



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
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COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Great Lakes

Chair: Jeffrey W. Perkins, MD

Staff: Asha Sundararaman

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Andrew W. Tharp, MD - Councilor, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Sohail J. Hasan, MD PhD - Councilor, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Kathryn A. Colby, MD PhD - Councilor, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Jennifer Irene Lim, MD - Councilor, Retina Society
- Paul Andrew Edwards, MD - Councilor, American College of Surgeons, Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgery
- Timothy P. Page, MD - Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Thomas J. Byrd, MD - Alternate Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Sarah M. Nehls, MD - Councilor, American Board of Ophthalmology
- Bernard D. Perla, MD - Councilor, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Jeffrey W Perkins, MD - Councilor, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Judy E. Kim, MD - Councilor, American Society of Retina Specialists
- Suzanne M. Falkenberry MD - Councilor, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Kim Williams - Executive Director, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Philip Hessburg, MD
- John Roarty, MD - OPHTHPAC Committee Member
- Rich Paul - Executive Director, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Stefanie Sherman, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Nicole Bajic, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Lindsay A. Machen, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Alisa Prager, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Caroline L Minkus, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jennifer L Rossen, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Grace E. Dunbar, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jordan Hill, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Naryan Sabherwal, MD - Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- William F. Mieler, MD - AAO Board of Trustees

- Reggie Fields – Executive Director, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Roman Krivochenitser, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jennifer C. Larson, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Aleksey Mishulin, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/Wayne State University, Kresge Eye Institute
- Adam J. Weiner, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Beaumont Health System
- Lauren I. Keshishian, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/Henry Ford Hospital
- Yasemin Sozeri, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Victor D. Liou, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Wyatt B. Messenger, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Nicholas A. Moore, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- John R. Stechschulte, MD – Councilor Emeritus, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Stephan G. Dixon, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Enoch Kassa, MD – Advocacy Ambassador, Indiana University
- Sarwat Salim, MD – Council Vice Chair
- Chris Albanis, MD – Associate Secretary, Committee for State Organizational Development
- Aaron C. Holtebeck, MD – Member, Committee for State Organizational Development / Legislative Chair, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

- The State Secretariat's Surgery by Surgeons campaign in state capitols is netting early victories for patient safety and the preservation of surgical standards. We have succeeded in Iowa, Florida, Maryland, Nebraska, Virginia, and Mississippi, and we're trending positively in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina and Vermont
- Optometrists threaten patient safety in three populous states: California, Illinois, and Massachusetts
- Please make a MAJOR confidential contribution NOW to the SSF
- Indiana enacted legislation prohibiting scleral tattooing
- Alaska has introduced a resolution supporting Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month
- Optometry continues to seek to restrict MDs from using web-based refractive technologies and other telemedicine applications, including in Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, and Rhode Island
- The class of LDP XX participated in the Congressional Advocacy Day visits and then held a special session on the Hill.
- Solicitation of nominees for the 21st LDP class is underway.
- The Combined Dues Mailing Program continues to be successful. On April 9, 2018, all state societies were sent an email inviting them to participate in the AAO/State Society Combined Dues Mailing of 2019 Dues program.
- Since the Council last met in October 2017, four state societies and three subspecialty/specialized Interest societies have brought onboard new society executive directors.

B. OPHTHPAC Update - *Sohail Hasan, MD and John Roarty, MD*

- 90% of Congress doesn't have healthcare experience and many of seats are up for re-election, so we expect big changes this year
- 100% of Board Of Trustees is invested in OPHTHPAC
- 73% of Council is invested in OPHTHPAC
- All of this year's Advocacy Ambassadors donated
- 2018 Goals include:
 - Modifying the current pre-authorization process
 - Compounding process
- We need to work on the Senate
- Optometry' State PAC is 10x the size of OPHTHPAC, their federal PAC is probably twice the size

III. REVIEW OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILORS

Ohio Ophthalmological Society - *Bernard D. Perla, MD*

- There are no scope of practice battles on the horizon
Optometrists seem to be distracted with vision insurance bill
- Pearls:
 - We have a Sports Eye Safety campaign: "Play Hard, don't blink" that has been around for a decade. A million and a half dollars is raised every year through vehicle registration for sports goggles, helmets with face shields, face masks, and eye safety products
 - OOS has an expanded presence on social media led by Executive Director, Reggie Fields
 - Joe Coney is coming in as the new OOS President
 - The society is strong and has an active annual meeting
 - 2018 goals include increasing membership

Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons - *Timothy P. Page, MD*

- MiSEPS has 500 active actively enrolled members
- Michigan YO's are very strong
- The society is good financially
- The MiSEPS 2017 Annual meeting was great - It was the 1st weekend of Aug and well-attended with excellent speakers
- Pitfall:
 - There has been a recent change in the Executive Director and we are on the hunt for new Executive Director

Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology - *Suzanne M. Falkenberry MD*

- Pearls:
 - An early eye drop refill bill, signed on Monday (Medicare B & Medicaid require patients to refill at 70 or 80%)
 - The WAO participated in Doctor Day, Wisconsin's Advocacy Day, which included 500 MDs across all specialties, Advocacy Ambassador, Roman Krivochenitser testified at one of the hearings
 - The WAO sponsored 4 Advocacy Ambassadors to Mid Year Forum 2018
- Pitfall:
 - Some large groups dropped out of the WAO
- We met last May with the Optometry society which was extremely helpful. We got insights into their thought process. They have a legislative agenda every year. We're meeting again this May

- A lawsuit has been brought against the Patient Compensation Fund: The WAO has partnered with other specialties to work on lawsuit and we will be testifying
- The WAO is a few board members short. We're working on our annual meeting in September. We will miss Sarwat's planning expertise now that she is moving.

Aaron Holtebeck, MD: Proactive bits of legislation are great times to get facetime with legislatures and to make contact with optometric colleagues.

Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons - *Sohail J. Hasan, MD PhD*

- Pearls:
 - Kathy Colby is our new councilor
 - We had a fantastic ISEPS/COS meeting, which was 14th annual meeting. Aaron Holtebeck came and \$400,000 raised \$100,000 from exhibitors
 - We received contributions to State PAC fund from other states which is much appreciated
 - We are proud of our Advocacy Ambassadors – ISEPS sponsored 10 this year and these issues going to impact them more than us older folks. Optometrists good at recruiting early, and I would like to see us do the same.
 - We're continuing our international project in Vietnam even though the Global Community Service Foundation which we were working with closed down. ISEPS has created a new 501c3 lead by Paul Chan to continue the work with our partner in Vietnam. We're opening up the possibility of some residents going there for rotation.
- Pitfalls:
 - No pitfalls except for Optometry
 - A taskforce was created for a year, but no consensus was reached and thus no legislation was passed. They are now trying to pass the same verbiage of surgery and injections through a rule process, bypassing legislature. But first it has to pass through JCAR and the co-chairs are sympathetic to us.
 - We have hired bunch of lobbyists in addition to our regular lobbyist and are aggressively lobbying legislative members of JCAR. We have received lots of help through SSF.
 - We are working on a bill with our own language defining surgery,
 - We are optimistic that JCAR will reject their verbiage

Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology - *Andrew W. Tharp, MD*

- Pearl:
 - We had a proactive legislative accomplishment: a bill to ban scleral tattooing.
 - The bill included an exception for scleral tattooing by an MD, ex. cornea tattooing.
 - Oklahoma is only other state to ban scleral tattooing.
- We have no scope battles to report
- Pitfall:
 - It is a challenge getting young members to join the IAO. That is our next project.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

