



### *OAI Spring Conference 2004*



*New Friends*

*New products*

*Good Food*

### *And Education !!!*

The 2004 spring conference and trade show was held at the Renaissance Savory Hotel in Des Moines. Raymond Dennis was the featured speaker. Professor and program coordinator of the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program at Middlesex Community college in Middletown Connecticut, Mr. Dennis provided six ABO credit hours of education. Mr. Dennis' style of teaching kept the attendees focused and interested while he taught classes directed at opticians current needs.

Saturday evening's social event was an evening of relaxed socializing with peers. A casual vendor hall provided the opportunity to view products from optical suppliers and information on how best to recommend the products to patients. While socializing there was good food, drink and an abundance of door prizes from generous vendors at the event. Sunday morning started with education followed by brunch. After the meal the meeting was adjourned and that closed another great weekend of professionals gathering to advance the quality of opticianry in the state of Iowa.

#### **- Mission Statement -**

The Opticians Association of Iowa exists to enhance your individual and professional growth and development. Together we provide a unified voice within and for those actively involved in opticianry in Iowa.

## Optician of the Year 2004

*At the 2004 spring conference held at the Renaissance Savory Hotel in Des Moines. The Board of Directors presented the Optician of the Year award to past president Randy Moffitt. A surprise presentation of a plaque and round of golf at the beautiful Harvester golf course.*

*Randy has served as OAI board member, OAI President and OAI's board representative to the Midwest Optical Conference. Randy still serves as the OAI board representative for the Midwest Optical Conference.*

***Congratulations Randy !!!!!***



Randy Moffitt  
Optician of the Year 2004



The Board of Directors  
wishes to recognize

***Joe Robinson A.B.O.C.***

Joe's term of office ended at the spring conference 2004. The OAI board of directors has had the opportunity to work with Joe many years. We will miss Joe at the meetings as his wisdom, ideas and dedication has helped advance the quality, integrity and purpose of the Opticians Association of Iowa.

## Welcome New Members

Eric Prestemon  
Wilson Eye Care  
918 Decathlon Dr.  
Waterloo, IA 50701

Amy Renze ABOC  
Wolfe Clinic Eye Centers  
2020 B 3rd Ave NW  
Waverly, IA 50677

Cheryl Byrne  
Vision Park Family Eye Care  
2699 86th  
Urbandale, IA

Janet Olsen  
Vision Park Family Eye Care  
475 S. 50th St  
West Des Moines, IA 50265



What? Thirty bucks for a pair of glasses

Gwen Johnson  
McFarland Eye Wear  
1215 Duff Ave. PO Box 3014  
Ames, Ia 50010

Nancy Drury  
Eye Designs  
5901 Westown Parkway Suite #200  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Erica Pratt  
Mauer Eye Center  
3410 Kimball Ave  
Waterloo, IA 50702

## Letter from the President

## Opticians Association of Iowa

From the President's Desk...

I can't believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone. Last time I wrote school was just starting. Planning is coming along nicely for our spring conference April 2 and 3, 2005. Please notice that the board has compiled a brief survey on what YOU as a member of the Opticians Association of Iowa would like to see in the future. Please feel free to respond via the internet at [www.oaiowa.org](http://www.oaiowa.org), or to any of the board members. All of our phone numbers are listed in your directory.

Have a great holiday season with your family and friends.

Thank you very much,

Ron Bolar, President OAI

### OAI PERFORMANCE SURVEY

- 1) What would you like to see the OAI do for you?
- 2) What brings you (or would bring you) to attend the OAI spring conference?
- 3) What type of continuing education classes would you like to see offered at the spring conference?
- 4) Do you think the amount of continuing education credits available at spring conference is sufficient?
- 5) Would you like the OAI to help you complete a college degree?
- 6) What activities would you like added to the spring conference?
- 7) Do you regularly attend the OAI spring conference?
- 8) Do you regularly attend the MOC fall conference?
- 9) Do you feel comfortable navigating the OAI website?

Please give us your honest feedback, we welcome your comments.

Job postings—Items for sale—Product

Membership to the OAI  
Has benefits go to  
[WWW.OAIIOWA.ORG](http://WWW.OAIIOWA.ORG)

### Board of Directors

President

Ron Bolar  
McFarland Eye Wear  
3600 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50014  
[RBOLAR@MCFARLANDCLINIC.COM](mailto:RBOLAR@MCFARLANDCLINIC.COM)

Past President

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Rhynonda Cregger  
Mauer Eye Center  
124 2nd St. NE  
Waverly, Iowa 50677

Director

Tom Gardner  
20/20 Vision Wear LTD  
130 West Broadway

Director

Melinda Hunter  
Soderburg Optical  
1214 Maple  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

Director

Johnna Dukes  
Jensen Optometrist  
935 Broad Street  
PO Box 687  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

The OAI is the official publication of the

**Opticians Association of Iowa**

PO Box 911  
Ames, IA 50010

## ***Midwest Optical Conference***

This year 2004 Midwest Optical Conference was held at the Mystic Lake Casino & Convention Center in Prior Lake, Mn just southwest of the Twin Cities. A great weekend of education and fun was had by all that attended this year Midwest Optical Conference, October 14–16, 2004. On behalf of the MOC board of directors I would like to thank those that attended this year's conference.

On Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, an ABO pre-study course was held to provide valuable information to those Opticians that wanted to become ABO certified. This 8-hr. class was conducted by Michael DiSanto. The evaluations that came back from the forty Opticians that attended the class were very positive, so positive that we may have this ABO pre-study class again next year in 2005. Be sure and check out our web site @ [www.opticalconference.com](http://www.opticalconference.com) after the first of the year for more information about topics and speakers for 2005.

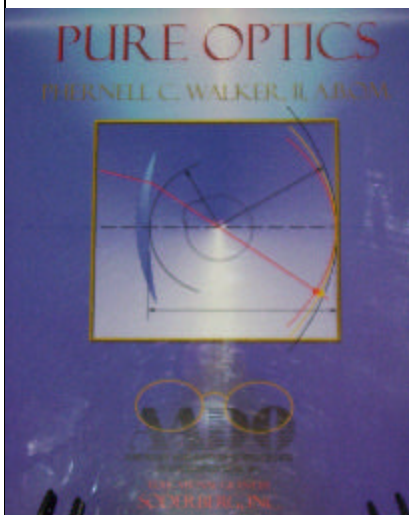
***So plan on attending next years Midwest Optical Conference,***

***October 20-22, 2005  
at the  
Mystic Lake Casino & Convention Center.***

**The OAI will be adding additional study and reference materials to the OAI library. If you have any suggestions for study materials to have added please notify a board member .  
*OAI is dedicated to continual education of Opticians.***

### ***Educational Resource Material***

OAI has available for loan  
Pure Optics By: Phernell C. Walker III, A.B.O.M  
A Study guide for the A.B.O. Exam



Contact an OAI  
board member today  
*A deposit is required*

Ophthalmic optics is both a science and an art. The science involves the understanding and methodology of harnessing and manipulating light and its images using ophthalmic lenses and mirrors. The art involves designing the best lenses, selecting the most appropriate frame and blending the cosmesis of both.

After training opticians over the years, it became apparent to me that an ophthalmic manuscript that takes a modular, comprehensive, step by step, forward approach was needed. Pure Optics was created for this very reason. My goal was to provide a tool to unlock the door, giving a further understanding to the complex, yet intriguing world of ophthalmic optics. Pure Optics is an excellent resource for individuals studying for the American Board of Opticianry Certification (ABOC) and other state boards or anyone that dispenses lenses.

Phernell C. Walker, II, A.B.O.M.  
*Master in Ophthalmic Optics*

# Changing Lives-Leader Dogs

Leader dogs have a life changing impact on a visually impaired person. Guide dogs help provide independent mobility for the blind allowing them to travel and function socially around the world.

Specialized schools train dogs to assist visually impaired persons in normal daily activities. The dogs must pass assessment and medical tests before they begin an intensive training program. The dog will be raised for over one year by volunteers, and then trained for 4 to 6 months by professional trainers before being placed with their blind handlers. While in training the dog will travel with a trainer wherever they may go. They will learn to help the blind navigate and avoid obstacles.

The guide dog is considered to be on duty when wearing his harness, which is the communication between the dog and the blind partner. The master's role is to provide directional commands, while the dog's role is insure the team's safety even if it requires disobeying an unsafe command. For the guide dog's master to reach a goal of independence the dog and the blind person will be highly trained.

The natural impulse is to stop and pet a guide dog, but the animal should not be petted or disrupted while working. If disrupted the safety of the dog and master could be jeopardized. If you would like to offer assistance, ask: "May I help you?" If they respond that they would welcome help, approach them on their right side and offer your left arm for assistance. Do not take hold of the dog's harness or leash, this may confuse and startle the guide dog team.

When the harness or work coat is removed, the dog is off work, you may then, with the permission of the owner, touch the dog. Do not offer the dog treats, this disrupts the animal and he is on a controlled diet which is carefully monitored by the owner.

A leader dog is made available by application submission from a legally blind person. The cost of training one dog is over \$30,000.00 dollars for each student/dog team. The service of the school and the dog is provided free of charge to blind persons.

For more information about leader dogs check out the following web sites:

[www.adionline.org](http://www.adionline.org)   [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)   [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)  
[www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)   [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)

## Did you know...

- You do not need to be ABO certified to be a member of Opticians Association of Iowa
- You receive a discount for your registration at the OAI spring conference and the Midwest Optical Conference
- You are listed in and receive a copy of the OAI Directory
- You receive a certificate of membership suitable for framing
- You get all the newsletters 2 times a year
- Join today !!

### Dates to Remember:

**OAI Spring Conference  
April 2nd & 3rd 2005**

**Midwest Optical Conference  
Oct. 20th-22th 2005  
[www.opticalconference.com](http://www.opticalconference.com)**

**ABO-NCLE Exam  
May 2005  
[www.abo.org](http://www.abo.org)  
703.437.8780**

The construction of the OAI web site is ongoing. The site has expanded and offers many links and information. If you have not visited our web site please do. If you have not visited in some time check out the changes!

