The South Carolina Association of Opticians

INSIGHT

Summer/Fall 2023 **Newsletter**

*****Special Notice*****

The Association is offering one last chance to get CEs before our renewal.

In Person at the Embassy Suites, 200 Stonebridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210. 803.252.8700.

You need to register *immediately* on the website at www.scoptician.com using the Contact us feature.

President's letter, July 2023

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds everyone well, and that you all have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day holiday weekend. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the great leaders who have come before me, and I ask that you have grace and patience with any mistakes I may make while trying to fill some enormous shoes.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the newly elected members of our board, Jayne Sommers, Columbia Area Rep, and Joseph Venzie, Charleston Area Rep. I'm expecting to see fresh ideas and new perspectives from our new Board members.

Re-elected to their positions are Dan Gosnell, Treasurer, David Gosnell, Secretary, Dawn Arnold, Myrtle Beach Area Rep, James Rhodes, Florence Area Rep, and Maryellen Holliday, Greenville Area Rep. These folks have long been the boots on the ground making this Association one of the strongest in the country, and they deserve our thanks for their efforts to protect and maintain our profession and Association.

The Rock Hill Area Rep position is currently vacant. Please contact me if you're interested in serving your fellow opticians in this role.

Bill Russell and Grant Brown will continue on in their roles as Sergeant-at-Arms and Newsletter Editor, respectively. While these are not elected positions, they are instrumental in managing our meetings and communicating with our membership, and both of these men work hard for the association to help make us successful.

Elected to new positions are myself as President, and Jodi McGinnis as Vice President. Jodi has worked diligently as our Legislative Committee Chair, which she will retain, and I'm expecting her to continue accomplishing great things for this Association in her new role as VP.

I'd like to personally thank our outgoing Columbia Area Rep, Rhody Spooner, for his years of service to our association, and his wise advice and counsel over the last couple years.

Regarding our immediate Past President, Ron Harbert, words can't do justice to the long hours, hard work, and dedication he's put in over nine long years of service to his fellow SC opticians. He'll probably never tell you this himself, so I will: at the OAA Leadership meeting in February, he was recognized as the OAA State Leader of the Year. This is a well deserved and long-coming acknowledgement of his diligent service to not only SC opticianry, but to opticianry across the nation. I'm forever grateful that he took me under his wing and mentored me, and I feel privileged to call him a friend.

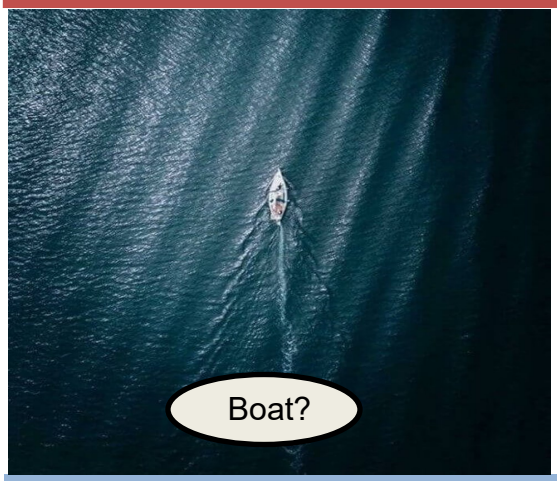
As I mentioned before, we have one of the strongest Associations in the country, and this is because the leaders before me did things the right way. My goals for this term in office are continuing the path laid out by my predecessors, working to modernize our website some of our processes, and growing the next generation of SCAO's leadership.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Wesley S. Scott

Robert Mark Wilkins, 60, of Spartanburg, died Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

Nettie, our prayers are with you and the family on Mark's passing. We hold Mark and your family in our hearts and memories. May God Bless. South Carolina Association of Opticians



CE Broker is the official CE tracking system of the Board. **All licensees shall register CEs to their CE Broker account by October 1, 2025.** If you have not yet activated your account, this can be done by visiting https://cebroker.com/sc/account/basic/.

South Carolina Association of Opticians

Mission:

The South Carolina Association of Opticians was established to advance the skillful practice of opticianry. We provide quality education which enables opticians to provide the best possible care for the public.

