

Optimum VA



The Official Newsletter of the
National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists

Fall 2012

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Optimum VA Newsletter is a quarterly publication distributed in December, March, June and September.

Deadline for submissions are 11/30, 2/28, 5/31, and 8/31 respectively.

Please e-mail any submissions to our newsletter editor, Dawn N. Tomasini at dawn.tomasini@va.gov

President's Column

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

Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A.

PRESIDENT



Dear NAVAIO Members,

Many thanks to those of you who joined us for our annual meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) meeting in Phoenix. Nearly 100 NAVAIO members, residents, and invited guests attended the meeting. Dr. Charles (Chuck) Haine and his wife, Connie, were presented with an award for their many years of service to the Optometric Residency Matching Service (ORMS). We were also honored to have Dr. John Townsend, Director of the VA Optometry Service, as our keynote speaker this year. Dr. Townsend provided attendees with a very informative update about the VA Optometry Service. Please be sure to read the summary of the meeting prepared by our Vice-President, Dr. David Storer, in this edition of the newsletter for more details. We received positive reviews from attendees regarding the new reception format and we look forward to continuing to enhance the annual meeting in response to member feedback.

A motion was passed by the unanimous vote of members at this year's NAVAIO Business Meeting to request that the ACOE consider the addition of a dedicated seat to the ACOE Council to represent VA educational programs. A letter was sent to the ACOE shortly after our meeting and we were informed that the ACOE would be discussing our request at their meeting. We will keep you informed.

Please note that 2013 will be an election year for the NAVAIO offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. According to the NAVAIO Constitution, the President and Vice-President have a two term limit. Dr. Storer and I are both currently serving our second and final term in our respective offices. The Secretary and Treasurer may serve an indefinite number of terms. I will be sending out the call for nominations to our members around July of next year. Nominations may come from any member for him or herself or for another member. Elections will be here before you know it, so please start thinking about your interest in running for office or if there are members you would like to nominate for these important leadership positions in our organization. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about elections.

January is our annual membership drive month, so please be sure to visit our website and renew your membership for 2013! Please join or renew your membership for 2013 to strengthen our voice for VA Optometry. We'd also ask that you please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAIO as well. Current or former members can simply login to the members area of the NAVAIO website and follow the instructions to renew at the top of the page. Prior members with expired membership should also login to the members area to renew as your membership information will still be in our database. Please click on the [Forgot User Name/Password](#) link if you cannot remember your login information. New members (those who have never been a member of NAVAIO) should join by visiting the [Join Us](#) page and selecting the appropriate membership category. Your all-volunteer board and committee members have been working hard this past year to move our organization forward and we truly appreciate your continued support! As an added incentive, we will be randomly selecting one person from the first 100 renewals or sign-ups we receive for a free year of NAVAIO membership in 2014. We will also randomly select one more individual from all of those who renew before the 1/31/2013 deadline (including the first 100 who sign-up) for a free 2014 membership as well. We will provide a third free membership if we

meet our goal of 500 members this year, too. Increase your chances to obtain a free 2014 membership and be one of the first 100 to renew or sign-up for 2013!

Thank you for your dedicated service to our nation's veterans and best wishes for the upcoming holiday season!

Brian

From the Editor

Dawn N. Tomasini, O.D., F.A.A.O.



Welcome back! It has been a while since our last newsletter. The Newsletter Committee has decided to adjust its publishing dates to allow more time for information to be collected from the annual meeting which is held in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry conference. So, our new months of publication will be December, March, June and September. Please note that submission dates have changed as well.

This edition gives you an overview of the annual meeting in Phoenix at which Dr. Townsend addressed NAVAO members, giving them an update on the status of VA Optometry. We also recognize VA optometrists that have authored articles within the past few months as well as the VA optometrists that received fellowship at this year's Academy conference.

The newsletter committee would also like to announce that it will be changing the "Member News" section of the newsletter to a "Meet a Member" section in which we will introduce members of the NAVAO with a short bio and photo. The section will be debuting in the Winter 2013 edition.

