

# Optimum VA



The Official Newsletter of the  
National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists  
Summer 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.*

### Remembering Dr. Haffner

The membership of NAVAIO, and the optometric community, are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Alden N. Haffner, O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O. Dr. Haffner was a preeminent optometrist whose strength and vision guided the optometric profession. Dr. Haffner received his professional degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and his M.P.A. & Ph.D. degrees from New York University. In 1971, Dr. Haffner was the founding President of the State University of New York (SUNY) - College of Optometry. He held offices in multiple optometric organizations including President of the New York State Optometric Association, President of the Public Health Association of New York City, Founding Chair of the NYC Community Family Planning Council and Chair of the American Academy of Optometry's Section on Public Health and Environmental Optometry. Dr. Haffner's service included participating on multiple American Optometric Association initiatives and serving on the New York Children's Vision Coalition & the Herman Biggs Society. Dr. Haffner received numerous honors including The American Academy of Optometry inaugural Henry B. Peters Memorial Award in Public Health & Environmental Vision and President of the prestigious Hermann Biggs Society.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed Dr. Haffner to the Special Medical Advisory Group (SMAG) for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He served on SMAG for an unprecedented 25 years. Through his tireless service and visionary stalwart leadership, Dr. Haffner played a vital role in the advancement of VA optometry, and the optometric profession. His contributions represent a palpable force in numerous aspects of the optometric profession. With Dr. Haffner's passing, a visionary giant was lost.



Dr. Alden N. Haffner

Funeral services were held at Riverside Chapel, 180 West 76<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10023, on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.

Dr. Jennifer Gustafson, VP of NAVAIO, attended the remembrance service on behalf of NAVAIO.

## From the Editor



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

Welcome to the summer 2016 edition of Optimum VA. This edition provides us with information on something that will affect all of us in the coming months. Direct scheduling will become a reality at most facilities by the end of the year. The newsletter committee spoke to several optometrists who were involved in the pilot program, we hope you find the information they provided informative.

As noted in the Winter newsletter, there have been many new hires within VA optometry in the last year. The newsletter committee thought it would be important for new VA optometrists to be aware of an important organization, the Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS). AFOS works together with the American Optometric Association. Getting involved in national organizations such as these not only benefits our profession as a whole, but could also benefit the individual when it comes to promotion within the VA.

So continuing on the theme of professional advancement, where does an ambitious and motivated optometrist publish case reports and research these days? Well you have come to the right place; in this edition we have provided a list of peer reviewed eye journals.

Once again, the newsletter committee did a wonderful job putting together a list of upcoming CE. We hope you find this edition of the newsletter useful and as always feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments.

## Updates from the NAVAQ Board



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

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

The 2016 National Association of VA Optometrists annual business meeting and reception will be held concurrently with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The American Academy of Optometry Meeting will be from November 9th to November 12th. The AAO Meeting early bird registration window is open until September 7, 2016. The meeting presents an opportunity for VA optometrists and residents to reflect on the past successes and discuss future challenges. Please consider attending the NAVAQ meeting. The participation of the NAVAQ membership represents a vital component for the organization.



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

**SECRETARY**

NAVAO hopes to keep its members informed about all VA Optometry issues and events throughout the year. Please continue to log onto the NAVAO website to see recent events and deadlines within the VA. The monthly conference call minutes will provide links to new directives and VHA Handbooks. It also provides opportunities for career advancement, announcements such as COPE approved CE available through TMS, information on direct scheduling and much more. Just a reminder – these minutes are located in the members section of our website as soon as you log in. If you have any questions or feedback about the current minutes, please contact me. Stay cool this summer!!



*Makęsha Sink, O.D., F.A.A.O.*

**TREASURER**

No updates at this time.



*Brian Kawasakі, 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 plans for the 2016 Annual NAVAO meeting are in their infancy. Although the date has not been finalized, it is expected that the annual business meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with a reception to follow. Stay tuned. We look forward to seeing you there.



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

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

No updates at this time.



