

# Optimum VA



The Official Newsletter of the  
National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists  
Fall 2016

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Optimum VA Newsletter is a quarterly publication distributed in January, April, July and October.

Deadline for submissions are 2/27, 5/31, 8/31, and 11/30.

Please e-mail any submissions to the newsletter editor

## President's Column



*Nancy Wong, O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O.*

The NAVAIO annual Business Meeting and Annual Meeting / Reception will be held concurrently with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The venue will be the Hilton Anaheim (AAO Meeting Headquarters Hotel). The 2016 NAVAIO Business Meeting (7:15pm - 8:00pm • Pacific Ballroom B • 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) is open to active NAVAIO members. The Annual Meeting & Reception will be on held at the Hilton Anaheim (Pacific Ballroom C • 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) starting at 8:15pm. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Thomas R. Stelmack. Dr. Stelmack is the Chief of the Optometry Section at The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (Chicago, IL). Additionally, he is a Founding

Member of NAVAIO. NAVAIO is honored to have Dr. Stelmack share insights on the evolution and advancement of VA Optometry.

Multiple items will be presented at the NAVAIO Business Meeting which is open to all active members. Membership will be briefed on updates on the role of VA direct scheduling. The updated NAVAIO website will be discussed. Additionally, pursuant of Article VIII of the NAVAIO bylaws, 2 proposals have were put forth to the President over 120 days ago for an amendment of the bylaws. The proposed amendments received approval from greater than two-thirds majority of the Board. The proposed amendments will be discussed and voted upon at the annual business meeting:

- Article I Section 2:

*The current NAVAIO annual due is \$50 for all Members and \$25 for optometric research/clinical fellows & optometric residents. Moreover, no initiation fee exists. In order to adjust for increasing costs, an amendment has been proposed to raise the NAVAIO annual Members due to \$60.*

- Article V:

*An amendment has been proposed to clarify the nomination process for NAVAIO positions. The amendment specifies that each member may nominate one individual per office (including himself or herself); however, the member may not nominate the same person for more than one NAVAIO office during a single election period. For a given position, the individuals receiving the most and second most nominations will run for the office during a given election period.*

For 2016, NAVAIO will offer ten \$300 Resident Scholarships. The scholarships are sponsored jointly by IET (International Engineering Technology) Foundation and NAVAIO. Active resident members may submit an application for the scholarship toward attendance to the 2016 AAO meeting.

We look forward to the attendance of the NAVAIO membership and invited guests to the 2016 NAVAIO Annual Meeting and Reception. The meeting provides an opportunity to touch base with fellow VA optometrists and connect with leaders of the optometric profession.

## From the Editor



*David Galeoto, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

Welcome to the fall 2016 edition of Optimum VA. It's the most wonderful time of the year! Apple picking? Pumpkin Picking? Halloween? Thanksgiving? No! It's time for the American Academy of Optometry's annual meeting in sunny Anaheim, California. That wonderful time of year when we get away from work, leave the family behind, travel across the country, gain some continuing education, reconnect with old friends and maybe even meet some new colleagues. At least that's one optometrist's point of view. Maybe I'm the only one who sees it that way. Or am I? In this edition we offer a preview of this year's upcoming meeting.

Since the moment I met my mentor (and now good friend), Brian Mahoney, O.D., Chief of Optometry, Wilmington Delaware VAMC, I knew I wanted to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I consider myself very lucky that I only had to flounder around after residency for about 6 months before my dream job opened up at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx NY. I knew working for the Department of Veterans Affairs was the correct decision for me. However, I must admit sometime around year five, on a Friday with a doctor short and about 10 walk-in triage patients I may have, for a brief fleeting moment, contemplated, "What would it be like if I did not work for the Department of Veterans Affairs?"

So is the grass greener or is it just Astroturf? Maybe I'm the only VA Optometrist who has thought this? Or am I? In this edition the newsletter committee wanted to know the perspective of those O.D.'s who have left federal service to pursue other opportunities. One former VA doctor who is now working at a university hospital was kind enough to share her experience. In future newsletters we would like to present the insights of an optometrist who is now in private practice and one who has moved on to a purely academic setting. The newsletter committee is working hard to bring you those points of view.

As always, the newsletter committee concludes the newsletter with a list of upcoming CE. We hope you find this edition of the newsletter useful and feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments.

## Updates from the NAVA Board



*Jennifer Gustafson, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

No updates at this time.



