

# The Western New York OPTOMETRIST



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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

Those of you who were at our meeting last month know that many issues were discussed at the recent NYSOA meeting at Lake Placid

You can see a review of what we discussed last month in the minutes later in this newsletter.



All three days of the Lake Placid meeting were also attended by AOA President Dr. Randy Brooks. It was great to have him there as he was an excellent source of information and he interacted with all of us. I really did feel part of the AOA "team". Dr. Brooks was also very impressed with our meeting and the spirit of goodwill and cooperation within our group. In fact he wrote quite a bit about that aspect of our meeting in his president's message in last week's AOA News.

We have a good group of people working very hard for our profession. I'm sorry to keep repeating this, but we have a lot going on and there is a lot of information for you to know. I am no expert on all

*continued on Page 2*



## MEETING NOTICE March 16, 2010

### Speaker:

Kenneth Anthone, M.D.

### Topic:

Autologous Blood Serum

Treatment for Dry Eye Syndrome

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Speaker at 8:00 PM

Followed by a

**Brief Meeting**

**Marriott Hotel**

Millersport

Highway

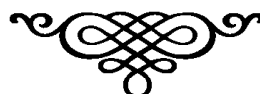
R.S.V.P. required For Dinner by March 11th to:

[advancedeyecare@onecommail.com](mailto:advancedeyecare@onecommail.com) or

631-9970

Note:  
New Meeting Location

Note:  
Meeting on the  
3rd Tuesday



## Scoping the Town

Gene McDonough is heading to Virginia for his grandson's birthday and to race in a half marathon.



Tom Kaminska is going to be a grandfather! His daughter Lisa and husband Ciaran are expecting a child in August.

Kevin Komm went to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery meeting in Playa Del Carmen with Ken Anthonie. They learned MUCHO much.

### Message

*Continued from Page 1*

this material, so you need to attend meetings, read the AOA News and the NYS Prospectus, which just went on line this month for the first time. The current issue includes articles on Medicare reimbursement for EHR, PECOS, and other topics we discussed last month.

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**News and Views in the Professional  
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We also need your help (as always) in educating our legislators, teachers and the medical community about Optometry. Our work as top quality eye doctors speaks for itself, but we still need go that extra step to grow our profession. Keep up the good work.

*Tom*

**Last Call for  
NYSOA  
Awards  
Nomination Deadline  
March 15th**



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# American Board of Optometry Announces Requirements for Certification

## INITIAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (Online)

- a. Supply demographic information
- b. Submit Application Fee
- c. Identify Initial Qualifying

### Requirements:

- i. Graduation from School or College of Optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).
- ii. Active License to practice therapeutic optometry in a State, District of Columbia, U.S. Commonwealth or Territory.
- d. State adherence to principles of the Optometric Oath.
- e. Affirm that all supplied information is true and correct.
- f. Grant permission to the American Board of Optometry to verify all credentials.
- g. Authorize search of National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).

Upon confirmation of the application requirements, the American Board of Optometry will confer Active Candidate status for a period of one year.

Active Candidates may renew this status for up to three years total by submitting proof of completion of 50 points toward the Post-Graduate Educational Requirements for each year of eligibility.

## POST-GRADUATE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

To become eligible to take the examination, Active Candidates must attain 150 points within the three years prior to exam application.

### DURING PHASE-IN PERIOD (2010-2012):

- Residency (ACOE Accredited) ..... 150 Points
- Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry ..... 50 Points
- Fellowship in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development..... 50 Points
- Experience in Clinical Practice Up to ..... 150 Points
- Accrued equal to 5 points per year of active practice.
- Education Up to ..... 150 Points

### Category 1 Education (Up to 150 Points)

Continuing Education conferences, meetings or workshops carrying ABO-authorized credit. [Minimum of 50% of Education Points must be Category 1]

Continuing Education – 1 Point per Hour

Continuing Education with Examination (CEE) – 2 Points per Hour

Category 2 Education (Up to 75 Points)

Other educational activities or scholarly activities. Variable credit.

[Maximum of 20% of the total Education Points can be from any subcategory.]

## EXAMINATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete 150 Points within the prior three years
2. Submit evidence of three years of active licensure and clinical practice OR completion of an ACOE-Approved Residency
3. Submit the online Examination Application and schedule Board Certification Examination.

Active Candidates should pass the Examination within 12 months of submitting the Examination Application. [Any optometrist who does not pass within 12 months may re-apply for the examination but is subject to the Post-Graduate Educational Requirements.

In addition, “Active Candidate” status applies for a maximum of 4 years.]

*Upon successful completion of the Board Certification Examination, the American Board of Optometry will confer Board Certified status to the optometrist for a period of 10 years. Board Certification must be kept current through enrollment in the American Board of Optometry 10-year Maintenance of Certification process.*

Upcoming Topics at the  
WNY Society of Optometrist Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, April 13th  
Retinal Specialist Dr. Joseph Murphy

Tuesday, May 11th  
2nd Annual Retinal Seminar with  
Dr. Mark Comaratta & Dr. Henry Lee.

Be Active in Your  
Society  
Consider Running  
for an Officer or  
Trustee Position  
Contact  
Kevin Komm, O.D.

## PECOS update

Beginning April 2010, all Medicare and DME claims will require a referring doctor even if that doctor is you. This will be required for all procedures and durable medical equipment (DME) and perhaps even office visits. If the referring physician is not enrolled in Medicare, the claim will be denied.

The claim must include the legal name of the ordering/referring physician (Item 17) and the type 1 NPI of the individual ordering/referring physician (Item 17b). For Part B claims, the referring/ordering physician must be found in PECOS (the database of physicians who have enrolled or reenrolled since 2003) or in contractor's other enrollment files. For DMEPOS claims, the referring/ordering physician must be in PECOS.

PECOS is an online electronic enrollment system that enables you

*From Richard Soden, OD*

to enroll or change information about your practice with Medicare/CMS. CMS now says you can look up whether the ordering/referring physician is in PECOS by going to the following website: <http://www.medicare.gov/physician/search/chooseprovider.asp>

Optometrists may wish to look themselves up to determine if they are in PECOS or not, so they will know whether the orders/referrals they make will be payable for the downstream physician or DME supplier.

You can enroll or change your enrollment data in PECOS (Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System) by going to <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov>

[This article](#) (PDF) from PAO's Keystoner newsletter describes this process in greater detail.

## NYSOA Prospectus Goes Green

The New York State Optometric Association's *Prospectus* has published its first electronic edition.

It will be published 6 times per year. Two issues will be published in paper format.

Please be sure to notify the NYSOA of your email address or change in address.