

NMOA



President's message

My fellow OD's,

The past year has been both frustrating and reassuring.

We have had disappointments in both the unexpected governor's veto of our laser bill last year and in the lack of passage of the bill in this year's short session due to time constraints.

On the other hand, the overwhelming support of our profession in the legislature is a testament to the ongoing grass-roots efforts of committed OD's. We have also seen strong support from some ophthalmologists.

Eventual passage of the laser bill lies in persistence and patience. Many other states have faced numerous defeats in scope of practice expansion efforts over the years and would be overjoyed to have our laws. They will keep trying in their efforts to practice at their level of education and abilities - and so should we.

We will stay on course and continue to fight next year if the new governor is with us. If not, we will wait for one who is.

Many thanks to the docs who kept in touch with their legislators and a special acknowledgement goes out to those who took the time to be at the committee meetings - many who came from great distances. Your presence is extremely important to the committee members and to our bill's sponsor.

Gratefully yours,

Dwight Thibodeaux

NMOA Convention

Our Continuing Education Committee, Drs. Brandi McGraw, Matthew McGraw and Amanda Colburn, has provided an excellent schedule of 22 hours of Optometric Continuing Education and the Paraoptometric Committee has also assembled a full day of quality Continuing Education for the Paraoptometrics.

Education is the main purpose of the NMOA Convention and everyone will leave with new knowledge!

We have great vendors in this year's Exhibit Hall! Please remember to visit the Exhibit Hall and thank the all vendors who are supporting your profession. With out the support of our vendors the meeting would not be possible.

For the 2026-2027 year we have a few vendors who are really committed to the NMOA and Optometry.

Our Diamond Level Sponsors are:

**Eye Associates of New Mexico
Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute**

Our Gold Level Sponsors are:

**Engstrom Cataract and Laser Center
Essilor Luxottica Eye Care
Juliette Eye Institute
Walman Optical**

Our Silver Level Sponsors are:

**Coleman Vision
LENZ Therapeutics
Versant Health
VSP Vision**

Our Bronze Level Sponsors are:

**Carl Zeiss Vision
Essilor Luxottica**

Our Turquoise Level Sponsors are:

**House of Modo
Topcon Healthcare**

Please take the time to visit our sponsors and all the exhibitors during the Friday Reception and Saturday Lunch.



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A photograph of a middle-aged man with a warm smile, wearing a blue shirt and a brown vest, holding a young child. The child is also smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a wooden fence and another person in the distance.

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Recruit your future team at Optometry's Meeting 2026 - Phoenix, AZ

AOA + is an immersive track at Optometry's Meeting and beyond, specifically for optometry students, new grads and faculty, focused on career growth, leadership development and building a powerful professional network. Will you be looking to hire an optometrist for your practice or are you looking for a optometrist purchase your practice?

During Optometry's Meeting in Phoenix, June 17-20, 2026, AOA+ will have a Career Fair where students will have the opportunity to connect with leaders and organizations about career opportunities. The Career Fair and AOA+ Residency Summit is open to all optometry students and new doctors in attendance at Optometry's Meeting and will take place on Friday, June 19, from 9am-12noon.

This could be your opportunity to find your next associate or employee!

AOA+ Career Fair Employer Application - Join 2,000+ optometry students and new graduates at the Career Fair on Friday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Held in the Eye Care Square, the hub of activity for Optometry's Meeting®, this event will allow you to get in front of your future hiring pool. Choose the level and size of engagement and join us in Phoenix (*free for practices with less than 10 doctors*). Please apply by **May 11**. Visit this link for more information - [AOA+ Career Fair Application](#)

For more information on Optometry's Meeting visit [Optometry's Meeting 2026](#)

For more information on AOA+ Student Information visit [AOA+](#)



Persistence Matters

Submitted by Richard Montoya

Political science, unlike physics or chemistry, is not an exact science. It is a social science—one that seeks to understand complex human behavior and ever-evolving political systems. While it relies on data and analysis to identify patterns, it cannot predict outcomes with certainty. Success in the legislative process is never guaranteed.

That reality is evident in New Mexico's legislative sessions. During the 2025 60-day session, lawmakers introduced 1,182 bills. Of those, only 195 passed both chambers, and just 160 were ultimately signed into law. In the 2026 30-day session, 686 bills were introduced, with only 75 passing both the House and Senate—and 71 signed by the governor.

These numbers tell a clear story: passing legislation in New Mexico is difficult. The vast majority of bills never make it to the finish line. While this does not lessen the disappointment of our recent efforts, it reinforces an important truth—progress requires persistence.

Our work to modernize the practice of optometry, including expanding access to laser procedures, remains just as important today as it was two years ago—arguably more so. Access to ophthalmologic care continues to be a barrier for patients across both rural and urban communities. At the same time, 15 states have already authorized optometrists to perform these procedures, demonstrating that safe, effective care can be expanded without compromising quality. New Mexicans deserve that same level of access.

I strongly believe that continuing this effort is essential, and I hope you do as well. Because of your advocacy and the relationships you have built with legislators, we have established meaningful support. But there is still work to be done. Continued engagement—including financial support for aligned elected officials—ensures they can carry this work forward in Santa Fe and continue advancing legislation that benefits both our profession and our patients.

