

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



December 2018



As the year winds down and we look toward the new year with anticipated optimism—we take this time to reflect on our accomplishments.

This was a busy year with legislative changes made to our professions through redefined office location restrictions, strong progress made by the Dispensing Opticians Committee, and our hand-off to a new executive officer. Slow wins; major implications. We also look at what's ahead.

We are laser-focused on securing support for our Children's Vision bill, coursework approvals for continuing education related to optometry licensing, and tackling the topic of mobile optometric services. These are all large tasks that require varying degrees of state support. Speaking of the state ...

Presided over by Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Director Dean R. Grafilo, the biannual Board Member and Advisory Committee Leadership Meeting was held on Dec. 7. The agenda was catalyzed by a new administration. As a foundation for the handover, we discussed a few of the key administrative and legislative priorities from the perspective of DCA's various boards. Topics included the Executive Officer (EO) Salary Study, legislative affairs, board member training, and the transition of the administration. I'll focus on the first two.

We are making progress with the consultant-led EO Salary Study. Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Services Chris Castrillo reported that, aside from canvassing comparable positions in other states, DCA and its consultant were looking at such critical factors as complexity of responsibilities, recruiting and retention issues, inverse pay scales between assistant EOs and EOs, and gender parity. Alongside the study, DCA is reviewing the EO evaluation and processes for salary increases. DCA hears us, and our concerns are shared by other boards. Anticipate report findings in March.

From the legislative perspective, hundreds of new bills have already been introduced for the 2019 session, but we must still implement AB 2138 (2017–18, Chiu), chaptered earlier this year. This bill looks to reduce barriers to professional entry, such as limiting the criminal convictions to be considered for professional licensing. Like our board, other boards have taken a proactive approach to learning more about the changes in law because of AB 2138. To help us all navigate the complexities, DCA has created a working group. It will prepare materials that help us better understand the statutory language and what implementation means to our collective boards. If necessary, we are to be prepared for meetings (in addition to our quarterly meetings) to discuss this important topic.

So, there you have it. The makings of a very busy year—one that focuses on a broad spectrum of highly important issues facing the California consumer and our board.

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyd Brandvein".

Cyd Brandvein, President