- 18-03: Resident/fellow Involvement in CAR Submissions
 - The Ambassador is looking to expand role of the Advocacy Ambassadors including presenting their own CARs and having a spring or fall meeting where the Ambassadors can get together to bring their ideas for consideration at Council meeting. We're supportive.
- 18-05: The Gatekeeper Role of Ophthalmology
 - There are 3 emerging trends:
 - The 42% increase in optometrists in 10 years
 - Aging of boomers and their eye pathologies

- Expanded scope of practice in at least 4 states where optometrists can decide their own scope
- CAR designed to provide greater, more proactive access to training for assistants of comprehensive ophthalmologists (techs, etc). Going to be a need for that.
- Opticians are getting overlooked. They can already dispense and don't have to be licensed. They are not regulated. Opticians, who are a threat to optometry, can be offense on scope practices

V. New/Other Business

- Physicians Assistants:
 - Can optometrists point to practices where PA's inject introvitreal drugs as proof that they should be able to do injections?
 - In most practices PA's are primarily surgical assistants and the filler between techs and physicians.
 - PA's receive surgical training and the license of a PA is completely dependent on the license of the physicians employing them. This is not the case for Optometrists.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Heartland
Chair: Jessica Claussen, MD
Staff: Betty Lucas

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Jessica Clauseen, MD, Councilor, South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology
Geoffrey G. Emerson, MD PhD, Councilor, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
David D. Ingvoldstad, MD, Secretary for Federal Affairs, representing IA, NE, MO, KS, past Councilor, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Tom Grawl, MD, Councilor, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Michelle K. Atchison, MD, Councilor, North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Linda Tsai, MD, Councilor, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Will Packe, MD, Councilor, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
Aaron Rucia, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Daniel Tenevor, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Elizabeth Gauger, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Paul Weisheer, MD, Councilor, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Gregg Lueder, MD, Councilor, American Academy of Pediatrics
George Harocopos, MD, Subspecialty Councilor, Co-Chair American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists
Carla Siegfried, MD, Councilor, American Glaucoma Society

Guests and Staff

Keith Carter, MD, President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
David Glasser, MD, Secretary for Federal Affairs
Tyler Verry, MD Exec Dir, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
Rich Paul, Ex Director, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Mathew Appenzeller, MD, President, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Jeff Maltzman, MD, Chair, Ophthalmology Political Action Committee
Jeffranne Young, MD, Ophthalmology Political Action Committee, President, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Denise Hue, MD, Leadership Development, Program, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Michael Gilbert, MD, Resident, Ambassador, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Ethan Greenberg, MD, Resident, Ambassador, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
Lou Cantor, MD, Senior secretary, Board of Trustees

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – David D. Ingvoldstad, MD

- Scope battles have significantly depleted surgical scope funds.
- Scope bill successes: IA, MD, VA, MS all defeated, NE bill died in committee,

- State bills trending positive in PA, SC, NC and VT
- States with imminent threats of scope battles include IL, MA and CA bills are expected with Senator Hernandez, an optometrist, who terms out this year, is running for LT Gov.

Tips: Let your lobbyists know to look for new scope of practice tactics:

- Illinois is attempting to circumvent the legislative process by going through the rules and regulation committee. They say they are cleaning up rules. Then make scope of practice changes
- MA wants to create an independent optometry board, another way to change scope of practice independently.
- Anti technology bill passed in NE, making online refraction illegal. This started with Opternative, but is expanding: KY, MN, MO and RI have pending bills.
- The Academy supports technology and its development, to help more patients.
- Leadership development nominations are due May 2.
- Combined dues mailing with AAO, agreement timeline is May 7 (26 states involved)
- These mailings have shown a slight increase in society membership, no decrease.

Question Surgical Scope Fund: Does the fund support non-surgical issues?

- In the past, the fund has supported some non-surgical prescription bills, however, an increase in surgical bills has limited its non-surgical funds. The Academy is still available as a resource for planning and strategizing but must pick and choose its battles.
- Without surgical scope fund dollars, many battles would have been lost.
- NE stated they would have been bankrupt, could not have survived the first of 9 bills without this fund. There are 3-1 optometrists in NE.
- Build relationships with local state representatives early. Invite them to visit surgery centers to demonstrate why surgery by surgeons is so important.
- Donate today. All donation details are confidential.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – Jeffranne Young, MD

- Ophthpac provides patient protection at the federal level.
- There are 88 congressional seats and 35 senate seats up for election this year.
- New seats offer new opportunities for health care system improvements.
- The fund oversees Medicare part D cuts, looking at candidates vital to our causes.
- 100% Board of Directors fund participation. Council member support has grown by 10%, now at 73%. Goal is 100%.
- You can donate instantly by texting 41444ophth, for fund updates text 51555Ophth.
- Some successes include: reducing administrative technology burdens, addressing physician burnout, improving patient quality, decreasing prior authorization/Medicare advantage issues, contact lens/compounding, drug pricing, and addressing expanding scope battles at the federal level.
- Very successful Congressional Advocacy program, will need more in the Fall with multiple open seats, which provide opportunities to re-educate new members about ophthalmology issues.
- Contribute \$500 to attend the reception, \$50 for Ambassadors.
- The fund vets new members and relies on states for feedback on who to support.

III. Key Society Highlights

American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists, George Harocopos, MD,

- Society continues to make surgical scope fund contributions, despite many members not in ophthalmology, 20% are pathologists.
- Received funding approval to sponsor ambassadors two years ago, no takers yet.
- Small 170-member society, a minority of members have fellows, half come from pathology. Sending an invitation to all fellows, hoping for more soon.

American Glaucoma Society (AGS) - Carla Siegfried, MD

- Drafting local coverage determination on procedures considering some restrictions, diagnoses, and other MIGS procedures for cataract surgery.
- New health policy leadership training program working with Federal Affairs. Participants for this 2-year intensive training, Regina Smoliac, MD, and Emily Jones, MD
- AGS Cares started last year, signed up over 200 members providing free glaucoma surgery for those who can't afford it.
- New AAO glaucoma website supported by David Pyatt, offers free materials from the AGS Annual Meeting with additional educational materials for AAO members.
- Launching new ophthalmology Glaucoma journal, under the mothership of the Ophthalmology Journal.
- First IRIS registry/AGS research initiative grant awarded to Dr. Olivier to study the demographic differences in MIGs and patient outcomes.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) - Gregg Lueder, MD

- Brail bill came up in MO with identical language: Children with vision impairments, can't use vision aids for vision testing. There are educational advantages to children learning Brail, however some blind people are against braille.
- AAPOS and visual impairment teachers crafted an amendment that children with visual impairments could use aids when vision is being tested.
- Note to members: If a Braille bill comes up in your state, contact Drs, Chang or Lueder.

Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology

- Special thanks to Keith Carter, MD for sending numerous residents, and Dr. Otting who spoke to Iowa legislators about surgery by surgeons. The scope bill didn't pass in sub-committee. Learned a lot over the past three years, anticipate new bills next year.
- Had to cancel a joint educational meeting with the Iowa Medical society, April 28, due to low interest, the meeting date was possibly in conflict with other meetings.
- Society has low membership, partially due to a couple of large practices not joining.
- University sent 5 residents, thanks to Dr. Carter's strong support of future leaders.
- Lost a political ally caught cavorting with a lobbyist in a bar. Will build new allies.

Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Scope battles in the past four years have been avoided by meeting proactively prior.
- KS optometric president seems congenial. With new members, new battles could arise.
- Enjoying good relations with optometry now.
- Membership is very low.

Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Shout out to our advocacy contingent, Ethan, Tim and Will on the hill yesterday.
- Kudos to Tyler, our new executive director. Work has been fast and furious since.
- Internet technology bill has been introduced three times, and opposed all three times.
- Bill this year was modified as a disclaimer "this does not take the place of a comprehensive exam." Got through committee in the House, not the Senate.
- Vision plan bill, between vision plans and optometrists alone, no mention of ophthalmology, is not going forward.
- Strong support for opiate prescribing bills, due to Prince, who died of an opiate overdose in the state. One bill limits opiate prescribing to 7 days, but can be overridden, and a separate bill opposed by the Medical Association.
- Fireworks expansion bill is awaiting vote in both chambers, passed prior but vetoed by the Governor, thanks to a letter sent by ophthalmology.

Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Mandatory Braille bill with all amendments, passed House rules committee, supported by the Academy, AGS and many others. State opposed the Senate version, due to a breakdown between lobbyist wishing to remain neutral, hesitant about going back and losing political capital with other kiosks and technology bills. DR. Chang, got amendments from the House side filed with the Senate. The bill will likely pass with the assessment removed and gives an opt out. This was a learning moment.
- New president elect will attend the Mid-Year-Forum, Council and State affairs to be informed and more familiar with the issues.
- Received a call by optometrists asking why we are not in support of the lens bill to prevent out of state sales. A closer look revealed supplier of lenses had to be approved by optometry only and included technology wording. We opposed the bill.
- Passed legislation to stop eye drop refill bill from sunseting next year.
- Incorporated Missouri dermatologic society in our first skin and eye screening coalition.
- Four-state Table Rock meeting scheduled for this Fall.

Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Quiet year in the state
- There was a scope bill introduced in 2017, no further action in 2018 due to member efforts working with the health committee. New bills are anticipated in January.
- Great scientific Fall meeting, keeps members active, enjoys 70-80% membership, with 100 ophthalmologists in the state, 60-70 attend the meeting.
- Tom has been running the Fall meeting for 16 yrs. He asks two years in advance for speakers. High quality speakers help increase attendance.
- Part of our scope battle successes in committee are due to
 - inviting other specialties through the state medical society to attend, dermatology, etc., and
 - keeping the focus on patient care. No turf battles, only concern for patient safety.

TIP: Look at your state and county boards to build coalitions with other specialties, even when they have nothing to do with ophthalmology. Many of these members have good relationships with senators. We supported their tanning bed issue, they spoke at our meeting about eye lid lesions. The universal concern is about safety for patients.

North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- North Dakota board of medicine passed a rule regarding telemedicine that could affect ophthalmology.
- Anyone in North Dakota using online technology must be licensed and practicing medicine in North Dakota. Guidelines for what constitutes a telemedicine exam.
- Small state, small membership.

South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Legislatively quiet year scope-wise
- Worked with the medical society to try to change close door policies in relation to Medicare contractors in our area for eye stint procedures.

Question: Surgical Scope Fund: South Dakota usually makes contributions to the surgical scope fund. Tax-wise, can membership dues be used for making donations to the surgical scope fund?

- Yes, as a society you can.

Question: Optometric relationships in Minnesota: How close should we keep relationships with optometry societies?

- Varies by state, some have closer relationships than others.

- Executive directors who are also lobbyists, may be more in touch and have closer optometric relationships.
- Never promise or reveal anything without support of the society's board.
- Keep friends close, enemies closer.
- Meetings can be useful to hear what they want without revealing your stance, and helpful when they go to the legislator, they can't claim you were being obstructionist.
- Remain smart. Optometry constantly asks what would we give up, what would we be ok with? We need to put up a wall. Giving an inch, can turn into a mile.
- If they call to speak with the society President, it can be awkward to say no. Proceed with all the above cautions in mind.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

Car 18-09: Combining invoices of AAO national and State society dues with advocacy donations. The point of the CAR is how to streamline the donating process rather than having to make multiple separate payments.

We recognized that separating multi donations in one check would be costly and there are legislative rules around political donations as to why we cannot.

After extensive discussion comparing the stark differences between how optometry gives, pledges to give, and how "giving" is ingrained in optometry training, yet frowned upon when ophthalmology gives.

In summary, our response to this CAR after much discussion is:

Make donating easier, streamline the online donation process, paperless option. (see #5 below)

We also discussed how to increase donations and came to a conclusion along the same lines as the Advocacy Ambassador program:

Change the mentality of membership, shift the focus to younger ophthalmologists, rather than forcing current members who are not giving. Once a contributing member, there is peer to peer influence, if friends are donating, you are too. Other non-giving members may be willing to sponsor a resident.

A past LDP project created talks to foster a more robust advocacy program breaking down simple reasons for why we must give. The AAO has these talks. Ambassadors reporting about their MYF experience helps spread the word. Invite lobbyist to talk about how the state legislator runs. Some residents may be scared and feel it is unethical to give, but when they understand why, it helps pull the curtain away from the mystery.

The following bullets highlight the rest of our discussion of this CAR:

1. Optometrists pay upwards of \$2,200.
2. Ophthalmology is lucky if we donate \$200 at the state level.
3. Optometry political action funds are 1.4 million. Ophthalmology half that.
4. Anything more than \$200 must be public.
5. How to make it easy for Administrators?
 - The Foundation donation page includes a list of 8 or 9 multi choices, but at the bottom is the undesignated general fund. The general fund should be first and all sub categories underneath. Fewer choices and more effective.
 - If the FAO can breakdown separate donations by category, can this same system be applied to all online donations?

6. Optometrists dues are a part of one, even though it's optional.
7. OD political fund \$138,000, goes up during election.
8. Solution "A" may be easiest, AAO dues estimate 15 % deducted for political donation. Can the AAO charge us more than 15% for lobbying to receive more? Some felt this would be too heavy handed.
9. Ophthalmologists donating fear being seen. Optometrists are proud to give.
10. Secretariat meeting similar issues. Simplify online dues. Should we have opt out paperless for our dues? Most agreed this was a great idea.
11. Link to state society, optional, most people will not do it.
12. Talked about reducing dues down, including a suggested optional PAC donation.
13. Some states have large surplus funds that are membership dues. Can't be used for political donations, but unlimited use for lobbying donations, no tax deductions.
14. If every member just gave \$100 to the PAC, if \$365 it would be the largest ever.
15. You have to supply an opt out option, can't force someone to donate.
16. Some states stated that, if they accepted this CAR, they will lose members, some individuals would not be for it, too heavy handed.
17. Surgical scope fund is not part of lobbying. You are asking them to donate.
18. Online donations might be more difficult for Administrator to use, because it would not be the person who is donating.
19. Auto renew dues was discussed but would require keeping credit cards online, which would require going through a third party for security.
20. We agree with AAO, it would be costly, but would the cost be offset by those who opt out to receive paper mailings? Online donations have the potential to make more money.

