

Certified Opticians Association of Texas

The Opticians Association of America State Society



March/April 2017 Newsletter

Editors: Mustafa Asif and Kim Brown



About the Speaker



Mr. Walker is an international renowned speaker, recognized Master Optician and author of the text-book, Pure Optics, which is in its Second Edition. He is the recipient of the prestigious Beverly Myer's Achievement Award in Ophthalmic Optics. Mr. Walker is a Master in Ophthalmic Optics

(ABOM), earned a Bachelor of Science in Business (BSB) from Excelsior College, Albany, NY, an Associate Science Degree in Ophthalmic Optics (AS) from Hillsborough Community College Tampa, FL and is Certified by the both the American Board of Opticianry (ABOC) and National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLEC). Mr. Walker is an authority and expert in advanced geometric and applied optics and served as a faculty member for the American Optometric Association (AOA), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), International Vision Expo, American Board of Opticianry National Conference. Professional Optician's of Florida (POF), Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS), and at eye care professional conventions in 43-states. He has authored articles on lens and frame technology for Ophthalmology Times and Vision Care Products News Magazine. In January 2004, Mr. Walker was honored in Vision Monday's "Forty under Forty", which listed forty of the nations brightest and innovative ECP's in the country.



COAT is always looking for your valuable suggestions, questions, comments, ideas, thoughts, etc.,

Please do not hesitate to contact me via Email: coatpresident@yahoo.com Phone or Text: 713-890-2520.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>March 21, 2017</u>

Your COAT President Mustafa Asif.





COAT CHRONICLES By Mustafa Asif

Hello COAT Members and fellow ECPs. I would like to thank Maui Jim, Alcon and ABB Concise for giving us a great start to the year by sponsoring our first meeting in January. Dave Burch was the ABO speaker of the night, and all those who were in attendance enjoyed and gained from his expertise. Annual Membership forms are still available for your convenience in this newsletter and online on our website. Please support COAT by becoming and annual member and also encouraging other opticians to be part of a great organization, that still promotes education of opticians in Texas.

One of our main goals as COAT leadership is to promote the profession of opticianry in the state of Texas. For that very reason we are bringing a Hands-On Workshop, which will be held in Houston in June. All the details are in this newsletter. It's a Free Workshop and will also provide 6 hours of CE credit. Its open to all Eye Care Professionals. We have to become opticians who provide a complete vision solution to our patients.

We are looking for members to come forward and own the association that has given them so much in the past. The current board term ends in December and we encourage all of you to nominate someone who will be a great leader and role model to carry on for the upcoming years.

Thank You and see you at the March meeting.

Established in 1926, the Opticians Association of America (OAA) serves as the only national organization representing opticianry's business, professional, educational, legislative and regulatory interests.

OAA fosters, supports and sponsors programs of competency certification, licensing and continuing education for professional development.

For more information please contact the Opticians Association of America's home office at 3740 Canada Road, Lakeland, TN 38002, 901.388.2423, christallen14@att.net, or www.oaa.org.



RSVP by March 19, 2017 Register Online Today! www.coat.tv

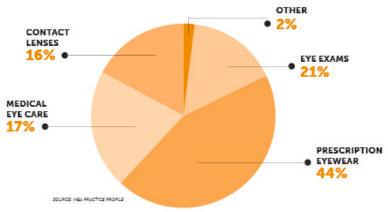


DESIGN & MANAGE A THRIVING OPTICAL

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

In most optometric offices, eyeglass sales typically produce 40–50 percent of total practice revenue and is the largest single source of revenue. When lens products and frame inventory is strategic, the optical can be a profit center. On the contrary, when there is no form of inventory management in place, some of the important choices required for success are not made consciously.

OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE SOURCES OF REVENUE



This workshop helps doctors and office managers evaluate the financial health of their optical and provides sales training, optical merchandising tactics, and strategic marketing tips proven to increase sales and team performance in your optical.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Doctors
- Practice Administrators
- Managers
- Opticians

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

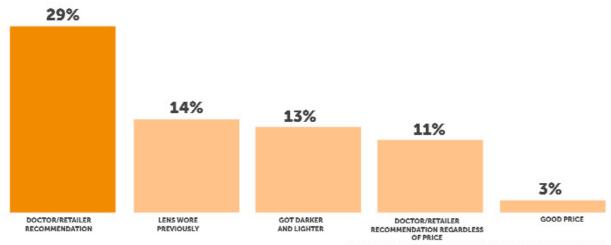
- Optical Merchandising
- Frame Board Management
- · Assortment Planning
- Budgeting
- · Sales Training
- Event Planning & Promotions
- · Traditional & Digital Marketing



Sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from:



MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR LENS CHOICE



SOURCE: THE VISION COUNCIL RESEARCH, 2011 MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR LENS CHOICE

WORKSHOP EDUCATION

The Seven Fundamentals of Merchandising Approved for: 1 COPE-PM & 1 ABO Credit Speaker: Doug Martin

In this presentation attendees will learn the seven techniques used to create effective retail merchandising displays. Attendees will see a variety of photographs to demonstrated how to make strong, compelling merchandising statements because you never get a second chance to make a first impression! Optical displays need to be compelling and interesting to, yet simple and concise to stop the eye of the consumer. This presentation will teach you how to accomplish this skill and implement it in your practice.

Optical Budgeting and Frame Board Management Approved for: 1 COPE-PM & 1 ABO Credit Speaker: Doug Martin

Creating and managing inventory is an ongoing process the all administrators, managers and opticians need to understand and embrace. Attendees will learn how to develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive frame board management system. Learn to think like a retailer. Learn how to use data to build an assortment plan based on the concept of "Good, Better, Best." Learn to analyze your inventory so you know what vendors are productive to maximize your inventory turn and profitability.

Beyond Clear – Five Latest Innovations in Photochromic Lens Technology Approved for: 1 ABO Credit

Speaker: Doug Martin

Despite incredible advances in technology and availability, many eye care professionals still perceive the performance of photochromic lenses as they did 5, 10, or even 15 years ago. Advances in visible light activation, variable polarization, production processes, and testing methods have led to an expansion in photochromic availability in lens materials, designs, and colors as well as unique performance hapabilities unheard of just a few years ago.

Stop Selling and Help Your Patients Buy Approved for: 1 COPE-PM & 1 ABO Credit Speaker: Samantha Toth, ABOC

Patients don't like to be sold, but they love to buy! The motivation behind why patients buy eyewear and contact lenses is important to understand in order to recommend the best vision solutions without being "salesy." Why should they purchase from you versus going online to a possible cheaper alternative? This course provides insight into why people buy, but also illustrates their purchasing fears that hold them back from premium eyewear lens options. Discussion will also include recommendation strategies designed to overcome patient purchasing fears and how to increase word-of-mouth testimonials about your practice.

Planning a Successful Optical Event Approved for: 1 COPE-PM & 1 ABO Credit Speaker: Samantha Toth, ABOC

Optical events are a great way to promote your practice, bring in new patients, launch a new product or brand, and increase your sales. Events also help to strengthen your position as a leading source for eyewear in your community. There's a lot that goes into the planning of a successful optical event. Complete with timeline and checklists, this course will provide the information you need and the skills required for proper planning, promotion, and staff training to help you reach and exceed the goals at your next optical event.

How to Get the Most Out of Your Marketing Approved for: 1 COPE-PM & 1 ABO Credit Speaker: Samantha Toth, ABOC

Owners and managers now have more choices than ever to market their businesses. From social media and online advertising with Google AdWords, Facebook, and Yelp, to community events and local publications, how can you be sure your marketing message is reaching the right people? When a patient is in the practice, is your staff properly trained on how talk about specific promotions or events. This course highlights the fundamentals of effective and strategic marketing and provides industry specific ideas and tools you can use to get the most out of your marketing.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Doug Martin

The lure of retail stores is nothing new to Doug Martin. Doug has over 35 years of merchandising and management experience, with 18 years in the retail industry. Doug started his career on the loading docks and Neiman Marcus and

worked his way up to managing stores for this high-end luxury retailer. He has also worked for I. Magnin and finished his retail career with Macy where he had responsibility for 18 stores in five different states. Doug perfected his skills in merchandising, marketing, selling, and inventory management while in the retail industry.

In 1999, Doug entered the optical industry where he served as President of a two office, five doctor practice. Under his leadership he developed that practice into a market leader with 16 locations and 25 doctors over the next ten years.

Doug joined PECAA in 2012 as the Director of Membership. He helped PECAA expand its membership into new markets by working with existing members, regional leaders, and vendor partners to identify new opportunities.

