

JUNE 2017



Focal Point

Newsletter of the Arizona Optometric Association

AZOA GIVES BACK WITH ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPENING EYES PROGRAM AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

On Saturday, May 6th the 2017 AZ Special Olympics Opening Eyes Program took place at Raymond S Kellis High School in Glendale. The AZOA worked hard and screened 204 athletes.....58 of which received new Rx glasses. We had approximately 12 ODs, 6 opticians, 34 AZCOPT students and 2 general volunteers in attendance. The AZOA would like to thank everyone again for donating their time and efforts.

Also of note, Veatch Ophthalmic Instruments and Midwestern were kind enough to donate equipment, Shepard donated the exam room pipe and drape, Safilo donated the sunglasses as well as Rx frames and Meridian Optical/Essilor Laboratories of America mounted and surfaced our 58 pairs of glasses.

The Special Olympics Opening Eyes program (one of seven disciplines of the Healthy Athletes program) is a vision and eye health screening held in partnership with the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Led by volunteer vision care professionals, Opening Eyes is able to offer prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and sports goggles to Special Olympics athletes every year. The other six disciplines of the Healthy Athletes program are: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), MedFest (sports physical exam) and Special Smiles (dentistry). In between their athletic events, the athletes visit these 7 disciplines. Officially launched in 1997, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes organizes its events in a welcoming, fun environment and they educate athletes on healthy lifestyle choices and identify problems that may need additional follow-up. Through Healthy Athletes, more than 155,000 health care professionals and students have been trained to treat people with intellectual disabilities. These health care professionals provide improved care to millions.

Cover story/photos continued on page 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BY DR. DAVE COULSON

I would like to congratulate Dr. Don Jarnagin as the winner of AZOA Life Time Achievement Award. Dr. Jarnagin has served as the Dean of the College of Optometry at Midwestern University, President of the AZOA in 1977, and President of the AOA in 1995. He was awarded the AZOA optometrist of the year in 1980, GWCO optometrist of the year in 1993 and recently the GWCO Lifetime Achievement award in 2016. These are only a few of Dr. Jarnagin's achievements/awards and optometry, especially Arizona optometry, is so fortunate to have Dr. Jarnagin's leadership, support and contribution for the past 50 years.

On May 16th, the AZOA presented "COPE and Cocktails," an evening CE event. It was a great night packed with socializing, food, drinks and education. The membership committee worked so hard to coordinate the details and I would like to specifically thank Dr. Ken O'Daniel for his efforts in making this such a wonderful night. I am thrilled to announce that our association added 7 new members at this event! Make sure to sign up for the next one on Tuesday, August 29th in Tempe (www.AZOACE.org).

We are now on social media! Well, we actually have been on Facebook for a while but, thanks to Dr. Logan Ragan, the page is more active. Dr. Ragan has also added us on Instagram and as a way to connect with our members. Please make sure to "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

Thank you for being an AZOA member. We are stronger together and with certain entities that are working against us in our state we need to become even stronger. Please don't forget to encourage your friends and colleagues to join.

I am looking forward to the next year and invite you to please contact me anytime with your thoughts, input or questions.

Connect, Evolve and Thrive.

AZOA President, Dr. Dave Coulson

David M. Coulson, OD

Dr. David Coulson received his Doctorate of Optometry degree from Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon in 2007 and his Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology degree from the Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2003. He completed his training by working as an intern for Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center.



Prior to joining BDPEC Dr. Coulson volunteered his time at the Southwest Washington Free Clinic and the Native American Rehabilitation Association Diabetic Clinic providing free eye exams low income patients and patients with Diabetes Mellitus.

He is an active member of the Arizona Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association. Dr. Coulson was elected to serve on the board of directors for the Arizona Optometric Association in 2011, as well as won the coveted 2011 Young Optometrist of the Year award.

MEMBER NEWS

AZOA Welcomes NEW MEMBERS!