Article I - Membership

There will be 4 classifications: Regular, ABO Certified & Apprentices, Associate, and Life Member.

Regular members are South Carolina licensed opticians and have full voting privileges.

ABO Certified and Apprentice memberships have full educational privileges and do not vote.

Associate members are attendees not receiving education certificates and are non-voting participants.

Life Membership shall be earned by attaining the age of 72 with a birthday in that year by 12/31 and having been a licensed member of the Association for more than 30 continuous years. Life Members shall have full voting privileges.

Article II – Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be set by the Executive Board for all members.

Section 2. Annual dues are payable before January 1st of each year. Payments received after 12/31 will incur a late fee to be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 3. No cancellation or refund of dues shall be made if a member resigns before the close of the year.

Section 4. SCAO Life Members shall no longer be required to pay SC Association dues.

Article III – Continuing Education

The South Carolina Association of Opticians will provide continuing education approved by the S. C. Board of Examiners as required by the S. C. law governing opticianry.

Article IV – Association Board

The Association Board consists of the Executive Board, Area Representatives, committee chairs, and appointed non-voting positions.

Section 1. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and immediate Past President. The terms are for three years with no term limits. The duties of

the Executive Board of the Association shall be to consider, promote, advise, and transact the business of the Association.

A. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Association and shall serve as a member ex officio on all standing committees. The President has full voting privileges.

B. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President shall have such authority and perform such other duties as from time to time may be directed by the Executive Board or the President. The Vice President is responsible for our spring convention and is the chair of the meeting.

C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association which shall be an accurate and official record of all business transactions.

D. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Association financial records, receive all Association funds, maintain an Association bank account and pay out expenditures. They shall present a financial report at each Board meeting. Any expenditure over $200 must additionally be approved by the President and Treasurer. They must be bonded.

E. The Immediate Past President is a part of the Executive Board and only has voting privileges in case of a tie.

Section 2. Area Representatives

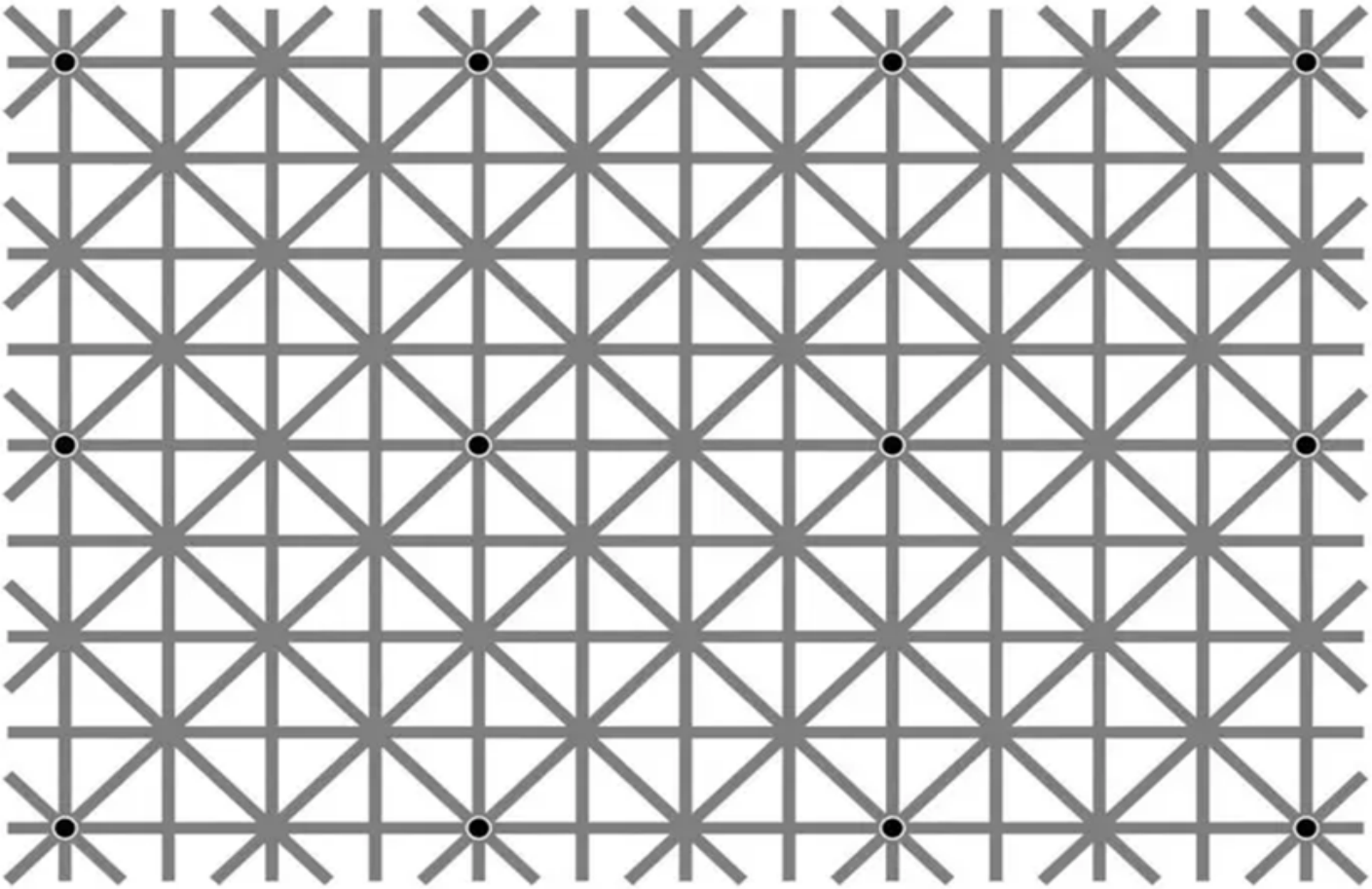
The areas represented shall include Greenville, Myrtle Beach, Columbia, Florence, Charleston, and Rock Hill. Other areas may be added. All elected Area Representatives are voting members of the Association Board. These are one (1) year terms with no term limits. They are required to hold a minimum of two meetings per year (except during unforeseen circumstances agreed on by exec. Board). This includes organizing and contacting members in your area. Area Representatives are expected to attend and help at all educational meetings in addition to attending at least three Board meetings a year.

