

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF
OPTOMETRY



Hello Board members,

September 1, 2017

Hope you are enjoying the last dog days of summer. School has started for many of our families and vacations are drawing to a close. As we gear up for Fall and the restart of the legislative session, our committee meetings are being organized and your executive team is laying out our path forward and taking action on many of the objectives within the newly adopted Strategic Plan.

The Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC) met following the Board meeting to prioritize their objectives and discuss the various matters facing the RDO Program. In the weeks following the DOC's first meeting, the [webcast](#) exceeded 500 views! The August [webcast](#) will be posted to our website shortly. [Agenda](#) topics included developing a comprehensive Outreach Plan – partnering with DCA's Communications team, drafting Disciplinary Guidelines, reviewing the national examination pass rates, and streamlining the registration process. Recommendations will be brought to the full Board in November.

To help us achieve our goals, the executive team is looking at strategic partnerships that may be key to collectively advancing consumer care in health related services. As the California State Board of Optometry tackles such significant issues including mobile optometric facilities and online refractions, we are reaching across to other healing arts boards to learn where we may have shared interests in consumer protection, crossover in perceived and real jurisdictional responsibilities and joint opportunities to effect change on issues that may influence how we protect the health and safety of California patients receiving optometric care.

One such partner is the Medical Board. Working together, we are better positioned to reach a broader public audience, interested parties and stakeholders as we discuss how consumers across the eye care and medical spectrum may be impacted by technological promoted online services. Early on discussions have both boards exploring common interests and the means to educate, legislate and enforce necessary safeguards for consumer protection. Vice President David Turetsky, OD, our Executive Officer Jessica Sieferman, our Legal Counsel Mina Hamilton and I met with their President Dev GnanaDev, MD, Executive Officer Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Legal Counsel Kerrie Webb, and Chief of Legislation Jennifer Simoes to explore such a partnership.

As a result, we are looking at ways to become a unified voice in how to best protect the consumer potentially starting with public outreach, giving the consumer the information they need to make informed eye care decisions. Both Ms. Sieferman and I have been invited to the Medical Board's October meeting and I will provide you with an update on their thoughts and shared goals following the meeting.

Cyd