We are always looking to improve Optimum VA so please feel free to contact us with ideas, comments, questions or suggestions.

Updates from the NAVAIO Board

David G. Storer, O.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT



Winter 2012-2013 is almost here. It is difficult for me to fully comprehend how quickly 2012 has raced past us. This winter the NAVAIO Executive Committee is again placing a very high priority on membership renewal of current NAVAIO members and the recruitment of new members. Our Membership Committee needs the help of all of us in this effort to reach out to nearly half of the VA's optometrists who are not active members of NAVAIO. Again this year Dr. Kathy Wang is our point person, as the Membership Director. As in years past, we continue to see that as we increase in our membership, NAVAIO leadership carries a more significant voice at Headquarters, as well as with other arenas of professional interest, where NAVAIO serves as a critical voice for VA optometrists. NAVAIO continues to fill the gap for VA optometrists, in areas where VA optometry interests must be represented and protected. As I have previously mentioned, a strong membership allows our President, Dr. Brian Kawasaki, supported by the NAVAIO Executive Committee, to speak with a unified voice for VA optometry in forums where representation is critical.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended this fall's business meeting and the new NAVAIO reception. We have received much positive feedback on the reception format. I would like to again publically thank Dr. Minna Huang, NAVAIO's Director of Events, for the superhuman effort that she put in again to this year's event. Everyone on the Board deeply appreciates all of Dr. Huang's tireless contributions each year.

Dr. Kawasaki met with the Executive Committee in Phoenix and has put in place many new initiatives, in addition to the in the area of membership. I believe you will be excited as these initiatives begin to unfold over the coming year. I would encourage all of our members to keep abreast of NAVAIO and VA optometry by frequently visiting our website. Dr. Kevin Mercado, our Director of Technology has worked closely with Dr. Kawasaki to make the member side of the website a significant value to all of our members. For example, two of the most popular areas of the website visited by our members is this Newsletter, put together by Dr. Dawn Tomasini, Newsletter Editor, and her staff, and the monthly VA Optometry Service Conference Call Minutes authored by Dr. Janel Chou, NAVAIO Secretary. We on the Executive Committee believe that it is contributions such as those of Drs. Tomasini and Chou that add significant value to NAVAIO membership. We hope to get this part of our message out to VA optometrists who are not currently active members of NAVAIO, through our current members.

We would continue to encourage those VA optometrists, who have not yet joined or renewed their NAVAIO membership for 2013, to consider joining, and participating in NAVAIO, and that our current members renew their membership early in 2013. Current or former members can simply go to the home page of the NAVAIO website and click on the "Join Us" button in the menu bar at the top left side of the page. We also would like to request that our current members actively engage and encourage non-member optometrists at their facilities to join NAVAIO for the reasons I have cited above, and many others I have not, due to space restriction in this column.

On a personal note, I will participate in another medical mission that will include eye care in Guyana, South America from late December through the 9th of January 2013. As with last year's medical mission to Haiti in May 2011, we will be taking a significant number of optometry students with us – 9 this year. We conduct full dilated fundus examinations on all of the patients the we see and it is a significant professional development opportunity for our students. We anticipate seeing over 1500 patients in the Guyana medical clinic this year, the bulk of whom will receive an complete eye examination and will be provided with glasses, which we take with us. We will also process special order glasses for those whom we do not have the correct prescription in our inventory of glasses. Alcon and Allergan have donated over \$200,000 in topical medications for the mission and Merck nearly \$75,000 in oral antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals.

In closing, I would like to again issue a personal invitation to the membership to please let us know if there is any area that you believe requires more attention from your Board. We strive to provide an immediate response to your queries and suggestions. To reach the Board simply go to the home page of the NAVAIO website and click on the "Contact Us" button in the menu bar at the top left side of the page.

Janel L. Chou, O.D.

