



The Delineator

March 2010

2730 Devine Street • Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 799-6721 • Fax (803) 799-1064

President's Message

"How important is membership? Most would say it tops the list of priorities for SCOPA/AOA."

In the past two decades, Optometry has become the Primary Eyecare Profession. This only happened through strong membership in the AOA and the state affiliates. The last decade has been great for optometry. Optometry will continue to face battles like becoming recognized as physicians under Medicaid. There will be issues with discrimination by insurance companies against optometry. If major health care legislation passes, there will be years of interpreting/implementing the 2,000 page law.

It is only through a strong association that the best outcomes to the above and other issues will occur. The more members SCOPA has the stronger its voice in speaking out for all optometrists and the patients we serve. We can be proud that SCOPA has a higher than average membership. Out of 447 practicing OD's in SC, 330 are SCOPA members, a 74% membership. Fourteen states have higher percentage membership.

With a little effort, SCOPA could move way up this list, maybe even have the highest % membership in the US. We will need 74 more members. If only 1/3 of the current SCOPA members recruited another member we would be at 100%.

To make it even easier, SCOPA is offering an amnesty period for previous members (See Page 2). Please consider making a phone call to another OD in SC and invite them to lunch and talk about the benefits of membership.

If you are interested in helping to grow our membership by one, please give me, the SCOPA office, Melissa Schwebach (your SCOPA Membership Trustee), any SCOPA Board member, or your Local Society President a call. We will be glad to provide you with a list of OD's in SC who are not members of SCOPA. Maybe you will see a friend from school in another part of the state or see someone in your area that you feel comfortable calling. Who knows, you may even start a new relationship from which both practices benefit. If you are more industrious, here is the AOA website with lots of resources for membership.

<http://www.aoa.org/prebuilt/Drivefor65/index.htm>

You can also go to your electronic version of the Delineator in your inbox and just click on it. Please look on page 7 for list of member benefits compiled by Melissa Schwebach, your SCOPA Membership Trustee.

Affiliate	# Nonmember	# Dues-Paying Members	Est. ODs in State	Estimated Marketshare
Wisconsin	54	538	592	91%
Iowa	58	433	491	88%
Maine	24	170	194	88%
Kansas	66	457	523	87%
North Dakota	25	145	170	85%
Hawaii	39	201	240	84%
New Hampshire	30	163	193	84%
Alaska	18	90	108	83%
North Carolina	184	836	1020	82%
Oklahoma	114	512	626	82%
South Dakota	31	123	154	80%
Nebraska	64	244	308	79%
West Virginia	51	177	228	78%
Wyoming	27	88	115	77%
New Mexico	56	163	219	74%
South Carolina	117	330	447	74%

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the SC Optometric Physicians Association.

James M. Vaught, O. D.
President
SC Optometric Physicians Association

Laser Therapy for the Anterior Segment

May 20th - 22nd, 2010 The Embassy Suites Hotel, Charleston, SC



Registration Fee: \$600 SCOPA Members, \$950 Non-Members
\$200 deposit will guarantee your spot!
visit www.sceyedoctors.com for online brochure

SCOPA NEWS

Catawba Society

President: Monie Clifton, O.D.
2122 Eskridge Terrace
Lake Wylie, SC 29710
P. 803.336.9406 F. 803.324.8285
e-mail: drclifton@gmail.com

Coastal Society

President: Jennie Smith, O.D.
1470 Tobias Gadson Blvd, Suite 115
Charleston, SC 29407
P. 843-556-2020 F. 843-763-3937
e-mail: jenniesmith@yahoo.com

Low Country Society

President: Jennifer Switak, O.D.
104 Buck Walker Parkway, Unit 1C
Bluffton, SC 29910
P. 843-757-9588 F. 843-757-9589
e-mail: jrswitak@hotmail.com

Midlands Society

President: Jean Champion Martin, O.D.
332 Long Pointe Lane
Columbia, SC 29229
P. 803.419.8907 F. 803.419.8908
e-mail: bjmartin7@mindspring.com

