz, MD, Florida Councilor

Guests and Staff

- Kitty Gordon, MD, North Carolina President
- Bill Clifford, MD, AAO Board of Trustee
- Kurt Heitman, MD, Secretary for State Affairs
- Jacqueline Duvalle, Puerto Rico Exec Director
- Travis Lindley, Georgia Exec Director
- Sara Stoneburner, MD, North Carolina President
- Devin Kreel, MD, Associate Exec Director Georgia
- Jeremy Jones, MD, Georgia President-Elect
- Jeff Payne, MD, Georgia President
- Alan Skipper, North Carolina Exec Director
- Janet Betchkal, MD, OPHTHPAC
- Dianna Seldomridge Secretary for Communications

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - Kurt Heitman, MD, Secretary for State Affairs
- 2018 Surgery by Surgeons Patient/Surgical Standards victories - CA; FL; IA; IL; MA; MD; NC; NE;
  - In 2019, the Secretariat expects OD surgery attacks in both rural and populous states.
  - 26 surgery bills will likely be introduced in 2019 including:
    - The 13 battleground states from 2018
    - Plus - Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Nevada, Puerto Rico; Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
    - These battles will require commitment of large sums from the Surgical Scope Fund.
  - Surgical Scope Fund
    - The Surgical Scope Fund is key to success.



- Please Make a **MAJOR** confidential contribution of \$2,500, \$1,000 or \$500 **NOW** to the **Surgical Scope Fund**
  - **Ophthalmology Proactive Initiatives**
    - Indiana enacted anti-scleral tattooing legislation.
    - Wisconsin enacted a prescription eye drop refill bill.
  - **2018 OD “Anti-Technology” Legislation**
    - Anti-refractive technology legislation was defeated in Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Washington.
  - **OD Regulatory Action**
    - Watch state optometry board efforts to expand scope.
      - The Utah optometry board interpreted a statute that does not specifically prohibit injections to authorize optometrists to perform injection procedures - Utah OD action like our current battle in Illinois
  - **Organizational Development**
    - Twenty-two (22) state societies are participating in the *AAO/State Society Combined Dues Mailing of 2019 Dues* program.
    - This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that all state societies have been able to participate in the combined dues mailing. (6 societies participated in a pilot of the program.)
    - The Academy recently mailed dues invoices to its members, so many of you will see a state invoice in your dues packet.
    - The LDP XXI, class of 2019, held its orientation session. This class will meet next in January 2019 in San Francisco along with the leadership classes of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (Curso de Liderazgo) and the European Society of Ophthalmology (EuLDP).
- B. OPHTHPAC/Congressional Advocacy Update –Janet Betchkal, MD, OPHTHPAC Committee
- To address our ever-growing list of concerns, ophthalmology is going to need as many friends on Capitol Hill as we can get.
  - Some of our current challenges include:
    - Simplifying the new Medicare physician payment system;
    - Addressing the rising cost of prescription drugs;
    - Protecting fair reimbursements for Medicare physicians; and
    - Delivering regulatory and penalty relief
  - Federal Affairs needs your assistance to achieve ophthalmology goals
  - Election years are very critical for PACs looking to strengthen their support in Congress. And OPHTHPAC is no different.
  - OPHTHPAC’s primary focus in 2018 was to help our current physician members of Congress get re-elected while getting new physicians or ophthalmology-friendly members elected.
  - Council and State leaders support of OPHTHPAC is critical to the livelihood of our profession! If we do not support our Congressional friends, who will?
  - The OPHTHPAC 20/1718 fundraising goal is \$2 million and we still hard at work to achieve this goal.
  - Congressional Advocacy complements OPHTHPAC Activities
  - Our Congressional Advocates ensure a pro-ophthalmology message reaches the Hill.
  - The 116th Congress will kick off in 2019 with at least 66 freshman legislators coming out of the November midterm elections.
  - Federal Affairs needs your help to identify ophthalmologists who are willing to develop a relationship with their new member of Congress and serve as a Congressional Advocate for 116th Congress.