Which brings us back to the title of this article: *Persistence Matters*.

It matters when you contribute to your legislators.

It matters when you take the time to meet with your legislators and share your expertise.

It matters when you contact your legislators and ask for their support of our legislation.

And it matters when you are present—physically—when a bill is being heard during the legislative session.

Your presence makes an impression. It builds credibility. And it moves the conversation forward.

We all owe our sincere gratitude to the NMOA President, Dr. Dwight Thibodeaux, for the countless hours he spent at the Capitol waiting for committee hearings to begin and the outstanding expert testimony provided in the committee hearings and on the House Floor.

I would also like to thank the following doctors who showed up for committee hearings during this past legislative session: Drs. Erika Anderson, Shane Benally, Mark Botwin, Carol Bottjer, Mamie Chan, Derek Clifton, Craig Clatanoff, Laura County, Nicolette Estrada, Jay Folkman, Spencer Franz, Olivia Gada, Tracy Ho, Don Leach, Aitana Marquez, Andrew Murphy, Robert Ratzlaff, Paul Tachau, and Dwight Thibodeaux (*My sincere apologies if I inadvertently missed anyone*).

To all of you who continue to be persistent, both at home and in Santa Fe, thank you. Your advocacy is making a difference, and together, we will keep moving forward.

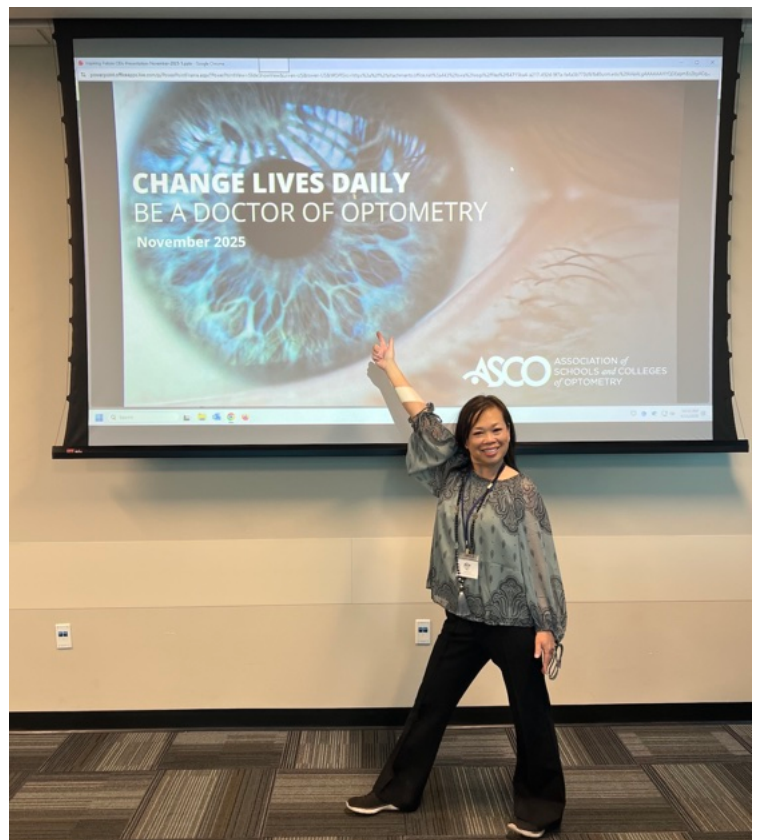


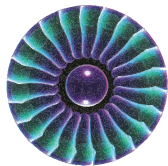
On Saturday April 11th, Dr. Mamie Chan presenting the “Optometry as a Career” workshop at the UNM Health Professional Symposium. The annual event provides high school and undergraduate students interested in health professions an opportunity to explore their passions and discover pathways into the field of their choice, including optometry.

During the Health Professions Symposium, Dr. Chan and Richard Montoya had an opportunity to meet with members of the UNM Pre-Optometry Society. This society offers

- Information about the field of optometry
- Connections with Doctors of Optometry
- Shadowing and Volunteering Opportunities
- Mock interviews with their advisor
- How to apply to optometry school

If you would like to connect with the Pre-Optometry Society you may contact them at preoptometry@unm.edu or scan the QR code below to complete an Interest Form





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As the efforts continue, we need your support!

By Lynn Davis OD, PAC Chair

Although our efforts to modernize our scope of practice to include the use of lasers fell short this session, it does not change the fact that our profession is well-educated, highly trained, and fully capable of providing these procedures. More importantly, patients across all corners of our state would benefit from improved access to this level of care.

It is critical that we remain strong and engaged politically—not only to complete the work we have started, but also to defend against any challenges to our scope of practice. With 2026 being an election year, New Mexico will elect a new governor, and every seat in the House of Representatives will be on the ballot. These elections will play a key role in shaping the future of our profession.

Your support is essential. Contributions to the NMO PAC ensure that we maintain a seat at the table and continue educating policymakers about the importance of expanding access to optometric care.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed—your support truly makes a difference and has not gone unnoticed,

We encourage you to stop by the PAC booth to learn more about our efforts and consider making a contribution to support the future of your profession.



