

# THE TENNESSEE OPTICIAN

May, 2011

## **TDOA Annual Convention Returns to the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg!**

**Welcome to Gatlinburg!** The TDOA annual convention has been scheduled for June 25 & 26th in Gatlinburg, TN. What better way to get your required continuing education hours than overlooking the majestic Smoky Mountains in a beautiful hillside hotel? The Park Vista hotel was the home to the annual convention many times in the past. After a large renovation the hotel is more beautiful than ever and ready for us again.

The Park Vista is nestled on a hillside just off Airport Road/ Historic Nature Trail. It is located on the Gatlinburg trolley route for easy access to restaurants, amusements and downtown Gatlinburg. It has a heated, indoor multi-tiered pool and a kid's playground and arcade areas.

Gatlinburg is full of attractions for the whole family and the TDOA board has been working with some of the area attractions to get discounts for our members. Gatlinburg is also close to Pigeon Forge which has a new Titanic museum that just opened on April 8th. The board members have worked hard to provide top level speakers for this convention. You can come on either day and receive your full eight hours of education or you can come for four hours each day. On both days we have lunch provided to those who register. *The full schedule of events can be*



*The Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, TN.*

*viewed on page 3.*

On Saturday we will have a silent auction to benefit the association. There will be a wide range of items included so bring your wallets! (You do not have to be present to win.) Any leftover items will be auctioned off on Sunday.

The Opticians PAC will be there collecting donations to help with our lobbying costs. If you donate \$100 or more to the PAC you are automatically entered to win a free TDOA membership in 2012! (You do not have to be present to win.)

If you would like to stay at the Park Vista they are offering a group rate for TDOA members. Call 1-800-222-TREE and tell them you are a member of TDOA. You must book by May 25, 2011.

It will be a great weekend to socialize with other opticians and get your hours in the process. We hope to see you there!



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# TDOA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## Officers:

President.....Greg DeCrow  
 Vice-President.....Joy Beth Foster  
 Acting Secretary.....Helen Owens  
 Treasurer.....Felda Stacey  
 Acting Sergeant at Arms.....Randy Dishmon  
 Past President.....Bea Hall

## Board of Directors:

Kathy Hawkins	John Harrison
Jane Moore	Larry Christopher
Charlie Bowman	Shane Partain
LeRhonda Walton-Hill	

## Staff:

Mellissa Misiak, TDOA Administrative Secretary

### HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

TDOA  
 P.O. Box 210454  
 Nashville, TN 37221  
 Phone 615-646-5245  
 Fax 615-646-5780  
 Email [tdoa@tdoa.org](mailto:tdoa@tdoa.org)  
 Website [www.tdoa.org](http://www.tdoa.org)

Check out the website for forms, legislative information, classified ads and board member contact information..

**If you are ABO/NCLE certified ask for your certificates at our event before each course after you sign in.**

**Someone will be passing out certificates and stamping them after each course is over. Double check the certificate to ensure you have the correct course. We have a limited number of certificates. If there are none available for the course you need please give your name and the course name to the attendant and we will mail one to you.**

## A Message from the President...

Dear Fellow Opticians,

This year is off to a great start. The continuing education hours held in Memphis this March had a better than expected turn out with the weather a bit chilly. Thanks goes out to our speakers B.W. Phillips, Jr., Tim Fortner, and Bob Thomas who presented some very interesting hours. The opticians could not stop passing out complements.

Although the licensing board was granted an extension on the termination date for six years they were still called before the finance committee on Capitol Hill in Nashville, as were several boards, to answer some questions. Kathy Hawkins who chairs the board did a wonderful job in answering their questions. This helped us avoid another visit to Nashville to lobby for our license. Even though we have the extension we are not out of the woods at any time. Donations to the opticians Opti PAC need to be made by all of us in order to strengthen so that we will be ready for the time when it will be needed. Waiting until the last minute to donate may not do the job.

The Convention this year will be in Gatlinburg, TN at the newly renovated Park Vista Hotel. This is a great location for families to come and enjoy some vacation time while obtaining those needed CE credits. One of the big events will be a silent auction so bring something with you to donate. This will help raise funds for the association. We will also hold elections for the board of directors as well as presentation of awards. If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the board you can do so at the meeting and the nominations for Optician of the Year award are now being accepted at headquarters.

