The South Carolina Association of Opticians

Insight

2024 Summer Newsletter

The 2024 Summer Continuing Education meeting will be held August 3-4, 2024 In-Person at:

Embassy Suites, 200 Stoneridge Dr, Columbia, SC 29210, 803-252-8700

Classes available will be:

Saturday August 3rd: Continuing Education for Licensed Opticians—8:00 am—2:00 pm

ABO Examination Prep Course—8:00 am—3:00 pm

Sunday August 4th: Continuing Education for Licensed Opticians—8:00 am—2:00 pm

Continuing Education for Apprentice Opticians—8:00 am—1:00 pm

Good news; YOU CAN NOW PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

From the Association Web Site:

If you've paid for 2024, or if you were a member in 2023, click LOGIN and request a password by entering the email address you previously used to sign up for events. Once you're logged in, please fill out all questions.

If you have not paid for 2024, and the Login/Password reset option doesn't work for you, please click JOIN and fill out all of the questions.

If you paid for 2024 and can't use the LOGIN feature to request a password, Please use the CONTACT feature for assistance. Thanks.

A lawyer was asked the question “If you call the tail a leg, how many legs does a dog have?” The lawyer answered “Five, of course.” The reply was “no, four! Just because you call the tail a leg doesn’t make it one.” Attributed to Abraham Lincoln

BOY, do I wish some of todays politicians would think about that for a while!

Continuing Education

If you've made reservations but are not coming; notify the association.

From the Legislative Team:

2024 legislative season has ended with great progress for our legislation. The biggest achievement has been the re-election of our strongest ally in the senate and bill sponsor, Brian Adams. His re-election was greatly impacted by the SCAO and our optician body who stepped up to help him. Thank you!

As with all legislative efforts there have been some setbacks and it is taking more time than we would have hoped. After a meeting on the house side with the major medical companies, we now have a clear path to victory. We begin working in the fall to finally have the draft of the bill completed that can and will be approved.

We continue to ask for opticians who are willing to get involved and help our efforts.

Mary Johnson Jodi McGinnis

Ron Harbert Jim Morris

For additional CE Information, please visit the Board website at https://www.llr.sc.gov/opti/ce.aspx.

Continuing education credit will not be waived unless you are living outside of the United States and then it is temporarily waived until your return and must be made up before the next renewal.

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/.

Information about State Licensure can be found by calling 803-896-4681 or visiting the following link: https://www.llr.sc.gov/opti/

Welcome to the future of Opticianry…. the United Opticians Association!

UOA
United Opticians
ASSOCIATION
Representing Contact Lens and Spectacle Opticians since 1925.

The Opticians Association of America and the National Federation of Opticianry Schools, along with the American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners have merged to bring the entire profession of Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians together to better represent and protect this critical profession. We are currently working with industry partners, educators, state societies, and former OAA and NFOS membership to build a truly representative organization for all Opticians!

When asked how he sees the creation of the new organization, James M. Morris, Esq, newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the United Opticians Association (UOA), has said that “by bringing together all of the different “alphabet soup” organizations, we are better able to spearhead representation, and protection of the Opticianry profession. ABO & NCLE, as a competency testing and continuing education organization, was not truly able to engage in meaningful governmental relations or industry partnerships because it has no true “membership.” OAA has an incredible group of passionate members, and NFOS provides incredible formal educational opportunities. By bringing together the funding from ABO & NCLE, along with OAA’s passion and membership and NFOS’s formal educators, UOA is able to unite the best of each organization, focus efforts, and provide one united group protecting all Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians.”

The UOA will be capable of protecting the entire Opticianry profession, educating the general public, and effectively engaging in governmental relations on both a local and national front. By consolidating the efforts of each diverse organization, we will be able to move quicker, become proactive rather than reactive, and move this profession forward as a recognized critical component of the field of medical vision care. cont:

Ronnie Harbert, current President of UOA, is passionate about this profession. He has been in the optical field for more than 47 years and has served, both locally on a state level with the South Carolina Association of Opticians and nationally, with the Opticians Association of America. Ronnie feels that he has learned quite a bit from many great leaders in the profession and will continue to learn from them and others as the Currently, Ronnie's three goals as leader of the UOA Board of Directors are to strive to require licensure in all states, offer more educational opportunities through formal education and a more structured apprenticeship program, and establish and maintain a united membership of Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians.

The UOA was created to better our profession by merging organizations instead of duplicating efforts and expenses for the same goals and ideas. The merging organizations have equal representation on the Board of Directors, protecting their strengths and ideas.

We truly are stronger together!

Naomi Mundy
Director-Industry Relations, Marketing & Membership
United Opticians Association

Current SC Board of Examiners in Opticianry members:

Keith Hayes—Chairman	Grant Brown—Vice Chair
Emily Mickell	Dan Gosnell
Ron Harbert	Hollis Inabinet