Volunteers needed for Community Event

PROFESSIONAL & GENERAL VOLUNTEERS

This event will not be possible without dedicated and mission-minded volunteers willing to commit their time and skill to serve uninsured, low-income families in our community. We will provide all vision, medical and dental resources needed. We need your compassionate heart and professional expertise.

- ✓ Dentists
- ✓ Dental Hygienists
- ✓ Dental Assistants
- ✓ Optometrists
- ✓ Ophthalmologist

**DENTAL
& VISION**

- ✓ Security/Crowd Control
- ✓ Translators
- ✓ Greeters
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Barbers/Hair Stylists
- ✓ Massage Therapists
- ✓ Food Coordinators
- ✓ Pastors/Chaplains
- ✓ Prayer Warriors
- ✓ Foot Washing Ministry

GENERAL

- ✓ Physicians
- ✓ NPs, PAs
- ✓ Nurses, EMT
- ✓ Lifestyle Counselors
- ✓ Therapists
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Mental Health Counselors

MEDICAL



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www.loveinactioninc.org

FRIDAY 6/19
SATURDAY 6/20

The Love In Action is seeking optometrists, opticians and optometric staff to volunteer at their event June 19th and 20th. You may contact Love in Action Inc at gam0728@gmail.com or visit www.loveinactioninc.com for more information.

You may sign up to participate in the June event here - [Love In Action Volunteers Sign Up Here](#)

Dr. Tracy Ho commented that City of Vision Eye Care and their team of techs and opticians made a massive impact last year and would like to encourage all ODs and their staff to consider volunteering.



InfantSEE is an opportunity to educate families in your community about the importance of annual comprehensive eye and vision care beginning at six months of age and annually thereafter.

InfantSEE providers agree to provide no-charge comprehensive eye assessments to infants between the ages of 6 to 12 months regardless of family income or access to insurance coverage.

During an InfantSEE assessment doctors of optometry assess many areas such as testing for excessive or unequal amounts of nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism, eye movement ability, eye health problems, and discuss patient and family history.

Follow the steps below to become an InfantSEE Provider:

1. Go to aoa.org. Log in to your AOA account.
2. Go to the Member Center drop down menu and click MyAOA.
3. On the menu on the right side of the page, click Personal Profile.
4. Navigate to the Special Emphases tab.
5. Check "offers no cost infant eye assessments."
6. Click Update Special Emphasis.
7. A message will display right below the list of special emphases that says "Special Emphases updated successfully" in red text. This means you have successfully added yourself as an InfantSEE Provider. It may take up to 24 hours for you to appear in our Find a Doctor tool.
8. If you run into any issues, please reach out to MemberServices@aoa.org.

After enrolling, be sure to [report each InfantSEE exam](#) that you do. It's quick and easy. You don't have to be logged into your AOA account, so support staff can fill out the form as well.



Case Report

Submitted by Dr. Brent Shelley

I would like to report on two cases of ocular syphilis that I have personally treated within the past year. I will be submitting a far more formal paper for publication in the near future. This is essentially very rough draft to share with my NMOA colleagues.

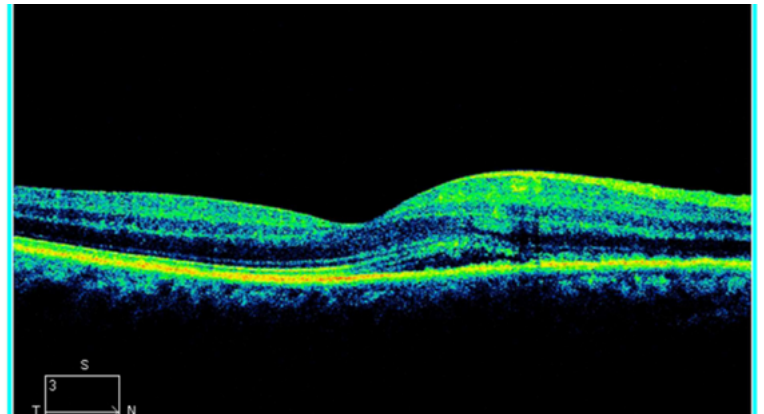
I wish to detail two very different presentations of ocular syphilitic disease that I have seen in my clinic within the past year in this report.

Case 1: Patient is a 74 year old African American grandmother that recently moved to the area from Houston. She presented to the clinic with complaints of redness and soreness. She stated she has “arthritis in the eye.” She had been treated with Durezol BID OU in Houston 4 months previously and her symptoms resolved. History was significant for diabetes mellitus for 34 years, A1c reported as 7.1 3 months previous. Examination was significant for 2+ cells in the left anterior chamber and pigmentation on the left intraocular lens implant. Posterior findings were unremarkable. Upon further questioning she stated that she was not aware of any bloodwork having been performed for the “arthritis in the eye.” A standard iridocyclitis panel was ordered and the results were significant for HSV-1, HSV-2 and RPR positive. She was then sent to the Department of Health where her titer was measured to be 1:128. DOH treated patient with Bicillin L-A, whilst I treated patient’s ocular manifestations with valacyclovir 1G twice daily for 7 days and prednisolone acetate 1% four times daily for 14 days.

Case 2: Patient is a 67 year old HIV positive Caucasian male with a history of ocular hypertension treated with latanoprost 0.005%. He is treated with Biktarvy with an undetectable viral load. Patient was seen on 01/09/2026 at which time RNFL with guided progression analysis and IOP were stable. Corrected visual acuities were OD 20/20-2 and OS 20/20.