SECRETARY



Happy Winter NAVAIO members! It was so great seeing and meeting a lot of you during the academy meeting this past October!! We had a great time and hope you liked the new format for the reception. There have been many changes within VA optometry including the enrollment of ORMatch for optometric residencies, the One Source Document site for reusable medical equipment, the continual expansion of teleretinal imaging screening more and more veterans each year and significant improvements and promotion of TBI related eye injuries and low vision .rehabilitation.

I know everyone is busy so please continue to keep up with all these changes by logging onto the website. We will continue to post the minutes to the monthly optometry service call and, as always, this will be located in the members section of our website under *VA Workgroups /Conference Call Minutes* as soon as you log in on the right side of the page. The minutes are now archived so you can easily access past minutes. We have worked hard this year to make the website easier to navigate as well as to include more content for our members.

Our membership drive is coming up, so we hope you will encourage others that are not already members to join. It is from all the support we get from our members that we gain knowledge and strength to continue to improve patient care for our veterans and continue to practice at the highest level in optometry. I am excited

about the upcoming year and if you have any feedback, please contact me; I would love to hear it! Stay warm and happy holidays to you and your families.

Makesha Sink, O.D.

TREASURER



As the cold of winter sets in, we are busy planning new and exciting things for the coming year with NAVAO. The 2013 budget is approved and we have some great updates to the website underway to provide the membership with more information and links to give us all up to date information with VA optometry and beyond. The Phoenix reception and meeting this fall brought about some exciting changes for NAVAO and we are looking forward to moving ahead with these in the next years to come. Thank you to Minna Huang and the events committee for doing a great job as always in planning these events. Please let us know if you have any suggestions that we can use to improve NAVAO, and it is an honor serving you along with the rest of the executive board. Happy holidays to you all!

Gay K. Tokumaru, O.D.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME

Katherine L. Wang, O.D.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



January is our annual membership drive month; however, online renewal is now open for those who wish to renew early. Simply login to the members area of the NAVAIO website at www.navao.org and follow the instructions to renew at the top of the page. The deadline to renew is January 31, 2013, after which a late fee will apply. Please encourage your fellow optometrists at your facility and VISN to join so we can have a strong representation of VA optometrists! Optometric residents are also encouraged to join organized optometry at a reduced rate. Please encourage your current residents to join NAVAIO.

We are also pleased to announce that there will be up to 3 opportunities for a free membership:

- An "early bird" drawing: one individual who is among the first 100 to join or renew will be randomly selected for free membership the following year in 2014.
- Random drawing: one individual who joins or renews before the January 31 deadline will be randomly selected for free membership the following year.
- Finally, if we reach our 500th membership for 2013, there will be a third free membership selected at random!

So please join or renew as soon as possible to be eligible for a free year of membership in 2014! Please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAIO, too.

Minna Huang, O.D.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Director of Events)



NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME

Kevin Mercado, O.D.

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY



It was good to meet and see many of you during the NAVAIO meeting this fall. I hope everyone is doing well. In the last few months, the website has seen several updates and improvements. While many of these updates are behind the scenes features allowing more efficient and cost effective means of posting website news, emails and maintenance, there are also updates that will hopefully benefit our members.

Most recently, in the member section of the website, the addition of a “Compensation & Pension Workgroup/Conference Call” and a “Contact Lens Workgroup” page has been completed. These new pages can be found on the reorganized “VA Workgroups/Conference Call Minutes” page. We hope these pages will provide continually updated and useful information for NAVAIO members.

Members will also find a new user friendly update to the website as well. Members may now change their name, contact information and password as desired as opposed to being limited to changes only at renewal or sign up times.

The “Board Members” page has been updated with photos and we hope that you will enjoy the new “Annual Meeting Photo Gallery” page.

Please also visit the “Open Positions” page of our website to find a continually updated comprehensive list of open VA optometry positions throughout the VA system.

As always, if you have website questions or suggestions, please contact me at Kevin.Mercado@navao.org.