Doug also developed an optical workshop and since that time, has helped independent practices both domestically and internationally to improve the "look" and "financial performance" of their optical boutiques.

Most recently, Doug updated his workshop and partnered with Samantha Toth at Innereactive. Working together, their unique backgrounds and complementary skills result in a training workshop you and your staff don't want to miss.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT DOUG

"We had two staff members attend Doug's workshop and they both raved about it. We are hearing 'Doug-isms' now and we love it!"

"Exceeded my expectation and awakened my passion again!"

"On Monday morning after we returned from the workshop, our optician rearranged our optical and it looks great!"

"We have a lot of ideas to work on that will take some time but we are excited!"

"Excellent program! I have information overload."



Samantha Toth, ABOC

Samantha is a professional speaker and marketing consultant for Innereactive Media, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She grew up in an optical practice with multiple family members in the industry. An ABO certified optician herself, Samantha

worked as a dispensing optician for eight years, as well as managed an independent optometric practice. During this time, she realized there were very few people, or marketing companies, that understood the unique marketing needs of the optical industry.

With a strong passion for marketing and design, Samantha pursued and completed her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University. In 2003, she started Innereactive Media, a full service marketing company that specializes in the optical industry. In 2009, Samantha's company launched Innexus®, an all-in-one, don't-do-it-yourself website, social media, and marketing solution. Designed by certified eye care professionals with extensive experience in optometry and ophthalmology, three programs help eye care professionals generate new patients online, stay connected on social media, and reactivate patients with unlimited email, text, and voice calls.

Samantha is an ABO, NCLE, AOA, and COPE approved speaker and she lectures across the country teaching optometrists and opticians best practices for marketing their practices. Her niche expertise led her to be named one of "Most Influential Women in Optical," and in 2016 her company won the Michigan 50 Companies to Watch award. Since 2003, she and her company have helped laboratories, frame and lens manufacturers, and eye care practices across the country reach their full sales and marketing potential.

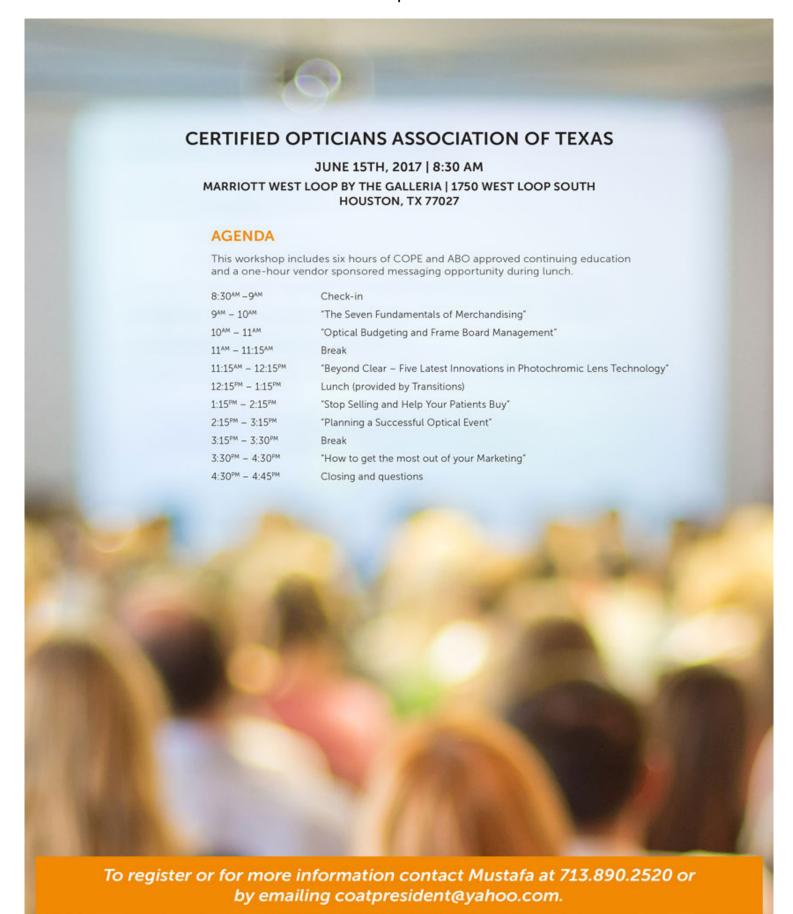
WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT SAMANTHA

"Samantha was able to captivate a crowd of optometrists and frame lens dispensers with the power of her words and incredible gift of enthusiasm, knowledge and humor. It's understandable why she is so highly thought of in our industry."