[www.oaiowa.org](http://www.oaiowa.org)

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- ▶ [Employment Opportunities](#)
- ▶ [Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Affiliates](#)

# *Corporate Members*

<b>Eastern States Optical</b>	<b>1-800-328-7790</b>	<a href="http://www.eseyewear.com"><u>www.eseyewear.com</u></a>
<b>Essilor of America-Varilux</b>	<b>1-800-237-8725</b>	<a href="http://www.essilor.com"><u>www.essilor.com</u></a>
<b>Essilor of America-ELOA</b>	<b>1-800-792-6826</b>	<a href="http://www.eloa.com"><u>www.eloa.com</u></a>
<b>Hoya Vision Care</b>	<b>1-866-812-8893</b>	<a href="http://www.hoyavision.com"><u>www.hoyavision.com</u></a>
<b>The Newton Group, Inc.</b>	<b>1-800-232-5729</b>	<a href="http://www.newtonpro.com"><u>www.newtonpro.com</u></a>
<b>Neostyle Eyewear</b>	<b>1-800-854-2782</b>	<a href="http://www.neostyle.com"><u>www.neostyle.com</u></a>
<b>Marchon Eyewear</b>	<b>1-800-645-1300</b>	<a href="http://www.marchon.com"><u>www.marchon.com</u></a>
<b>Soderberg Inc.</b>	<b>1-800-733-4641</b>	<a href="http://www.soseyes.com"><u>www.soseyes.com</u></a>
<b>B&amp;B Optical</b>	<b>1-800-432-0842</b>	
<b>Safilo U.S.A.</b>	<b>1-800-631-1188</b>	<a href="http://www.safilo.com"><u>www.safilo.com</u></a>
<b>Midwest Labs</b>	<b>1-800-247-2525</b>	<a href="http://www.mwlab.com"><u>www.mwlab.com</u></a>
<b>Pech Optical Corp.</b>	<b>1-800-831-2352</b>	<a href="http://www.pech.com"><u>www.pech.com</u></a>
<b>Charmant Group Inc.,USA</b>	<b>1-800-272-2042</b>	<a href="http://www.charmant.com"><u>www.charmant.com</u></a>
<b>Knight Laboratory, Inc.</b>	<b>1-800-247-0312</b>	

Become a member today  
Visit: [www.oaiowa.org](http://www.oaiowa.org) or call any OAI board member

# ABO–NCLE Certification Renewal

**Remember renewal requirements for both basic and advanced certifications are:**

ABO= 12 hours, 3 may be NCLE;

NCLE = 18 hours, 6 may be ABO

Joint ABO/NCLE = 21 hours (9ABO and 12 NCLE)

For those who are ABO advanced certified, 4 hours must be level II (intermediate) or level III (advanced). For NCLE 6 hours must be level II or Level III. For joint ABO/NCLE certified 7 hours must be level II or Level III.

ABO/NCLE recommends that at least 2/3 of your continuing education credits be classified as technical.

Also, CEC's must be earned within each three-year certification period. CEC's from a previous certification period may not be carried over for use in the next certification period.

## Lab Hints

When ordering drill mounted lenses, always send additional hardware that was included with the frame. If the lab needs to order additional parts from the manufacturer it may add unnecessary time and cost to the job. If you have questions call your laboratory to verify items they may need to properly fill the order.

## Lens News

The introduction of Essilor's new *LIBERTY* progressive lens promises to be able to convert current bifocal wearers to progressive add lenses. The technology optimizes the reading area. Wearers enjoy crisp wide distance vision, with an easy transition from distance to near. The Varilux *LIBERTY* delivers up to 2 times better instant reading power than the common progressive addition lens. Any new lens on the market deserves a try. Current bifocal wearers have been a challenge to convert to PALs in the past but Hopefully the *LIBERTY* can deliver as promised. With non-adapt warranty, it is worth the risk. Once a lined bifocal wearer is converted to a PAL lens they won't return to the old style bifocal.

**Help us keep up with industry changes in Iowa. Please submit new items that effect opticians in the state of Iowa. Retirements, job changes, new offices, etc. so we can update our records and publish changes in the OAI newsletter.**

## New Contacts:

Name		Company	Phone	Fax	e-mail	
Rebecca	Nerness	Tachumi eyewear	800-423-3023 ext 701			
Shelley	Orren	Younger Optics	866.893.2829	402.504.4927		
Jennifer	Probst	Charmant Group Inc	800-272-4042			
Mark	Wright	Manhattan Design	888.416.3937 ext 8405		<a href="mailto:bearsfan@netins.net">bearsfan@netins.net</a>	

**OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION OF IOWA**

**PO Box 911  
Ames, Iowa 50010**

**Save The Date !**



**Save The Date!**  
**2005 OAI**  
**Spring Conference and Trade Show**  
**April 2-3, 2005**  
**Renaissance Savory Hotel**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**

- **Speakers**
- **Industry Exhibitors**
- **Continuing Education Credits**
- **Networking Opportunities**

Look for information soon in the mail or at  
[www.oaiowa.org](http://www.oaiowa.org)