- Mid-Year Forum kicks off in 2019 with Congressional Advocacy Day- April 10th through the 13th.
- The Academy experienced record-breaking attendance at 2018 CAD and hope to do the same in 2019.
- Please encourage your colleagues to participate in 2019 CAD

C. Academy Communications –Diana Seldomridge, MD, Secretary for Communications

- Communications is working very diligently to get out information of importance to Academy members – practice and advocacy messaging
- Eye Smart and Academy Express as well as Washington Report Express are key publications in the information initiative
- Communications has strong working relationship with both Federal and State Affairs

### III. KEY SOCIETY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ISSUE DISCUSSION – OD SURGERY PUSH IN SOUTHEASTERN STATES
  - o Councilors discussed the 2018 OD surgery bills and the effort that is required to preserve surgical and patient safety
    - NC and GE faced recent optometry surgery battles; and AL, FL, and PR face 2019 OD surgery initiatives
    - PR faces a party shift in the Legislature which requires grassroots action to maintain old friends as well as make new friends
    - Much discussion of raising funds within the state society to battle OD bills that threaten surgical and patient standards
    - FL pointed out that ophthalmology had to belly up to the bar to raise and spend funds required to protect surgical standards – had raised \$1 million for PAC program – followed with individual meetings
    - All agreed the political dollars as well as state grassroots are required to protect patients
    - FL highlighted that FSO Board members are strongly urged to contribute \$1K to state PAC; \$1k to SSF and \$1K to OPHTHPAC.
    - Florida also challenged all the states to match the \$25K FSO contribution to the SSF.
    - SC highlighted that states might want to consider different tiers of membership with different required contribution levels to participate
    - NC highlighted how the Society determined who had the power in the Senate/House to stop the OD surgery bill and then NCSEPS set out to make sure the patient safety targets had well-funded campaigns for reelection – targeted Senate President, and Senate Rules Cmte and House Health Cmte members – Key patient safety Senate/House members were re-elected in November 2018 elections.
    - Key to success NCEPS leadership -one-on-one meetings and calls with members – email is not effective in this effort – must be MD to MD.
    - GA and NC pointed out to the states the effectiveness of creating and implementing a fund within the society dedicated specifically to advocacy
    - Question of Medicaid – ODs say ophthalmologists do not see Medicaid patients - FSO researched and found that the OD statement was bogus
    - All states agreed – a strong lobby team is required in the Surgery by Surgeons battles
  - o Residency Programs
    - PR ophthalmologists hosted a talent show to raise funds for the island's ophthalmology residency program

## **V. New/Other Business**

- No new business

**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS  
SUNDAY, OCT. 28, 2018**

**Region: Tornado Belt**  
**Chair: Aaron M Miller, MD**  
**Staff:** Lisa Pinkston

**I. Welcome**

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Robert D. Gross, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Aaron M. Miller, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Amalia Miranda, MD, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Thomas H. Moseley, MD, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society

Guests and Staff

- Chris Albanis, MD, Academy Associate Secretary for State Affairs
- Cynthia Bradford, MD, Academy Past President
- Sidney Gicheru, MD, OPHTHPAC Committee
- Laura Hawkins, Executive Director, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
- Sanjiv Kumar, MD, President, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Lisa Pinkston, AAO Manager, Ophthalmic Society Relations
- Rachael Reed, Executive Director, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology and Texas Ophthalmological Association

**II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Chris Albanis, MD*

- Thanks for your donations to the Surgical Scope Fund
- The Secretariat for State Affairs is projecting 23 optometric scope of practice battles in 2019
- In the 2018 session, there were 11 victories over OD scope expansion efforts that threatened patient safety, thanks to the hard work of many across the country. Efforts continue in IL and PA to defeat OD surgery expansion.
- To face the anticipated battles in 2019, the Secretariat is asking everyone to make major donations of \$500 and higher - even if you have already given this year. We have set a fundraising goal at least \$1.5M.
- The successes of the Academy's Leadership Development Program (LDP) continue. Our 20<sup>th</sup> class graduated at AAO 2018
  - Each society is encouraged to nominate a member to participate in LDP whenever the society is eligible (i.e., any year the society does not have a current participant in the program).
- The Academy/State Society Combined Dues Mailing program is continuing, with 22 states participating in the 2019 dues mailing.
- Two state societies have brought new executive directors onboard since April 2018. State Affairs and Academy Ophthalmic Society Relations staff provide support to these and all other state execs.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Sidney Gicheru, MD*