He presented to clinic on 2/18/2026 on an emergent basis due to perceived changes in vision in the right eye. At this time acuities were OD 20/30+2 and OS 20/20. Dilated examination was significant for cystoid macular edema in the right eye as is demonstrated in this image:

The prostaglandin analogues are known to have potential for inducing macular edema. Latanoprost was discontinued and we started ketorolac 0.5% QID in the right eye. He was scheduled to return in 28 days for follow-up and discussion for other ocular tension options. However, on 02/27/2026 patient presented with his sister on an emergent basis. Visual acuity was Count Fingers OU. MOCT was not possible due to fixation errors.



Patient was referred to the retina service emergently. Neuro-syphilis was suspected and subsequently confirmed with an RPR titer of 1:1280. Lumbar puncture was significant for pleocytosis. The patient was hospitalized for 4 days and continued IV penicillin and oral doxycycline 100mg for a total of 21 days.

This case is not closed. I spoke with the patient personally this last week. He reports his vision has returned, but not quite back to “normal.” He is awaiting release from retina to return to my clinic for continued glaucoma monitoring.

The Optometric Oath

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

I WILL practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I WILL uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I WILL provide professional care for the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I WILL work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

I WILL place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I WILL hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I WILL advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I WILL strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I WILL share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow doctors of optometry and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I WILL do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as a doctor of optometry.

I HEREBY commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

Code of Ethics

It shall be the ideal, resolve, and duty of all optometrists:

TO KEEP their patients' eye, vision, and general health paramount at all times;

TO RESPECT the rights and dignity of patients regarding their health care decisions;

TO ADVISE their patients whenever consultation with, or referral to another optometrist or other health professional is appropriate;

TO ENSURE confidentiality and privacy of patients' protected health and other personal information;

TO STRIVE to ensure that all persons have access to eye, vision, and general health care;

TO ADVANCE their professional knowledge and proficiency to maintain and expand competence to benefit their patients;

TO MAINTAIN their practices in accordance with professional health care standards;

TO PROMOTE ethical and cordial relationships with all members of the health care community;

TO RECOGNIZE their obligation to protect the health and welfare of society; and

TO CONDUCT themselves as exemplary citizens and professionals with honesty, integrity, fairness, kindness, and compassion



AOA members gain access to industry experts through AOAExcel



Your member benefits

AOAExcel provides personal and professional resources that allow doctors of optometry to practice and flourish with confidence. Take full advantage of products and services from AOAExcel's endorsed business partners, who have been carefully vetted to meet the unique needs of AOA members nationwide.

These benefits include:

- Malpractice insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Career Resources
- Term Life Insurance
- Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Small Business Credit Card
- In-Office Membership Plans
- EHR & Practice Management Software

Visit AOAExcel to learn more - [AOAExcel](#)

AOAExcel Resource Updates

Gain insight into optometry-related content and resources ranging from topics such as Career Advice, Malpractice Insurance, and Student Loan Refinancing.

Visit the AOAExcel Resource Updates page here - [AOAExcel Resource Updates](#)

AOA Advocacy Makes Strong Showing on Capitol Hill

By Lynn Davis, AOA FAR

On March 15-17, I attended the AOA Keyperson Summit along with Rich Montoya. There were about 375 Optometrists and Executive Directors who attended the meeting. Building on the momentum created from recent Pharmacy Benefit Manager legislation, and more than a decade of presenting the same bill, we made progress with the “Doc Access Bill” which now has a companion bill in the Senate.

HR 1521 advocates for Vision Benefit Middlemen (VBM) reforms. Like other harmful health care benefit manager middlemen, VBMs have rigged a system that benefits them and their parent company at the expense of patients, independent doctors, and local communities. Advocates encouraged their policy leaders to co-sponsor the DOC Access Act (H.R. 1521) and the Vision Lab Choice Act (S. 1716), which aim to combat costly, controlling and care-limiting VBM abuses.

New Mexico is now proud to have two Co-Sponsors: Rep. Gabe Vasquez and Rep. Melanie Stansbury!

Other issues raised were:

- The Contact Lens Prescription Verification Modernization Act (H.R. 4282) would help make the contact lens prescription verification process simpler and safer for millions of Americans; attendees urged their policy leaders to co-sponsor the legislation.
- Advocates urged U.S. House and Senate members to support automatic, annual inflationary updates for doctors of optometry and other physicians by permanently tying Medicare pay to the Medicare Economic Index (H.R. 6160) and back H.R. 4559 to support vital Medicare Advantage pay and patient access reforms.
- Doctors of optometry, leading Veteran Service Organizations, and others are urging Congress to make clear to the VA that veterans need and deserve guaranteed access to the full range of care optometrists are trained and licensed to provide as the VA updates its Eye Care Directive and issues new Optometry National Standards of Practice.

AOA President Jacquie Bowen, O.D., stated that we are one of the most respected and effective advocacy organizations in the nation’s capital. Our primary Lobbyist, Matt Willett, is honored every year as the best Lobbyist in Washington DC.

Progress is slow, but happening!



