The 2012 Bronstein Contact Lens & Cornea Seminar will be held January 13-15 at the beautifully-appointed DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, AZ.

The Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort/Scottsdale hotel, winner of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award, offers luxury, resort amenities, and visually stunning Sonoran Desert views on 22 acres of lush, tropical paradise in Scottsdale, Arizona. This Diamond in the Desert is just minutes from Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall (the largest mall in the Southwest), Arizona State University, and the hundreds of shops, boutiques, galleries, pubs, and eateries in historic Old Town Scottsdale.

Scottsdale is a premier golfing destination, with nearly 200 courses in the area. The DoubleTree’s concierge will be happy to arrange golf tee times at nearby championship greens. Outdoor activities like biking or hiking Camelback Mountain, are also popular.

Our noted faculty will be presenting 16 hours of COPE-approved CE, and includes:

- Mr. Patrick Caroline
- Dr. Charles Edmonds
- Dr. Stuart Grant
- Dr. Lyndon Jones
- Dr. Jason Nichols
- Dr. Tom Quinn

This year’s world-class education topics include: management of presbyopic lenses, nutrition & dry eye, new contact lens materials, scleral contact lenses, fitting kids/teens with lenses, hybrid contact lens for keratoconus and much, much more!

Registration information can be downloaded at: www.azoa.org. Early-bird deadline is 12/16/11. Hotel reservations should be made by 12/12/11 in order to receive the AZOA negotiated rate. Please contact the AZOA office with any questions.
Drs. Meier, Parot and Myself recently attended the Great Western Council of Optometry’s meeting in Portland. The take home message is membership. Optometry is one of smaller health care professions and it is critical that we stand united so that our voice can be heard. We can ill afford to be splintered. I am issuing a call to all optometrists to join or to rejoin the Association.

If you don’t agree with the direction the Association is headed, then the answer is to get involved and to change the direction. There is a misconception that the outcome is pre arranged and that the business meeting is merely a rubber stamping formality. I assure you that this is not the case. As an example, a recent AOA President who is now president of one of the schools actually ran from the floor and got elected.

Change does not come fast, but I want to assure you that we are working 24/7 to advance our profession. If any of you have a concern, then I want you to contact either myself or any member of the board and we will do our best to allay your concerns.

I wish each of you a happy holiday. Don’t forget to register for the 2012 AZOA Bronstein Contact Lens and Cornea Seminar which is being held Jan 13-15 at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort.

Gilbert Wong, OD, AZOA President
AZOA Executive Director’s Corner:

Another very good year for Arizona Optometrists and the AzOA. Thank you to all the volunteer doctors, who unselfishly give their time, talents and money to help advance our profession and the association. There are way too many of you to mention by name. If only we could have 100% participation from all Arizona Optometrist, we could do much more for our patients and profession.

All three of our major meetings were well attended and profitable. The Special Olympics, Day at the Capital, Vision USA, VSP mobile eye clinic-Diabetes week, MWU-AZOPT bowling day, movie night picnic, Phoenix Open -Transition Optical, and the Bocce ball happy hour were some of our major events of 2011.

Legislatively, we continue to monitor events at the Capital and develop relationships with lawmakers and policy decision makers. With the development and uncertainty surrounding the new federally mandated Insurance Exchanges, our presence needs to be felt. We successfully passed a bill to expand our scope of practice and we now are concentrating on improved access to third party eye care plans, which would allow patients to be seen by Optometrists for their medical eye care needs. The AzOA leadership along with AOA staff continues to work behind the scenes planning and developing our long range goals.

One of our main priorities next year will be to increase our membership rolls. The profession of optometry continues to evolve and the AzOA recognizes the diversity of the doctors we represent. We try to serve the needs of private practice doctors, medical group doctors, corporate employed doctors and student doctors. Some of us are closer to retirement, some are new grads and many are in the prime of their careers. Certain doctors emphasize medical eye care, others emphasize contacts lenses, low vision, glaucoma, dry eye or developmental vision.

I urge you all to become more involved, and do your part to advance our profession. The AzOA office staff and myself are here to serve our members, so let us know if we can help.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy New Year!

Stacey Meier, OD, AZOA Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE:

AZOA’s 2012 Bronstein Contact Lens
January 13-15
DoubleTree Resort Paradise Valley
$169 room rate
FOR RESERVATIONS: 1-480-947-5400

------- Please plan to attend! -------
Be An “Optocrat” – And Help Protect Your Profession

Optometrists are an ever more diverse group of individuals. Our backgrounds, lifestyles and modes of practice are all diverse. Some of us grew up in small towns. Some of us grew up in large metro-plexes. Some of us attend church or synagogue; some don’t. Some of us joined the military. Some of us prefer granola to meat. Some of us practice full-time; some part-time. Some of us do VT; some of us don’t. Some of us are Republican, some Democrat, some Independent, some Apolitical. We are all different, but we all have one common goal: to improve the lives of our patients and promote the practice of Optometry. That makes us all Optocrats.