NAVAO Annual Meeting Phoenix 2012

NAVAO Annual Meeting, Phoenix 2012

The 2012 Annual NAVAO Meeting presented a unique professional opportunity for VA optometrists to meet with, not only other VA field optometrists, but also many influential professionals within optometry in a new low-key social setting of a reception. Representatives from many of optometry's key professional organizations were in attendance at this year's dinner. Speakers for the evening included, Dr. Ronald L. Hopping, O.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.O, current President of the AOA, and Dr. John C. Townsend, O.D., F.A.A.O., Director, VA Optometry Service.

Nearly a hundred VA optometrists and NAVAO's invited, honored guests attended the 2012 meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix on Thursday, October 25, 2012. The highlight of the evening, for attendees, was the keynote speaker, Dr. John C. Townsend who discussed the current status of VA optometry.

NAVAO's President, Dr. Brian Kawasaki, opened the evening's events by offering a warm welcome to all of the members in attendance and our guests, in his opening comments. Dr. Kawasaki introduced our honored guests, including Dr. Charles (Chuck) Haine, who administered for over 30 years, the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS) with his wife, Mrs. Connie Haine. The Board of Directors of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) recently announce it had established ORMatch, the new Optometry Residency Match, to replace ORMS, upon Dr. and Mrs. Haine's retirement from the program. Dr. and Mrs. Haine were presented with an award from NAVAO for their service to ORMS and the optometric profession. Dr. Kawasaki also introduced the other NAVAO Board Members who were in attendance at this year's meeting. Dr. Kawasaki proceeded with the events agenda by introducing each of the evening's speakers to the attendees.

Dr. Hopping directed his comments to his personal experience with VA Optometry, as a child when his father worked in the Dayton, Ohio VA facility. In his remarks, he stressed the strong support that NAVAO and VA Optometry could continue to expect from the AOA during his term as President. As with his predecessors, he confirmed that the support within the AOA leadership structure for VA Optometry remained strong and would continue over the coming years.



Dr. Townsend addressed the attendees, as the evening's Keynote Speaker, and his comments were deeply appreciated by, and found to be very informative to all. Dr. Townsend provided a summary of where VA optometry is today, in comparison to a brief overview from its modest beginnings nearly four decades ago. Dr. Townsend pointed out that year after year, VA optometry has continued to provide eye care to increased numbers of veterans, leading up to caring for nearly 1.5 million veterans during fiscal year 2012. He also reviewed VA optometry's contributions and initiatives in the areas of low vision, tele-retinal screening, diabetic retinal eye examinations, poly-trauma and TBI, optometry research efforts, student, residency and fellowship training programs, and the DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence. Dr.

Townsend closed his comments with a brief discussion of the challenges facing VA optometry, as well as the future opportunities that present themselves to our chosen profession, within the VA. Dr. Townsend closed with a candid brief question and answer session after his presentation.

Dr. Kawasaki closed the evening's events by presenting to Dr. Townsend a colored etching of the Lincoln and Washington Memorials, located in his hometown of Washington, D.C. Dr. Kawasaki recognized Dr. Townsend's strong support of the field that makes up VA Optometry and specifically thanked him for filling the role of this year's Keynote Speaker for the 2012 Annual NAVAO Meeting.



Dr. Kawasaki invited attendees to remain as late as they desired to enjoy the final portion of the reception that included desserts. Most attendees remained afterwards to continue the evening's social and professional conversations and discussions that had begun before the formal program. It was a most enjoyable evening and many attendees expressed their anticipation for next year's event in Seattle.



From left to right: Dr. Brian Kawasaki (NAVAO President), Dr. Anthony Borgognoni (AFOS Executive Director), Mrs. Gina Borgognoni (AFOS Executive Director), Dr. Jeffrey Autrey (AFOS President-Elect), Dr. Ronald Hopping (AOA President), Dr. Alyon Wasik (AFOS resident), and Dr. John Townsend (Director, VA Optometry Service)

Guest Column: Board Certification Update

Kenneth J. Myers, Ph.D., O.D., ABCMO President

ABCMO Information

A: After June 1, 2013, the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) will certify as specialists in medical optometry only applicants who have:

1. Completed an ACOE accredited residency with emphasis in medical optometry.
2. Successfully passed the Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
3. Documented active practice of medical optometry in an appropriate clinical setting for a specific period.
4. Met other requirements specified in ABCMO Bylaws (www.abcmo.org).