In order for our profession to continue to grow and stay strong it is up to all of us to do our part. I would like to encourage each of you to consider where you can get plugged in and use your talents to take us into the future. Our family, friends and community are depending on us to have qualified opticians to dispense to their children, grandchildren and great grand children. The licensing board as well as the TDOA's board of directors are always open to discuss any concerns you have.

Keep Opticianry strong,

Greg DeCrow  
President

## What's Happening with the Licensing Board? An important update for all opticians

Since February Kathy Hawkins and the other members of the licensing board have had their hands full. Kathy was alerted that there were two bills introduced that may threaten the future of the Board of Dispensing Opticians. They are HB618 and SB181. Under these bills our licensing board would be terminated by June 30, 2011, then it would go into sunset/wind down and be phased out completely by June 30, 2012. If that were to happen there would not be licensed opticians and dispensaries would no longer be required to employ licensed opticians. Then employers could hire or use any employees to dispense glasses and contacts.

To stop this Kathy Hawkins met with a sub-committee of the legislature on February 14, 2011. She found out the reason these bills were introduced is because all boards have to be financially self sufficient and the opticians board has not been for the last two years. Kathy explained the expenses and the new fee structure including raising of the renewal fees from \$210 to \$300 in November 2010 and that this board should be self sufficient soon. The sub-committee members were ok with her explanation and said that our board had nothing to worry about however, the TDOA has our lobbyist, Theo Morrison monitoring this legislation to make sure that the board will stay intact. Mr. Morrison will alert us if anything goes wrong and hopefully will allow us time to get to

the committee members and plead our case again.

Another hot topic at the licensing board is the question: Should apprentice/managers be allowed to supervise a licensed dispensing optician? The board has a new lawyer, Brian Sims, who is familiarizing himself with all of the rules and regulations pertaining to our board. Mr. Sims frequently quoted the law about licensed opticians and a registered apprentice who is supervised by their optician/sponsor are the only ones who can perform the duties of an optician. He says if the manager is performing the duties of an optician they would need to be licensed. Kathy Hawkins has asked for further clarification which the lawyers are working on now.

If you are interested in learning more about the laws or would like to voice an opinion on the issues, the next meetings of the licensing board are as follows:

July 13, 2011 9:00am

(May 26th is the deadline to get on the agenda)

October 12, 2011 9:00am

(August 25th is the agenda deadline)

All meetings take place in the Poplar Room at the Health Related Boards Conference Center 227 French Landing in MetroCenter. Call the board at 800-778-4123 with questions about meetings.

If you would like to help continue to fight for opticians rights contribute to the Opticians-PAC. The form is on page 4.

### Convention 2011 Schedule of Events

#### Saturday June 25

8:00 am - Understanding Patient Expectations – 1 ABO Hour Ed DeGennaro

9:00am - How to Present and Sell Today's Freeform Lenses – 1 ABO Hour Ed DeGennaro

10:00am - Do You Have What it Takes to be an Optical Manager? 1 ABO hour Ed DeGennaro

11:00am—Lens Material Selection Guide 1 ABO Hour Ed DeGennaro

#### **Lunch provided by Southern Optical**

1:30pm - How Color Impacts the Patient – 1 NCLE hour

Jane Buckland

2:30pm - Basic Optics for Contact Lens Clinician– 1 NCLE hour Jane Buckland

3:30 pm - HIV/AIDS – The numbers are declining or are they? – 1 NCLE hour Jane Buckland

4:30pm - GP VS Soft – The Great Debate– 1 NCLE hour Jane Buckland

#### Sunday June 26

8:00am - Anatomy & Physiology – How Does the Eye Work? - 1 ABO/NCLE hour Diane Drake

9:00am - Fitting the Presbyope – Multiple Fitting Options - 2 NCLE hours Diane Drake

11:00am - Unequal Refractive Errors and their effect on Vision—1 NCLE hour Diane Drake