Pee Dee Society

President: William "Troy" Alexander, O.D.
504 South 4th Street
Hartsville, SC 29550
P. 843-859-3233 F. 843-332-7802
e-mail: alexandert3@hotmail.com

Piedmont Society

President: Kara Jo Dodgens, O.D.
100 Country Club Lane
Anderson, SC 29623
P. 864.224.5783 F. 864.226.3228
e-mail: kjo412@yahoo.com

Waccamaw Society

President: Lisa Tubeville, O.D.
264 Shoreward Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
P. 843-650-2400 F. 843-650-2525
e-mail: lisa@turbeville.org

All Members are encouraged to attend Local Society Meetings. You may attend your society meeting as well as any other society meeting. Please check the website for dates and locations.

SCOPA Mailing Address

2730 Devine Street, Columbia SC 29205

Phone: 803-799-6721 Tollfree: 1-877-799-6721

Fax: 803-799-1064

Jackie Rivers e-mail: jriverson@sceyedocitors.com

Kim Almassri e-mail: kim@sceyedocitors.com

General SCOPA e-mail address: info@sceyedocitors.com

Website: www.sceyedocitors.com



MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA AT GRANDE DUNES

Important Announcement for the 2010 SCOPA Annual Meeting!

The SC Board of Examiners will give you the option of counting the CE Hours from the 2010 SCOPA Annual Meeting towards this years renewal or 2012 renewal!

SCOPA Dues Amnesty

The Executive Committee of the SC Optometric Physicians Association has voted to grant amnesty for any Optometrist whose membership was inactivated due to nonpayment of dues. Please notify the SCOPA Office no later than June 1, 2010 to take advantage of this one time offer. If you want continuous years of membership in the AOA, then you will have to pay their back portion of dues.

2010 Board of Directors

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JVaught@vaughteye.com

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1090 Spratt Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715
sceyedoc@hotmail.com

Member Announcements

Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Binder on the birth of her daughter, Erin Elizabeth Noll. She was born on February 12th and weighed 8lbs 1oz.

Congratulations to Dr. John Randall and his wife Dana on the arrival of their son Carter Mills Randall born on January 26th weighing 8lbs 7oz.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 20-22nd	Laser Therapy for the Anterior Seg. Course Charleston, SC
June 16- 20th	Optometry's Meeting Orlando, FL
August 26-29th	SCOPA Annual Meeting Myrtle Beach, SC

SCOPA At Work In the Community

April 17th	Eye Exams for People in Need in conjunction with the Homeless Shelter, Charleston SC
May 8th	Special Olympics Opening Eyes Vision Screening, Columbia SC
August 6th and 7th	Access Health - SC Mission 2010 at Carolina First Center in Greenville, SC

Volunteers needed - Please Contact the SCOPA Office at
Phone: (803)799-6721 or toll-free 1-877-799-6721
Email: info@sceyedoc.com

Help Still Needed In Haiti

For 30 years Columbia Optometrist, and long member of the SCOPA, Dr. Bud Antley, has been doing missions in Haiti and has been instrumental in establishing a medical, dental & vision clinic in Jeremie, Haiti. Fortunately, the clinic did not sustain any damage as a result of the earthquakes, but they do need our help in order to continue to treat those in need and deliver quality eye care.

There are several ways YOU can help:

1. Donate old equipment such as fundus cameras, auto-refractors, slit lamps, phoropters, etc.

2. Donate topical antibiotics, glaucoma meds, artificial tears (up to 1 year of expiration)
3. Donate your time.

Dr. Antley will make arrangements with you for the pick-up of any equipment and/or supplies you can contribute. Please contact him on his cell by calling 803-603-5067.

Thank you Dr. Antley for all the time you have given to missions and for your current role and efforts helping the Haitians in need.

SCOPA members, let's all do what we can to help those in Haiti.