In its first three years of operation, ABCMO permitted those who had completed residency on or before 2006 to apply for certification without sitting the ABCMO examination (Career Path 2) and those who had not completed a residency or passed ABCMO to petition for certification (Career Path 3). On June 1, 2013, Career paths 2 and 3 close permanently.

B: ABCMO is now recognized as a specialty certifying board by credentialing committees at Joint Commission accredited health facilities that include federal VA, DOD, Public Health Svc and Indian Health Svc hospitals and clinics as well as state chartered health systems including the Mayo system and individual hospitals and teaching clinics at optometry and medical institutions.

ABCMO-certified ODs may now indicate they are specialists in medical optometry and list ABCMO as their specialty certification board. ABCMO provides written verification of certification to credentialing committees during credentialing reviews at Joint Commission accredited medical facilities.

C: Interest in ABCMO has grown faster than expected with just under 300 certified, enabling the American College of Medical Optometry to form. The College, an integral component of the ABCMO, will elect its board of advisors and provide educational and social events concurrent with the annual ABCMO meeting during the Academy meeting each October.

If you are interested in organizing the College please contact me so I can forward your name to those working on its formation. (myers.kenj@gmail.com)

Other Credentialing Information

“Board certification” has been a hot potato with many claims made over the last four years. The accepted purpose of board certification is to certify competence as a specialist in an area of one’s licensed health profession. There are 74 recognized specialty boards in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, podiatry and optometry. None board certify those holding competence at the level of licensure, reserving board certification for specialists who have served a specialty residency and passed an examination testing advanced competence in that specialty.

Verifying continued competence at the level of licensure is not recognized by credentialing committees as board certification and does not confer specialist status since continued competence is maintenance of license and not certification of specialist status.

(Visit the North Carolina State Medical Board and click on “who may call themselves board certified and the North Carolina State Board of Optometry.)

The recent law-suit between the American Optometric Society (AOS) and the American Board of Optometry (ABO) concluded in a California Federal District Court this July and resulted in:

1. The permanent injunction remained against ABO claiming its credential certified competence exceeding that required for licensure or license renewal.
2. A new ruling allowed ABO to continue to name its credential “board certification in optometry” as no evidence of harm to the public or to non-ABO certified optometrists had been proven by usage of the this term before the public.

Following trial, AOS felt it won as the judge continued to bar ABO claiming its credential certified any competence superior to that of licensure while ABO felt it won by being allowed to continue to issue its credential as named and AOS was required to pay all legal fees incurred by ABO in defending itself against the AOS suit.

While some ODs with no additional training represent themselves to the public as “board certified”, many state licensing boards prohibit falsely advertizing oneself as a specialist and credentialing committees at accredited medical facilities actually determine who is a “board certified specialist” following Joint Commission requirements.

In essence, the Judge left it up to the general public to decide which credentials, if any beside the OD degree, have relevance in private practice.

Kenneth J Myers, Ph.D., O.D.
President, ABCMO
Director Emeritus, VA Optometry Svc.

Appointment of Dr. Arol Augsburger to the VA Special Medical Advisory Group (SMAG)