(as of June 2017)

Dr. Ryan Ambrose
Dr. Victor Calderon
Dr. Amy Fuhr-Dechant
Dr. Charles Ferrin
Dr. Jacob Hiscox
Dr. Brianne Hobbs
Dr. Jeffrey Horst
Dr. Jorge Huston
Dr. Alan Luong
Dr. Leonard Muscolino
Dr. Emma Offoha
Dr. Joseph Olish
Dr. Jetal Patel
Dr. Tara Ransdell
Dr. Carey Shifrin
Dr. Stephen Stahl
Dr. Jacquelyn Wyman

2017 Spring Congress Award Winners!

O.D. of the Year:

Chris Parot, O.D.

Young O.D. of the Year:

Alicia Feis, O.D.

Key Person of the Year:

Marla Husz O.D.

President's:

Armanae Mancha, O.D.

Sight Conservation:

Eye Care 4 Kids

2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

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JoAnne Edmonson
Accounting Manager

AOA-PAC UPDATE: BY DR. CHAD CARLSSON

Hello AZOA Members,

This is Dr. Chad A. Carlsson providing an update on where we stand with our contributions for the AOA-PAC. As Chairman of the AOA-PAC for our Association, I want to start by saying how proud and appreciative I am of all our Members and the strengthening number of NEW Members we're starting to see again with the AZOA! I'm especially grateful to the ones that continue to volunteer their precious time to help improve and advance our Association for all Members to benefit from.

With that said, I wanted to remind all of our Members how important it is to work together and find the time to volunteer when possible to help us continue moving in the right direction. For those that are unfamiliar with what goes on, just ask and you'll see how busy our Members tend to be with everything that needs to get done!

One of those important things is advancing our agenda as a profession and that involves...yes, you guessed it contributions to our legislators and Congressmen. I represent the AOA-PAC for our profession on a Federal level that involves getting Bills sponsored and eventually voted on by Congress that helps protect and improve our profession and scope of practice. Just Google the "Doc Access Act" (HR3323), Unscrupulous Internet Contact Lens Sellers (S2777), and the NHSC Improvement Act (HR1312/S898) for some examples of what our colleagues are trying to accomplish for all of us on Capitol Hill for the better of all OD's.

Last year our State Association exceeded the goal asked by the AOA-PAC by 140%! We had an increase of 400% of our Members contributing last year vs the year before by the end of 2016! Yet, right now for 2017 we stand at roughly only 4% of Members contributing (11 Active Members out of over 300 Active Members)? I don't know about you reading this, but to me that sounds pretty weak since I know we can do much better than that as an Association. For instance, 2016 showed AZ AOA Members contributing an average of \$59.98/ active Member vs only \$8.06 so far this year per active AZ AOA Members. However, we still have time to make up ground by pulling out your credit cards and opening the AOA PAC App on your smartphone and entering your AOA Membership ID info under the donations icon. I really want you to consider \$1000/year for all Members (\$2.74/day) vs at least \$365/year (\$1/day) for your individual donation and support of this great profession we all love and enjoy doing day in and day out. Let's face it, we can't be at two places at once and that's what our monetary donations and those volunteering their time in Washington DC and abroad our doing to advance our profession and inform our Congressmen about the good work we are doing for those seeking eye care and great vision!

To celebrate, this Fall I'll be hosting our Annual Fine Wine and Bourbon tasting even that Friday evening during the 2017 Fall Congress Meeting which is being held November 10-12. By working together, I'm hoping our State Association can exceed its AOA Goal again by over 100% like we did last year!

Therefore, please give what you can either monetarily or through volunteering your time to help since working together is far more powerful than working alone.

Happy Summer Living to You All!

Stay Strong by Giving Today! ■

Sincerely,
Chad A. Carlsson, OD, FAAO
Founder and Owner of Carlsson Family Eye Center, PLLC
AzOA Co-Chairman of the AOA-PAC



AZOA MEMBER NEWS

AzOA MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership is Growing!

Dee Dee Bark, AzOA Membership Coordinator

One of our goals this year has been to strengthen our membership. Thank you to all the OD's who have made the commitment to support your Association!

