125th Anniversary
special moments
2022
Dec. 10, 1896
A number of opticians gather for a meeting in Indianapolis to discuss a medical bill that had been introduced into the Indiana State Legislature which proved to be adverse to the opticians. The group deemed themselves the Indiana Optical Society.

Dec. 11, 1896
The newly formed executive committee hires an attorney for representation to be paid $50 for a retainer fee.

Winter 1897
In the 1897 legislative session, a clause is added to the medical bill stating “that the said medical bill was not to be construed to apply to opticians.” This was a win for the newly formed society.

1899
The medical bill again appeared before the legislature to be amended, and the all important clause that stated “that the bill was not to be construed as applying to opticians” was left out.

January 29, 1901
The Indiana Optical Society reconvenes after hearing of the adverse legislation. The executive committee adopts the name the Indiana State Optical Society. The society again hires an attorney, and during the same legislative period successfully adds another amendment again stating “that the medical bill was not to be construed as applying to opticians.”
Photo from scrapbook of optometrist Charles Jenkins in museum collection at Indiana University
1922

The society officially adopted the name Indiana Optometric Association (IOA), and membership rose to 197 active members.

That same year the Association successfully hosted the 25th Annual American Optometric Association (AOA) meeting.
As the IOA began to grow, it became apparent that a full-time executive director was necessary.

1957: Mr. Robert Kimbro, Jr.
1961: Mr. Ronald W. Wuensch

- Effective lobbyist and executive
- Served as IOA exec for 44 years
- Guided the IOA through many battles
2005 to Present: James M. Zieba, JD

- Served as IOA’s Executive Director since 2005.
- A dynamic association executive and lobbyist, he has an extensive background in government relations.
- He holds the rank of colonel in the United States Army and has been deployed overseas three times, to Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.
Convention Photos

2003

1997
75th Anniversary Convention Program

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

SATURDAY, April 23 (See Note)

8:30 A.M. Registration—“Lobby”

** 8:45 A.M.—12:00 Noon
Board of Trustees’ Meeting—West Hunt Room (3rd Floor)

**10:00-11:00 A.M. EDUCATIONAL SESSION
“A Discussion of Practice Development & Management 80B: Special Emphasis Upon Factors Involved in Estimating a Professional Corporation” —N. Windermere Ballroom (Main Floor), Messrs. F. P. Sheekey, Esq., Attorney at Law, and Frank J. Ohle, Esq., Attorney at Law, Indianapolis, Indiana

12:00 Noon Lunch as you please

** 1:00-2:00 P.M. EDUCATIONAL SESSION
“Advanced Differential Diagnoses of Internal Retina Pathology and Cataracts” —N. Windermere Ballroom (Main Floor), Dr. Paul P. Sheekey, Illinois College of Optometry, Chicago, Illinois

2:00 P.M. Victor’s Auxiliary Meeting—West Hunt Room (2nd Floor) —“Come & Get Acquainted”

4:00 P.M. Registration Closes

5:30 P.M. Robert F. Tubadia Coffee, A.A.C.O. Meeting—East Van Camp Room (Main Floor)

5:30 P.M. Society Presidents’ Meeting—West Van Gogh Room (Main Floor), Dr. W. F. Brignall, Pres., E.N.C. Society, China.

7:00 P.M. Dinner—S. Windermere Ballroom (Main Floor)

8:00 P.M.— “Auxiliary “Progressive Raffle” (e.g., diamonds, etc.) and Fun Night—Hunt Room (3rd Floor)

NOTE: Hospitality Rooms open, except at designated hours (**). Suggested closing hour for Hospitality Rooms is 2:00 A.M.

SUNDAY, April 24 (See Note)

8:00 A.M. Registration—“Lobby”

8:30 A.M. Past Presidents’ Breakfast—Tabor Room (13th Floor)

8:30 A.M. Inspirational Breakfast —S. Windemere Ballroom (Main Floor), Dr. David Eads, Clin.

10:00 A.M. House of Delegates—S. Windermere Ballroom (Main Floor)

10:00 A.M.—11:30 A.M. Auxiliary Film Showing—West Hunt Room (3rd Floor)

12:00 Noon Registration Closes

** 12:30-2:00 P.M. 75th ICA Commemorative Luncheon Program (Everyone invited) —S. Windermere Ballroom (Main Floor), Wayne A. Arrow for the National Board of Education, State of Indiana, Sr. B. A. Ross, Master of Ceremonies

** 2:15-3:30 P.M. Invitational Invitational Lecture (Everyone invited) “The State of Science and the Art in Optometry” —S. Windemere Ballroom (Main Floor), Dr. F. Howard Barley, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Psychology, Michigan State University

** 3:45-4:15 P.M. Educational Session —A Pharmaceutical Look at Optometry’s Needs To Know About Drugs and Drug Legislation” —S. Windemere Ballroom (Main Floor), Messrs. Lew, Anderson, D. P., and Larry Siri, A. R. T., South Bend, Indiana

3:45-4:15 P.M. Woman’s Auxiliary Reception in U.S. Library—East Van Camp Room (Main Floor)

** 7:00-8:00 P.M. 75th ICA Diamond Anniversary Banquet (Head Table—Black Tie), Ward’s Auxiliary Meeting—East Van Camp Room (Main Floor), Dr. Jack W. Benoit, Master of Ceremonies

9:15 P.M.— “Dancing—Hunt Room (3rd Floor)

NOTE: Hospitality Rooms open, except at designated hours (**). Suggested closing hour for Hospitality Rooms is 2:00 A.M.
Convention Programs

