

**President's Message
Fall 2K10**

**Final Call
by
Thomas Blair, Jr., LDO, ABOM**

As the end of my 2nd time in office as president draws near, it's beneficial to reflect back on how far we've come. Over the past three years, OAG has made significant inroads in being a force to upgrading our profession. This is a lasting tribute to the dedicated people who serve as officers and directors on the OAG board of directors. Our signature issue HB-241 the apprentice MBE and Training bill continues to justify OAG support of this legislative initiative. Through an Open Records request filed with the state - to determine impact assessment of the recently changed law - it has been conclusively determined the pass/fail rate is trending upward as it was presumed the scores would though more comprehensive standards. This means more and better qualified candidates are achieving licensure status and going into the professional work force at an increasing rate. This is a direct benefit to the profession and the public.

In related context the OTA (Optical Training Academy) was developed in 2K7 to provide resource assistance to apprentice/trainees as they progress through a now predictable training process. For the benefit of licensees and trainees the Georgia Law c.e. course has been approved in 2K9 for ABO credit, making the course a valuable part of the Georgia license and ABO/NCLE certification renewal process. Additionally, we have moved to increase our continuing education footprint in Georgia by establishing a presence in Valdosta in the southwest section of the state. On the national level, OAG was an early supporter of the recently enacted 2K9 OAA TPA (Title Protection Act) Resolution which establishes for the first time - nationally - a minimum standard definition for the use of the title Optician.

The full measure and impact of the aforementioned initiatives have yet to be fully determined. However, the early indications are these were wise courses of action to take and will pay practical and professional dividends many times over in the years to come.

As president-elect Cora Lester assumes office 1 Nov. 2K10, I ask you to give her the support necessary to continue the progress of making Georgia opticianry first class.

Cordially,

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