*Janel L. Chou, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

**SECRETARY**

Hello fellow members and welcome fall! As the days get shorter and busier there is less and less time to attend meetings and keep up to date on current events in the VA. Please continue to check the *Conference Call Minutes* in the Member Area Pages of the NAVAIO website to reference quickly changes that are occurring throughout the VA. There are many new directives and changes that affect you directly including security changes in your electronic human resource file, open season for life insurance and changes in flex spending and medical reimbursements. Please continue to keep up to date on changes involving direct scheduling and new guidelines on reprocessing reusable medical equipment. I hope you can all make the NAVAIO meeting in Anaheim in conjunction with Academy so we can continue to share best practices and strengthen our camaraderie. I will continue to post the minutes as quickly as possible and if you have any questions, additions, or feedback about the current minutes, please contact me at [janel.chou@va.gov](mailto:janel.chou@va.gov). Thanks to our wonderful technology committee lead by Dr. Mercado for the beautiful new website. Hopefully it will make it easier for you to access and find the conference call minutes and other great resources available to you as members.



*Makasha Sink, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

**TREASURER**

No updates at this time.



*Brian Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.O.*

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

No updates at this time.



*Molly McGinty-Tauren, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

## **DIRECTOR OF EVENTS**

The annual NAVAO meeting and reception will be held in conjunction with the AAO meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2016. The event will be held at the Hilton Anaheim at 777 West Convention Way. In keeping with tradition, the business meeting is for active VA Staff members of NAVAO only. It will be held 7:15pm - 8:00pm in Pacific Ballroom B. The reception will follow at 8:15pm in Pacific Ballroom C. This year's keynote speaker will be Thomas R. Stelmack, OD, FAAO, Chief

Optometry Section at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and is a founding member of NAVAO.

Please register for the meeting at [www.NAVAo.org](http://www.NAVAo.org). Registration is required for all attendants even if you're only able to join us for one of the two components of the event. The Early Registration Deadline is Friday, October 21, 2016. So bring your residents and bring your best smile for the photo-booth. We look forward to seeing you there.

NAVAO Annual Meeting Registration Fee

Members (Includes Honorary & Founding Members) • \$25

Residents / Research Fellows – Member • Free



*Katherine L. Wang, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

The NAVAO is in its fourth year of providing scholarships to VA optometry residents. This year ten \$300 scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship funding will be provided by the International Engineering Technology (IET) Foundation. Scholarship recipients will be announced October 24, 2016 and given out at the annual NAVAO reception on November 10, 2016. We look forward to seeing all the NAVAO members at the annual reception and please encourage VA staff optometrists at your facility to join and support NAVAO!



*Kevin Mercado, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

## **DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

NAVAO has launched our new website and I hope you've had a chance to visit the new site. We've added new features, such as a **member forum**, **text message alerts**, and will soon include **social media**. We've kept and updated our most popular features, including **open optometry positions**, **NAVAO newsletters**, **VA optometry HQ announcements**, **member resources** and more! We hope that you will continue to find the website helpful and informative. Please visit [www.navao.org](http://www.navao.org), post in our forum, sign up for text alerts, and let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions!



This year's American Academy of Optometry's annual meeting will be held Wednesday, November 9 through Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Orange County, California. There will be a total of over 250 hours of continuing education credit offered with approximately 34 hours attainable per individual. Attendance is estimated to be around 6,000 optometrists, optometry students, vision scientists, and others in the field of optometry and vision science.

The Academy has issued a press release highlighting some of the notable events occurring at this year's meeting:

This year the Academy will welcome world-renowned author and extraordinary speaker Malcolm Gladwell to present the Plenary Session, "Today's Research, Tomorrow's Practice®: Current State of Health Care and Research." Mr. Gladwell's presentation is pending one hour of CE credit and the Academy is very pleased to thank Essilor for their support of this educational program. The session will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 from 1 to 2 PM.

From 2 to 3 PM, Mr. Gladwell will host a separate panel discussion with members of senior management from Alcon, Allergan, and Essilor. The panel discussion is sure to be a dynamic exchange with Mr. Gladwell that addresses issues such as the value of ongoing research and introduction of new products for the future. No CE credit will be given for the panel presentation. The Academy is grateful to Alcon, Essilor, and Allergan for sponsoring this portion of the 2016 program.

Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five *New York Times* bestsellers — *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, and *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants*. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by *TIME Magazine* and one of the Foreign Policy's Top Global Thinkers. He has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1996, has won a national magazine award and been honored by the American Psychological Society and the American Sociological Society. He was previously a science and medicine reporter for *The Washington Post*.