#### **Lunch provided**

1:00pm - Tomorrow's Technology Today - 1 ABO Hour Jerry Himes

2:00pm - Take Vision Personally - 1 ABO Hour Jerry Himes

3:00pm - How to Win Converts to Progressives (and to your practice) - 1 ABO Hour Jerry Himes

4:00 pm - The Problem is Real. The Solution is Way Cool. The New Era of Digital Performance Eyewear - 1 ABO Hour Jerry Himes

**Officers to be Elected at the  
2011 Convention**

At this year's annual convention in Gatlinburg members will be asked to vote for the new officers of the TDOA board. We need your input! If you know of someone who is interested in serving on the board who is qualified for the job please send their name into headquarters by June 11th. To be on the board you must be a licensed optician and a TDOA member for the past

three years. If you are interested in serving and do not meet the criteria let us know and you can serve on a committee.

The current open positions are directors for Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

We hope everyone participates in the election to make the best association possible.

**Optician of the Year 2011**

**The nomination committee is accepting names for the TDOA OPTICIAN OF THE YEAR award. The candidates are licensed opticians who have shown outstanding service to the optical profession as well as to the citizens of the state of Tennessee. The nomination committee consists of opticians who have previously received the award.**

**If you have a name to submit please send it to headquarters by June 1, 2011. You can fax, email or phone in your nomination. Make sure you put the persons full name and why you think he or she should be honored with the TDOA OPTICIAN OF THE YEAR award.**

Nashville hours will be held on November 13, 2011. They will be at a NEW location,  
Skyline Medical Center  
Garden Level Ground Floor  
3441 Dickerson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37207

**Contribution to Opticians PAC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

*This contribution to Optician PAC made by cash or check represents my personal funds, is not drawn on an account maintained by an incorporation entity and will not be reimbursed by another.*

**Contribution amount enclosed**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form along with your contribution to:

Carol Hearn, Optician PAC Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 1626 Hendersonville, TN 37077

**Full and Part Time Opportunities**

Dear Licensed Optician or Apprentice

To enhance our ability to provide greater patient care in the Nashville and Memphis area, we are seeking Licensed Opticians and Apprentices. We invite you to inquire as to the many opportunities for L.O.s and Apprentices seeking full time, part time or supervisory positions. At Eye Masters, we realize that recognition as a preferred place to work results from meeting your needs and expectations in a variety of ways. The Practice strives to offer, in addition to the traditional paycheck, a work environment that is appealing and a package of employee benefits that meets your needs and the needs of your family.

If you are an outstanding Licensed Optician/Apprentice, whose primary goal is to provide excellent patient care, then we are interested in talking to you. I warmly invite you to contact us for details.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jay Taylor LDO., Area Manager  
 615-772-7854

[JTaylor@eccca.com](mailto:JTaylor@eccca.com) Email Address

Ed Berberich, H/R  
 314-749-8869 Cell

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**TENNESSEE DISPENSING  
OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 210454  
Nashville, TN 37221-0454  
Phone: 615-646-5245  
Fax: 615-646-5780  
Email: [tdoa@tdoa.org](mailto:tdoa@tdoa.org)  
Website: [www.tdoa.org](http://www.tdoa.org)**

**Don't forget:**

**Pre-registration for the  
convention with  
headquarters ends on  
June 10th**

**Hotel room discounts  
with the Park Vista Hotel  
in Gatlinburg ends  
May 25th**

**Book your room before  
that date!**

**I would like to attend the TDOA Annual Convention  
Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN June 25 & 26**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D.O. \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE

\_\_\_\_\_ APPRENTICE \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT DPO OR REGISTERED APPRENTICE # \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ATTENDING : \_\_\_\_\_ SATURDAY \_\_\_\_\_ SUNDAY \_\_\_\_\_ BOTH CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

I WILL ATTEND TDOA LUNCHEON: \_\_\_\_\_ SATURDAY \_\_\_\_\_ SUNDAY \_\_\_\_\_ BOTH

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL BE BRINGING \_\_\_\_\_ # OF GUESTS TO THE LUNCHEON @ \$15.00 PER PERSON.

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ (CIRCLE ONE) # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND THIS FORM TO THE TDOA ADDRESS ABOVE NO LATER THAN JUNE 10, 2011**