Hello Everyone

The Holiday Season is upon us! I hope everyone has had a great year, it sure has gone by fast. I am so excited about this year as President. We have lots of exciting things going on as we have started planning the 2016 Fall Convention. I want to thank Daniel Book and all of the other board members on a great 2015 Convention! We had lots of great speakers and courses.

I have served on the board since 2010, serving as Treasurer for 2 terms and then running for President Elect in 2014. I have enjoyed my time on the board and all of the people I have had the chance to meet. For those of you who do not know me, here is a little bit about myself. I live in Wayne, where I was born and raised. I married my husband Matt in 2007 and we have a 6 year old daughter Joselyn, a 2 year old son Sutton, and a baby due at the end of this month. I have been in the optical industry for 9 and a half years working for Magnuson Hopkins Eyecare. I have my CPO and CPOA certification and plan on taking the CPOC early next year as I work mainly on insurance in our office. I also enjoy working with our patients, whether it is adjusting their glasses or greeting them at the front desk when I am not working on insurance.

We have 2 new board members this year—Jennifer Smith is our new President Elect and Jaime Picquet is our new Secretary. Lindsay Franson will continue as Treasurer, Daniel Book immediate Past President and Jill Luebbert. Welcome Jennifer and Jaime, as a board are excited to work with you this year.

As paras we have an exciting volunteer opportunity coming up in February with the NFCV and Building Healthy Futures of Omaha to do vision screenings in 8 schools in Omaha. There is an article in this edition of the para newsletter that will give more information on this great opportunity. I hope many of you will volunteer for this great cause.

We have begun planning the 2016 Fall Convention and we already have some outstanding speakers and ideas for courses next year. If there is anything you would like to see next fall, please let a board member know and we would be happy to consider it.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Brandy Saltzman
NOA Para President
NOA Paraoptometric Board of Directors
Elected at September Convention

The Paraoptometric Section of the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA) elected their 2015-2016 Board of Directors at the Annual Fall Convention September 25-27 in Kearney. Brandy Saltzman of Wayne was installed as President for the 2015-2016 term by Immediate Past President Daniel Book, Lincoln. Other officers elected to the Board were Jennifer Smith, Ord, as President-Elect; Jamie Picquet, Grant, as Secretary; and Lindsay Franson, Lincoln as Treasurer.

Approximately 200 paraoptometrics from across the state attended the annual convention.

NOA Paraoptometric Past Presidents

1978-1979 Mary McCartney
1980-1981 Marge Wubbels
1982 – 1984 Linda Sturgeon
1984 - 1985 Gail Walker, CPOA
1988 – 1989 Linda Sturgeon
1990 – 1991 LaRee Peterson Ahlers, CPOT
1991 - 1992 Sally Conner
1992 – 1993 Sally Conner
1994 – 1996 Inta Larson
1996 – 1997 Jill Luebbert, CPOT
1997 – 1998 Tami Franklin, CPOT
1998 – 1999 Dawn Cech
1999 – 2000 Linda Sturgeon
2000 – 2001 Cleo Ellis
2001 Michelle Bentley -Kelly Travis

2002 Stacy White, CPO
2003 Sandy Authier
2004 Penny Adkisson, CPOA, ABOC
2005 Linda Schutt, CPOT
2006 Kirk Kastens
2007 Jill Luebbert, CPOT
2008 Kara Stokey Brashears, CPOT
2009 Sonja Hansen, CPOA
2010 Ann Utter
2011 Doug Wright, CPOA
2012 Rhonda Gregory
2013 Brook Hutson
2014 Matt Farritor, CPOA
2015 Daniel Book, CPOA

Calendar of Events

AOA’s Meeting
Conference: OPTOMETRY’S MEETING*
June 29- July 3, 2016
Boston, MA

International Vision Expo
Las Vegas Sands Expo & Convention
September 14-17, 2016

NOA Fall Convention
Younes Conference Center
September 23-25, 2016
Kearney, NE
AOA Paraoptometric Resource Center

Are you an Associate Member of the AOA?

All paraoptometrics/optometric staff of AOA member ODs may become AOA associate members and have access to all current Paraoptometric Resource Center (PRC) member benefits and services, at no membership cost to the paraoptometric and no added membership cost to the AOA-member optometrist. Paraoptometrics interested in gaining access to these resources should request that their AOA member OD enroll them.

This new AOA OD member benefit means free access to programs and services that offer education and staff training, significant discounts on education materials for purchase, discounts on registration fees for Optometry’s Meeting®, and information communicated through AOA publications.

Information needed to enroll staff:

- Legal name of staff
  (as appears on Driver’s License)
- Date of Birth
- Unique email address for each staff person

How to enroll—(AOA OD member ID and password will be required)
The AOA Member OD, or his designee, should:

1. Visit this site
2. Click on the “Manage Staff” tab
3. Enter information for each staff person (non-OD)

Nebraska currently has 100 paraoptometrics registered as associate members of the AOA.

Have Questions? Need help? Contact: PRC@aoa.org or 800-365-2219, ext. 4108.
Fall Convention

Photos

September 25-27, 2015
The NOA Paraoptometric of the Year Award is presented to a paraoptometric who has made outstanding contributions to the fields of paraoptometry and optometry, been an asset to their doctor(s), advanced themselves with continuing education and a commitment to the profession with a number of years in the field. Self-discipline and professional conduct are also criteria for which the award is judged, along with the paraoptometric’s accomplishments in the profession.