The term Optocrat was coined to encourage Optometrists to cross their party affiliation to support good people on the opposite side of the aisle that support our causes. We need to have politicians from both parties supporting our Federal and State Bills: not Republicans, not Democrats, but Optocrats. Our diversity is good for our profession. Each one of us has a valid opinion and it needs to be voiced. Be active. Be an Optocrat.

Understanding How You Can Help

In a recent member survey sent out by our AZOA Board, 81% of you said legislation was the most important purpose of the AZOA. 76% of those members responding said that they believe it is every Doctor’s responsibility to contribute financially to our legislative efforts; less than 20% of our members and less than 5% of non-members actually do. A common misunderstanding is that a portion of the dues you pay go towards legislation: this is NOT true. In fact, the Association itself cannot collect or distribute campaign funds.

There are three types of contributions: AOA-PAC, OPACA and Individual Contributions.

First of all, AOA-PAC: This is the Federal Political Action Committee that is used by AOA in Washington for Federal issues and to lobby our Senators and Congressmen in DC. Rand Siekert OD is our AOA Liaison.

Secondly, Arizona has its own PAC, called OPACA (Optometric Political Action Committee of Arizona). The Legislation Committee distributes funds where they are needed to gain access to State Legislators, but there are limitations set by campaign finance laws that limit the amount of PAC money that legislators can take in any given election cycle. This is a simple way for you to contribute because the AZOA office can bill your credit card on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

Thirdly, are the individual contributions. These contributions carry the most weight with our legislators and have the most influence from a lobbying point of view. OPACA can only give a maximum of $424 per election cycle to a legislator, the same amount as each individual can give. Some legislators are PAC-ed out (have reached their maximum allowable PAC contributions) or are otherwise ineligible to receive PAC money. Legislators can receive a lot more in individual contributions than they can in PAC money. The funds are appreciated more by the campaigns because they are the hardest for the legislator to collect. These contributions must be made on a personal check, not a company check. They are not tax deductible. These are the contributions that make us noticed by the key legislators on the health committee, etc. The personal checks that you donate are taken to fundraisers by a ‘key person’ (one of our Doctors in that district that has volunteered to be a liaison to that legislator). Our key people have an opportunity to speak with the legislator while they are making the contribution on your behalf.

To Make a Donations:

Online:
Visit the OPACA Web page to make your one time or reoccurring donation via PayPal. (Link to the OPACA tab at www.azoa.org or access it directly at: http://arizona.aoa.org/x16999.xml.)
**Credit Card:**
Please contact the AZOA office at 602-279-0055 or joanne@azoa.org to pay with a credit card. You can do a one-time donation or be set up on a reoccurring annually, quarterly or monthly cycle.

**Check:**
All personal checks (sorry, no corporate donations) can be mailed to:
AZOA, 1702 E. Highland Ave. #213, Phoenix, AZ 85016

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**History to Scope Legislation in AZ**

- In 1993 AZ OD’s licensed to use topical therapeutic drugs to treat eye disease (by the end of the 1998, ODs in all jurisdictions gained authority to prescribe topicals).
- In 1999 AZ OD’s authorized to use a restricted list of oral medications to treat eye disease.
- In 2007 AZ added all oral anti-histamines to authority.
- In 2010 AZ added oral anti-virals and macrolides to authority.
- In 2011 AZ introduces legislation to add all oral NSAIDS to authority.

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**Current Legislative Efforts**

- Non-discrimination
- Amend 20-1406’s already existing protections against OD discrimination to include ‘panels’ (ex: AZ Foundation)
- Add language to remove the requirement by some insurances that ODs must join vision plan to be a medical provider (ex: United Health Care)
  Similar advances in TX and RI this year

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**Scope of Payment Efforts to Date**

- Ongoing effort by many people over the past 7+ years
- Research, meetings & background information
- Identified specific problem areas
- Developed plan of attack
- Language written & re-written over the years
- Push to meet with all 90 legislators during 2011
- Find sponsor (committee chairs), accumulate co-sponsors (committee members) & supporters (everyone)
- Meet with Department of Insurance & Governor’s office to reduce initial opposition

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

The AZOA’s 3rd Annual: “OPTOMETRY DAY AT THE CAPITOL”

Tues., March 20th, 2012
11AM-2PM on the Capitol lawn.