The Monroe J. Hirsch Symposium, "The Distressed Eye: Ocular Pain," will focus on several key aspects of ocular pain. Discussions surrounding sensory transduction and signaling in the eye, the psychophysical measurement of ocular surface pain and thermal sensing, and innovative treatment strategies will be presented. Speakers include Carlos Belmonte, MD, PhD, Trefford Simpson, DipOptom, MS, PhD, and Nancy McNamara, OD, PhD, FAAO.

The topic of the second Joint American Academy of Optometry and American Academy of Ophthalmology Symposium will be keratitis in contact lens care. As medical devices, contact lenses have the potential to cause significant corneal morbidity. Several corneal responses will be examined ranging from corneal inflammatory events to rare non-bacterial corneal infections. Current literature will be shared to help aid in the important differentials and a discussion will highlight strategies to avoid serious sight threatening complications. This symposium is a continuation of the effort by the two Academy organizations to work together to better prepare and support their members in delivering the highest quality eye care.

Ezell Fellows Present 2016 will be titled, "The Future of Optical Interventions is Now." Three investigators at different stages of their careers, supported early in their careers by receiving AOF Ezell Fellowships, will focus on how contact lenses can provide value-added benefits beyond vision correction. The exciting topics will include the current state of wavefront-guided scleral contact lenses for minimizing visual problems in the highly aberrated eye, and the latest developments in lens designs for myopia control and presbyopia. Speakers include Ray Applegate of the University of Houston, Jeffrey Walline of the Ohio State University, and Ravi Bakaraju of the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

The Academy's Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will present symposia on an array of topics from "Myopia Control Utilizing Contact Lenses" to "The Gut-Brain Axis: A Paradigm Shift in Health Care."

Academy 2016 Anaheim will provide numerous events for residents learn, showcase their work, and network. Residents Day is Saturday, November 12. Residents will present their cases and research during the paper presentations from 8 AM to Noon and the poster presentations from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. A resident luncheon will take place that day from Noon to 1:15 PM. This luncheon will provide networking opportunities and also a prize drawing for those residents who submit an application for Candidacy for Fellowship during the meeting. Note that the \$60 fee for applying for Candidacy for Fellowship is waived for those who apply at Academy 2016 Anaheim. A Residents Day Reception will take place at the end of Residents Day from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Additional opportunities for networking include the Resident/Practitioner Networking Event that will take place Thursday, November 10 from 4 to 5:30 PM. Note that RSVP is required for this event.

The Academy has also announced their 2016 Award Recipients:

"Each year the American Academy of Optometry recognizes distinguished individuals who have made countless contributions to advancing the profession of optometry. This year, the Academy is pleased to recognize six international awardees from Hong Kong, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom and South Africa.

"The individuals nominated for awards this year were all exceptional individuals, which made it a difficult but rewarding task to come up with leading candidates. I am indebted to those who performed the nominations, and those who served on the awards committee. The high quality of candidates is an indication of the success, improvement and influence of the American Academy of Optometry, the American Optometric Foundation, and its members," remarked Chris A. Johnson, PhD, DSc, FAAO, Awards Committee Chair.

The Academy is pleased to announce the 2016 award recipients:

**Martin S. Banks, MA, PhD**  
*Charles F. Prentice Medal and Lecture Award*

**Erica Fletcher, OD, PhD, FAAO**  
*Glenn A. Fry Award and Lecture*  
*(American Optometric Foundation Award)*

**Nimesh Patel, OD, PhD, FAAO**  
*Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Award*

**Wolfgang Cagnolati, MS, DSc, FAAO**  
*AAO-Essilor Award for Outstanding*  
*International Contributions to Optometry*

**Rachel “Stacey” Coulter, OD, FAAO**  
*William Feinbloom Award*

**Kelly Moore, OD, MS**  
*Julius F. Neumueller Award in Optics*  
*(American Optometric Foundation Award)*

**Richard London, MA, OD, FAAO**  
*Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award*

**Anthony J. Adams, OD, PhD, FAAO**  
**Thomas L. Lewis, OD, PhD, FAAO**  
*Life Fellow Award*

**Ying Hon, BSc(Hons)Optom, and Andrew K. C. Lam, PhD, MPhil, FAAO**  
*Garland W. Clay Award*

**Timothy B. Edrington, OD, MS, FAAO**  
*Michael G. Harris Award for Excellence in Optometric Education*  
*(American Optometric Foundation Award)*

*Awards of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies*

**Perry Rosenthal, MD**  
*Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award*

**Alan Tomlinson, MSc, PhD, DSc**  
*Founders' Award*

*Award of the Public Health & Environmental Vision Section*

**Kovin Naidoo, OD, PhD, FAAO**  
*Henry B. Peters Memorial Award*  
*in Public Health and Environmental Vision*  
*(American Optometric Foundation Award)*

Award winners will be recognized at the Academy 2016 Anaheim Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 11, 8:00-10:00 AM, in Ballroom E of the Anaheim Convention Center. Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies award recipients will be honored at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, November 9 in Room 207 A-D. The Henry B. Peters Memorial Award will be given on Thursday, November 10 at 4:30 PM in Room 205 AB.”