AzOA held its first CE Dinner event in May and it was a sold-out success! We had a wonderful dinner, three hours of Cope Approved CE, and we signed up seven new members! Our next CE Dinner is on August 29th at The Showcase Room in Tempe. Go to the AzOA website to sign up today!

We are also making an effort to meet with OD's from around the State at different events to explain the importance of membership in AzOA and AOA.

If you attended the AzOA Spring Congress in Tucson in April, you saw our "Membership Wheel of Fortune"! If you were there, and spun the Wheel for a special prize, don't forget to claim your prize if you bring in a new member!

Please don't forget, we need to show Legislators that we are a strong, unified profession. The AZOA/AOA is the profession's only advocate in the legislative arena. Because the profession of optometry is regulated by the Legislature, we lobby on your behalf for administrative regulatory

concerns, discriminatory action against optometry, and important third-party payer issues impacting your practice. AZOA represents EVERY optometrist across the State. We are constantly on the watch for state or federal legislation that could impact our memberships' profession.



AZOA MEMBER NEWS

A PROUD MOMENT FOR THE AZOA!

In 1902, Clara Schell (1872-1955) became the Territory of Arizona's first female optometrist. She was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame on March 23, 2017 during a ceremony at the Arizona Heritage Center. The nomination was submitted by Mrs. Janolyn LoVecchio, of Tucson, after several years of research and was co-sponsored by the **Arizona Optometric Association**. Clara was a charter member of the **Arizona Optometric Association** and served as president in 1926. In addition to her pioneering work in optometry, her concerns with children's needs led to co-founding of the Arizona Children's Home in 1908. She was one of Tucson's suffrage leaders and, as a community leader, helped establish the Tucson YWCA.



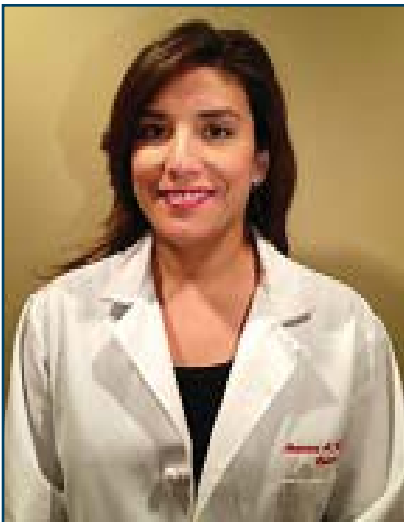
Pictured are Dr. Stacey Meier, AZOA Executive Director and Mrs. Janolyn LoVecchio

The complete story was published in HINDSIGHT, a Journal published by Optometric Historical Society. Volume 47, Number 4, October 2016

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW AZOA BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Mancha was born in Odessa, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Summa Cum Laude from the University of Texas. She earned her Doctorate of Optometry degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston College of Optometry in 2003.

Armanae Mancha, OD



Dr. Mancha's clinical interests include specialty contact lens fittings, especially multifocal lenses, as well as pediatric optometry. She is an InfantSEE provider, offering comprehensive eye examinations to infants starting at 6 months of age. Dr. Mancha is also extensively trained in vision rehabilitation and the management of ocular disease. In addition, she is certified to perform Corneal Refractive Therapy/Orthokeratology.

Dr. Mancha is currently an active member of the Arizona Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association. She is fluent in Spanish and looking forward to providing exceptional eye care to the Scottsdale and Phoenix community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BY DR. ANNETTE HANIAN

2017 Legislative Session Wrap-up

This was a busy, but ultimately uneventful year.

We had looming threat of 1-800/ Opternative type legislation that never materialized.

Several tele-medicine and pharmacy bills were watched all session for Optometry implications and possible harmful amendments.

Early on this session, our lobbyists participated in getting another poorly designed, expensive and difficult to administer School Screening bill turned into a “study: for a year. The plan is for the results of the study to become a better thought-out bill in 2018.

