

**President's message
Spring 2K10**

**On professional pride and personal responsibility
by
Thomas Blair, Jr., LDO, ABOM**

As president I get to hear from a broad cross section of the Georgia opticianry community. It goes with the territory and I willingly embrace it as part of the job. Most of the callers are cordial, friendly, and the exchanges can be enlightening. What I find increasingly disturbing of late are the periodic callers who manage to make it sound as though they are hapless victims when it comes to matters such as allowing licenses to lapse, etc. There are clearly situations in the human experience when such a situation may occur for legitimate reasons, and accordingly these situations are not the focus of my comments. The focus of my ire - however - is the caller who doesn't know what their responsibilities are as a licensee, and to a degree don't seem to particularly care. These are the folks with the attitude of "what's the problem, you work for me." Increasingly, I am finding it appropriate to challenge these callers with "if you don't know what your responsibilities are, quite frankly why don't you know?" Straight up, it's very obvious some folks are their own worst enemy! There is very little an individual can't find about their license status and renewal obligation with a little effort and initiative. The state of Georgia provides a ready resource of license information at www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/opticians/ . Where I'm going with this is, it's long past time for these individuals to acquire an attitude of professionalism and pride. Legitimate extenuating circumstances aside, there really is no reason for anyone to find themselves in a state of license expiration, particularly when the penalties imposed for reinstatement are rather stiff. The bottomline is all Georgia Licensed Opticians have the exact same license renewal cycle. All licensed practitioners have a direct personal responsibility to know when their license renewal period occurs. By taking direct personal responsibility in this area, an individual reduces the risk of being victimized by misinformation and *disinformation*.

To the licensed opticians who diligently handle their business, I salute you and we are kindred spirits. To those who can't seem to find the time

to act accordingly, pay attention now or continue to pay - much - more later!

Most cordially,

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