For more information on Academy 2016 Anaheim, please visit <http://www.aaopt.org/regsite>.

## **Is the Grass Greener? Working for the Department of Veterans Affairs vs. A University Hospital**

By Kelli Shaon, O.D.

I started my optometric career more than 11 years ago. If you would have asked me then where I would be in 10 years, without a doubt, I would have answered that I would be working in the VA system. I had just completed a well-respected VA residency and had recently started my dream job in the Fayetteville, Arkansas VA.

The VA system was immediately a wonderful fit for my personality and for my career aspirations. I did not want the stress of opening/running my own private practice but I wanted to practice to the full extent of my licensure. It was my goal to provide full scope eye care and treat/manage ocular disease in a method similar to my residency training. This was something I was fortunate enough to do on a daily basis as a staff optometrist for the VA. I also wanted the opportunity to play an influential role in optometric education. The VA optometric community is extremely supportive and has a huge impact on training future optometrists, both externs and residents. I was privileged to be a part of the training of numerous optometry residents during my VA career.

Here we are over 10 years later. I am sure you can guess from the title of this article that I am no longer a VA optometrist. While I did spend 9 years of my career with the VA, family and relocation ultimately resulted in my job transition. I left the VA but was honored to join on as faculty for my local University Department of Ophthalmology. There was an adjustment between the two practice types but not more than one would expect. Many individuals might think that there are significant differences between these two modes of practice. However, the university setting is not actually that different. Both the VA and University clinics are hospital based and government funded. This means at either location the hiring of support staff or other employees, ordering of equipment, and changes to salary require a specific protocol and often a large amount of paperwork. Both systems are also more referral-based in which other physicians, including primary care and specialty providers are referring their patients for ocular health exams and for other ocular urgencies/emergencies. This allows for practicing broad scope primary eye care in both settings. Academics and education are another area of similarity. Both settings are very supportive of educational and clinical training. The VA funds hundreds of optometric residencies every year and allows for optometry externs to rotate through hospitals and clinics nationwide. A University setting has always been well known to be academic in nature. My current position allows for working with many medical students and ophthalmology residents in variety of educational situations. We will also be adding optometric externs within the next few months and are currently working to collaborate with our local VA to assist with an optometry residency program.

Not every job or even every location can be exactly alike so there are definitely some differences between the VA and the University setting. The largest variations between the two practice modes are the patient population

and the issues with insurance. It is well known that the VA patient base must be over the age of 18 and is comprised of a larger percentage of male patients. My patient base at the University is a much broader, general population with age ranges from birth to death. Yes, that actually means I have seen a newborn baby and a 100 year-old in the same week. Just a word of advice for any long-time practicing VA providers, this may require a review session for patching/atropine as treatment for patients with amblyopia. Additionally, insurance coverage and restrictions were not something that I had to spend much time on when providing care in the VA. That is not as true in the University setting. Insurance coverage or lack thereof can influence what testing your patient will agree to, the medication you can prescribe, or if the patient will return for follow-up. Insurance coverage also strongly influences glasses/contact lens prescriptions or low vision devices. Medical insurances often will not cover these items and patients must decide if they want to "purchase" these devices or services. This was not something that I personally dealt with while at the VA. The VA system was always very supportive with providing the Veterans with services or devices needed.

So what kind of optometrist would be the right fit for the VA, university or academic setting? It is my belief that it takes a very similar individual to fit both of these modalities. A person that is strong-willed, highly motivated, and flexible. Both positions require an optometrist that is willing to learn constantly and reach outside of his/her comfort zone to provide the best patient care and student/resident education. This also should be someone that is resourceful and willing to go the extra mile to help the patients even in the event of limited or restricted resources and/or funding. Optometrists in both of these practice modalities are, at many times handling referrals from other health and eye care providers which often means a larger amount of pathology or difficult to handle cases. So if more routine vision or eye care is the goal then neither one of these practices would likely be an ideal fit. The best fit would be an optometrist that is better suited to handle large amounts of systemic and ocular disease, specialty contacts lenses and low vision needs.

As a provider in both the VA and the University setting, I did and still do consider it a privilege to handle all of the primary eye care needs for my patients until they need a specialist and/or surgery. This ensures that all of my patients receive consistent care and only the necessary cases are referred out to sub-specialists. It is my belief that many other providers practicing in similar settings also feel the same way.