If anyone has member announcements they would like listed in the Delineator, please feel free to contact the SCOPA Office at (803)799-6721 or 1-877-799-6721 or info@sceyedoc.com

MCOs Contract Changes for Vision Services - April 1st Deadline

Update from Dr. Philip Flynn, SCOPA Third Party Chairman

Jackie Rivers and I attended a MCO/MHN Health Plan Meeting on March 4th at DHHS. During this meeting, I had an opportunity to share some of the issues and concerns regarding the upcoming April 1 deadline regarding vision services. I was very encouraged by the response of the committee and the commitment of Medicaid and the MCOs to address proactively our issues in the coming weeks.

We were invited by Medicaid to have another meeting with the MCOs to discuss our concerns in more detail. This meeting has been scheduled and we look forward to the opportunity. In preparation, they have requested that I put together both specific examples and a summary of our issues. Based on feedback thus far, the issues stem from access, reimbursement (not all of the MCOs will reimburse at the same rate) and parity. If there are other issues of importance or concern that you would like expressed, please let me know. Once I've completed the summary, it will be distributed to ensure all issues that are important to the SCOPA membership are addressed by the MCO's. Again, Medicaid and the MCOs are very eager to work with us so that issues can be identified and addressed proactively prior to the April 1 deadline. Having said this, the April 1 deadline is still in place. There have been questions from members as to what changes will take place after April 1. For a patient enrolled only in Medicaid, nothing has changed. The examination will continue to be submitted to Medicaid for reimbursement and if glasses are indicated then they should be sent to Robertson Optical. If a patient is enrolled in a Medicaid MCO, then the examination and vision services should be filled directly to the MCO and not to Medicaid. This will also be true for medical claims. To reiterate, if you are already

enrolled with the MCOs, no other action is needed. If you are not already enrolled, you will need to review the plans and decide now about in which you would like to enroll. Enrolling in the MCO's is each individual's decision. An optometrist may enroll in whichever of the MCO's they decide. An optometrist may enroll in all the MCO's or none of them. While we convey our association's concerns to both Medicaid and the MCO's, now is the time to enroll into the plans if that is what you decide. Please remember to review the participating provider agreement when you enroll and if there are any issues with which you may not agree with; such as reimbursement, you always have the option to discuss and possibly negotiate a more amenable solution with that plan. Here are some links I believe will be helpful for you to review:

<http://www.scdhhs.gov/committees.asphs.gov/InsideD-HHS/Bureaus/BureauofHealthServicesandDeliverySystems/ManagedCare.asp>

http://www.scdhhs.gov/insidedhhs/bureaus/Bureauof-HealthServicesandDeliverySystems/MHN_MCO_Grids.asp

We did learn that in the very near future, there will only be four Managed Care Plans offered. They will be as follows: Absolute Total Care, Unison Health Plan, Select Health and Blue Choice. Carolina Crescent and SC Solutions will be acquired by one of the four remaining plans. We will share more information with you on this as it is available.

Again, if you have any specific questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact myself at (803) 799-7358 or pdflynn@hotmail.com, Jackie Rivers at (803) 799-6721 or jriverson@sceyedocors.com or any member of the SCOPA Board of Directors.

Attention SCOPA Members

SCOPA now offers an On Line Forum for Members

Chat on line with your SCOPA colleagues. Current topics include State Issues, Third Party Insurance, Contact Lenses, Economics, Optical, and several more. You can find the On Line Forum in the SCOPA members only section of the website. Once logged in look for "On Line Forum" in the top green menu bar. In order to post and/or chat, a password is required. Once you click on "Online Forum" you can request a password.

Update Your Member Information

Please visit the SCOPA Website at www.sceyedocors.com to review your contact information and to fill in your legislative relationships. This is very important - if you need assistance with this please contact the SCOPA Office. Also, if you have not already, please let the SCOPA Office know by email the delivery method you would prefer for the Delineator - online or mailed.

SCOPA Takes Capitol Hill

Representatives of the SCOPA visited Capitol Hill as part of the 2010 AOA Congressional Advocacy Conference, March 2 – 4 in Washington, D.C.