"That was the best lecture I've ever heard and I can't wait to apply it to my office!"

"Samantha is one of the most energetic and dynamic speakers I have ever seen. Two thumbs up!"

"Samantha's courses brought light to the reality of the industry that we do not always see. She provided creative ideas I can't wait to implement and get started in our practice!"





2017 Annual COAT Application

| First Name: | | Last Name | 9: | |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Mailing Address: | | | | |
| City: | | State: | Zip: | |
| Email: | Phone: | | | |
| Practice / Business: | | | | |
| Check all that Apply: (Please Select o | one and ent | er Certification | on or License | number) |
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| □ NCLE | | OD | | Student |
| | | MD | | Other |
| □ COA | | Office Mana | ger | |
| □ COPE □ Other | | Billing Staff | | |
| 2017 Annual Membership Fee is \$80 | (Pleas | e make Chec | ck or Money O | order Payable to COAT) |
| Method of Payment: | Date of Pa | yment: | | |
| If you want to volunteer with COAT p interest. We are always looking for fr | | | | m and tell us your area of |
| You can also mail this form with you | r payment t | o: | | |

COAT

5018 Antoine Dr B-252, Houston, Texas 77092-3357

Prices are subject to change without notice. No refunds or exchanges. COAT is a $501(\ C\)(6)$ non profit organization.

A Few Things About UV, Photochromics and the Car

By Mark Mattison-Shupnick, ABOM

I received this question from a colleague, "Why is sunscreen recommended for when riding in the car? I've always been taught that the windshield absorbs UV. That's why photochromics didn't work in the car. Who's telling the truth?"

Good question and the answer require a short discussion. For all intents and purposes, the UV that is transmitted through the windshield of a car minimally affects general-purpose photochromics. That is because the windscreen is typically laminated and the interior plastic laminate layer is UV absorptive for both UVA and UVB. Outside the car (or when the convertible top is down), they are absolutely changed by the presence of UV.

However, side windows and rear windscreens are usually only tempered so allow more of the UVA (higher energy wavelengths) through with all the damaging effects that are accumulated.

In 2012, the New England Journal of Medicine published a case study of a truck driver with 28 years behind the wheel and the resulting left side facial effects of UV over that time period.

They wrote, "A 69-year-old man presented with a 25-year history of gradual, asymptomatic thickening and wrinkling of the skin on the left side of his face. The physical examination showed hyperkeratosis with accentuated ridging, multiple open comedones, and areas of nodular elastosis. Histopathological analysis showed an accumulation of elastolytic material in the dermis and the formation of milia within the vellus hair follicles. Findings were consistent with the Favre-Racouchot syndrome of photodamaged skin, known as dermatoheliosis. The patient reported that he had driven a delivery truck for 28 years. Ultraviolet A (UVA) rays transmit through window glass, penetrating the epidermis and upper layers of dermis. Chronic UVA exposure can result in thickening of the epidermis and stratum corneum, as well as destruction of elastic fibers. This photoaging effect of UVA is contrasted with photocarcinogenesis. Although exposure to ultraviolet B (UVB) rays is linked to a higher rate of photocarcinogenesis, UVA has also been shown to induce substantial DNA mutations and direct toxicity, leading to the formation of skin cancer. The use of sun protection and topical retinoids and periodic monitoring for skin cancer were recommended for the patient."

Therefore, auto glass is different front to rear and by manufacturer. The result is that sunscreen is required, but "Why don't my photochromics change?"

Yes, some UV gets through the windshield but the distance from the source diminishes radiation.

That means that the UV radiation that does pass through the windshield of a car is very weak. To demonstrate, place a but retain a small amount of color.

The same but typically with more darkening will occur through the side or back windows. However, the surface area of the lens is not facing the window so will only minimally darken. The lens is sideways to the source. However, the reduced glare in the car can cause the pupil to dilate and there is significant side leak for ultraviolet to the peripheral retina. See Intraocular and Crystalline Lens Protection From Ultraviolet Damage, David H. Sliney, Ph.D., Eye and Contact Lens, 2011. In fact, the best sunglass is described as one that is of wrap design due to the protection effects of side UV.