No other CARS or other business discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50pm

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday April 20, 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
- Michelle Rhee, MD: Alternate Councilor, Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists
- Amjad Hammad, MD: President and Councilor, 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
- Cecily Lesko, MD, FACS: Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology; Surgical Scope Fund Committee Member

Guests and Staff

- Kurt Keitman, MD: Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kenneth Cheng, MD: Chairman, Surgical Scope Fund; Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Denise Alber, MD: Regional Representative, Secretariat for State Affairs
- Don Cinotti, MD: Former OPHTHPAC Chairman; New Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ralph Lanciano, DO: Council Emeritus and Board Member, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Eydie Miller-Ellis, MD: Former President, Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO); Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Gennifer Greebel, MD: Board Member, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Matt Halpin: Executive Director, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Angela Warren: Assistant Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology
- Robin Pellegrino: Executive Director, New York State Ophthalmology Society
- Michelle Boylstein: Executive Director, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Monica Kenney Ertel: Advocacy Ambassador, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Seth Bricel, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Margaret Pollard, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York State Ophthalmological Society

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

- State ophthalmological societies secured victories against optometric surgery legislation in:
 - Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, Virginia.
- No legislation was introduced in two of the threatened states: Florida and Mississippi
 - Both states will likely see OD scope battles in 2019
- Current battles are ongoing in Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania.
- There may be a possible battle in California, but nothing introduced to date
- Surgical Scope Fund remains a vital resource for state ophthalmological societies.
- An urgent plea was made to be sure everyone at Mid-Year Forum donated, and for state societies to encourage their members to donate.
- The LDP class participated in Congressional Advocacy day and held a special session on Capitol Hill.
- Solicitation of nominees for the 21st LDP class is underway. Nominations are due May 2, 2018.
- All state societies were sent an email inviting them to participate in the combined dues mailing with the Academy for 2019.
 - States wishing to participate must submit an agreement by May 7, 2018
- New executive directors have been hired for state ophthalmological societies in Pennsylvania, Oregon, Idaho, and New Hampshire.

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 help ophthalmology build and maintain good relationships with key decision makers on Capitol Hill.
- The Board of Trustees is on pace for 100% participation in OPHTHPAC giving
- To date, 73% of the Council has contributed to OPHTHPAC
- In January 2017, the Academy launched a regulatory relief advocacy campaign focused on reducing administrative burdens and penalties that prevent physicians from focusing exclusively on patient care.
- We were successful in reducing PQRS requirements from nine to six measures and removing the domain requirement.
- We were also able to reduce penalties for small practices.
- We were successful in advocating that CMS reduce Medicare cuts for retina and glaucoma procedures
- We successfully urged CMS to wind up pulling the plug on an ill-conceived plan to control Medicare part B drug costs.

- We continue to fight proposed changes by the Federal Trade Commission to the Federal Contact Lens Rule

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

- Quiet legislative session in Dover.
- A significant turnover of legislative seats is expected in the 2018 elections due to retirements
- Benchmarking health care is a growing issue. The state Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), is making efforts to curtail health care cost inflation in the state. It remains front and center as the biggest moving health policy initiative in the current administration.
 - HJR 7- Legislation passed HJR 7 for DHSS to engage in a health care cost benchmarking process with various healthy industry stakeholders in Delaware.
 - On February 21, the governor created the Health Care Delivery and Cost Advisory Group, which is 13 legislative members who will work with the DHSS Secretary until June 30.
- Legislation to legalize physician assisted suicide made it to a House agenda the last legislative day in January 2018. However, the legislation was ultimately not voted on, and legislators were lobbied heavily by both sides of the issue.
- Medical marijuana legalization is expected to be introduced.
- The society sponsored annual public screening for diabetes and glaucoma initiatives.
- DAO continues to sponsor continuing education meetings for its members.
- Carolyn Glazer Hockstein, MD is the new society president.

Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

- Definition of surgery legislation does not seem to be moving in the legislature
- Traditionally, the definition of surgery bill has been successful in helping to stop optometry's injections bill from moving.
- One of the society's most important legislative allies has been redistricted and will now have a heavily contested race for re-election.
- Legislation has been introduced to restrict the use of telemedicine for vision exams
- The society is supporting legislation to enact a children's vision screening program in Pennsylvania.
- The society is supporting legislation that stipulates no insurance policy, vision care plan or government program may impose a condition or restriction on an eye care provider that is not necessary for the delivery of services or materials or that has the effect of excluding the eye care provider from participation in the insurance policy, vision care plan, government program or any of the participating provider panels for those entities.
- **The society's political action committee has raised \$39,237 and contributed \$29,838 to state candidates.**
 - Conversely, the state Optometric PAC raised \$101,454 and has donated practically all of it.

New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

- New governor has been sworn in, Governor Phil Murphy

- Quiet legislative session in 2018
- The American Optometric Association took great exception to how New Jersey legislation allowing optometrists to prescribe opioids was framed in the national media.
- The state Board of medical Examiners voted to update its regulations regarding eye exams, thus making it permissible for ophthalmologists in New Jersey to conduct vision exams and refractions using diagnostic telemedicine applications.
- The legislature passed out of network legislation
- The society continues to face challenges recruiting more members.
- Donations to the society's political action committee have slightly improved.

New York State Ophthalmological Society

- Compromise legislation has been introduced that would allow optometrists to prescribe limited oral medications.
- The society is supporting proactive legislation that would allow ophthalmic technicians to administer eye drops.
- The society has been coordinating with other specialty societies in exploring strategies challenging Anthem's recent announcement to slash reimbursement claims for E/M services submitted with modifier -25.
- The society has started a Facebook page
- Through articles in the Society's monthly newsletter and posted on the website, NYSOS members were kept updated with a variety of third party news articles, including ones addressing:
 - Changes to United Healthcare VEGF Inhibitors Payment Policy
 - Restoration of diagnosis codes for Medicare coverage of vitrectomy
 - NGS Medicare Policy Revisions for Posterior Segment Imaging, SCODI and Visual Fields
 - Cornea Taxonomy Code
 - Guidance on Responding to Affinity Refund Demand for Refraction Services
- The NYSOS Annual Meeting is in September 2018.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

18-01: Improving Accuracy of Classification Categories for Board Certification

- After brief discussion, there was a consensus from each state on the recommendation

18-02: Patient Advocacy via the AAO

- After brief discussion, there was a regional consensus among each of the states.

18-03: Resident/fellow Involvement in CAR Submissions

- After brief discussion, there was consensus among each of the states.

18-04: State Government Affairs Funding

- After brief discussion, there was a consensus among each of the states.

18-05: The Gatekeeper Role of Ophthalmology

- The overall consensus among the group was that although it sounded like a good idea, the question remained whether it was practical.

18-06: Federal Designation of Convergence Insufficiency as a “Visual Impairment”

- There was a strong agreement among the group to support this recommendation.

18-07: Protecting Technician Performance of Routine Tasks Problem

- There was a lively discussion, but no real consensus emerged.