While shaping the scope and direction of national health care reform remains a top priority, the AOA continues fighting to advance optometry-specific concerns, including recognition of ODs as Medicaid physicians, ensuring a more comprehensive approach to vision and eye health care for America's children and securing optometry's participation in the National Health Service Corps program once again. As in years past, the AOA Congressional Advocacy Conference provides leading ODs and students from across the country with an opportunity to build new awareness of our profession, spotlight our priority issues and ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear in the halls of Congress and throughout Washington, D.C. It was an exciting and rewarding experience, and can help make a real difference for our patients and the future of our chosen profession.



Drs. Cooper, Stafford, Vaught, Lemon and Smith at our nation's capital.



Dr. James Vaught along with Dr. Michelle Cooper and Mr. Gene Cooper meeting with Rep. Jim Clyburn.



Drs. Vaught, Smith, Stafford, Lemon, Cooper along with Mr. Gene Cooper meeting with Rep. Joe Wilson.

103rd SCOPA Annual Meeting

Board Certification Review

By Jim Thimmons, O.D., F.A.A.O.



The 103rd SCOPA Annual Meeting will be held August 26-29, 2010 at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. Dr. Jim Thimmons will be lecturing on Board Certification Review. The sessions will be clinically relevant topics that we are assuming at this point will be on the board certification test. As the test is developed, ODs that attend the SCOPA Annual Meeting will be provided with a password in order to have access to on line practice tests and study resources.

The following sessions will be offered:

- Pharmacology – two part lecture
- Advances in Anterior Segment - two part lecture
- Glaucoma Therapy 2010
- Clinical Problem Solving: Complex Case Management
- Cataract/Refractive Surgery & Co-Management
- Retina – Systemic Disease
- Retina/Systemic Disease with Low vision

To register go to www.sceyedocctors.com

SCOPA/AOA member early bird registration \$395
Early bird registrations must be postmarked by June 30th.

Non Member Early Bird registration \$695
Early bird registrations must be postmarked by June 30th.



InfantSEE®, a public health program, managed by Optometry's Charity™ - The AOA Foundation, is designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, AOA optometrists provide a comprehensive eye and vision assessments for infants within the first year of life regardless of a family's income or access to insurance coverage.



By Andrea Thau, O.D.,
F.A.A.O., F.C.O.V.D

Senate Bill Increases Access To Eye and Vision Care for West Virginians

West Virginia Senate Bill 230 Passed in Senate

Charleston, WV – Thanks to the state Senate, the citizens of West Virginia are one step closer to enjoying better access to eye and vision care. On February 23rd, the state Senate passed S. 230. This bill provides greater access to safe and effective, quality eye and vision care from their local doctor of optometry.

“It’s all about access,” Sen. Ed Bowman (D-Hancock) said. “With nearly 300 doctors of optometry across the state in 50 of 55 counties, this bill will make it easier for our residents to have high quality eye care.”

Senate Bill 230 would confirm the ability of optometrists in West Virginia to perform certain routine surgical procedures. This would ensure that patients will enjoy greater, easier – and often more cost-effective – access to the latest in quality eye care. This will also clarify optometrists’ surgical and prescriptive authorities and affirm their ability to safely and effectively perform certain common procedures commensurate with their education and training.

“We look forward to working on this piece of legislation in the House,” said Delegate Randy Swartzmiller (D-Brooke County). “This bill not only increases the number of quality providers, it will decrease the distance many of our residents will have to travel for medical procedures.”

Doctors of optometry undergo extensive education and training that makes them well qualified to provide comprehensive eye health care, including performing minor surgical procedures. Optometrists complete a four-year, post-graduate, doctoral study concentrating on the eye, vision system and associated systemic diseases. Additionally, optometrists must undergo continuing education to stay current on care.

The bill is now awaiting the signature of the governor.

