

**Message from the President
January 2K8**

Fellow opticians, I would like to thank my predecessor Bob Reynolds for a job well done. During my term as president I am making it a priority to increase the awareness of the profession and the general public to the importance and significance of the OAG. To that end we are maintaining our efforts to seek passage of HB-241 (the apprentice/trainee MBE-Minimum Basic Education and registration) bill. This bill is being supported by OAG, in the public interest specifically, as a result of a decade long decline in the passage rates for the state board licensure exams primarily by apprentice/trainees. Those dreadful results demand a better structured and mandatory approach to preparing trainees for the licensure exams. As a result of the previous legislative carryover session this bill is still active and negotiations are ongoing to seek a satisfactory compromise for all concerned. Our second direct impact project is the further development of the OAG sponsored OTA-Optical Training Academy, which will provide on at least a semi-annual basis ABO/NCLE and Lensometry preparatory classes for optician apprentice/trainees. These classes will be provided at our annual spring and fall conventions. I will make every effort to update the president's message semi-annually to report on how we are making progress. In the meantime I encourage each of you to make it your personal responsibility to positively promote your profession and the state association and to encourage membership from non members. We have two levels of membership i.e., professional and associate. The OAG is the only organization whose express purpose is the ongoing promotion and development of our chosen profession. These objectives cannot be met without conscious involvement of the membership. To quote former President Reagan "if not us; who, if not now; when, if not this, what?"

Cordially,

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