18-08: AAO Policy on Sexual Harassment

- The group strongly agreed to fully support the recommendation

V. New/Other Business

- Possible discussion at the next regional council meeting of two issues:
 - 1.) Online renewal of contact lens prescriptions
 - 2.) CPT codes for eye procedures

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Mid-Atlantic

Chair: Julie Lee, MD

Staff: Matt Daigle

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Zelia M. Correa, MD, Councilor, PAAO
- Julie S. Lee, MD, Councilor, KAEPS
- Edgar Gamponia, MD, Councilor, WAEPS
- Lee A. Snyder Councilor, MSEPS
- Alan Wagner, MD, Councilor Virginia
- Leslie S. Jones, MD, Councilor WDCMOS
- Mary Louise Collins, MD, Councilor, AAPOS
- Renee Bovelle, MD, Councilor, Maryland

Guests and Staff

- Matt Daigle, Manager, Advocacy Communications, AAO
- John Peters, MD, State Affairs
- Stephanie Jones Marioneaux, MD, OPHTHPAC committee
- Woodford Van Meter, MD, OPHTHPAC committee
- Andrew Prince, AAO Board of Trustees Representative
- Jeffrey Henderer, MD, AAO Committee of Secretaries
- Michael Keverline, LDP, Virginia
- Anthony Viti, MD, Pres-Elect, Virginia
- Emily Chew, MD, Pres ARVO
- Frank Burns, MD, Pres-Elect Kentucky
- Liz Roach, Executive Director, Kentucky
- Kim Ebert, Executive Director, West Virginia
- Nathan Kanvinda, MD, MIT
- Arlan B. Richard, MD, MIT
- Ben Stephens, MD, MIT
- Faisal Ridha Al-Timimi, MD, MIT
- Matthew Tadrus, MD, MIT
- Andrew R Davis, MD, MIT
- Bethany Rommel, MD, MIT
- Rita Page, MD, MIT

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *John Peters, MD*

1. Thanks to Surgical Scope Fund contributors
2. Eighteen total states fighting legislative battles – some still to emerge
3. Worrisome states – California, Illinois, Massachusetts

4. Surgical Scope Fund is key to winning battle – please be generous, these are well-spent funds
5. Anti-technology legislation – please alert regional rep if one emerges
6. LDP class underway, and nominations due by May 2 for next class
7. Combined dues mailing program is moving forward – May 7 deadline for your state to participate. 26 states already involved, with slight uptick in state society membership
8. New society executives – welcome; we're a resource to help you

OPHTHPAC Update – *Stephanie Jones Marioneaux, MD, Woodford Van Meter, MD*

1. Only 73 percent of councilors are donors – it is not unreasonable to seek 100 percent participation
2. OPHTHPAC helped fight Part B and Medicare regulations
3. 88 percent of congressional seats are up for reelection, dozens of physicians running
4. We want candidates who can help us deal with regulatory agencies, like CMS
5. \$2 million goal for 2-year cycle

III. REVIEW OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILORS

District of Columbia

- Impending scope battle pushed by Mayor Bowser – optometrists should be allowed to prescribe opiates
- Modest PAC needs strengthening, because they made disbursements to city council members
- Weighing the value of a more structured meeting which would also include advocacy and grassroots

Kentucky

- Frank Burns, MD, set up group insurance plan for members providing discounted rates for state society members – resulted in slight membership uptick
- Focused on strong meetings – last year's brought in \$90,000+ in sponsorships
- Telemedicine legislation win – key to its defeat was slowing it down

Maryland

- Scope battle win in conjunction with state medical society, great member testimony
- Working on grassroots efforts, seeking to learn how other states are successfully activating their members to advocate

Virginia

- Value of a strong state annual meeting – puts the organization in the black financially, and gives strong footing for advocacy

West Virginia

- Quiet on the legislative front
- Shift from blue to red is providing a legislature that is pro-ophthalmology
- Optometric war chest portends some turbulence

ARVO

- Major meeting in Hawaii, large group attending
- Interested in education, partnering with World Congress of Ophthalmology, seeking more international attendees
- Working with Academy on eye donations, especially cornea tissue
- Seeking patient cases that can show how important eye donations are
- Working to grow to keep the research in line with the advocacy

Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology

- Regional course in Colombia recently held – always looking for speakers

- Umbrella YO section, needs US representation
- Online webinars, flagship program, helps reach multinational audience
- AAO meeting will be combined with Pan-American meeting
- Challenge: reaching more ophthalmologists and sustained funding for programs

AAPOS

- Good group of engaged members working on interorganizational relationship building
- Improved relationships with 17 adjacent organizations – meeting shares, speakers made available
- Relationships are giving us insight into issues related to braille mandates
- Trouble attracting people to pediatric ophthalmology – only 75 percent of their fellowship spots are filled

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

CAR 18-01

- No comments

CAR 18-02

- No comments

CAR 18-03

- No comments

CAR 18-04

- Timely topic, and some states take more dollars than others
- Would shore up existing limitations from Surgical Scope Funds limited abilities to support beyond surgery

CAR 18-05

- Optometry's efforts center on redefining ophthalmology as tertiary care
- There is already an active response in this area

CAR 18-06

- No comments

CAR 18-07

- Question of whether this was already addressed in a previous CAR

CAR 18-08

- No comments

CAR 18-09

- No comments

V. New/Other Business

- Elections – Chair notes their importance and urges participants to stay and vote
-

Meeting adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Mountain West
Chair: Brian T. Rose, MD
Staff: Sue Vicchrilli

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- James G. Howard, MD Utah Ophthalmology Society
- James B. Earl, MD Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
- Prem S. Subramanian, MD, PhD North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
- Jennifer M. Nottage, MD Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
- Craig L. Wilkerson, MD Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Brian T. Rose, MD Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Rebecca Sands Braverman, MD Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Kamalesh J. Ramaiya, MD New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kathleen M. Duerksen, MD American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Guests and Staff

- Chet Steward, Executive Director Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Michael Hodges, MD State Affairs
- Mary Hartnett, MD, Resident, Utah
- David Johnson, MD OPHTHPAC
- Robert Spurny, MD, Past-President Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Michael Burrow, MD Resident Utah
- Christopher Ricks, MD Resident Utah
- Robert Davidson, MD President Arizona Ophthalmology Society
- Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Tara Huhn, MD, Resident Utah
- Ron Pelton, MD Chair, Ethics Committee
- Robert Wiggins, MD Ophthalmic Practice
- Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Council Chair
- Michael Wildes, MD, MIT, Colo.

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Michael Hodges, MD
- Reminder that surgical scope donations can come from corporate funds
 - New game plan – focus is surgical not medical expansion
 - Grass roots is key
 - Encouraged submission of proactive initiatives, not just scope
 - LDP request for submissions due May 2nd
 - Young Ambassador's success
 - 26 states benefiting from combined dues mailing option

B. OPHTHPAC Update - David Johnson, MD

- 73% of council members have donated to OPHTHPAC
- Reminder that contributions must come from personal funds.

III. REVIEW OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILORS

- Arizona Ophthalmological Society
 - Pearl: Winning and engagement builds on itself. Great lobbyist. Optometry lost capital. Medicine supported ophthalmology. Eliminated key steps in oversight. Received Academy funds for social media and public awareness.
- Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
 - Quite year for legislature
 - Problems with VA Choice payment also impacts ASCs. Impacting ability to operate on those patients.
 - Problems with prior authorization with HealthNet. Claims are 500 days past due.
- New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
 - No legislation
 - Discussed PAs role in ophthalmology. Stated some PAs in neighboring states giving intravitreal injections and performing some cosmetic procedures. Concerns expressed also provides arguments in favor of optometric expansion if PAs are doing this.
- Utah Ophthalmology Society
 - UOS and UMA apposed opening the optometric practice act to add language that would stop online ordering of contact lenses.
 - Vision insurance bill passed.
- Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
 - Vision bill also passed
 - Building key relationships. Held reception happy hour following legislative session. Residents attended. Ophthalmic testing equipment available to screen legislators.
 - Aggressive membership drive to match previous year's membership numbers.
- Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
 - New executive director. Imperative the EDs document everything. Need succession planning as councilors and state society president.
- North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
 - Educational effort to help support society online education.
 - Losing specialty to neurology
 - This year maybe one US trained ophthalmologist
- American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
 - Celebrating Sept 5 announcement that functional surgery and cosmetic surgery can be performed and paid (by payer and patient) during same surgical session.
 - Bundling edit for functional bleph and functional ptosis still in effect.
- Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
 - Very quiet on legislative issues
 - Meetings are held using skype, zoom or conference calls. Due to long distance travel difficult to meet in person.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

