

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WINTER 2K9

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by

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In the last 2 years - at least on paper - opticianry has made significant strides going forward in the legislative arena. In Georgia, as it should be well known by now, Ga. HB-241 the apprentice/trainee MBE and registration bill was passed into law effective 1 Jul. 2K8. More recently progress at the national and state level has occurred again. In September 2K9 at the OAA national conference the OAA delegate assembly unanimously approved a TPA (Title Protection Act) resolution. For the first time, under new OAA President Diane Charles of Washington state, the title optician is given a structured definition. A resolution does not carry the force of law, but it is the important first step in further legislative action. Georgia has become one of the first states to endorse this important development. The relevance, scope, and structure of the resolution can be viewed on the OAA website which is: www.oaa.org Why are developments like this important? The answer is, as the nation lurches toward healthcare reform - irrespective of the politics involved getting there - the apparent outcome points to an increasingly larger role for ancillary healthcare personnel in the healthcare delivery system, which includes professional opticianry. Even today, certain 3rd party insurance type entities make reference to possession of ABO/NCLE certification in addition to state licensure where applicable. Professional minded opticianry has little choice but to get with the program as it relates to credentialing, so to speak, or be left out as new programs for the delivery of healthcare services are developed.

In an unrelated by nevertheless significant development in Georgia, I am pleased to report - at the suggestion of current Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians chairman Stephan E. Sanford – the popular GA Law class has been approved for ABO credit recognition. Accordingly, now ignorance of the (GA) law is less of an excuse than ever because of this development. Watch the OAG website calendar of upcoming events for future dates of the course. (www.oagonline.org)

Where do we go from here? The answer is forward!!

Have a safe and pleasant holiday season,

Cordially,

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