



pride. power. progress.

member benefits introduction

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Opticianry is a longstanding and noble field of practice – one, in fact, that dates back as far as the mid-1300s.

The Opticians Association of America is a well-established and integral part of that legacy. Established in 1926 as the Guild of Prescription Opticians, the OAA holds the distinguished honor of being the only national organization representing the professional, business, educational, legislative and regulatory interests of opticianry.

In essence, the OAA is the collective voice of the opticianry industry. We work with members, sponsors and other professionals – both inside and outside of our industry – to assure that opticians receive the recognition, respect, opportunity and protection you deserve. Likewise, we work tirelessly to further a positive and informed brand image for opticianry, in both local and global markets.

For over 90 years, the OAA has been dedicated to the advancement of the American optician.

We're here for you.

Attending the OAA Leadership Conference boasted a serious personal challenge within me. Being on the forefront, walking in the footsteps of amazing leaders, past and present, is a feat I aspire to. Trying my hardest, never giving up and always searching for cohesion, I believe I can only fortify the industry.

Tyrone Wilson
LDO

pride

Every endeavor of the OAA is anchored in the belief that optician is not just a job. It is a vocation, a calling, a worthwhile profession.

You do more than dispense eyewear. You provide an indispensable service – one grounded in knowledge, skill and care. The work you do is vital.

You are valuable.

In isolation, it's all too easy to forget this.

The mission of the OAA is to continually remind you of your true value as an optician by creating new ways for our member states to connect, collaborate and unify. We provide mentorship and motivational opportunities, whether you're an established practice or a student who's just setting out to explore the field. And our ongoing branding efforts are aimed at assuring that the public knows who you are, what you do – and just how much they need you.

You allow artists to continue creating.

You offer hope and purpose to the aging.

You allow school children to read, learn and thrive.

You help pilots safely transport thousands of people daily.

You aid doctors in performing intricate, life-saving surgery.

You help America see.

Correctly. Comfortably. Beautifully.

The annual OAA Leadership Conference has helped me to make my job a profession that I'm proud to be involved in. I've gone from 'just an optician' to someone who's involved in paving the way for the future of opticianry.

Kevin Silva
Licensed optician / Opticians Association of MA Treasurer

power

The Opticians Association of America is a nationwide network of member states whose collective voice far surpasses what any of us could hope to accomplish alone.

The OAA makes it our business to keep abreast of legislation that affects the field of opticianry. We work to create and uphold laws that recognize and protect qualified opticians, while challenging or opposing those which might harm the profession. And where regulations do change, we assure that our member states can quickly and clearly understand what those changes mean in practical terms.

What's more, while our branding efforts aim to educate consumers as to the role and importance of opticians — lawmakers and courts are not as keenly aware of the facts as they should be. The OAA, together with its members and sponsors, aims to change that.

It's an ongoing battle, but our sleeves are rolled up, our purpose resolute.

In addition, the OAA provides ongoing opportunities — from state-specific trainings to national leadership conferences — for opticians to stay informed about everything from industry shifts to marketing best practices.

Knowledge is power. And there truly is strength in numbers.

DID YOU KNOW? The influence of the OAA is wide in scope, with representatives on the ANSI Standards Board; the American Board of Opticianry (ABO); the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA); the Foundation for Eye Health Awareness; National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE); the National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS), and the Sun Initiative Planning Team.

progress

The OAA has been championing opticians and opticianry as a whole for nearly a century. Yet our thinking and approach remain both current and future oriented. We are not merely “keeping up”; we are among the thought leaders and perpetual frontrunners in the field.

By providing ongoing training and education, a broad scope of networking opportunities, and mentorship and leadership development, we assure that American opticians – collectively and individually – are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of opticianry.

Ever a priority, our branding efforts continue to turn a spotlight on opticians, with the goal that American consumers know exactly who you are and why they should trust only a qualified optician with their eyewear needs.

In addition, the OAA is highly intentional in investing time and resources into preparing and recruiting the next generation of opticians, who will be the future leaders and innovators in our field. And we underscore this goal with an ongoing commitment to championing both [equality and diversity](#).

We're going places. Together, we thrive.

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While every OAA member receives these benefits and more, certain types of memberships also entitle that member to additional benefits such as voting rights in OAA decision making, eligibility to become an OAA Board Member and other leadership opportunities.

Each OAA member also enjoys a host of benefits in the form of savings on everything from training materials to conference admissions and more.

Click below to view a complete listing of every benefit available to you as an OAA member.

oaa.org/membership/view-benefits