------ Please plan to attend! ------
OD WANTED

Need fill-in doc in retail for Dec 27th and Dec 28th. Compensation is $450 a day with opportunity for bonus. Please contact Michael Duong OD at friendlyod@gmail.com. or call 408-218-2595.

Maternity coverage needed with opportunity for a permanent part-time position. Fill-ins needed for 5 days/week starting mid-February 2012 for 8 weeks or more. Fun retail environment located in Glendale. Guaranteed base pay and bonus. Please email if interested in covering partial or all of the maternity coverage! mbanzuelaod@gmail.com

Private Practice Optometrist looking for a fill-in Doctor for Maternity Coverage. Looking for 4 days a week, Tuesday through Friday. Approximate dates would be March 20, 2012 - June 12, 2012. Needs to be TPA certified and have their own malpractice insurance. VSP certified preferred but not necessary. Please fax or email CV to 480-461-0331 or eyes2004@cox.net.

Optometrist needed in Queen Creek. Saturdays 9am to 4pm. Call, text, or email Jeff. eyedocjeff@mac.com 480-650-6794

Motivated optometrist needed for retail setting! One or two days/week to start in November. Compensation generous and negotiable with bonus. Spanish speaking a plus. Location easily accessible near freeway. Please reply by email if interested: moebanz@yahoo.com

Flagstaff: PT OD Position just opened up in Flagstaff. Need Doctor 2 days a week. Large Practice with surfacing lab on-site. Contact Tom Sowash O.D. for details at 303-882-8235 or email at Tsowash@me.com

Part-time OD wanted for vacation coverage for a four-doctor, four-location practice throughout the year. Must be willing to travel to all four East Valley locations. This is a long-term opportunity to see patients in a great atmosphere with state-of-the-art equipment and excellent support staff, and on an as-needed basis. Must be AZ therapeutically licensed and comfortable with GBx, OCT, and eye disease management, as well as well-versed in contact lenses. Please email CV and all inquiries to drvbabu@2020image.com

The University of Arizona Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science is seeking an On-call Optometrist for a part-time position on an NIH/NEI funded research study of visual development in school-age Native American children. This position offers a unique opportunity to applicants interested in pediatric care and/or clinical research. This position will entail working approximately 3-4 days per month. Work days include travel with the study team to schools on the Tohono O’odham Reservation. Additional information can be obtained by sending a message to emharvey@email.arizona.edu. The full position announcement can be viewed at: www.uacareertrack.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=202911

Incredible opportunity to join an industry leader in eye care. Sears Optical a brand of Luxottica Group is now seeking Independent Doctors of Optometry across Arizona. We provide excellent lease opportunities that include 3+ day practices, exam lane with standard equipment, retail staff, and collaborative team to insure patient care and customer satisfaction is guaranteed. If interested in learning more about Sears Optical and Luxottica Group in the Arizona area, then please contact the Regional Sales Manager Kim Woods at KWoodoll@LuxotticaRetail.com or 480-784-7721. Please provide resume with work history and/or graduation status and area of Arizona most interested in living, working, and celebrating Eye Health!

OD AVAILABLE

Active duty Navy optometrist leaving the service and relocating to the Phoenix metropolitan area. Available for full time or permanent part time employment starting around June 2012. For more information, please contact me (Tawny K. Walrath, OD, FAAO) at EyeDrTawny@gmail.com or at (626) 379-4840.

Updated December 2011: Professional Locum Tenens Coverage for your professional practice. Vacation, illness, “mental-health days”, etc. Even last-minute! Regular PT also considered. 30+ yrs experience including 16 yrs with a large hospital/medical center.

Range: Northern AZ as far south as (and including) Phoenix metro area. Phone 1-800-734-5804 or 1-206-498-0636, or email drpaulkanter@comcast.net

Optometrist available for full time or permanent part time in the Phoenix metropolitan area, relocating from out of state, available August 1st. Experienced in primary care for all age categories, contact lenses, co-management, and retail aspects of optometry. For more information please contact mira_joh@yahoo.com or call 503-523-9668

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Medical Assistant/Eye Technician for nonprofit agency Part time (to begin)

Arizona Foundation for Eye Health (AFEH) is seeking a bi-lingual technician to work with patients with diabetes taking digital retinal photos. Ideal candidate will have either a medical assistant certification or have worked in a clinical setting with an eye doctor.