An Area Representative or committee member may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board if after one (1) year they are not fulfilling their duties.

Section 3. Committees

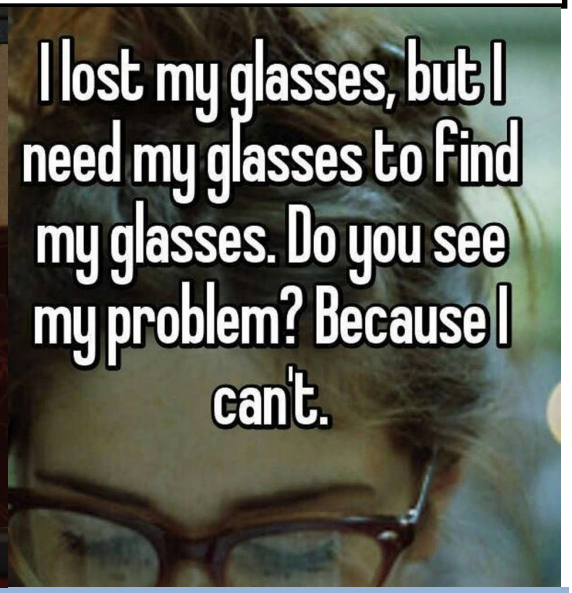
The President shall appoint all non-voting Association committee chairs and positions. These positions shall include Newsletter Editor, Website Director, Sergeant at Arms and others the President deems necessary. A committee member may be removed by a vote of the Executive Board.

Section 4. Board Position candidates



How many black and white circles are there?

In 1779, Franklin ordered a pair of glasses from an English optician, H. Sykes who had an office in Paris. Sykes later wrote to Franklin explaining that his spectacles had been delayed due to the lenses having broken three times during cutting. This has been taken as evidence that he was ordering something out of the ordinary.



Any candidate seeking a position on the Association Board must be an Association Member and a South Carolina Licensed Optician in good standing. They must submit to the secretary of the Executive Board a minimum of forty-five (45) days before the next annual business meeting a written notice of their intent to run. To serve on the Executive Board you must first have been elected to serve on the Association Board at least one (1) term. If no one submits 45 days in advance, nominations will be opened from the floor.