SC Legislators Delay Driver Vision Test Discussion

Posted Associated Press : March 12, 2010

South Carolina legislators have delayed discussion of a bill doing away with a requirement for driver’s license vision tests every five years. The House’s transportation subcommittee said Wednesday it will discuss later requiring vision tests for drivers under age 65 only when they renew their licenses every 10 years. The state adopted a 10-year license renewal system in 2003 but still required drivers to submit to vision tests every five years and imposed a \$50 fine for drivers who didn’t comply. The Department of Motor Vehicles says it has not enforced that requirement and no one is complying with it. Drivers 65 and older renew licenses every five years and must prove their vision is good.

SCOPA Offering Electronic Health Records Webinar

On Tuesday, March 30th there is a webinar scheduled at 12:30pm to discuss EHR changes. For more information or to register, please contact the SCOPA Office at (803)799-6721 or 1-877-799-6721 or jrivers@sceyedoctors.com

Important Upcoming EHR Deadlines

- Qualify for the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) incentive program, which begins January 1, 2011
- Become part of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ (HHS) Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) scheduled for launch in 2014, and
- Avoid Medicare payment penalties for practitioners who do not use EHRs, beginning in 2015.

SC Special Olympics Opening Eyes Vision Screening

On March 6th, the Special Olympics Event was held in Charleston. It was one of our largest events to date! We screened 126 athletes making 53 pairs of prescription glasses and 7 pairs of sports goggles. We distributed 60 UV protection plano sunglasses and made 7 referrals. Thank you to all of the members who made this event such a success – Dr. Mike Zolman and Dr. Jennie Smith (co-clinical directors), Dr. Lori Donovan, Dr. James Vaught, Dr. Kristen Harwood, Dr. Janet Monaco, and Student Dr. Katy Falk. A special thank you goes to the Charleston Lions Club who helped with athlete's check-in and Essilor Representative Brenden Sullivan and his wife, Bailey Sullivan who helped fit frames and glasses.

Our next Special Olympics Event will be held in Columbia, SC on May 8th.
Contact Jennie Smith, OD at jenniesmithod@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping!



SCOPA Membership Benefits

We appreciate your membership in the SCOPA. As you know there are many benefits that are provided to you as a member of the SCOPA/AOA. We invite you to help recruit any of your colleagues that are not already a member. Below are just a few of the membership benefits that you receive through the SCOPA:

- SCOPA member mailings, SCOPA Delineator monthly newsletter, member emails that alert you to the latest information you need for your practice.
- SCOPA & AOA are your advocates before state and federal legislators, national third party providers, Medicare, Medicaid, the SC Board of Optometry, and other professional organizations.
- SCOPA membership provides you with AOA membership. AOA membership provides additional member benefits including the Practice Resource Center, Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines, Optometry's Career Center, patient education resources and more.
- SCOPA is the leading provider of quality continuing education in South Carolina. SCOPA members receive reduced registration rates on CE programs.
- SCOPA maintains the Classifieds section of the Delineator for members to advertise positions, practices, and equipment, both needed and for sale.
- The SCOPA Membership Directory is a comprehensive listing of all SCOPA members and is an invaluable reference tool that is given free of charge to members.
- Access to the restricted member portion of the SCOPA website, which is updated with the latest optometric news in South Carolina.
- Local society meetings for local information, continuing education, and camaraderie.
- Doctor Locator listing on the SCOPA website so that patients can easily find your practice. SCOPA membership allows you to access association endorsed programs including insurance plans, financial planning/investment services, ophthalmic buying groups, long distance telephone service reduced rates, equipment leasing, discounted car rental fees and more.
- SCOPA members organize and participate in public service programs like Special Olympics, InfantSEE, and the South Carolina Eye Care Initiative.
- SCOPA membership allows you to support the organization that is protecting and advancing your chosen profession.

As always, thank you for your continued support, involvement and participation in the SCOPA. We look forward to serving you as a member this year and if you have any questions regarding your membership or, if I can be of assistance in helping you recruit one of your colleagues, please let me know.