AFEH is willing to train for the position Following are job requirements:

1. Word and excel computer literate
2. Bi-lingual/Spanish/English and able to write in both languages.
3. Clean and neat appearance
4. Friendly and a patient personality
5. Provide references
6. Willing to travel within Arizona for out of town clinics.
7. Well organized
8. Team player

Salary commensurate with experience.

To apply for this position send resume to:
abby@azeyefoundation.org

PRACTICE FOR SALE

- Peoria, Arizona practice for sale. 35 year general practice, emphasis on specialty contact lenses. 2 fully equipped exam rooms plus pretesting equipment. Contact at Rinehart@extremezone.com
- Located by the Colorado river 15 min from Lake Havasu is Parker Optical. For sale after 16 years for $75,000.00.

Includes exam lane with hssg-streit slitlamp. In house edging with briot patternless edger. All stock, inventory equipment included. Will stay and help transfer and train on the equipment. current rent $452.00 a month. Please contact Dennis at 928-669-6971 or dingram@npgcable.com
- Albuquerque, NM Practice for Sale. Very nice office location in the pleasant east end of Albuquerque. Please contact Monte Stump at 505-296-5481 or via regular mail at 1925 Juan Tabo Blvd, NE, Ste A. Albuquerque, NM 87112

YOUR HELP NEEDED

- VOSH Arizona is in need of phoropters, auto lensometers and auto refractors for our trips to Mexico. If you can donate equipment, please call John Reed, OD at 480/545.9120 or Deon Whipple at 480/545.8985.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

- Office waiting room furniture: 8 chairs gray cloth and 4 chairs red cloth. All chairs are solid wood frames. $30 ea or $300 for all 12 Please call 480-620-6065

EQUIPMENT WANTED

- Looking to purchase used Corneal Topographer for reasonable price. Please contact Michael Duong, OD at 408-218-2595. Email: friendlyod@gmail.com

To place a classified ad, please email the AZOA at kate@azoa.org

Good & Welfare

If you have any Good & Welfare notices that you would like published in upcoming Focal Point issues, please contact Kate at the AZOA office at:

602.279.0055 or via email: kate@azoa.org

The current AZ State Board of Optometry Board Members are:

President
Brian Mach, O.D.
Maricopa Medical Center Eye Clinic
2525 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85008
First Term Optometrist Member
7/1/09-6/30/13
Predecessor: Chrisna M. Sorenson, O.D.

Vice President
Rick Krug, Public Member
TG’s Incorporated
4402 E. Huntington Dr., Suite 300
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Second Term Public Member
7/1/11-6/30/15
Predecessor: Reappointed

John Chrisagis, O.D.
Tempe Eyecare Associates
7511 S. McClintock Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85283
First Term Optometrist Member
7/1/08-6/30/12
Predecessor: Stacey Meier, O.D.

Marla Husz, O.D.
Drs. Edmonds & Husz
4730 E. Pima St.
Tucson, AZ 85712
First Term Optometrist Member
7/1/09-6/30/13
Predecessor: Donald Jarnagin, O.D.

Michael Lamb, O.D.
Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center
5250 E. Southern Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85206
First Term Optometrist Member
7/1/11-6/30/15
Predecessor: Caroline Griego, O.D.

Mark Peller, O.D.
Nationwide Vision
220 N. McKemy
Chandler, AZ 85226
First Term Optometrist Member
7/19/11-6/30/15

If you have any Good & Welfare notices that you would like published in upcoming Focal Point issues, please contact Kate at the AZOA office at:

602.279.0055 or via email: kate@azoa.org
Nov. AZOA Membership Event A Success!

On Saturday November 5th the second annual Arizona Optic Cup Bocce Tournament and happy hour was held at the Vig Uptown. Forty+ ODs, students, sponsors and guests socialized, networked, and played bocce ball. The bocce play was fast-paced, with Team Canada (Dr. Annette Hanian and AZCOPT student Logan Ragan) prevailing. “We are looking for new ways for AZ ODs to interact and get to know each other.” said AZOA Membership Committee Chair Leslie Falcon. “This event was very successful, and we will definitely hold another social event in the spring!”

Special thanks go out to the AZOA, OCuSOFT, Aspen Optical, ODG, and Transitions for sponsoring the event.