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

**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

We are working to make website improvements that we hope will help NAVAO meet your needs. So plan on major changes in the next few months! As always, please contact me if you have any questions, problems, comments or suggestions about the NAVAO website.

# Implementation of Direct Scheduling

Direct scheduling for optometry and audiology appointments is expected to begin at a majority of VA locations by the end of 2016. Many have questions as to how this will impact optometric care at their local facility and how smooth the transition will be from current scheduling methods to direct scheduling. The following is from the VHA Access to Care Initiative Hub website\* and provides an introduction into the background of Direct Scheduling.

## Introduction

One of Secretary Robert McDonald's top priorities is to implement standardized Direct Scheduling for routine optometry and audiology care without first seeing a primary care physician. Based on an employee suggestion via the IdeaHouse, this initiative was piloted in three VA Medical Centers in 2015 resulting in positive feedback from Veterans and staff.

As part of the Access to Care initiative, the MyVA Performance Improvement Office will be facilitating this action nation-wide. The MyVA Performance Improvement Team, in partnership with the Office of Rehabilitation and Prosthetics Services (10P4R), the Office of Specialty Care Services (10P4E), the Veterans Engineering Resource Center (VERC), and local facilities, have developed resources to assist the field in accomplishing this effort.

## Goals and Objectives

The goal of the direct scheduling initiative is to increase Veterans access to optometry and audiology clinics for routine care. Additionally, this change in scheduling will help alleviate the bottleneck in primary care and help to improve the Veteran experience by eliminating the requirement for the Veteran to schedule a primary care visit to request a consult with the optometry or audiology clinic for routine care.

The NAVAIO newsletter committee contacted several optometrists at pilot sites to get a better idea as to the pros, cons, and recommendations in implementing direct scheduling. Thanks to the following for their thoughts and advice:

- Dr. Jenette Cantrell, Orlando VAMC
- Dr. Matthew Cordes, The Villages OPC
- Dr. Dorothy Hitchmoth, White River Junction VAMC
- Dr. Joseph Miller, Bay Pines VAMC
- Dr. Joni Scott-Weideman, Tallahassee OPC

## Benefits:

- Reduction in the number of consults primary care has to enter
- Reduction in the number of consults optometry has to review/manage
- Reduced time spent by the health administration service (HAS) attempting to contact patients to schedule appointments
- Increased patient satisfaction
  - Reduced time obtaining an optometry appointment in those patients for whom a consult would have previously been required

## Challenges:

- Increased phone calls from patients calling directly to make an appointment
  - Increased responsibility of medical support assistant (MSA) to triage appropriately
- The process to triage patients with urgent or emergent ocular issues presenting without the prior urgency review via a primary care consult needs to be optimized to facilitate timely care

- Delayed care for patients with more urgent issues; patients with urgent issues not being triaged appropriately and simply accepting the next available appointment
- Patients self-referring and making appointments for non-ocular related issues
- Patients self-referring and making appointments for repeated/unnecessary exams
- Confusion of “Direct Scheduling” with “same day” or “walk-in” clinics
- Less medical information available for patients without a primary care physician
  - Increased time spent reviewing problems and medications at initial optometry visit
- Potential confusion over eligibility requirements, particularly at facilities with higher numbers of seasonal/traveling veterans
- Reduced access is possible, particularly at facilities where access is already an issue
  - Reduced access may occur initially due to high demand and then improve and level out over time

### **Recommendations for Preparation:**

- Staff sufficient MSAs (trained in basic triage skills) to handle the increase in phone calls and appointment requests
  - Note that this was also recommended on the Direct Scheduling Implementation: Optometry and Audiology Playbook (available via the VHA Access to Care Initiative Hub website\*) as all pilot sites reported the need for additional front end staff
- Consider creating separate clinics for “Direct Scheduling” routine patients versus “recall” or follow up patients
- Establish good communication with the emergency room and primary care
  - Clarify that consults and direct provider-to-provider communication is still required for urgent and emergent referrals
  - Clarify that consults are still preferred for any exams other than routine exams for glasses (e.g. diabetic exams, plaquenil screenings, glaucoma patients, etc.)
  - Make sure there is a point-of-contact or referral system in place for directly scheduled patients who end up requiring primary care management in a more urgent time-frame
- Be prepared for “routine” patients running the gamut of issues (hopefully ocular in nature)
- If possible, facilities currently experiencing significant access issues may want to explore ways to improve access prior to implementation of Direct Scheduling