- 18-01 Improving Accuracy of Classification Categories for Board Certification
 - Recommend separating those who certified vs those who never certified.
- 18-04 State Government Affairs Funding
 - What are sources of revenue?
 - What would have to be cut?
- 18-05 The Gatekeeper Role of Ophthalmology
 - Offering education to physician assistants
 - Is there a code of ethics? Yes.
- 18-07 Protecting Technician Performance of Routine Tasks Problem
 - In favor
- 18-08 AAO Policy on Sexual Harassment
 - Does any other professional organization do this?
 - Appreciated Academy's response

V. New/Other Business

- New autorefractor on market that reportedly refracts within tenth of diopter.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: New England
Chair: Jeffery D. Young, MD (VT)
Staff: Michael Levitt

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Jeffery D. Young, MD, Councilor, Vermont Ophthalmological Society
- Linda Schumacher-Feero, MD, Councilor, Maine Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, OPHTHPAC
- Nancy D. Efferson-Bonachea, MD, Councilor, New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Edward S. Lim, MD, Councilor, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- David R. Rivera, MD, Councilor, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Paul Greenberg, MD, Councilor, Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists
- John Mandeville, MD, PhD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Michael Goldstein, MD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Christie Morse, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Board of Trustees
- Richard Bryan, MD, President, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Christopher Rapuano, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Committee of Secretaries
- Jennifer Chen, Executive Director, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Cindy Mattox, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Trustee at Large
- Gordon Smith, Executive Director, Maine Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Jeffrey Sandler, Councilor Emeritus, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- Marez Megalla, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- Amanda Wong, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
- Steven Thornquist, MD, Legislative Co-Chair, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians; President, Connecticut State Medical Society
- David Emmel, MD, Secretary for Public Affairs, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians; Legislative Chair, Connecticut State Medical Society
- Bill Ehlers, MD, International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology; Legislative Co-chair, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - *Edward S. Lim, MD*

- Give generously to the Surgical Scope Fund and your state society's political action committee.
- Scope battles have been fought and won in Iowa, Nebraska, Maryland, Florida and Virginia.
- Scope battles are still pending in Illinois, Massachusetts and California.
- Optometry-sponsored anti-technology legislation was challenged in Kentucky, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Missouri.

- The Kentucky anti-technology legislation was successfully amended to neutralize its impact and was signed by the Governor.
- For societies interested in a combined dues mailing, contact Lisa Pinkston.
- Please refer to the report in the agenda book for more details.

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

- 95% of the Congress has no background in health care.
- 88% of the Congress is up for re-election.
- Physicians and physician-friendly candidates are contending for seats.
- OPHTHPAC has set a fundraising goal of \$2 million to strengthen ophthalmology's voice on Capitol Hill.
- Though Council participation in OPHTHPAC has been good in the past, contributions have fallen below the trendline thus far at the meeting.
- A card was handed with information and instructions to link members with political news impacting ophthalmology.
- Help identify ophthalmologists who can act as key contacts.
- Refer to the agenda book for a detailed summary of the Academy's achievements working with Congress.

III. REVIEW OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILORS

Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Optometric scope of practice language has been attached to the state budget as a cost-savings measure.
- A Medicaid parity law has undercut a part of optometry's argument on cost.
- Another amendment would study the efficacy of the Department of Health determining the parameters of the optometric scope of practice but with no reference to quality.
- Monitor the state budget process when battling scope of practice expansion efforts.
- Optometrists have a public relations firm and have four of five lobbyists working for them.
- MSEPS has a media training course for members structured like the Academy's course. The course includes a didactic and a practical component.
- The society has increased membership with a special rate for Academic centers.
- The society is grappling with apathy.
- The society is in transition, despite good succession planning, from both an administrative and a leadership perspective.
- Some key supporters at the state house have left.

Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Anti-technology legislation is optometry's issue this year.
- The issue was tabled after a Senate hearing. Negotiations will follow. Legislators are eager for compromise.
- A hearing on a companion bill is approaching.
- No scope battle is looming.
- Apathy is the primary challenge for the society.

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

- It was a quiet year for the society at the state house.
- Since the lobbyist for the optometrists is also the lobbyist for other ancillary groups, the society closely monitors

the lobbyist's strategy and tactics.

- CSEPS recommends that ophthalmology societies actively support the state medical association on other bills not related to optometric scope of practice. This benefits the society by developing relationships within the medical association as well as with legislators.

New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- New Hampshire was quiet with respect to optometric scope of practice.
- Legislators are generally supportive on ophthalmology's views on on-line refractions.
- Anthem rescinded a pay cut for same day services (modifier 25).
- The Society has difficulty engaging ophthalmologists in outlying areas such as Dartmouth.
- The Society has been allocating \$5000 a year to the surgical scope fund above and beyond individual contributions.

Maine Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- The state was quiet on optometric scope of practice, but other scope battles threatened.
- Maine has a coalition to address scope battles built with seed money from the AMA's Scope of Practice Partnership.
- Maine has a major problem with pharmacists who want to do immunizations.
- Physicians Assistants have embarked on a path towards independent practice, following in the steps of nurse practitioners.
- The state is gearing up for an election of a new governor
- The 17th Down East Symposium will have speakers on cataract, glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology.

Vermont Ophthalmological Society

- A scope battle is pending in Vermont
- Optometrists are seeking as-trained legislation.
- Discussions with optometrists came to no satisfactory resolution.
- 20 of 44 ophthalmologists who attended the society's fall meeting expressed support for standing fast on scope of practice expansion.
- Kurt Heitman, MD, Secretary for State Affairs, will be visiting the state to discuss the political situation.
- The Vermont Medical society will help VOS prepare for the fight ahead.
- Psychiatry is engaged in a scope battle with psychologists on prescribing privileges. VOS intends to support their efforts at the state capitol.

Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists

- The main issue is who will replace former Secretary Shulkin.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

CAR 18-05 State Governmental Affairs Funding

- General support for increased staffing for state governmental affairs was voiced.

CAR 18-06 Federal Designation of Convergence Insufficiency as a "Visual Impairment"

- Support was voiced for reversing the federal guidelines defining convergence insufficiency as a visual impairment.
- This issue takes valuable resources away from children that have true vision problems.

CAR 18-07 Protecting Technician Performance of Routine Tasks

- Supports was voiced for a task force to address legislative and regulatory challenges to the roles played by ophthalmic technicians.
- Support was voiced for protecting the national and international accepted standards of tasks performed by ophthalmic technicians.

V. New/Other Business

- A discussion ensued on problems and costs related to the use of certified medical translators and communications with deaf patients.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Pacific Coast
Chair: V. Nicholas Batra, MD
Staff: Scott Haber

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- JoAnn Gioconi, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- Troy Elander, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- Rhoads Stevens, MD, Hawaii Ophthalmology Society- State Councilor
- Hardeep Dhindsa, MD, Nevada Ophthalmology Society- State Councilor
- Michael Brush, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Aaron Weingeist, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David Zumbo, MD, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Councilor
- Armin Afshar, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Alternate Councilor
- USE ATTENDANCE SHEET TO FILL-IN

Guests and Staff

- Niraj Patel, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, OPHTHPAC Committee
- Debra Alderman, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Steve Friedlander, MD, Nevada Ophthalmology Society, American Academy of Ophthalmology State Affairs Committee
- Rebecca Dale, MD, LDP, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, President-Elect
- Tommy Apra, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Courtney Francis, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Linda Day, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Emily P Jones, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
- Frank Scotti, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Past-Councilor
- David Xu, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Daniel Briceland, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology Senior Secretary for Advocacy
- Michael Chiang, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Steve Friedlander*
- Very active and successful year for scope of practice battles at the state level
 - Victories secured in Iowa, Florida, Maryland, Nebraska, and Virginia
 - Pending OD legislation in a number of states but things are tending positively

- Surgical scope fund continues to be successful and urge continuing support from members. Dr. Friedlander and others in regional meeting reiterated the need for support for surgical scope fund.