Deb Gasper, ABO, has over 40 years of optical experience. She has been a crucial reason for years of business growth and excellent patient care since joining Millard Family Eyecare in 2002. As an integral part of the management team her duties include: Optical Manager, direct supervision of team members, maintaining optical inventory and patient orders, team member scheduling and team unity. She is involved with the hiring process and oversees the training of new team members. She works with patients in optical care and works directly with doctors on any patient or team member concern. She currently serves as the Vision Source Representative for Millard Family Eyecare.

Deb can often be found going beyond the call of duty, coming in early and staying late when needed. Deb does whatever needs to be done including: taking deposits to the bank, decorating parade floats, planning employee baby showers, scheduling office lunches and planning office fun days. Outside of the office, she has volunteered with her local church, ring bells for the Salvation Army, been a member of the Millard Lions Club, volunteered at Opening Eyes with Special Olympics, and the Open Door Mission. She and her husband, Joe, currently sponsor four children in third world countries. She has even used her optical skills on a VOSH trip to the Dominican Republic, providing eye care and glasses to over 800 underserved people.

Deb’s enthusiasm, caring heart, work ethic and integrity inevitably rub off on co-workers. She has an amazing way of leading by example with a combination of friendship, humor and mothering when needed. These attributes have earned her the respect and endearment of the doctors, teammates and patients. She is a true leader and a valuable part of the Millard Family Eyecare team.

Deb and her husband Joe have been married for 38 years. They enjoy spending time with their son Matthew and his new wife Brittany. They are avid Kansas City Chiefs and Royals fans, and can be found many weekends in Kansas City at a football or baseball game.

Previous Para of the Year Recipients
Joanie Smith
Melanie Swift
Jennifer Smith
Sonja Hansen
Rhonda Gregory
Kara Stokey Brashears
Katie Circo
Elizabeth Brockhaus
Melia Hefti
Linda Schutt
Darcy Popple
Sandy Heuer
Shelly Long
Melanie Swift
Cathy Kahny
Bonnie Kettler
Sandy Authier
Jill Luebbert
Inta Larsbert
Tami Franklin
Susan Wortman
Kelly Travis
LaRee Ahlers
Deb Philips
Marlea Kittle
Linda Sturgeon
Gail Walker
Lois Harder
Sally Conner
Sue Seger

Previous Para Distinguished Service Award Recipients
Tami Franklin
Sandy Authier
Cleo Ellis
LaRee Ahlers
Linda Schutt
Sally Conner
Jill Luebbert
Carol Bothwell

Special Thanks to Our 2015 NOA Convention Paraoptometric Continuing Education Sponsors

Acquios Advisors
Alcon
Authier Miller Pape

Eyecare Specialties
Millard Family Eyecare
Omaha Primary Eye Care

Special Thanks to Our 2015 NOA Convention Paraoptometric Continuing Education Sponsors
Building Healthy Futures convened a Child Vision Collaborative in February 2015. This group had a charge to “Create a coordinated system for vision care that includes education, screening, diagnosing, and treatment for underserved children in our city’s most impoverished communities by maximizing resources through cross-sector and interdisciplinary partnerships.” The target population is underserved children and youth living in poverty in the Omaha community. A workgroup met every other week from March through August to inventory existing services both locally and nationally, understand existing policies and make recommendations to the full collaborative. A matrix of models providing vision care was built through in depth research and conference calls. Site visits in Ohio looked at vision vans and a vision clinic in a school.

The consensus of the collaborative was to pursue the vision clinic in a school by partnering with an international funder. They will provide all the equipment, furniture, 1st year operating support and business plans. Omaha Public Schools identified 2 locations - Kennedy Elementary school which will be operated by Charles Drew and Indian Hill Elementary which will be operated by OneWorld. Kennedy will open in Fall 2016 and Indian Hills Fall 2017. Screenings will be done by volunteers in the schools and those who fail and don’t have eye providers will be transported to the vision clinics.

The initial pilot screenings will be given to approximately 5000 kids in 8 schools. This fall, all mandated grades will be screened in all OPS schools and Fall of 2017, all 52,000 students in all OPS schools will be screened.

The screening dates are every Tuesday and Wednesday from February 2nd to March 2nd. It’s a total of 10 days at 8 different schools: Benson High School, Norris Middle School and 6 elementary schools - Liberty, Fontenelle, Kennedy, Castellar, Indian Hills and Skinner. The hours will vary a little at each school, but with set up and taking down the equipment, most days would be approximately 8am to 3:30 pm at the different schools.

You can contact me with any questions you might have or if there are certain days that you would like to volunteer. Thank you so much for your willingness to assist with this pilot screening!

Kathy Austin
402-669-9334
k.austin@bhfomaha.org

### Pilot Schools for Vision Screenings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian Hills Elementary</td>
<td>February 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skinner Magnet</td>
<td>February 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Elementary</td>
<td>February 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontenell Elementary</td>
<td>February 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy Elementary</td>
<td>February 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castellar Elementary</td>
<td>February 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norris Middle School</td>
<td>February 23 &amp; 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson High School</td>
<td>March 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>