Melissa Schwebach, OD
Board of Directors, Membership Trustee



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Contact the SCOPA Office

Classifieds

Optometrist Needed

Full time OD needed for great practice in Clinton and Laurens. Interest in future ownership is welcome. Please inquire at 864-833-5555.

Part time optometrist needed 3-4 days a week for busy medical practice in Orangeburg, near Columbia and Charleston SC. Competitive profit sharing and guaranteed pay schedule. If interested call Dr. Choe at 843-610-2020.

Private eye doctor needs an outstanding compassionate optometrist with a strong service background and desire to make our patients so happy that they can't help but tell their friends how well they were treated. You must be willing to display a warm smile on command, realize you will always be on stage for our patients and be 100% committed to providing legendary, eventful and memorable service. Ladys Island, SC Compensation: Commensurate with Experience. Please call 843-476-5350.

Practice for Sale in Prime Locale in Myrtle Beach. Professional Setting. All new equipment, interior by design Fashion Optical Display. Priced for Quick Sale. Call Mark Vinson at 843-423-7229.

Two Locations Available:

* Irmo 1500 sq ft
* Charleston Hwy between Piggie Park and Ryans
1300 sq ft
Call SC Properties at 407-6233.

PT opportunity in the Sumter market. A long-time, loyal patient base. 3 days, all equipment and staffing is provided. Please contact Tom Connor at 704-965-9099 if interested.

Motivated optometrist for new second office in Pooler, Ga. FT associateship. Excellent

opportunity, must have Georgia license. Please call Dr. John Janvier at 843-837-4545 or email Drjanvier@yahoo.com.

Professional fill-in for your practice. Have scope and will travel. Dr. Holcombe 843-522-3837.

FT associate position available in a well established practice in Aiken, SC. Please call Dr. Braun at 803-648-8974 or fax resume to 803-648-6418.

Optician/Op. Tech and receptionist needed for busy Columbia private practice. Experience preferred. Please fax resume to: 803-794-2085.

Part-time associate position available in busy private practice in Columbia. Please call Dr. Ron Morris at (803) 413-2816 or fax resume to (803) 794-2085.

UPSTATE - Optometrist available, 13 years experience. PT or fill in. Call 864-985-3646.

Practice for sale in Beaufort. Call Jim 843-476-4647 after 5 pm.

Upstate practice for sale. Great PT income with excellent growth potential. New building and lots of new equipment. Call 864-363-8334 for more info.

FT associate needed for busy private practice in Greenwood, SC. Please fax resume to 864-229-1898.

Office Opportunity. Shared office w/ optical shop West of Ashley in Charleston. Same location twelve years. Take over optical and share space w/ ophthalmologist. One doctor is joining a large group practice and vacating. Easy terms, startup grace period. 843-860-9938.

Equipment for Sale

Chair, Slit Lamp, NCT Projector and Kerometer. Call Leland Boland at 864-366-2020.

AONCTII, Chart Projector, Chair and Stand. All in Excellent Condition. For Details, Call Janice at 864-855-0034.

HRT II like new condition. Purchased last year at SECO. Hardly used. \$16,000. If interested, please call 864-225-0474.

Lots of great equipment for purchase. Some items for sale include a Custom II Chair and Stand, Kerotometer, Vertometer, Complete Lens Finishing Lab, Desk and Office Furniture, & much more. E.H. Brown, O.D. at 803-345-6661.

Office equipment for sale. Please contact Dr. Bill Behling if interested at 843-562-2604.

Kerotometer (\$350), A/O Projector (\$250), A/O Custom Chair (\$1,500), and Zeiss Slit Lamp (\$1,000) for sale. Please call Dr. Antley at 803-532-9870 for more information.

7070 Santinelli Tatternless edger, needs a new tracer, was \$30,000 new, any reasonable offer will be considered. If interested, call Dr. Melvin Watsky at 843-425-6798.

BPI six bucket dye unit, asking \$300, was \$900 new. If interested, call Dr. Melvin Watsky at 843-425-6798.