An Update from Low Vision of New Mexico

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to reach out and share an update regarding Low Vision of New Mexico—some of you may even remember working with Dr. Dulce Walker of the years.

Following Dr. Walker's retirement, I've had the privilege of taking over Low Vision of New Mexico, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to continue providing low vision care to our community.

As a low vision specialist, I focus on working with patients whose vision cannot be fully corrected with glasses, contacts, or medical/surgical treatment. This includes conditions such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and other causes of reduced vision which can cause patients to struggle with day-to-day tasks like reading, recognizing faces, or maintaining independence.

During a low vision evaluation, I spend time understanding each patient's specific challenges and goals, and then tailor recommendations to help them make the most of their remaining vision. This may include customized optical devices (high-powered spectacles, magnifiers, and telescopes), electronic and assistive technologies, environmental and task-specific strategies, and patient education.

My goal is to complement the medical and refractive care you provide by helping patients regain functionality to improve their quality of life. If you have patients who are struggling with daily visual tasks despite receiving medical treatment, I would truly appreciate the opportunity to help. I'm happy to provide complimentary phone consultations for your patients to determine if a low vision evaluation would be beneficial.

I'll be attending the NMOA Annual Convention this week and would love to say hello in person if you're there.

Thank you for the care you provide to our shared community. I look forward to working together!

Kind regards,
Arielle Angel, OD, FIALVS
Low Vision of New Mexico
Phone: (505)249-6689
Fax: (505)398-8445
lowvisionnm@gmail.com
lowvisionnm.com

2026 NMOA Exhibit Hall

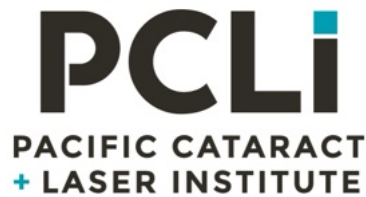
Friday, April 17, 2026 - 5:00pm-7:30pm

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - 11am-2pm

Please take the time to attend the Exhibit Hall

We appreciate all the Vendors who support Optometry

Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute - 2026-2027 NMOA Diamond Sponsor



Having performed over 900,000 micro eye surgeries, PCLI compliments the expertise of community optometric physicians. Your friendship and spirit of cooperation make it a joy to serve. Although we specialize in LASIK vision correction and cataract surgery, other services provided in our Albuquerque facility include:

- Refractive lens exchange
- Secondary lens implant
- Glaucoma stents
- Selective laser trabeculoplasty
- Laser peripheral iridotomy
- Corneal cross-linking
- Phototherapeutic keratectomy
- Conjunctival resection
- Pinguecullectomy
- Pterygiumectomy
- Lid lesion removal

For more information, visit www.pcli.com

Eye Associates of New Mexico - 2026-2027 NMOA Diamond Sponsor



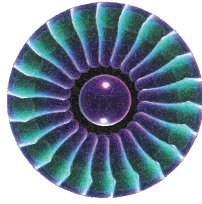
Eye Associates of New Mexico has been providing premier eye care to the region for nearly 50 years! With a team of 30 Ophthalmologists, 28 Optometrists and 1 PA across 12 locations and 4 surgery centers, Eye Associates delivers specialized medical and surgical services to a vast portion of the state. Our mission includes reaching underserved areas, bringing expert specialty care to communities where it might otherwise be unavailable.

Eye Associates continues to work in close partnership with highly skilled optometrists statewide. Through these collaborations, Phreesia Connect for reliable referral tracking and communication, along with the dedicated staff of our Doctor2Doctor team, we have streamlined referral and co-management services to ensure seamless, high-quality patient outcomes. We remain committed to providing the highest quality care to all New Mexicans for decades to come.

Our Board-Certified physicians and surgeons provide specialized care in the following areas:

- Cataract surgery (**Offer advanced intraocular lens options**)
- Vision correction services (**Lasik, PRK, Evo ICL and RLE**)
- Corneal disease
- Corneal-Cross Linking (**Only practice in the state offering FDA approved**)
- C-TAK (**Only practice offering this in New Mexico**)

Engstrom Cataract and Laser Center - 2026-2027 NMOA Gold Sponsor



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LASER CENTER

G. Sally Mellgren, M.D.
Paul F. Engstrom, M.D.

Engstrom Cataract and Laser Center has been supporting New Mexico and surrounding optometrists since 2000 our support has included visits to the state legislature to defend the optometric scope of practice. we have also provided surgical care for optometric patients including cataract surgery, eyelid surgery, glaucoma surgery and of course we perform Lasik and Smile procedures. We were the first to introduce Smile technology to the state of New Mexico. We now have six years of experience with this very successful procedure. We plan to continue to co-manage all our different procedures with our optometric friends.

Dr. Paul F. Engstrom and Dr. Sally Mellgren both hold certification with the American Board of Ophthalmology and both have over 35 years of private practice experience. Their number one priority is your complete eye care. For great health care, trust our professional staff to keep you living the best life possible.

For more information visit engstromeyecenter.com or call us at (575) 625-0123

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Juliette Eye Institute - 2026-2027 NMOA Gold Sponsor



At Juliette Eye Institute, we provide compassionate eye care with education to all our patients. Dr. Melendez is proud to offer the latest in advanced technology to his patients so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Walman Optical - 2026-2027 NMOA Gold Sponsor



Every day, we are driven by the commitment of enriching lives through better vision. With that comes the pledge to the speed, accuracy and service you need and eye care patients deserve.