A bill that could have, inadvertently, limited the relationship between the large surgical MD-OD referral centers was introduced. We notified these centers and used their input to work with the bill sponsors to reword the bill so as not to interfere with this relationship. It turns out the bill died anyway, but it was good to be able to assist the ophthalmology community.

A bill to better define Dyslexia and create a handbook for use by the schools was successful.

Health insurance changes are going to happen and we are watching for anything that could be detrimental to Optometry and our patients.

The 1-800 third party agent complaints at the State Board of Optometry continue to be processed, but are costly. We were able to get an additional \$10,000 allocated in the State budget, specifically to address those costs.

Late in the session, a freshman lawmaker introduced a bill that would have completely eliminated the Board of Opticians. We were able to work with Opticians to avoid this deregulation, but the sponsor and the Institute for Justice intend to attempt to eliminate licensed opticians in 2018. Also, no Board Consolidation bills this session.

A bill to make Sunrise/ Scope expansion harder died in 2016 and was again killed in the House mid-session 2017, but it came back as a floor amendment onto another bill in the last weeks of session 2017. Your prolific and rapid email response to the legislators forced a special circumstance, Additional Committee of the Whole. Turns out there was so little support for the amended bill that it was never voted on before session ended.

Nice surprise: A Pharmacy Board bill was signed by the Governor that may help us to regulate 1-800 and others online sales in AZ. We didn't make this widely known and didn't “support” it so that there wouldn't be any red-flags to lobbyists representing other groups. We will have to see after it is implemented if the AG will enforce it against 1-800 and others.



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Stability of fit	X		
Sharp, consistent vision all day	X		
Hydrating tear reservoir	X		
High definition optics	X		
UV protection	X	X	
Protection from allergens, wind, dirt and debris	X		
Astigmatism	X	X	
Athletes	X	X	
MF option - vision at all ranges	X	X	



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Notice of 2017 MIPS Exclusion

MIPS Participation Letters

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has mailed MIPS Participation Letters to clinicians and practices. Providers who believe they may qualify for an exclusion, such as the low-volume threshold exclusion, should contact the MIPS helpdesk if they did not receive their letter.

Doctors of Optometry began receiving the MIPS Participation Letters as early as Wednesday, April 26, 2017. CMS expected all letters to be received before the second week of May 2017.

What to Expect in the MIPS Participation Letters

The MIPS Participation Letters inform practices and individuals as to whether they are excluded from MIPS in 2017 or will be required to participate (For more information about exclusions, please see AOA's Know your Exclusions).

CMS sent a MIPS Participation Letter to every practice with a Tax Identification Number (TIN) enrolled in Medicare. Each letter included two attachments. Attachment A identifies whether the practice's TIN meets the 2017 MIPS exclusions if all the doctors in the practice decide to participate in MIPS as a group. It also lists all National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) associated with the TIN and identifies which of those NPIs would be excluded from 2017 MIPS if they participate individually. Members who work for multiple practices under different TINs should review their data with each of their practice's MIPS Participation Letter. Attachment B provides important questions and answers about the 2017 MIPS program.

Next Steps for Members

Doctors of optometry who work under one or more group TINs should confirm that each of

their practices received a MIPS Participation Letter and review their individual data associated with each practice. Members who work in multiple practices may have different exclusion/requirements for each of their TIN/practice combinations. Many doctors of optometry will qualify for an exclusion individually but not as a group.

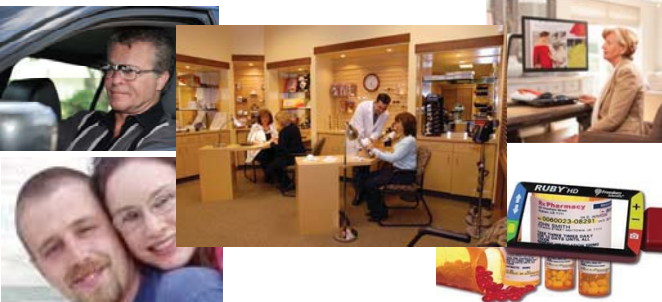
After reviewing their letters, each doctor should determine whether they will be reporting their 2017 performance data individually or with their practice(s) as a group. For a practice to report as a group, each doctor under that group's TIN must agree to report as a group.