Other potential issues may include impact on tracking patients and ensuring follow ups for routine diabetic exams. The MyVA Performance Improvement Team recommends tracking new and established patients via the VHA support service center (<http://vssc.med.va.gov>). Diabetic patients can be sent reminders to schedule their diabetic exams, and audits can be performed to track wait times for diabetic exams.

Further information including playbook, FAQs, webinars, tools, and resources are available on the VHA Access to Care Initiative Hub website\*.

Direct scheduling is here, whether we are looking forward to it with enthusiasm or trepidation. Fortunately, most pilot sites have reported the transition to direct scheduling being much smoother than anticipated. Most importantly, feedback from Veterans has been very positive. By recognizing potential issues in advance, many facilities will be able to make necessary modifications and establish good communication prior to implementation of direct scheduling that should help improve the scheduling process. We should be very thankful to the pilot sites for their efforts and the information they have been able to provide. In the end, we should always be looking for ways to improve patient satisfaction while continuing to provide excellent, high-quality eye care to those who have served our country!

\*accessible through VA intranet at:

<http://vhaindwebsim.v11.med.va.gov/hub2/atc/initiatives.html?strategyCode=DIRECTSCHEDULINGAUDIOLOGYOPTOMETRY>

# **Message from the Executive Directors of the American Optometric Association (AOA) and the Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS)**

## **By H. Lindsay Wright, O.D. and Jon Hymes**

**NON-MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS COSTS: JOIN AFOS & AOA OR ACCEPT THAT OTHERS ARE GOING TO DEFINE AND DIRECT VA OPTOMETRY'S ROLE IN PATIENT CARE**

Optometry in the VA is under attack and these current battles will shape how eye care is being delivered to America's Veterans in the future. That's bad news for patients and for VA Optometry, and it's only going to get worse if we don't do something about it together.

Now and into the future, threats to full physician-level recognition and fair treatment of doctors of optometry will be emerging at a rapid rate, impacting virtually every aspect of practice, privileging and pay. Without a coordinated and effective advocacy effort, and effective ways to counter the officials and organizations with a virulently anti-optometry agenda, we worry that optometry in the VA will be undermined through hostile Federal legislative and regulatory-driven change and uninformed regional and facility-led directives.

Here's one current example. At the Atlanta VAMC, an experimental vision and eye health screening initiative, Technology-Based Eye Care Services (TECS), is now in operation and the VA plans to expand this program to other VA sites nationwide. Under TECS, Veterans receive ophthalmic technician-provided vision and eye disease screenings as part of their local primary care visit. Under TECS, eyeglass prescriptions are now being created based solely on auto-refractor readings. Furthermore, limited TECS eye disease screenings are seemingly being used to delay or even avoid the timely scheduling of comprehensive eye examinations.

It is clear that TECS is an attempt to bypass or completely replace VA doctors of optometry, and it cannot be allowed to stand. However, if you're not an AFOS and AOA member, you're not part of the only effort to fight back for VA patients and for the future of quality eye health care for our Veterans within the VA system.

An underlying cause of optometry being targeted in the VA is that we are under-represented and lack a unified voice. Only you can change that by supporting AFOS and AOA; join the fight and make sure your voice is heard!

Membership and involvement among VA optometrists in the AOA and AFOS, the only organizations that advocate for Optometry, is unacceptably low. If we allow this to continue, VA optometrists, will lose their seat at the table when health care policy decisions that impact patient care and providers are made. Optometry will be overrun in the VA system, and the patients will get substandard care as a result.

