

# The Western New York OPTOMETRIST

Official Publication of the  
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Affiliated with the New York State Optometric Association,  
and the American Optometric Association



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Buffalo, New York

## President's Message

Happy March to you all,

So what did the last month bring us? It's like water in the basement. You don't realize it is there until you actually look. Did anyone read the page AMA News? We made the front page. It concerned the scope of practice of non-physicians including Optometry. Some neighbors are nice and some are plain nosey.



R-E-S-P-E-C-T, we finally are deemed as acceptable to the Social Security Administration as medical sources for disability cases. This sounds silly, however the AOA fought hard to achieve this ruling.

Check the rear-view mirror. The NYSOA is involved in legal discussions regarding Scanning Computerized Ophthalmic diagnostic lasers. Some are arguing the lasers are not within our scope of practice. Anyone want to purchase a slightly used Optos? Also, the Opticians bill to certify them to perform visual assessments including lenses is in the NY Assembly.

Don't forget the road ahead. Please remember to send in your keyperson forms to the NYSOA as well as any nominations you may have for annual NYSOA awards.

In that we Optometrists are social beasts, it makes for a fun meeting when attendance is high. Please come if you can. Dr. Kaminska has a great lecture planned which is sponsored. Take advantage of it. Remember to talk to non-members. Tell them to get out of the dark once in awhile.

Happy 1 or 2's

*Kevin*

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## MEETING

March 13th  
Speaker

Greg Caldwell, OD, FAAO

Cope

Approved  
Program

Advances in  
Glaucoma Therapy

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Free for Members  
(\$55 for non-members)

co-sponsored by  
Alcon and WNYSO

Meeting 8:00 p.m.

**R.S.V.P. Tom Kaminska**  
**631-2020**

**tkhockeydr@adelphia.net**  
**by March 9th**

Millennium Airport Hotel  
(former Sheraton  
Four Points)  
Walden Ave.



## Scoping the Town

In February, **Tom Kaminska** enjoyed a week in Daytona for the Daytona 500 + associated races. The weather was cool but still had a great time. In March, Tom will be visiting his daughter Lisa in London as she finishes her masters degree work in Applied Theatre at the University of London. A three day trip to Scotland is also planned.



**Errol Daniels** spent the month of January doing a photo projects in Uganda. One at an orphanage spon-



sored by Coca-Cola. He spent over a week in a refugee camp near the

**The Western New York  
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Sudan border, where he made portraits of an escaped child soldiers and sex slaves, and recorded their stories in their own voices. They made colored pencil 12x18 drawings to illustrate their plight. Exhibit proposal are being developed. Details to follow in future.

He also brought back African crafts and jewelry to be sold at a benefit. Please see page 5.

Past President **Frank Cerrone** is doing well in Virginia. His daughter will be attending college in the fall. Dad

*Continued on Page 4*

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## GOOD NEIGHBORS OPTICAL CARE

by Volunteer Judy Randall

As the receptionist this is my view of the Good Neighbors Optical Care. The Optometrist and Opticians could give more of a physical account. My view is from the reaction of our patients such as the day a woman picked up her glasses, went to the middle of the waiting area, started turning around and around, laughing joyfully. I didn't understand what was happening until one of the patients waiting said, "You can see." she replied. "I can see, I can see everything." She was so happy it was contagious. It felt so good to be a part, small as it was, of her joy.

A very high percentage of our patients have hospitalization, an HMO of some kind, but not eye or dental coverage. Some are on a limited income or just don't have the income to cover glasses. A family of four came in, a mother, father and two children, all of whom wore glasses. The father went in for his examination first. I honestly felt it was to check us out. Was the exam going to simply be to put a card over each eye and read the chart? He came out saying it was the most thorough eye exam he ever had. Both parents worked and they were self supporting but four pairs of eyeglasses was beyond their means. They said "God sent you to us." Many of our patients have

expressed the same feeling. Often we hear "God bless you." For the most part they are truly thankful.

Another patient came in wearing glasses, saying she could no longer see to read but was on social security and couldn't afford new glasses. She had Univera Health Care and called to see if there was any way she could get help with glasses. They said no her hospitalization didn't cover it and they recommended Good Neighbors to her. She became another very thankful patient. The referral also told us we are getting known and known favorably.