In support of the optical industry, we are focused on your success for the betterment of the patientcare. And, when you utilize every Walman division, we are able to better serve you and bring you from “alive” to “thrive” in the competitive market today.

For more information , visit www.walmanoptical.com

Coleman Vision - 2026–2027 NMOA Silver Sponsor



Coleman Vision is dedicated exclusively to laser vision correction and does not fit or sell contact lenses or glasses. Progressive, state-of-the-art technology, an emphasis on learning, and a caring, highly experienced staff combine to provide patients and doctors with consistently excellent results. Dr. Coleman performs individualized wavefront-guided LASIK using the iLASIK laser suite. This platform combines the VISX STAR S4 excimer laser using Iris Recognition and 3-dimensional eye-tracking technology with the 150 kHz iFS femtosecond flap maker. Along with such world-renowned eye institutes as Johns Hopkins, the University of Miami, and Baylor University, Dr. Coleman has been part of an on-going FDA evaluation of wavefront-guided laser profiles since May of 2002. He was instrumental in gaining the initial FDA approval for this technology.

LENZ Therapeutics - 2026-2026 NMOA Silver Sponsor



LENZ Therapeutics is pharmaceutical company focused on the commercialization of VIZZ™ (aceclidine ophthalmologic solution) 1.44%, the first and only FDA-approved aceclidine-based eye drop for the treatment of presbyopia.

LENZ is commercializing VIZZ™ in the United States and continues to establish licensing partnerships internationally to provide access to VIZZ™ globally. LENZ is headquartered in San Diego, California.

For more information , visit lenz-tx.com

VersantHealth - 2026-20267 NMOA Silver Sponsor



Versant Health, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., is one of the nation's leading administrators of managed vision care, serving more than 41 million of our clients' members nationwide. Through our Davis Vision and Superior Vision independent provider networks, we help members access the wonders of sight through healthy eyes and vision. Administering vision and eye health solutions that range from access to routine vision benefits to medical management, Versant Health has unique visibility and scale across the total eye health spectrum. As a result, our clients' members enjoy a seamless experience with access to one of the broadest provider networks in the industry and an exclusive frame collection. Commercial groups, employer plans, and health plans that serve government-sponsored programs such as Medicaid and Medicare are among our valued customers.

For more information , visit <https://versanthealth.com/>

VSP Vision - 2026-2027 NMOA Silver Sponsor



At **VSP Vision™**, our purpose is to empower human potential through sight. Unlike competitors, VSP® is a purpose-driven company guided by a board of directors that includes Doctors of Optometry, not shareholders or investors. For more than **65 years**, VSP has been the leader in health-focused vision care. Every day, the people that power our complementary businesses (VSP® Vision Care, Eyefinity®, VSP Optics, Marchon® Eyewear, VSP Retail, and VSP Ventures) work together to create a world where everyone can bring their best vision to life.

VSP Vision provides affordable access to eye care and eyewear for more than **85 million members** through a network of more than **41,000 doctors**. We encourage VSP members to visit a VSP network doctor, supporting access to millions of annual patient visits each year. Additionally, we provide services and programs designed to help private practices differentiate, compete, and increase profitability.

Learn more about how we're supporting doctors and find valuable resources for your practice at vspproviderhub.com.

Ode to the Magno Pathway

Submitted by Dr. Tiffany Martinez

Before you name the world,
before edges sharpen into
things,
before color tells its stories,

I am already there.

Not in the spotlight
where detail dazzles
and letters demand attention,

but in the hush behind it all
where movement whispers
first.

I am the flicker
you didn't notice noticing.
The shift in shadow
that turned your head
before you knew why.

While you admire the leaf,
I have mapped the wind.
While you read the word,
I have tracked the space
between.

I am urgency without
language,
speed without narration,
the pulse of something
changed
before thought arrives to
explain it.

When the world lunges,
I do not pause to interpret.
I pull you.
I lean you.
I ready you.

A ball flies.
A car drifts.
A body moves too fast toward
yours.

You call it reflex.
You call it instinct.

But I have been tracing motion
long before your awareness
catches up.

I live in contrast,
in the broad strokes,
in the rhythm of near and far,
in the quiet choreography
of where you are in space.

I do not care what things are
called.
I care where they are going.

I am the map without labels,
the guide without words,
the early warning system
woven into your seeing.

And because I do not speak
in crisp lines or vivid hues,
you forget me.

You praise clarity.
You celebrate detail.

Meanwhile, I keep you safe
in the blur.

I am the background
that holds the foreground
together.
The silent partner
of every step,
every reach,
every moment you do not
collide
with the world.

Before you know,
before you decide,
before you understand,

I have already begun.

Many of us learned about the magnocellular pathway in school, and then promptly filed it away somewhere in the back of our brains.

This poem is a reminder of the power of this visual pathway.

The magnocellular pathway is responsible for processing motion, spatial awareness, timing, and guiding action. It works quickly, largely outside of conscious awareness, helping us detect change, orient in space, and respond to the world around us before we even realize something has happened.

In practice, we often prioritize what is easiest to measure, clarity, acuity, and detail. Yet this background system is foundational to how our patients move, feel grounded, and interact with their environment.