Members who have questions or issues with the data should contact The MIPS Helpdesk at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292/ TTY: 1-877-715-6222.

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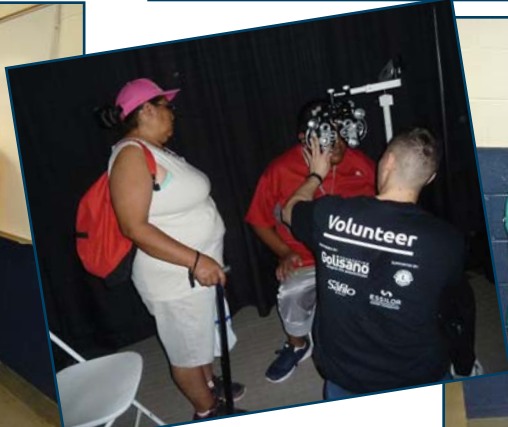
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cover story continued - 2017 OPENING EYES PROGRAM



AZOA GOOD & WELFARE

Michael Bradford Kane physically left our presence Sunday, January 29, 2017 peacefully in his home. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Milton and Ann Kane and grew up in Tucson, Arizona. Shortly after completing Optometry School at the Southern College of Optometry, Mike was enlisted as an Officer in the Navy. A lifelong Optometrist, he loved to help people. He lived life the way that he wanted to live and wouldn't have had it any other way. He was an amazing Son, Husband, Dad, Brother, Uncle and Friend. He will be greatly missed and the world as we know it will never be the same.

Dr. John Cameron

"John" died peacefully on February 20, 2017 in Mesa, Arizona at the age of 81. John is survived by his sister Maryanne and her husband Gordon Whitley; brother Phil and his wife Susan Cameron; loving companion Diana; children, Lynda Lykes, Doug Cameron, Cathy Exiga, Kari Cameron, and Scott Cameron. John was born on January 7, 1936 in Greenfield, Ohio to Paul and Evelyn Cameron. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1960 with a degree in Optometry. He married Beatrice, his high school sweetheart in 1955 and they had three children. After moving to Tucson Arizona, John started his Optometry practice and after two years moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Over years, John remarried to Toni in 1971 and they had two children. John welcomed 5 children into his life and set about teaching them life skills. His children remember him as a nurturing father who encouraged them to pursue their goals. Dr. John Cameron was an accomplished Optometrist and gave healthcare to his patients. He was a dedicated individual who loved his Optometry Practice "Professional Vision Center" and who was passionate about helping people with their optical needs. He was an active and dedicated member of the Church and loved to travel.

Published in The Arizona Republic on 2/26/17

Marvin G. Taub

Marv was born on December 18, 1929 in New York City. He died on January 24, 2017. A Tucson resident for more than 60 years, Marv loved this town. He was an optometrist for many years and enjoyed providing services to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic and Job Corps. He was President of the Arizona Optometric Association in 1986 - 1987. He loved the outdoors and went hunting and fishing all over the West. His annual hunting trip to Wyoming was a highlight of his year. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Dinah, whom he loved deeply. He is also survived by his children, Holly Orman (Rodger), Brenda Kazen (Kathleen Iveson) and Brian (Becky Ripley). He has four surviving grandchildren, Sarah, Emily, Sam and Avi; grandson-in-law, Justin soon to be granddaughter-in-law, Kristi and great-grandson, Jason, who was born last week. He was predeceased by his grandson, Zach. He is greatly missed by his four legged constant companion, Sheila.

Published in the Arizona Daily Star on 1/27/17



On May 31, AZOA Executive Director, Dr. Stacey Meier, attended the graduation of his son Marshall from the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. Congrats Marshall on earning your D.O. degree from Midwestern!

2017 SPRING CONGRESS IN PHOTOS!



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