- OPHTHPAC works at the Federal level to protect the interests of patients and ophthalmologists by building relationships with Federal policy makers
- Mobile alerts and contributions
  - Get alerts sent to your mobile phone by texting SGMD to 51555
  - One may also invest in OPHTHPAC via the mobile tool (text MDEYE to 41444)
- As of 10/27/18, 80% of Councilors had contributed to OPHTHPAC in this cycle. Our goal is to get 100% participation.
- The Academy is actively engaged on several Federal issues, including
  - Simplify Medicare physician payment system
  - Address the rising cost of prescription drugs
  - Regulatory relief – reducing administrative burdens and penalties faced by physicians, including prior authorization requirements.
- Congressional Advocacy: A large turnover in the legislature is expected following the election. Get to know your new legislators as soon as possible.
- Save the date: Mid-Year Forum 2019 will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 10-13, with Congressional Advocacy Day visits to Capitol Hill on April 11. Make sure to participate in Congressional Advocacy Day and encourage your ophthalmologist colleagues to also join us there.

### III. SOCIETY UPDATES:

Arkansas Ophthalmological Society (AOS)

- AOS is facing its first optometric scope expansion bill since 1997. The draft language of the bill is broad-based and specifies ophthalmic surgeries that ODs are not authorized to perform.
- The society has seen a significant jump in OD contributions to the Governor's campaign fund (over \$50K). Optometry appears confident that bill will go to Governor.
  - There is no ophthalmology PAC
- There is currently only one physician on the Health Committee, but that is expected to increase by 1 or 2 following the Nov. 2018 election.

Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO)

- OAO has not faced any optometric scope issues recently.
- Optometry is hyper focused on fighting Walmart on issue of establishing optical shops in big box stores. Oklahoma is 1 of 3 states where big box stores may not have optical shops. Optometry asserts that Walmart/big box retailers would limit the OD's ability to practice to the full extent of their scope of practice, because the in-house ODs would be restricted to providing only eyeglasses and contacts.

Texas Ophthalmological Association (TOA)

- To prepare for the 2019 legislative year, TOA is focusing on PAC fundraising
- Interesting issues concerning the border of TX/LA: Texas ODs are sending patients to LA for OD laser treatment via an unaccredited optometric surgical fellowship. Texas ophthalmologists are seeing worrying patient outcomes from these procedures (e.g., extensive pitting in an implanted IOL). TOA is trying to get the board of medicine involved.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:** *How do you reach out to your legislators?*

##### Arkansas Ophthalmological Society (AOS)

- Get on the House calendar to host luncheon for legislators, staff.
  - Each day of the legislative session, Arkansas organizations can host luncheon for legislators, constitutional officers and staff. The luncheon sponsor is listed on the House schedule and the sponsor is announced on the floor. This sponsorship offers the organization a meet/greet opportunity with legislators.
  - Note: It is not permitted in AR to take an individual legislator to lunch or dinner.
- Legislator match: identifying ophthalmologists to pair with each legislator. The society using medical society members to fill-in when there is no ophthalmologist in the district.
- Screening event at the legislature or in the legislator's district
- Invite a legislator to tour a simulation lab
  - It was suggested that the society make certain that physicians associated with any lab toured support the society's position on key issues.

##### Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology

- Rebuilding PAC; use physicians to deliver PAC checks
- Use proactive legislation (e.g., support passage of early eye drop refill bill) as an opportunity to get to know legislators on a less contentious issue.

##### Texas Ophthalmological Association

- Participate with the Texas Medical Association (TMA) in the "White Coat Invasion" at the Texas legislature
- Use MDs to deliver PAC donation checks; try to have legislator come to the physician office to receive the check, as this can allow the physician to show the legislator the technology/diagnostic equipment found in an ophthalmology practice, as well as provide for a good photo op.
- Looking at TMA relationships with the Louisiana State Medical Society as a means of addressing cross-border concerns.

#### **V. CLOSE**

- Councilors expressed concern that no representatives from the Louisiana or Mississippi societies were present at the meeting.