When it is not functioning optimally, patients may not always have the words to describe what feels off. They may simply feel less stable, less coordinated, or less comfortable in their visual world.

Recognizing and addressing this often underemphasized component of visual processing can expand our clinical impact. Much of what I am aiming to address through neuro prescribing is rooted in supporting and integrating this system more effectively.

EssilorLuxottica - 2026-2027 NMOA Bronze Sponsor



Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index, photochromic and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs more than 10,000 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the VARILUX®, CRIZAL®, TRANSITIONS®, XPERIO UV™, EYEZEN®, DEFINITY®, THIN & LITE® and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America, Inc. is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands to eyecare professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based EssilorLuxottica, a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange.

For more information, visit www.essilorpro.com

Carl Zeiss Vision - 2026-2027 NMOA Bronze Sponsor



ZEISS is a global leader in optics, with a history of over 175 years of innovation. ZEISS is committed to partnering with eye care professionals to improve the vision of their patients. ZEISS offers a wide range of products and solutions that are backed by a commitment to quality and are designed to help you provide the best possible care for your patients, while also growing your practice.

For more information, visit www.zeiss.com

News from members

The New Mexico State University Alamogordo Health Sciences Center Building will be dedicated to Dr. Terry Marquardt on April 20th for his commitment to higher education and for his support of the Nursing and Health Sciences Program and NMSU-A during his service as a NM State Legislator. Dr. Marquardt stated, *"My time and service to the NM Legislature would not have been possible without the support of the New Mexico Optometric Association"*



Dr. Philip Treu submitted the following articles:

The AI Revolution Here — and It's Coming to Your Eyes

https://www.popsugar.com/health/ai-eye-care-revolution-49429226?utm_source=flipboard&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=feed

We're in a short-sightedness epidemic – and we never saw it coming

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/02/19/myopia-short-sightedness-epidemic-uk/>

Massive eye drop recall: FDA warns of sterility issues in 3 million bottles

https://www.fox7austin.com/news/fda-eye-drop-recall-walgreens-cvs-sterility-issues?utm_source=flipboard&utm_content=fox7austin/magazine/FOX+7+Austin

Eye Condition Risk Elevated with Semaglutide, but Still Low

<https://www.medscape.com/s/viewarticle/eye-condition-risk-elevated-semaglutide-still-low-2026a10008iu>

Myopia is a disease, not a refractive error — here's what that means

https://theconversation.com/myopia-is-a-disease-not-a-refractive-error-heres-what-that-means-250239?utm_source=flipboard&utm_content=ConversationCA/magazine/Health

Board of Optometry Updates

By Lynn Davis, Chair NM Board of Optometry

The New Mexico Board of Examiners is pleased to announce that we finally have a new Board Administrator, Emma Quintana. The Regulation and Licensing Department has been very short staffed for the last year, and I am hopeful that problems and questions will be addressed in a timely and efficient manner moving forward.

There are some proposed rule changes coming up that I wanted to make you aware of. If approved and incorporated, they will not take effect until the next renewal year. **No changes will be implemented for THIS renewal cycle in 2026.**

First, we are proposing a maximum of 8 hours of online/internet CE per renewal period, up from the current maximum of 6 hours. This change will allow a doctor to miss one day of the Spring CE and still satisfy their annual CE hours without having to take more in-person CE. The online CE **does not** have to be live or synchronous.

Second, we are proposing moving the renewal deadline to June 1st of any given year rather than the current July 1st deadline. The goal is to provide a grace period during which our license would be "temporarily active" up to 30 days. Due to the language of our statute, we cannot extend a grace period after July 1st. If a doctor misses the June 1st deadline, they can still practice Optometry without violating state law. It should be noted that a late fee will apply after June 1st.

There will be an RLD email informing everyone concerned about the Rule Hearing later this year. The proposed rule changes must be posted for at least 30 days before the hearing. Anyone may participate virtually during this meeting to give feedback or make comments. If voted on and approved, the changes will not take effect until the next renewal cycle (the 2027 renewal deadline would be moved to June 1st, 2027).

If you have any feedback for the board, please speak with myself, or the other professional members of the Board, Drs. Dwight Thibodeaux, Daniel Mayes, or Thomas Kunz.



The primary purpose and obligation of the board is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by providing laws and regulations to govern the practice of optometry, and to safeguard against any unprofessional, improper, incompetent, and unlawful practice of the profession, the most significant of which could result in blindness or loss of life.

Contact Numbers and Email Address

Phone: [\(505\) 476-4622](tel:(505)476-4622)

Email: Optometry.Bd@rld.nm.gov

Help Desk: rld.opthelpdesk@rld.nm.gov



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NMOA Members!

Whether you're getting *hole-in-nones* or *hole-in-ones*, join us at Topgolf in Albuquerque, NM for an evening of networking, golf games, food, beverages and fun!

**Watch your email for
Registration Info Coming Soon!**

Monday, June 8th / 6:00pm – 8:00pm / Albuquerque, NM



A Legacy of Vision: Community Service in Action in Taos

Three New Mexico optometrists, partnering with the Lions Club of Taos, brought comprehensive eye care and glasses at no cost to 240 Taos County children at their schools last fall—demonstrating the powerful impact of professional service in action.