B. OPHTHPAC Update - *Niraj Patel, MD- Washington*

- Successful year for OPHTHPAC and commitment from members helped success on a variety of issues.
- Continue to work on building relationships with key members in the House and Senate but need additional support from members
- Session attendees were urged to continue to support OPHTHPAC, as commitment enables Academy advocacy efforts to continue to be successful.
- Dr. Patel highlighted OPHTHPAC's mobile cause effort and reiterated need for 100% participation by councilors.

III. REVIEW OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILORS

Councilors briefly recapped activities in their states to allow more time for discussion of specific CARs

- California- California is quiet on the legislative front but with state speaker an OD and him leaving office in near term, they are watching for action that would impact ophthalmology. There have been a couple of legislative bills, though nothing significant, one "fix-it" bill. California is also working to renew members to its state society, after a portion failed to renew. This has occurred and years past and they have been able to speak to those who haven't renewed and kept strong participation. California discussed the significant percentage of members at Kaiser and the group discussed their model and participation in state society, AAO activities.
- Alaska- Very quiet in Alaska on legislative front after previous battles on OD issues. In Alaska, a state legislator expressed interest in getting an ophthalmologist on the Board of Optometry in the state. The state society also recently formed a PAC to become more engaged politically at the state level.
- Washington- Councilors stated that it was relatively quiet in Washington but they were watching activity. Mentioned that they were informed that state optometric group is looking to hire a grassroots coordinator which could be a precursor to legislative activity.
- Nevada- In Nevada, there was legislative activity related to online refraction. There was a meeting with state optometric leadership to identify places of agreement. Dr. Friedlander told regional meeting that there was very little agreement, as optometric leadership would only agree to not push to do procedures in a sterile operating room. There is likely to be a scope battle in the near term in Nevada.
- Oregon- No legislative activity to report in Oregon. Councilor mentioned that she was going to be presenting a CAR for the first time and asked meeting attendees for advice and process for consideration.
- Hawaii- No legislative activity to report in Hawaii. Dr. Stevens highlighted challenges faced related to prior authorization and it is becoming an impediment to care. He mentioned that the ARVO meeting will be held in Hawaii this year and urged attendees to come and visit.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

CAR-18-02- Patient Advocacy via the AAO

- Discussion focused on identifying or assigning a specific entity or person at the Academy for a role on patient advocacy. Many of the issues discussed at meeting, including drug prices, focused on patient issues.
- A number of councilors agreed that this was a strong CAR and worthy of discussion.
- Dr. Stevens expressed concerns that it would lead AAO away from advocating for ophthalmologists and that the American Medical Association had regressed due to a move away from advocating for physicians.
- Councilors mentioned that the Academy, including through its mission statement, always focused on challenges faced by patients and ophthalmology's support for them.
-

CAR-18-09- AAO Policy on Sexual Harassment

- The CAR was not discussed at length but the Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons was supportive of the CAR.
- Dr. Briceland told meeting attendees that the Academy had taken steps to address this recently.

V. New/Other Business

Dr. Batra asked attendees if they had any new business but none was shared. The meeting was adjourned.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

Region: Southeast
Chair: Anna Kao, MD, GA Councilor
Staff: Cherie McNett

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Won Kim, MD - Alabama
- Mark Michels, MD - Florida
- Brad Fouracker, MD - Florida
- Joe Nesgoda, MD - Florida
- Stuart McCracken, MD - North Carolina
- Christina Ferrari, MD - Puerto Rico
- Todd Gwinn, MD - South Carolina
- Mark Ewald, MD - Tennessee

Guests and Staff

- Janet Betchkal, MD - OphthPAC Rep.
- Christina Ferrari - Exec. Dir, Puerto Rico
- Bill Clifford, MD - Committee of Secretaries
- Christie Morse, MD - AAO Board
- Chassidy Singleton, MD - NMA, FL
- Bill Clark, MD - Guest, GA Society
- Russell Read, MD - AL Society
- Rehan Hussein, MD - Retina Society, FL
- Kitty Gordan, MD - NC Society
- Anat Galor, MD - OMIG, FL
- Regine Pappas, MD - WIO
- Preeya Gupta, MD - ASCRS, NC
- Jackie DeValle, Exec. Dir., Puerto Rico
- Bob Palmer, Dir. State Affairs
- Advocacy Ambassadors: Josh Barnett (TN) Sapir Karli (SC)
Alex de Castro-Abeger (TN)

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - Won Kim, MD
- Provided based on written report
- B. OPHTHPAC Update - Janet Betchkal, MD
- Provided based on written report

III. KEY SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

- Alabama – There were no legislative battles of note in AL this year but they are hearing that that could change next year. The society sponsored two Academy Ambassadors from University of Alabama at Birmingham. Looking forward to upcoming Southeast Eye meeting in July.
- Florida – Their society is on high alert for next year also. The society has named a new Carrier Advisory Committee representative. Additionally, they are sponsoring a YO seminar at this year's Annual Meeting.
- Georgia – Despite fighting hard the state was hit with legislation that was originally blocked but then it was raised through other channels and passed last year. However, they have been able to hold in check by requiring training by an ophthalmologist and regulated by the board of medicine. Nurse practitioners were granted additionally authority in rural areas this year
- North Carolina – Held a successful CodeQuest recently. They have been fighting a very heated battle with BCBS-NC regarding the eye visit versus E/M codes. Negative legislation this year was tied up in the House and turned into a study committee which then failed in the Senate. This took a herculean effort that pulled the entire state society together for very successful fundraising and lobbying efforts. They plan to continue those activities going forward as they know another attempt will come next year.
- Puerto Rico – The society has continued to maintain limited optometric scope and will remain committed to that as there is word that there will be an attempt to expand OD scope next year. There is also concern because of the ongoing devastation from Hurricane Maria that many free clinics are popping up. They have also experience devastating drug shortages. Appreciated the efforts of Bascom Palmer who provided drugs and helped with transporting patients in need of emergency eye surgeries.
- South Carolina – Pleased to announce that they now have a slot on their board reserved for a YO member and seeing more residents also getting involved.
- Tennessee – Had a quiet legislative year but are anticipating more activity next year. Working on efforts to improve their state society membership which is only 40% of ophthalmologists in the state currently. That was increased slightly from the combined billing statements. There is a tight job market making it hard to retain younger members. There was an ophthalmologist running for the US Senate but he did not contact the state society for support and has since withdrawn.
- Cornea Society – no major issues to report.
- National Medical Association – Their annual meeting is in FL and sponsoring a telemedicine symposium at the Academy this year. Recently upgraded our website and also sponsored 2 ambassadors this year.