In addition, the darkening of photochromics is gradual so rarely noticed by wearers. That results in a typical surprise that lenses are actually dark. That means that we sometimes get the comment that lenses aren't working even when they do.

Younger Drivewear is a multi-system photochromic using both UV and visible radiation activated dyes. Drivewear lenses use the visible light, inside the car, to change the lens color for comfort while driving. Also, polarized they enhance contrast and remove blinding glare. Outside the car, the UV activated dyes add to the color and darkening for a final color and density change.

PET PEEVE

I often hear that the usefulness and convenience of photochromics is trumped by the fact that "they don't work in the car". Let me remind us all that clear lenses don't work in the car either. But what about the convenience of having a lens that self-tints when needed?

The legacy photochromic companies agree that these lenses are not a replacement for a quality sunglass. Photochromics are the most convenient lenses to wear given their fast darkening, pretty fast lightening and attenuating the right amount of radiation and glare the majority of the time. Remember, rarely is there a product that does everything you want all of the time.

One other point is the amount of UV that is back surface reflected from eyewear can be significant by index and by the kind of AR treatment. As a result, some new AR is formulated to attenuate the back surface reflective properties of the AR. See, Anti-reflective coatings reflect ultraviolet radiation, Karl Citek OD, Pacific University, 3-1-2008.

There is a lot of data about UV, as you know, as well as its effects. Small amounts of UV gets through car windows and it's the accumulated effects that makes sunscreen important even when riding in the car.

Kids' skin is more susceptible because they develop melanin's protective properties later in life just as their crystalline lens is chromophore deficient until they're about 10 years of age. At 4 the lens is almost 100 percent transparent to UV, 75 percent transparent around age 10 and about 10 percent transparent at age 25. And blond haired, blue-eyed kids are even more susceptible than others. That means, lather up those cherubs when loading them in the car.

A Few Things about UV, photochromics and the car by <u>Mark Mattison-Shupnick</u> Reprinted with permission, The Opticians Handbook, Jobson Medical Information LLC, all rights reserved. Please visit <u>www.opticianshandbook.com</u>, register (it's free) and enjoy more contemporary information about opticianry.

January Highlights



COAT President Mustafa
Asif presented Maui Jim
Speaker of the night Dave
Burch with a Certification of
Appreciation. He was informative and kept the crowd
involved all night. Thank you
to Maui Jim, Alcon and ABB
Concise for sponsoring.

(L-R) COAT VP Cindy Calixto, Simone Voit from Eye Care Express and COAT President Mustafa Asif in a group picture at the January meeting.





COAT members Jody Smith and Tamara Pomeleo were in attendance at Fratelli's Restaurant for our January meeting. We appreciate all COAT members and their participation.



This year the Annual OAA Leadership Conference was held in Savannah, GA. It was attended by COAT President Mustafa Asif. It's a great opportunity to meet leaders of the industry and most state organizations. One such leader is a pioneer of the eye care industry, Mr Ed De Generro, pictured above. He is director of professional content at First Vision Media Group, and was formerly a professor, program head of the opticianry program, and dean of the School of Health Sciences at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Va. Follow him on twitter @eyeinfocus



ABO and NCLE Certification Renewal



All ABO and NCLE certifications are for three (3) years. Continuing education credits (CECs) must be earned within the three year certification period and may not be accumulated and carried over from one period to another. All CECs and renewal fees are due on or before your expiration date. If you fail to complete the requirements on time, you have a 4th year to complete them. During that year, your certification is suspend ed. This suspension year is not an extension, but will overlap into your next certification period.

Continuing Education Renewal Requirements:

- ABO Certified: Send in 12 ABO approved CECs (up to 3 may be NCLE approved) and the \$85 fee.
- NCLE Certified: Send in 18 NCLE approved CECs (up to 6 may be ABO approved) and the \$85 fee.
- ABO and NCLE Certified: Send in 21 CECs (9 ABO approved and 12 NCLE approved) plus the \$170 fee.

Acceptable Continuing Education Credit: For ABO:

- Spectacle related courses approved by ABO with an as signed course number.
- Advanced certification prerequisite courses (ABO or NCLE).

For NCLE

- Contact lens related courses approved by NCLE with an assigned course number.
- Advanced certification prerequisite courses (ABO or NCLE).