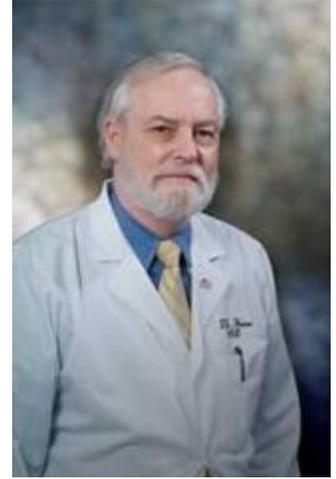


The VA Special Medical Advisory Group (SMAG) provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on matters relating to the care and treatment of veterans and other matters pertinent to the operations of the Veterans Health Administration (i.e., research, education and training of health manpower, and VA/DOD contingency planning). Committee members are comprised of a disabled veteran, as well as members of the medical, dental, podiatric, optometric and allied health professions, and other individuals considered by the Under Secretary for Health to have experience pertinent to the mission of the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Norman Haffner served on SMAG

for an unprecedented 25 years and retired from the committee last year. NAVAIO was honored to have Dr. Haffner serve as our 2011 keynote speaker and privileged to recognize his tremendous service to the profession at last year's meeting. We were pleased to hear that Dr. Arol Augsburger, President of the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO), was recently appointed to SMAG by the VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Robert Petzel. Dr. Augsburger was appointed President of ICO in 2002. Prior to joining ICO, Dr. Augsburger served as interim provost at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He has been honored with numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award by the American Optometric Association and state Optometrist of the Year in Illinois, Ohio, and Alabama. We welcome Dr. Augsburger to his new position on SMAG!

Dr. and Mrs. Haine Honored at the 2012 NAAO Meeting

In April 2012, The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) announced the establishment of ORMatch to replace the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS), which was created in 1984 and administered for many years by Dr. Charles (Chuck) Haine and his wife, Connie, who both retired earlier this year. ORMatch will be designed and administered by National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS). NMS administers matching programs for many professions in the United States, including pharmacy, psychology, dentistry, and osteopathic medicine. Policy guidance and oversight of ORMatch will be by the new ASCO ORMatch Committee comprised of three ASCO representatives, three VA representatives, and a Chair. Dr. and Mrs. Haine were presented with an award at this year's NAAO meeting to recognize their many years of service to ORMS.



Dr. Haine has served as Chief of Optometry at the Newington VA Medical Center and at the Danville VA Medical Center. While serving the VA, he developed two residency education programs and two student-training programs. He was a member of the VA Optometry Field Advisory Group and was a consultant to the Director of the Optometry Service on Resource Allocation Methodology.

Within academia, Dr. Haine has held numerous positions at various optometric colleges including; the first Director of Clinics and Continuing Education at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern College of Optometry and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs at the College of Optometry at Western University of Health Sciences.

Dr. Haine had been involved with ORMS since it was formed back in 1984. Under the guidance of Dr. Haine and his wife, Connie, ORMS has evolved not only into a system to match optometry residency programs with appropriate candidates, but also an information source for potential applicants, including a residents' email directory and an annual report to the residency community.

Congratulations VA Authors

The NAVAQ would like to recognize the following Veterans Affairs optometrists who have published within the last few months.

Review of Optometry

• May 2012

- "The Many Paths of Acute Optic Neuropathy"

By **Douglas Tassi**, O.D., and **Gary VanderZee**, O.D.

(Both Drs. Tassi and VanderZee are at the VA in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Dr. VanderZee serves as chief of optometry there.)

• June 2012

- "Adult Vitelliform Maculopathy Management: From Anti-Vegf to Low Vision"

By **Virginia Monteith Hodges**, O.D., and **Wendy Marie McGonigal**, O.D.

(Dr. McGonigal is the residency coordinator at the Lake City VA in Florida, and Dr. Hodges completed her residency there under Dr. McGonigal)

- "Prostate Surgery Precipitates 'Shock-Induced' Vision Loss"

By **Trina C. Perkins**, O.D., and **Susannah B. Marcus-Freeman**, O.D.

(Dr. Perkins is at The Villages VA Outpatient Clinic in Florida, and Dr. Marcus-Freeman is the residency coordinator at the Malcolm Randall VA in Gainesville, Florida)

- "Cataract Prevention: A Race Against Time?"

By **Marc D. Myers**, O.D., and Andrew S. Gurwood, O.D.