Indiana Optometric Association

Program

For the
107th Annual Convention

April 30 - May 2, 2004

1994

97th Annual Convention

Indiana Optometric Association

April 15, 16, 17, 1994

Radisson Hotel • Indianapolis

1993

96th Annual Convention

Indiana Optometric Association

At the Radisson Hotel Indianapolis

AmericanAirlines

April 16, 17, 18, 1993
Convention Photos

Dean's Photo: Heath, Bennett, Hofstetter

Convention Band
PAC Fundraisers

Gov. Holcomb Fundraiser 2019

Gov. Pence Fundraiser 2014
IUSO Class of '79
Share your Memories: Convention 2018

Courtesy of Northwestern Society

Young OD award winner Dr. Jeni Kohn with brother, Dr. Rob Moses and Dad, Dr. Bob Moses

Young OD award winner Dr. Jeni Kohn with Dr. Nicole Albright
I am an IOA member in order to support our profession as a whole—the IOA continues to work for the greater good of ODs in the state, allowing us to practice full scope optometric care. I also enjoy being an active member in the local society. The meetings provide a time to get to know colleagues and discuss topics such as patient care, practice management, or various treatment protocols which can lead to improved patient care and successful business practices.

Andrew Fischer, OD, Professional Eyecare Associates, Huntingburg and Jasper
Why is the IOA important to you?

I am a member of the IOA because it helps me to connect with other optometrists throughout the state to share experiences, knowledge, and information. Membership and involvement in the IOA allows optometrists to work together as a group to accomplish our goals. We’ve recently been able to expand our scope of practice by sharing our experiences and advocating for our fellow optometrists. None of that would have been possible without the IOA!

Alice McCaslin, OD, Family Vision Care, Muncie, IN
Why is the IOA important to you?

I am a member of the IOA and AOA because I want to continue to provide the best care I possibly can to my patients. I have been fortunate to practice in a time where I can dilate or prescribe the appropriate medication for my patients. I can't imagine NOT being able to provide that care. I want our profession to continue moving forward, not backward. That is why being involved and knowledgeable on the legislation that affects us is so important to me!

Jennifer Sitko, OD, Midwest Eye Consultants, Chesterton, Crown Point and LaPorte
I am an IOA member because I think it's very important to be involved in advocating for our profession, interacting with colleagues across the state, and continue learning about the ever-changing industry. Over the years, I have been able to watch my father, Dr. Gregory Norman, take on different leadership roles within the IOA, and he has taught me the importance of staying up to date on current legislative matters in optometry so we can continue to practice in our current scope, but also fight for the future of optometry. I feel as optometrists, it's our duty to help take part in the changes we face and being a member of the IOA is a great way to help make an impact for optometrists here in Indiana.

Chanler Demerly, OD, Norman & Miller Eyecare, Lafayette and Delphi
I’m a member of the IOA because I want to help the profession of Optometry to the best of my ability. Not only do I want to serve my patients, but I want to serve Optometry by being an advocate so that Optometrists can practice to the full scope of our education and training. This not only benefits us as Optometrists but in turn benefits our patients as we can provide them with appropriate care. Without support from the IOA, our scope of practice would not be what it is today.

Optometry is constantly changing, but so is the legislature. This is why it’s so important to be involved in the IOA, to help Optometrists work together to better our profession.

Garrett Zgunda, OD, Family Vision Care, Muncie, IN
Why is the IOA important to you?

Being an advocate of organized optometry is crucial for the development of our profession and future clinicians. IOA promotes this development on numerous levels. As an IOA member, I know I will continue to stay up to date with current topics, scope expansion, and involved within our profession.

Lindsey Colliver, OD, Midwest Eye Consultants, Shelbyville
Before I was an officer for my local society, I just paid my IOA dues and really had no idea what they went toward. After being more involved for the last several years, I am amazed at what the IOA does for our profession. The home office for the IOA does so much! When a key legislative issue comes up, we get talking points and exactly how to contact our legislators. They take all the work out of it. In being part of my local society, I have gotten to know my colleagues better and feel that helps to give better referrals and patient care in our community. When attending the board meetings, it has been great to meet other doctors from around the state and discuss practice and patient management. If you are on the fence about being an officer for your local society, just do it! You will gain so much.

Dr. Kristina Jordan, OD, The Eye Site, Inc., Mishawaka, IN
Dr. Andy Nemeth of South Bend took me to my very first IOA meeting when I was a student working the summer in his office. I was so impressed with that group! Dr. Nemeth was THE FIRST of many optometrists that showed me the path to excellent patient care. It is a privilege to be part of the IOA: we are dedicated to the patients' overall well-being. We are zebras: we coordinate with the entire care team and are instrumental in patient outcomes during these COVID times when other caregivers are so overwhelmed that they cannot see patients.

Caterina Komyatte, OD, Highland
As a kid, I was fortunate that my dad brought me along to many IOA spring conventions. I have many fun memories over those weekends. While I didn’t understand the role the IOA played at that time, I knew something important was happening. Now, as a practicing optometrist, I have a deep appreciation for the IOA and all the past and present leaders of the association. Thanks to their tireless work, our profession is strong. Because of this, we have the ability to practice at the pinnacle of our training, allowing us to provide excellent care to our patients.

Nathan Morrow, OD, Indianapolis
IOA Mission

The Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) is dedicated to actively supporting Indiana Doctors of Optometry by positively impacting advocacy, continuing education, clinical practice, and networking interests.

IOA Vision

The Indiana Optometric Association is the voice of Doctors of Optometry in service to the eye and vision care needs of the citizens of Indiana.