That's why we are asking all of our VA colleagues to join us in defending and working to advance our profession through membership in the AFOS and the AOA.

The Armed Forces Optometric Society is the unified voice and, working hand-in-hand with the AOA, the sole advocate of federal service optometry. We work to advance, enhance, and improve the eye care of designated federal services health care given by optometrists in federal service; to provide a forum for these optometrists; to improve the art and science of the practice of optometry and to elevate the standards of the practice.

AFOS works tirelessly for our VA doctors, as well as our military troops, their families, our Native American population, and our veterans. We work continuously to preserve and advance VA optometrists' scope of practice, privileging and compensation. We work with our members as they are entering and exiting federal service employment and helping to ensure their successful transition. AFOS hosts two annual meetings that



provide members the opportunity for excellent continuing education focused on their specific patient base, camaraderie, networking, breakout sessions with the branch Service Chiefs, and more. Most importantly, rest assured that we will always be advocating VA and Federal Optometry, its scope of practice and our patients!

The AOA, as the country's optometric leader and only advocate for our profession, serves as a respected and effective voice at the local, state and national levels. We provide Clinical Resources and Continuing Education programs to keep you on the leading edge of patient care. And our outreach efforts provide a number of opportunities to serve and connect with peers and patients. The benefits of membership are endless and priceless. One doctor can only do so much. Unified together we can do so much more. AOA, AFOS, and You - Better Together. You belong here.

Please call or email us if you have any questions or if you need more information about joining, or visit [www.afos2020.org](http://www.afos2020.org) or [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org).

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## PUBLICATIONS: PEER REVIEWED EYE JOURNALS

<i>Acta Ophthalmologica</i>	<i>Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology</i>
<i>American Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics</i>
<i>Annals of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology &amp; Strabismus</i>
<i>Archives of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Refractive Surgery</i>
<i>Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia</i>	<i>Journal of Vision</i>
<i>BMC Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Klin Monatsbl Augenheilkd</i>
<i>British Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Molecular Vision</i>
<i>Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Neuro-Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Canadian Journal of Optometry</i>	<i>Ocular Immunology and Inflammation</i>
<i>Clinical &amp; Experimental Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ocular Surface</i>
<i>Clinical and Experimental Optometry</i>	<i>Ophthalmic and Physiologic Optics</i>
<i>Contact Lens and Anterior Eye</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Epidemiology</i>
<i>Cornea</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Genetics</i>
<i>Current Eye Research</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Plastic &amp; Reconstructive Surgery</i>
<i>Current Opinion in Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Research</i>
<i>Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers &amp; Imaging</i>
<i>Documenta Ophthalmologica</i>	<i>Ophthalmologe</i>
<i>European Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ophthalmologica</i>
<i>Experimental Eye Research</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Eye</i>	<i>Optometric Education</i>
<i>Eye &amp; Contact Lens</i>	<i>Optometry</i>
<i>French Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Optometry &amp; Vision Development</i>
<i>Gerontologist</i>	<i>Optometry and Vision Science</i>
<i>Graefes Archive for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Progress in Retina and Eye Research</i>
<i>Indian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Retina, the Journal of Retinal and Vitreous Diseases</i>
<i>International Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Review of Optometry</i>
<i>Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science</i>	<i>Revista Brasileira de Oftalmologia</i>
<i>Iranian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Spektrum Augenheilkd</i>
<i>Japanese Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Survey of Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Journal of AAPOS</i>	<i>Vision Research</i>
<i>Journal of American Geriatrics Society</i>	<i>Visual Neuroscience</i>
<i>Journal of Behavioral Optometry</i>	
<i>Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery</i>	
<i>Journal of Glaucoma</i>	

**There may be peer reviewed non-eye journals [such as American Journal of Public Health (APHA Journal), Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development (VA Journal), Military Medicine (AMSUS Journal), etc.] as well as other eye and non-eye journals that may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis**

# Upcoming Continuing Education

## JULY 2016

Pennsylvania Optometric Association /PA Academy of Family physicians joint CE cruise Baltimore to Bermuda