In Memoriam
Robert Frank Friske (1925-2011)

Bob passed away peacefully with his daughters on Sunday, in Tucson, AZ. old. He was 86 years born on May Margaret and Chicago, Illinois. Harvey, Illinois, twin brothers, Donald and Richard. From 1942 to 1945, he proudly served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a navigator on a B-17. After World War II, he met and married the love of his life, his wife of 57 years Barbara Cordt. He graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1948 as a second generation O.D., specializing in Low Vision Rehabilitation. In 1959 Bob and Barbara moved their family to Tucson where he was active in the Arizona Optometric Association, serving as President in 1965 and then named Optometrist of the Year in 1974. He served as Chairman of the Board of Vision Service Plan of Arizona. Bob was always busy and had many hobbies, which included restoring Model A Fords, boating, skiing, hunting and more recently model ship building, where his attention to detail was extraordinary. He was a member of Rotary International for over 50 years, and helped charter a Rotary Club in Lansing, Illinois. He is survived by his loving daughters, Debra Sult (Jeff) and Dr. Tami Friske; proud grandfather of Robert Donald and Kenneth Allen Sult; and his favorite little poodle, Scooter. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara. His strength, humor and loving nature will never be forgotten. His family would like to give special thanks to the amazing TMC Hospice staff and ask that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to TMC Hospice, 5301 E. Grant Rd., Tucson, 85712. As per our father’s wishes no funeral services were held. Arrangements by ADAIR FUNERAL HOMES, Dodge Chapel.

SPECIAL THANKS

The AZOA would like to thank Essilor Laboratories of America-Meridian Phoenix and Bristow Tucson for generously sponsoring the September 27th and November 29th AZOA Board of Directors meetings. Their support is greatly appreciated!
Membership Notice:

Dues invoices for 2012 will soon be mailed to AZOA Members. Please note the following:

Dues Amount: AZOA Dues were not increased in 2012. Dues for the AOA (the portion paid to the national office) were increased by 4.36%.

Tax Deductibility: Contributions or gifts to the American Optometric Association (AOA) and the Arizona Optometric Association (AzOA) are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses subject to restrictions imposed as a result of association lobbying activities. The AOA estimates that the non-deductible portion of your AOA 2012 dues — the portion allocable to lobbying — is 9.00%. The AZOA portion is estimated to be 8%. You should contact your own accountant to confirm your specific situation.

Do you have questions about your membership? Need to change or confirm your contact information? Want to refer a colleague to the AZOA? Please contact us.
- 2012 BRONSTEIN REGISTRATION FORM -

Total of 16 Hours COPE CE* (pending approval)

Name: __________________________________________________ OE Tracker #: ___________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ______________________ Zip: ____________

Phone: ______________________ Fax: ______________________ Email: _____________

Spouse/Guest Badge: ______________________________________________________________

COMPLETE PACKAGE:
Received Before 12/16 Received after 12/16
Optometrist $350 $450
Student $20 (will be refunded onsite) $20 (will be refunded onsite)

DAILY RATE:
Friday or Saturday Sunday
(All CE & Meals Included) $200/day $150

** SATURDAY AWARDS LUNCHEON SELECTIONS: (Please circle one) Chicken Marsala OR Cheese Tortellini

INDIVIDUAL MEALS FOR SPOUSES/GUESTS:

Friday Continental Breakfast ($35) # of Guests _____ = $______
Friday Lunch ($45) # of Guests _____ = $______
Saturday Continental Breakfast ($35) # of Guests _____ = $______
Saturday Luncheon ($45) # of Guests _____ = $______
Sunday Continental Breakfast ($35) # of Guests _____ = $______

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the AZOA in the amount of $___________________

☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _________________________________________________________ Exp. Date: ____________

V-Code (Required):_______________________ Billing Address Zip Code: ___________________

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: ARIZONA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
1702 E Highland Avenue, #213, Phoenix, AZ 85016 or Fax to:(602) 264-6356
Questions?: Call us at 602.279.0055

TO RECEIVE EARLY REGISTRATION RATE: Forms and payment must be received on or before 12/16/11. CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. In order to receive a refund of 100% of the registration fee (less a $25 cancellation fee), cancellations must be received prior to 12/16/11. No refunds after that date.
Fall Congress 2011 - November 11-13
Sedona Hilton Resort & Spa

Below: Speaker Dr. Kirk Smick

Below: AZCOPT Student Tina Esposito

Above: Attendees in general session

Below: AZOA President Gilbert Wong & Dr. Bill Reynolds pose for the camera

Above: AZCOPT Students Michelle Nguyen & Erika Anderson

Above: Dr. Bill Reynolds addresses attendees at the membership luncheon

Above: Drs. Annette Hanian & Caroline Griego update the membership on 2011 legislation activities

Right: Dr. Rand Siekert provides an AOA PAC report at the membership luncheon
Save the Date for 2012 Spring Congress!

MAY 18-20, 2012

Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort
10000 N. Oracle Rd. Tucson, AZ 85704

Room Rate: $129 Single/Double
For Reservations: 1-800-325-7832