IV. REVIEW OF CARS SUBMITTED

- CAR18-01 – Board Certification: the region took no action
- CAR18-02 – Patient Advocacy: the region chose not to take action
- CAR18-03 – Resident/Fellow Involvement: the region opposed this unanimously
- CAR 18-04 - State Government Affairs Funding: No action
- CAR 18-05 – Gatekeeper Role: No action
- CAR 18-06 – Convergence Insufficiency: the region supported

- CAR 18-07 - Protecting technicians: the region supported
- CAR18-08 - Sexual Harassment: this CAR was unanimously supported
- CAR 18-09 - Combination dues: No action

V. New/Other Business

- *There was discussion in new business regarding the use of physicians' assistants as practice extenders. The section was concerned and wished to voice concerns over and clarification of the Academy's possibly encouraging of PAs and optometrists within the practice of ophthalmology including involvement in our educational program at annual meeting. A request was made to pass these concerns to Council Chair.*
- The SE section also recommends that the Academy form an ad hoc process to establish emergency protocols when there are any new national disasters.

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 20, 2018

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

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Michael J. Borne, MD, Councilor, Mississippi Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- George S. Ellis Jr., MD, FACS, Councilor, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Richard Galen Kemp, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Gary L. Legault, MD, Alternate Councilor, Society of Military Ophthalmologists
- Mark L. Mazow, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Aaron M. Miller, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Amalia Miranda, MD, Councilor, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Thomas H. Moseley, MD, Councilor, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
- Ankoor Shah, MD, Alternate Councilor, American Society of Retina Specialists

Guests and Staff

- Chris Albanis, MD, Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Noy Ashkenazy, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Cindy Bradford, MD, Past President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Rachel T. Fuerst, MD Advocacy Ambassador, LSU Medical Center New Orleans
- Sidney Gicheru, MD, Member, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Lynn Gordon, MD, PhD, Council Chair, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- John M. Haley, MD, President, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Ben Harvey, MD, President, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Laura Hawkins, Executive Director, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
- Sanjiv Kumar, MD, President-Elect, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Austin S. Nakatsuka, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Rachael Reed, Executive Director, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology and Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Malkit (Mona) Kaur Singh, MD, MPP, Advocacy Ambassador, Texas Ophthalmological Association

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Chris Albanis, MD
- Nominations for the Academy's Leadership Development Program are due by May 2. This successful program offers support to societies in developing future leaders.
 - Combined Academy/State Society Dues Mailing is an annual partnership between the Academy and state societies in which the Academy includes state society dues invoices in its own mailing of membership dues. State societies wishing to

participate in the 2019 Combined Mailing of Academy/State Society Dues should contact Lisa Pinkston (lpinkston@aao.org) before May 7.

- State societies and Academy, with critical support from Surgical Scope Fund, have secured patient victories in several states thus far in 2018.
- The scope battle playing out in Illinois encompasses what many state societies are facing, plus a new twist.
 - As is often found with sunset bills, compromise legislation includes a task force or study group, through which both sides forced to meet to discuss possible compromise. In IL, the study group met monthly with little progress made: optometry proposes scope expansion with a 32-hour training course that would allow optometrists to perform a wide range of procedures. Optometry would not entertain any points for negotiation – holding firm to their position. Ophthalmology held firm to “surgery is for surgeons.”
 - The new twist is that an Illinois regulatory agency is now advocating for the OD proposal, supporting optometry’s position before the legislative committee.
 - State societies should track regulatory activity closely to identify when this new tactic is being used in your states.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – Sidney Gicheru, MD

- OPHTHPAC’s efforts focus on fundraising and supporting Congressional campaigns of those who champion ophthalmology and the needs of our patients.
- As of this session, the Academy’s Board of Trustees has 100% participation and the Council has 73% participation in OPHTHPAC. Those who have not yet contributed are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Our fundraising goal is \$2 million, with 20% member participation in OPHTHPAC.
- Election highlights:
 - We expect healthcare will be a top issue in 2018 races.
 - Many physicians are running for Congress, and we hope to see a net increase in the number of physician Members.
- Legislative highlights: During Congressional Advocacy Day 2018 visits with legislators/legislative staff, ophthalmologists addressed a range of topics, including the administrative burdens posed by Medicare quality programs, rising drug prices, and the VA TECS program.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS)

- ASRS continues to work on retina-related policy issues, including access to compounded drugs, obtaining regulatory relief, and advocating for increased NEI funding.
- The Foundation of the ASRS recently launched Retina Health Series, downloadable patient outreach brochures.
- The ASRS annual meeting will be held July 20-25 in Vancouver, BC, and the society provides several other annual educational sessions throughout the year.

Arkansas Ophthalmological Society (AOS)

- Two physicians are running unopposed for legislative seats.
- AOS members continue to volunteer for the state medical society’s “Doctor of the Day” program, to support society grassroots efforts.
- AOS supports tort reform via a coalition created to inform and mobilize voters to pass a constitutional amendment on the November 2018 ballot.

- While legislative activity has been quiet, the society has learned that substantial optometric donations have been made to the Governor's campaign, which may indicate optometry intends to file a scope bill during the next legislative session.

Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (LAEPS)

- Governmental relations activities have been quiet this year.
- With input from the TOA executive director, LAEPS has developed an RFP in preparation for hiring a new executive director. Some administrative support is currently being provided for LAEPS by the state medical association.

Mississippi Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (MAEPS)

- The legislative session ended on April 1. The society was able to hold back 2 optometry bills this session – a scope bill and an optometry-led proposal to mandate comprehensive eye exams for school-age children.
- MAEPS anticipates optometry will bring forward a scope bill within the next 1-2 years.
- Society will continue to focus on legislator relations and preparing MAEPS members.

Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO)

- OAO has seen no scope legislation this session. The society is supporting the House of Medicine's efforts to enact state budget reforms.
- Optometry is focusing on a battle with Walmart regarding laws governing sale of eyeglasses and practice of optometry inside large retailers. Optometry is also focusing on telehealth legislation.

Society of Military Ophthalmologists (SMO)

- SMO held its annual meeting last fall in conjunction with AAO 2017 in New Orleans.
- Society leaders are focusing on increasing membership in the society and making potential members aware of membership activities.
- While scope issues sometimes arise within the military, these are typically addressed via the administrative structure.

Texas Ophthalmological Association (TOA)

- The Texas legislature is not in session in 2018.
- The society is instead focusing on educating legislators about ophthalmology and ophthalmic patient concerns.
- TOA held 4 Codequest sessions in 2018, all of which qualified for self-assessment CME. TOA will hold its annual meeting in San Antonio on May 18-19, in conjunction with the Texas Medical Association. The meeting will include a resident presentation competition.
- TOA sponsored 7 Advocacy Ambassadors to attend the Academy's Mid-Year Forum and Congressional Advocacy Day.
- Free membership and Codequest registration is provided by TOA to its members in training (residents and fellows).
- An article concerning the optometry surgical fellowship offered by the University of the Incarnate Word's Rosenberg School of Optometry in Carthage, TX, for which patients and optometrists travel to DeSoto Parish Regional Eye Institute and Surgery Center in Logansport, LA to perform 'laser procedures' and removal of 'lumps and bumps,' indicated that optometry intends to bring a scope bill in 2019.

IV. Review of Council Advisory Recommendations (CARS) Submitted

- Region chair Dr. Miller summarizes each CAR and offered each for discussion by attendees. Attendees commented on several CARs, but no action was taken by the region.

V. New/Other Business

- Dr. Miller challenged Tornado Belt Councilors to contribute to both OPHTHPAC and Surgical Scope Fund.