

May 2007

vision matters

Highlights of the Board ~ College of Opticians of British Columbia



BOARD UPDATES

COBC Welcomes a New Public Board Member

COBC is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Jane Stenberg as a new public member to the Board. Ms. Stenberg brings to the Board more than 23 years of executive and management knowledge and expertise. The Board looks forward to working with her to ensure safe and effective vision care for the BC public.

Re-Appointment of Public Board Member

COBC also congratulates Elizabeth Cytra on her re-appointment to the Board as a public member. Ms. Cytra joined the Board in June 2006 and her expertise has been invaluable to the Board.

Importance of Public Members

Public members on the Board play an integral role in ensuring that the public interest is at the forefront of COBC's work. They are appointed to the Board by government. As non-Opticians, they represent the voice of the public at the Board.

Public members often bring professional expertise (accounting or legal) to the Board, and they complement the expertise of the elected Optician Board members, who have in-depth knowledge and insight into the profession. The COBC recognizes the important role of public members and values their contribution to the Board.

For biographies of COBC public members, please visit our website: www.cobc.ca/About_the_College/Appointments.asp

Volunteers Needed for COBC

Examiners: Examiners help to ensure fairness and high standards at the entry-to-practice examinations. Models and examiners are remunerated on an hourly basis. We need models and examiners for the upcoming NACO examinations on June 2-3, 2007. Please contact Michael Tsao at 604.278.7510 or mtsao@cobc.ca by May 14, 2007.

Committees: Committee members are Opticians who are passionate about their profession and want to ensure safe and effective care to the public. Committees are integral to the work of the COBC. Join one of five committees: registration, inquiry, quality assurance, discipline, and patient relations. Please contact Stephanie Leung at 604.278.7510 or sleung@cobc.ca if you are interested.

Board: Opticians who are interested in contributing to the governance of Opticianry in BC are invited to run in the Board elections. The upcoming elections are at the end of 2007 and two seats are up for election:

- District 2 (Vancouver Island), and
- District 4 (Cariboo/Northern BC).

Please contact Michael Tsao at 604.278.7510 or mtsao@cobc.ca if you are interested in running for Board, or if you would like to nominate a candidate.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit the *About the College* section on our website at www.cobc.ca.

Registration Renewals for 2007/08

The Board thanks all Opticians who have submitted their renewal of registration by the March 31st deadline. Registrants who have not yet renewed their registration have been notified by mail in April. Please contact the COBC office to renew your registration.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

It has come to the attention of the Board that some association executives are incorrectly informing Opticians who conduct automated refractions that they do not have to complete the prescribed courses and certification procedures. Since information is untrue, registrants are advised to seek independent legal advice from a lawyer. Failure to follow the College Bylaws may impact your ability to perform automated refractions after October 1, 2007.

If you have questions regarding courses or certification of Automated Refracting Opticians, please address your concerns to the COBC office or consult your own legal counsel.

NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE

Same Address, Different Look

The COBC website underwent a complete upgrade in February. The web address is still: www.cobc.ca but everything else is new and improved. Opticians are encouraged to turn to our website as their main source of up-to-date information.

EXAMINATIONS

Upcoming Examinations

The upcoming NACO exam for BC are scheduled for June 2-3, 2007 at Douglas College, Coquitlam. COBC anticipates more than 100 candidates to apply for the exams. Candidates are reminded to register early with NACO as seats are limited, and to send transcripts directly to NACO. Visit NACO online at www.naco.ca under *National Examinations*. COBC looks forward to cooperating with Douglas College, BC College of Optics and NACO for the upcoming exams.

WORKING WITH THE PROFESSION

Awards & Continuing Education Evening on Automated Refraction

In February 2007, the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia association hosted a very well attended Continuing Education event on automated refraction in Vancouver.

The OBC organized an excellent evening with Eyelogic Systems Inc., where the past and present work of automated refracting Opticians was recognized. The first class of Automated Refracting Opticians was honored and COBC was invited to award their certificates of recognition. COBC also led roundtable discussions on automated refractions and standards of practice.

The COBC thanks NAIT, Eyelogic, and OBC for making the event such a success.

Encore Presentation of Awards Evening on Automated Refraction in Kelowna, BC

The OBC's event on automated refraction in Vancouver was so successful that an encore presentation of the event will take place in Kelowna in May 2007. The COBC is invited once again to award certificates of recognition for Automated Refracting Opticians. The Board recognizes that the event serves as a great forum for discussion and appreciates the OBC's invitation to participate in Kelowna.

AUTOMATED REFRACTION

High Rates of Enrollment and Completion of Automated Refracting Theory Course

The Board is pleased that many BC Opticians are successfully completing the NAIT/OAC Automated Refracting Theory course. While Opticians have been conducting automated refractions safely for more than eight years, this advanced course is another measure to ensure Opticians are providing the best professional service possible. COBC congratulates the Opticianry community for their ready acceptance

of the requirement to complete the course before October 1, 2007. Over 180 Opticians have either completed or are currently enrolled in the course.

Please contact the Opticians Association of Canada at www.opticians.ca for the registration dates for the upcoming June and August sessions.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Cooperation Between Douglas College and OBC Association

Douglas College and the OBC have joined in an innovative partnership for delivering Continuing Education. In April 2007, OBC organized seminars at Douglas College, where Opticianry students presented monographs and OBC assisted Opticians in forming their own Continuing Education study clubs.

The Board has long believed that the public interest is best served when the COBC, Opticianry schools and associations work together. COBC is therefore applauds the cooperation between Douglas College and OBC.

Leadership Training

COBC recognizes the importance of developing leadership in the Opticianry community. Continuing Education events on leadership training are a new initiative to encourage Opticians to develop leadership skills and to encourage involvement in leadership roles at the association or Board level. Visit the *Upcoming Events* section on our website at www.cobc.ca for information on leadership events.

Successful Continuing Education Events Outside Lower Mainland

There has been a strong positive response to Continuing Education events hosted by the OBC in areas outside of the Lower Mainland. Many Opticians in Kelowna, Kamloops, Prince George and Victoria attended the events, and COBC encourages associations to host Continuing Education events to more communities across the province.

NATIONAL OPTICIANRY ORGANIZATIONS

COBC Attends National Meetings

COBC is an active participant at national Opticianry organizations. NACOR (National Association of Canadian Opticianry Regulators) is the national group that represents all the provincial Opticianry regulatory bodies in Canada. NACOR looks after the NACO exams, professional standards, and Opticianry issues between provinces. NACOR also maintains the agreement on labour mobility, allowing Opticians to transfer their license to other provinces without additional certification procedures.

The upcoming NACOR meeting is May 12-13, 2007 in Edmonton, AB. For more on NACOR, visit their website at www.nacor.ca.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COBC Board Meetings:

- Sunday, June 24, 2007
- Sunday, September 30, 2007
- Sunday, December 9, 2007

Education Events:

For information on education events, please directly contact the associations.

- May 8, 2007 (Kelowna): OBC
- May 27, 2007 (Burnaby): DOABC
- October 12-14, 2007 (Kelowna): Vision Canada West

NACO Examinations in BC:

- June 2-3, 2007
- November 24-25, 2007

COBC Annual General Meeting & Continuing Education Day:

- Sunday, November 4, 2007
Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel
Richmond, BC

For the most current information on events, visit our website at www.cobc.ca and look under *Upcoming Events*.

 <p>COLLEGE of OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</p>	COBC is committed to open communications and access with registrants and the public. For the most current updates and information about the Board and COBC, please visit www.cobc.ca .
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