The Optical Care department is not a typical clinic setting and is very nice, well furnished and nicely decorated. Stop in and we'll give you a tour. We operate with donations and through the generosity of volunteers. The Optical department is only open Friday afternoons 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Other departments are also open Wednesday mornings 8:30-11:00 am but due to lack of volunteers Optical is not open then. Do you have 4 hours you can spare once a week, once a month or as often as you can? For more information call 825-0929. Optical Care and the community need you!

*Reprinted from Harvest House Happenings Vol. 15 No. 1 March 2007*

### Mobile Diagnostic Instruments, LLC

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### Upcoming Events

#### Saratoga Springs RGP Conference 2007

"A sub-specialty meeting"  
Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Holiday Inn/ Saratoga Springs  
[www.primarycareopt.com](http://www.primarycareopt.com)

June 1-3, 2007

NYSOA

Annual Congress

Hill Garden Inn

Ithaca, NY

### Scoping

*Continued from Page 2*

hopes she becomes a physician's assistant, but initially she is interested in nursing. Just when you think Frank is slowing down, he is opening a new office in downtown Charlottesville. A 3 man Ophthalmology group left the area and went to the suburbs. So now he has 2 offices with a couple of part-time optometrists

as well. We know that Frank likes technology so he's gone 100% high tech, Canon retinal camera, 3-D wave aberrometer/topographer/refractor from Marco (Nidek), Matrix visual fields and soon a GDx.

Alex Crinzi celebrated his birthday with a surprise party with all his partners and their spouses. David's Grill in

Orchard Park is where the champagne flowed and the food and wine were delicious. His wife, Ann, and all the partners were able to keep it quiet during the planning. All Alex knew was his wife was kidnapping him for the evening.



*Art for Africa*  
*A Special Benefit at Vern Stein Gallery*  
*March 23, 2007*

**Vern Stein Gallery**

5747 Main Street  
 (near Evans Street)  
 Williamsville, NY 14221  
 (716)626-5688

**Connecting Caring Communities**  
**A benefit for orphans and widows of Africa**

Both Your Hands, a WNY nonprofit, is teaming with Errol Daniels, Photographer and Vern Stein Gallery to bring you African crafts and beautiful artwork from around the world for sale and silent auction. All proceeds go directly to the education and improvement of life for poor families in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa.

Checks and cash gratefully accepted, tax receipt for donation given.

**Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**  
**6 pm to 9 pm**  
**870-1117**  
[www.bothyourhands.org](http://www.bothyourhands.org)

## Office Burglarized

In other news, as you know, Tom Kaminska's office was broken into in December and three computers were stolen including the server. Fortunately, the office back up is performed daily and the disk is taken off premises. The data restore on a new computer system was very simple in comparison to taking care of other details. A huge amount of staff time and effort was extended over several weeks involving insurance companies, multiple government agencies and cyber security laws. This was culminated by a patient mail notification which in turn flooded our office with two weeks of phone calls.

A message to all in hindsight is for each of you to consider installing a security system in your office as a preventative measure.

## Why I'm a Member

I'd like to introduce a new section to the paper called "Why I'm a Member" In this section I hope to relay the advantages in becoming and remaining an active A.O.A. member.

We all realize there is a cost to membership, therefore the dollar savings of membership will be a good place to start.

Last month Dr. Chuck Niles presented a 1.5 C.E. approved lecture on glaucoma. The lecture was informative and had an assigned cost of \$85.00. Along with the lecture members had an option of a \$20.00 dinner for a cost of \$10.00.

Getting C.E. credits at a nice restaurant in your own town is always a great deal.

Things are about to get better. As most of you know, NYSOA is paying for 9 C.E. credit hours at this years Vision Expo in N.Y.C. This wonderful gesture has an assigned cost of \$261.00.

I think everyone is starting to see the BIG PICTURE.

\$85.00

+\$10.00

+\$261.00

\$356.00 savings!!

This is in just a 2 month period.

If you're member start taking advantage and if your not, sign-up and start saving today.

*David Bartels, OD*

## NYSOA Business Partners

NYSOA's Business Partner Program enables optometric industry companies to help support the association and thereby advance the profession of optometry in New York State.

Please take a moment to review the company information of our Business Partners.

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