(Dr. Myers is at the Coatesville VA in Pennsylvania)

• July 2012

- "Optic Neuropathies: Glaucomatous vs. Non-glaucomatous"

By Julie K. Hutchinson, O.D., Andrew S. Gurwood, O.D., and **Marc D. Myers**, O.D.)

(Again, Dr. Myers is at the VA in Coatesville)

Please notify our newsletter editor, Dawn Tomasini, at dawn.tomasini@navao.org if we inadvertently missed anyone else who might have published this past quarter.

Congratulations New Academy Fellows!

The American Academy of Optometry inducted 204 new fellows at the 2012 conference in Phoenix. The NAAO would like to congratulate the following 23 Veterans Affairs optometrist on their completion of Fellowship.

Dr. Aaron W. Case
Dr. Adam M. Preston
Dr. Alvaro Castillo
Dr. Amy L. Pedersen
Dr. Andrea L. Murphy
Dr. Angella B. Gentry
Dr. Brian M. Colander
Dr. David M. Hicks
Dr. Erin F. Swift
Dr. Frankie F. Goolsby
Dr. Jane Kuo
Dr. Joseph W. Gallagher
Dr. Kimberly May Dillivan
Dr. Kristin McDougall
Dr. Kyla Smith
Dr. Lindsey K. Lear
Dr. Megan Alberts
Dr. Meghan Elkins
Dr. Nicole M. Kosciuk
Dr. Nyssa Connell
Dr. Piper G. Groppel
Dr. Richard Zimbalist
Dr. Shephali Patel

2013 Continuing Education

January 2013

[2013 Bronstein Contact Lens and Cornea Seminar. Scottsdale, AZ. Jan 11 -13](#)

[Berkeley Practicum. Berkeley Marina, CA Jan 12-14](#)

[2013 Glaucoma Symposium. Woodinville, WA. Jan 12](#)

[Eye on Diabetes, VSP. Pacific University College of Optometry. Jan 13](#)

[Gold Coast Retreat. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Jan 19-20](#)

[Cap Cana, Dominican Republic 2013. Jan 19-26](#)

[2013 Island Eyes Conference. Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa. Jan 20-26](#)

[Global Specialty Lens Symposium. Las Vegas, NV. Jan 24 - 27](#)

[5th Annual Clinical Optometry Update & Review. Texas Tech University, Lubbock Campus, TX Jan 25](#)

[Jules Stein Eye Institute & SCCO Annual Symposium, SCCO Fullerton Campus. Jan 27](#)

[SUNY Oral Pharmaceuticals Day. SUNY College of Optometry. Jan 27](#)

[2013 Winter Seminar in Optometry. Athens, GA. Jan 27](#)

[Virginia Optometric Association 2013 One-Day Conference. Richmond Marriott West, VA. Jan 27.](#)

February 2013

[AEA Optometric Cruise Seminar 2013. Hawaii. Feb 2-9](#)

[Indiana Optometric Association Winter Seminar. Carmel, IN. Feb 6.](#)

[2013 MOA Winter Seminar. East Lansing, MI. Feb 6-7](#)

[SUNY Glaucoma Symposium. La Guardia Marriott, NY. Feb 10](#)

[Heart of America Contact Lens Society 2013 Conference. Kansas City, MO. Feb 15-17](#)

[Ski Vision 2013. Snowmass Village, CO. Feb 16-20](#)

[AEA Optometric Cruise Seminars 2013. Southern Caribbean. Feb 16 - 23](#)

[AEA Optometric Cruise Seminars 2013. Eastern Caribbean. Feb 17 - 24](#)

[Oregon Optom Physicians Assoc Winter CE Event. Welches, OR. Feb 22 - 23](#)

[Northwest Congress of Optometry. Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. Feb 23 - 24](#)

[Curacao 2013. February 23 - March 2](#)

[Seco International 2013. Atlanta, GA. Feb 27 - March 3](#)

[MOA 2013 Winter Educational Symposium. Big Sky, MT. Feb 28-March 2](#)

March 2013

[Main Optometric Association "CE & Ski" Sunday River Ski Resort. Newry, ME. March 1 - 2](#)