Drs. Randall Cox, Don Leach, and Warren Rorebeck came out of retirement to donate their time and expertise, providing dilated medical eye exams on-site in 16 schools through the Lions Club of Taos Kids Eye Van. Their experience, flexibility, and compassion were instrumental in the success of this pilot outreach effort.

The Kids Eye Van is a fully equipped mobile clinic, allowing for clinic-quality care in a school setting, staffed with trained techs, drivers and set-up crew. Using new instrumentation—including chair and stand, autorefractor, phoropter, slit lamp, retinal camera, BIO, and automated digital acuity charts—the doctors ensured accurate diagnoses and prescriptions. Each child received two pairs of glasses, removing barriers to both access and follow-through.

The need is significant. Of the 3,200 students in 24 schools whose vision was screened last fall, over 800 were referred for further care. In a community with only two optometry offices and long wait times, bringing care directly to students is transformative.

One moment captured the impact: a teenage girl, putting on her new glasses for the first time, began to cry—finally able to see clearly.

Supported by local partners and Lions initiatives, this program is now a model for expanding access across New Mexico. As this pilot project grows, more optometrists are needed; they can now be paid. The message is clear: the gift of vision can change lives. We welcome your participation, and know you would enjoy the experience. Please contact Mary Pencin, Kidsight Director in Taos 520-507-8338



A Friendly Reminder



Doctors, each year we like to take a moment to provide a friendly reminder to make sure you are in compliance with the New Mexico Contact Len Rx Statute

Below are the pertinent contact lens sections of the NM statute with the subsections regarding timing of prescription, length of prescription and prescription release. You may find the entire contact optometry statute and board rules on the NM Optometry Board website: [NM Optometry board](#)

61-2-10.4. Contact lens prescription; required elements; restrictions. (Repealed effective July 1, 2024.)

A. A contact lens prescription shall:

(5) indicate a specific date of expiration, which shall be twenty-four months from the date of the prescription, unless, in the professional opinion of the prescriber, a longer or shorter expiration date is in the best interests of the patient.

61-2-10.5. Replacement contact lens prescriptions. (Repealed effective July 1, 2024.)

E. The replacement contact lens prescription that a licensed optometrist provides a patient:

(2) shall contain, subject to the provisions of Subsection F of this section, an expiration date for the replacement contact lens prescription of not more than twenty-four months from the time the patient was first examined;

F. The licensed optometrist shall enter into the patient's medical record the valid clinical reasons for a shorter expiration date and shall provide the patient with a written and oral explanation of the clinical reasons for a shorter expiration date.

Help the AOA stop abusive contact lens seller practices

- Report a [website illegally selling contact lenses](#).
- Report an [adverse event](#) related to contact lenses.
- Report [problems with decorative contact lenses](#).
- Report [suspected violations to the AOA](#) or direct questions to stopIllegalcls@aoa.org.

GWCO 2026

October 15-18, 2026 | Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront



The mission of the Great Western Council of Optometry (GWCO) is to provide a unified voice for optometrists within organized optometry, facilitate communication among affiliated state associations, enhance professional development for members, and offer financial support to strengthen our member associations.

GWCO Congress brings together optometric leaders and professionals from across the western U.S. for high-quality continuing education, collaboration, and connection. Attendees gain cutting-edge clinical insight while strengthening the collective voice and future of optometry.

Registration, Hotel & travel information coming SOON

At [GWCO.ORG](https://www.gwco.org)



2025 Paraoptometric Resources Education included as AOA member benefit

Are you taking full advantage of your AOA member benefits? Enrolling paraoptometrics/optometric staff at your office as [AOA associate members](#)—at no cost to the AOA member doctor or staff—grants them access to the full range of associate member benefits and resources, including:

- [CPC](#) - and AOA-approved continuing education, professional development, practice training and certification materials available in [AOA EyeLearn](#).
- Member rates for AOA events.
- Volunteer and networking opportunities on a national level.
- All CPC, AOA publications and [newsletters](#).

Staff taking certification exams? Access the [2024 Paraoptometric Examination \(CPO, CPOA, CPOT, CPOC\) Candidate Handbook](#) and view the [2024 examination dates](#).

Uncertain where to begin? [Listen to this quick, explanatory course](#) available on AOA EyeLearn for more information about the CPC, certification, study resources and more. Contact the CPC [here](#).

How to enroll staff

1. AOA member doctors should [login](#) (AOA username and password) to your 'My AOA' profile at [aoa.org](#).
2. Select '[Manage Staff](#)' tab.
3. Enter the requisite information for each staff person (non-doctor).

Paraoptometric staff who work for AOA member doctors may request membership [here](#).



**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**



Send your story to
newmexicooptometry@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you regarding news in your practice, updates, community events you are involved in, or anything you would like to share with the membership. We are also interested in "Case Studies" or "Opto-Geek Trivia" articles!

Please send your submissions for the next newsletter to the NMOA at newmexicooptometry@gmail.com

Save the Dates

2026 NMOA Mid-Year Convention

September 10-11, 2026

Inn of the Mountain Gods

Mescalero, NM

Save the Date

2027 NMOA Annual Convention

April 2-4, 2027

Sandia Resort,

Albuquerque, NM