- July 2-7<sup>th</sup> 2016

AEA Cruises Western Mediterranean Optometric Cruise Seminar

- July 3-10<sup>th</sup>

AEA Cruises Stockholm to London Optometric Cruise Seminar

- July 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> 2016

2016 Florida Optometric Association Annual Convention

- July 14—17<sup>th</sup> 2016
- The Breakers Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL

The Ultimate Reimbursement Conference

- July 17<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Irving, TX
- 8 hours of COPE approved CE
- Westin DFW hotel

2016 Victoria Conference

- July 21—24<sup>th</sup> 2016
- By Pacific University
- 20 hours COPE / cost: \$475
- Delta Ocean Pointe Resort & Spa Victoria, British Columbia, CA

Venice and Greek Isles Cruise

- July 23- 30<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Norwegian cruise line

AEA Cruise Russia/ Scandinavia Optometric Cruise Seminar

- July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 6 2016
- Celebrity Silhouette, Round trip Amsterdam

Smokey Mountain Summer Conference

- July 29-31<sup>st</sup> 2016
- Grove Park Inn – Ashville, NC
- 18 hours COPE approved CE

National Glaucoma Symposium

- July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016
- Ocean Edge Resort --Brewster, MA

## **AUGUST 2016**

### Southwest Florida Optometric Association Educational Retreat 2016

- Aug 5—7<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Sanibel, FL

### OTCE Glaucoma in the Gorge

- Aug 13—14<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Hood River, Oregon

### 2016 International Vision Conference West

- Aug 19—20<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Burlingame, CA

### Annual Optometry Academe –Retina and Systemic Disease

- Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 2016
- JC Penny Conference Center –St. Louis Missouri
- 8 hours COPE CE / Cost \$250 by Aug 22, 2016

## **SEPTEMBER 2016**

### Envision Conference

- Sept 7—10<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Grand Hyatt –Denver, CO
- 23 hours COPE approved / Cost: \$ 375

### NOVA Southeastern University – Annual Fall Conference

- Sept 10—11<sup>th</sup> 2016

### CE by the Bay

- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Sheraton Bayfront Hotel, Erie PA
- 8 hours of COPE approved credit

### Convention and Annual Meeting – Wisconsin Optometric Association

- Sept 22—25<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Marriott Madison West, Middleton, WI
- 22 CE hours

### Kentucky Optometric Association Fall Conference

- Sept 23-25<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Louisville, KY

### CE Sarasota Symposium

- Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Ritz Carlton Sarasota – Sarasota, FL
- 9 Hours of COPE approved credit / cost: \$225

### Great Western Council of optometry

- Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016
- Sponsored by Great Western Council of Optometry
- Oregon Convention Center – Portland, OR
- 80 hours of COPE CE

## **OCTOBER 2016**

### North Dakota Optometric Association's 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress

- Oct 2-4<sup>th</sup> 2-16
- Sponsored by North Dakota Optometric Association
- Baymont Inn & Suites – Mandan, ND
- Cost: \$125.00

### Northwoods Education Event

- Oct 6—8<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Sponsored by Wisconsin Optometric Association
- Eagle Waters Resort, Eagle River, WI
- 8 hours COPE CE

### Review of Optometry—Philadelphia

- October 7-9<sup>th</sup> 2016
- 19 CE credits

### Therapy by the Sea

- Oct 14—16<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Waterfront Conference Center at Harrah's -- Atlantic City, NJ
- 19 hours COPE approved CE

### NOVA Orlando Super Weekend

- Oct 15—16<sup>th</sup> 2016
- NSU Orlando Campus
- 13 CE hours/ 6 TQ hours

### Virginia Optometric Association Fall Conference

- Oct 15—16<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Hilton Garden Inn, Virginia Beach

### Michigan Optometric Association

- Oct 19—20<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Lansing, MI

### Connecticut Association of Optometrists Annual Education Conference

- Oct 22-24<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa –Groton, CT

# 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.
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