## Upcoming Continuing Education

### November

#### *Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEP) Visual Dysfunctions Conference*

- November 2-6, 2016
- OEP National Education Center, Timonium, Maryland

#### *American Academy of Optometry*

- November 9-12, 2016
- Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California

#### *Virginia Optometric Association (VOA) Voyages-in-Vision*

- November 10-13, 2016
- Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, St. John's, Antigua

#### *Arizona Optometric Association (AZOA) 2016 Fall Congress*

- November 11-13, 2016
- Hilton Sedona Resort, Sedona, AZ

*Wisconsin Optometric Association (WOA) Primary Care Symposium*

- November 11-12, 2016
- Kalahari Resort Wisconsin, Dells, Wisconsin

*California Optometric Association (COA) Monterey Symposium*

- November 18-20, 2016
- Monterey Marriot Hotel & Conference Center, Monterey, California

*Indonesia Optical Expo*

- November 23-25, 2016
- Jakarta Expo Center, Jakarta, Indonesia

**DECEMBER**

*Optometric Retina Society and Review of Optometry: Retina Updated 2016*

- December 2-4, 2016
- The Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Arizona

*West Coast Glaucoma Symposium*

- December 9-10, 2016
- Hilton Waterfront Beach, Huntington Beach, California

**JANUARY**

*Arizona Optometric Association (AZOA) 2017 Bronstein Contact Lens and Cornea Seminar*

- January 13-15, 2017
- Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas, Scottsdale, Arizona

*2017 Island Eyes Conference*

- January 22-28, 2017
- The Kauai Marriott Resort, Lihue, Hawaii

**FEBRUARY**

*AEA Cruise-South Caribbean*

- February 11-18, 2017
- Aboard The Royal Clipper, Barbados

*AEA Cruise-Western Caribbean*

- February 19-26, 2017
- Aboard NCL Getaway, Miami, Florida

# NAVAO Committees

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for the management of the business of the NAVAO and advises the President on all policy matters of the Association. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

## Executive Committee Members:

- Nancy N. Wong, O.D., Ph.D. F.A.A.O. (President and Chair)
- Jennifer Gustafson, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Vice-President)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Secretary)
- Makesha Sink, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Treasurer)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. F.A.A.O. (Immediate Past President)

The **Finance Committee** monitors funds and assists the Treasurer in the collection and disbursements of funds. The committee also projects future financial demands and sources for the Association.

## Finance Committee Members:

- Makesha Sink, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Treasurer and Chair)
- Glenn Saxon, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Brooke A. Smith, O.D., F.A.A.O.

The **Membership Committee** recommends means for membership retention and growth and monitors pertinent data about the membership.

## Membership Committee Members:

- Katherine L. Wang, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Membership Director and Chair)
- Amber Louprasong, O.D. (Vice-Chair)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Rachel Caywood, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Theresa Chong Fernandez, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Meghan Elkins, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Joy A Kerns, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Rebecca Kline, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Susie L. Lim, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- David N. Lynne, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Jarett Mazarella, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Heather Spampinato, O.D., F.A.A.O.

The **Events Committee** is responsible for planning and overseeing all NAVAO functions, including the annual NAVAO Business Meeting, Reception, and Dinner.

**Events Committee Members:**

- Molly B. McGinty-Tauren, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Director of Events and Chair)
- Jennifer Gustafson, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Rebecca Forman, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Kelly H. Thomann, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Katherine L. Wang, O.D., F.A.A.O.

The **Newsletter Committee** is responsible for maintaining a formal communications link with the membership and assists the Newsletter Editor with publishing the quarterly NAVAO Newsletter.

**Newsletter Committee Members:**

- David Galeoto, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Newsletter Editor and Chair)
- Nancy N. Wong, O.D., Ph.D. F.A.A.O. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Treacy Adamo, O.D.
- Carrie Ho, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Terry Luk, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Michelle Matson, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Tam Nguyen, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O.
- Kelly Richmond-Revy, O.D.
- Dawn N. Tomasini, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Robert Wang, O.D., F.A.A.O.

The **Technology Committee** is responsible for communicating with the membership via online technology. The Committee will maintain the NAVAO website, make suggestions for its improvement or enhancement, and conduct events requiring technological support as directed by the Executive Committee.

**Technology Committee Members:**

- Kevin Mercado, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Director of Technology and Chair)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.O. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Justin Cole, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Jason Powell, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Richard J. Zimbalist, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Brett Zwolensky, O.D., F.A.A.O.