[Ocular Disease Part I - All therapeutic CE Program. SCCO. March 2-3](#)

[27th Annual EYESKI Conference. Park City, UT. March 3-8](#)

[Vision Expo East. New York, NY. March 14 - 17](#)

[PSS 7th Annual Conference on Comprehensive Eye Care. Niagra Falls, NY. March 16 - 17](#)

April 2013

[OptoWest. Indian Wells, CA. April 4 - 6](#)

[NSU See 2013. New Orleans. April 4 - 6](#)

[South Dakota Optometric Society Spring Convention. Oacoma, SD. April 12 - 13](#)

[AOS 4th Annual Meeting & CE Seminar. San Antonio, TX. April 12-14](#)

[PSS 5th Annual Symposium on Ocular Disease. Tyson's Corner, Virginia. April 13 - 14](#)

[Berkeley Morgan/Sarver Symposium. DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, Berkeley Marina, CA. April 26 - 28](#)

NAVAO Committees

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for the management of the business of the NAAVO 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:

- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (President and Chair)
- David G. Storer, O.D. (Vice-President)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D. (Secretary)
- Makesha Sink, O.D. (Treasurer)
- Gay K. Tokumaru, O.D. (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. (Treasurer and Chair)
- Weon Jun, O.D.
- Michael McGovern, O.D.
- Glenn Saxon, O.D.

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. (Membership Director and Chair)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Rachel Caywood, O.D.
- Meghan Elkins, O.D.
- Joy A Kerns, O.D.
- Rebecca Kline, O.D.
- Susie L. Lim, O.D.

- Amber Louprasong, O.D.
- David N. Lynne, O.D.
- Margaret Mannion, O.D.

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

Events Committee Members:

- Minna Huang, O.D. (Director of Events and Chair)
- David G. Storer, O.D. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Katherine L. Wang, O.D.
- Nancy Wong, O.D., Ph.D.

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:

- Dawn N. Tomasini, O.D. (Newsletter Editor and Chair)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Paul Gruosso, O.D.
- Phillip K. Haiman, O.D.
- Michelle Chen Lynch, O.D.
- Joseph A. Pruitt, O.D.
- Melissa M. Walters, O.D.

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.

- Kevin Mercado, O.D. (Director of Technology and Chair)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Jason Powell, O.D.
- Danielle Weiler, O.D.
- Brett Zwolensky, O.D.

Member News

The VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System Optometry Section welcomes the following optometrists who were recently appointed at their facility and are also new NAVAO members:

David Mietzner, O.D., M.A., FAAO

Dr. Mietzner received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Concordia University and his Doctor of Optometry degree from Pacific University College of Optometry. He also received a Masters degree in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Dr. Mietzner is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Air Force with over 27 years of service. He held several military assignments during his time in the Air Force, including Senior Surgical Operations Executive Officer (Commander) at the Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, as well as Optometry Service Chief (Flight Commander) at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and Optometry Service Chief (Flight Commander) at the Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Dr. Mietzner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is currently a Staff Optometrist at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas, NV. He is also an Assistant Professor for the Southern California College of Optometry.

Jennifer Monarrez, O.D.

Dr. Monarrez received her Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration and Policy from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2007 and received her Doctor of Optometry degree from Pacific University College of Optometry in 2011. She completed her residency training in Ocular Disease at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, Las Vegas in 2012. Currently, she is a Staff Optometrist for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas, Assistant Professor for the Southern California College of Optometry, and Adjunct Instructor for the Illinois College of Optometry.

Nina Tran, O.D.

Dr. Tran received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern California in 2006 and received her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Southern California College of Optometry in 2010. She completed her residency training in Primary Care/Hospital Based/Geriatric Optometry at the Sepulveda VA Medical Center in 2011. Currently, she is a Staff Optometrist for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas, Assistant Professor for the Southern California College of Optometry, and Adjunct Instructor for the Illinois College of Optometry.

Please look for our new "Meet a Member" section starting in our Winter 2013 edition.