An Executive Board member may be removed by a unanimous vote of the other Association Board members. The Executive Board may appoint a non-voting qualified member to fill an open position until the next regular election.

Section 5. Board meeting notifications

The appropriate members shall be notified before any Executive or regular Board meeting.

Section 6. Voting members

Only South Carolina licensed opticians in good standing may vote at the annual business meeting.

Article V – Quorum

Three (3) voting members present at an Executive Board shall constitute a quorum with no allowance for an absentee vote. Five (5) voting members constitute a quorum for an Association Board meeting with no allowance for an absentee vote.

Article VI – Education opportunities

The Association will hold a minimum of two (2) educational meetings per year.

Article VII – Extraordinary circumstances

Extraordinary circumstances may be cause for changes approved by the Executive Board.

Article VIII – Amendments

Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed at any Association Board meeting. These may be adopted by a majority vote at the annual business meeting.

Article IX – Parliamentary

Robert's Rule of Order, revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for the Association.

What does the new hearing aid law mean?

In October 2021, the FDA formally proposed a rule to establish the new OTC hearing aids category.

Finalized in August 2022, the final rule *allows hearing aids within this category to be sold directly to consumers in stores or online without a medical exam or a fitting by an audiologist.*

If the above has happened to hearing aids; what's next???

Check out: www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Opticians/

We are required to get our continuing education hours every year.

The SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations collects our licensing fees every other year.

Special Olympics!

We want to give a shout out to the selfless volunteers who made Opening Eyes on May 13th, 2023 a great success! The SCAO sent out a request for volunteers to assist at the annual Special Olympics games held at Fort Jackson, and two of our licensed opticians showed up to help! Deanna Learmonth and Jayne Sommers (Columbia Area Rep) volunteered their time along with others from the community to assist Dr. Bernadine (Bernie) Donaldson in providing eye care for 80 athletes at the event.

The Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes program is changing lives in communities across the globe by providing comprehensive eye assessments, prescription eyewear, sunglasses and sports goggles to Special Olympics athletes and people with intellectual disabilities in general. After going through different testing stations, the exam information is reviewed and a decision is made if the athlete needs a new pair of prescription glasses or sport goggles. Through the generosity of our corporate sponsors Essilor (lenses) and Safilo (frames), athletes choose from a selection of eyewear. Athletes who do not need any corrective lenses receive plano sunglasses also provided by Safilo. In South Carolina, Opening Eyes began in 2006.

There are two opportunities in South Carolina for athletes to participate. One during the autumn games (location may vary), and at the annual state games at Fort Jackson, SC. We work together with other health disciplines under the Healthy Athletes umbrella to provide eye care to these athletes, many of whom would not receive it otherwise. Opening Eyes has been providing eye care to Special Athletes in South Carolina since 2006.

Volunteers are always appreciated, especially those with some experience in eye care. If you are thinking about volunteering, you may contact Bernadine Donaldson, OD, Clinical Director for South Carolina at (864) 923-9111 (cell, may also text) or send her an email at drdonaldson@yahoo.com. She can get you on their email list bout events that are coming up.

Association Officers

President	Wesley S. Scott	wesleysscott@scoptician.org	803.381.0249
Vice President	Jodi McGinnis	Jodidun10@gmail.com	803.394.5898
Secretary	David Gosnell	davidggosnell@gmail.com	864.430.7930
Treasurer	Danny Gosnell	gosnelldan@yahoo.com	864.704.4392
Past President	Ronnie Harbert	charlestonvisioncenter@gmail.com	843.795.7917
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Russell	billrussell@bellsouth.net	843.662.3278
Columbia Area Rep	Jayne Sommers	jssommers18@msm.com	215.208.1188
Charleston Area Rep	Joseph Venzie	joseph.venzie@visiontolearn.org	843.655.5151
Florence Area Rep	Jimmy Rhodes	jimrho1100@aol.com	843.229.6774
Greenville/Spartanburg Rep	Maryellen Holliday	maryellenholliday@yahoo.com	864.430.9821
Myrtle Beach Area Rep	Dawn Arnold	dcarnold@twc.com	716.753.6654
***Insight* Newsletter, Chaplin**	Grant Brown	grantbrown@optician.com	864.607.7714