Contact lens related courses approved by NCLE with an assigned course number. Advanced certification prerequisite courses (ABO or NCLE).

Alternate Renewal Methods:

- New ABO: You may submit proof of maintaining a valid state license if the state has a satisfactory provision for continuing education.
- New NCLE: You may submit proof of maintaining a valid state license if the license entitles you to fit contact lenses and the state has a satisfactory provision for continuing education.
- For Either: You may also retake and pass the exam for recertification instead of earning CECs, but only in the third or suspension year of your certification. You may not sit for the exam at any other time during your certification.

Send CEC's and renewal fees to:

ABO/NCLE - 6506 Loisdale Rd., Suite 209, Springfield, VA 22150, and include name, address and certificate number.

Check certification status 24/7 on the ABO-NCLE website. www.abo-ncle.org

Job Bank

Full Time Optician Needed – Sugar Land

Optometric office in Sugar Land is looking for a full time Optician with edging and lab experience and an Optometric Assistant. Candidate must be friendly, professional, hardworking, detail-oriented, and have a positive attitude. Candidate must also have excellent communication and customer service skills. At least 1-2 years of experience in an optometric practice is preferred, but we are willing to train the right individual.

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm; Saturday: 9am-2pm; closed Mondays

Please email your resume to eyetoeyecare@gmail.com

Posted 2-13-17

Full Time Optician Needed – Northwest Houston

Optician/Optometric Assistant needed to join a multi-doctor private practice in the Lakewood area of NW Houston. Experience along with excellent communication, PR, math, frame styling, insurance, and pre-testing skills required. Must also be knowledgeable of ophthalmic products and materials. Email resume to lwvision@sbcglobal.net.

Posted 1-26-17



Full Time Optician Needed – Northwest Houston

Private practice seeking a goal-oriented optician who is passionate about helping patients and enjoys supporting the daily challenges of a small team environment. The candidate should have at least (2) two years of optical experience including: 1) proper frame styling and lens product solutions based on patient's prescription and lifestyle needs 2) working knowledge of vision plans and 3) accurate trouble shooting/eyewear dispensing techniques.

<u>Position requires:</u> Outstanding sales and communication skills; Must be a self-starter, reliable and able to multi-task; ABOC and/or Lab experience a plus but not required to start.

Benefits include: Sick/Vacation-PTO and paid holidays; Major medical health coverage, dental coverage(employee only); Vision benefits (employee and family); Retirement Plan; Competitive pay (commensurate with experience) and generous bonus program; Paid training/Reimbursed ABOC offered.

Interested applicants please a submit resume and a cover letter to info@premier-vision.net and complete our application in office.

About the Company:

The doctors and staff at PREMIER VISION are passionate about helping people. Our goal is to always place the patient's best interest first. Our mission is to ensure patients maintain healthy sight for the rest of their lives, and our motto is See the Difference™ in our exceptional customer service.

Established in 2007, Premier Vision is a professional optometric office that specializes in caring for all your vision needs. We handle everything from eye exams and hard-to-fit contact lenses, to the treatment of medical eye conditions and the comanagement of eye surgery. By staying current with the latest developments in eye care technology, our vision center provides patients with the best vision care and advice. We take pride in building lasting relationships with our patients, which is why we take the time to get to know their vision and lifestyle needs.

Posted 12-11-16

Many thanks to our January sponsors at Fratelli's





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RSVP by March 19, 2017 Register Online Today! www.coat.tv

Full Time Optician Needed - Cypress, Texas

Optician needed for busy Cypress optometric practice. This is a full time position with benefits including health insurance, 401K, bonus, disability, paid vacation. Saturdays are required. ABO certification would be a plus, but not required. ABO certification training given and test paid if not certified. Experienced opticians only, please. Must be people-person, outgoing, and achievement-driven. This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate. Work with a team to create a high-tech, service-driven experience for our patients. Email resume to jobs@strongvisionctr.com or fax to 281-373-3089.



Certified Opticians Association of Texas PO Box 27630 Houston, TX 77227

Mission Statement

Certified Opticians Association of Texas provides educational opportunities to certified and non-certified eye care providers, promoting opticianry as a Texas healthcare profession.

OPTICIANS



Helping America See



2017 COAT CALENDAR

Mar 21 - Eye Care Express May 16 - Luxottica

2017 BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Mustafa Asif, ABOC Vice Pres: Cindy Calixto

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