SC Board of Examiners in Opticianry

Keith Hayes: Chair

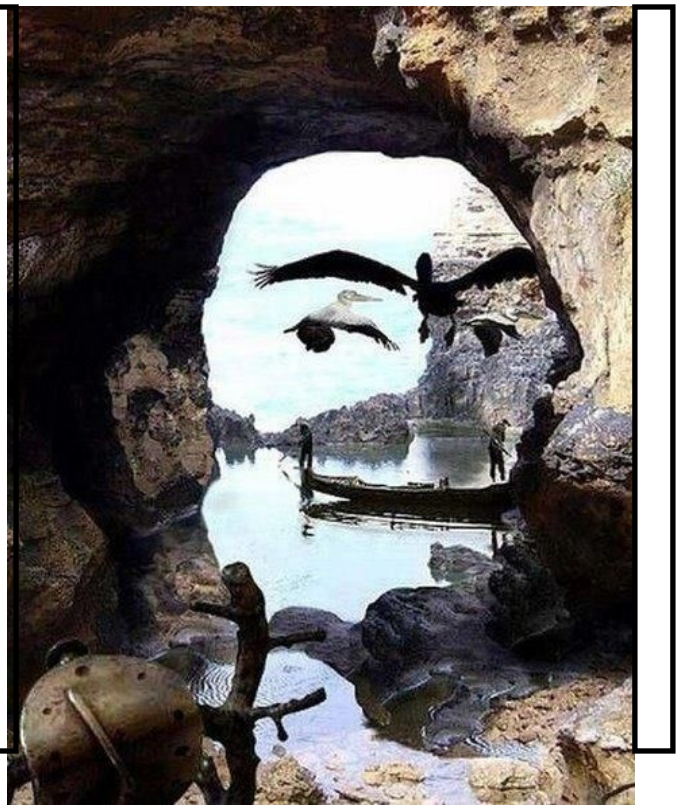
Wm. “Grant” Brown: Vice Chair

Daniel B Gosnell: Member

Emily F. Mikell: Member

James L. Rhodes: Member

John Hollis Inabinet: Public Rep



Picture questions: Boat?, no tear in leather chair. Site seers in Rome: every person in background is same guy!

These are excerpts of an earlier editorial. I believe that it is more pertinent than ever for our current licensure and growth.

From the messy desk of the Editor: Grant Brown

Get involved *and you'll be surprised at the degree of concern your Association has in so many areas.*

Bluntly, our profession, like all others, is either growing, or going downhill. We need ***you****,* ***our younger members,*** *to become the new leaders of tomorrow. Make a decision now, to make a difference in the near future. Ask how to get involved as the opportunities are there and waiting.*

The future of our Opticianry licenses, just as many of the other licensed professions and occupations, is being questioned by current and upcoming political agendas as expedient ways to achieve government regulatory cost cutting and simplifying measures for the public. Years ago SC opticianry became an independent licensed profession, governed by a Board of Examiners, for the protection of the public from these very threats. The Board enforces that assigned role of protectors through requiring continual pertinent educations creating a strong, knowledgeable, educated and dedicated group of individuals. It administers our regulations governing our legal and ethical responsibilities to the public at large.

Our State Association supports those very individuals through providing opportunities for the required continued education. We as individual opticians should recognize our responsibilities and the need for continued licensure by strengthening education and gaining knowledge of our opticianry laws. This includes grasping the different roles of the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the SC Board of Examiners in Opticianry and the SC Association of Opticians.

Personally, I would support a name change to the SC Association of Professional Opticians, SCAPO, or the South Carolina Association of Dispensing Opticians, SCADO; just to stress to the public and ourselves seriousness of our roles.

To those few who keep saying that not all SC opticians dispense; all SC licensed opticians have the ***right*** *to dispense, whether they do or not. To those who keep saying that we are not a profession; look up the definition of "what is a profession" in any business dictionary and you will find we fit every criteria!*

Get involved!!! We need you and you need us for both of us to prosper and grow!!