

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6

# VisioNotes & Quotes

Central California Optometric Society

“We need involvement and activism of all of our colleagues in our small but powerful profession to get this proposal changed. Doctors not connected to the AOA and their state associations should join us now and help amplify our message to Washington, D.C.”  
Andrea P. Thau, O.D.,  
AOA president.



## Message from AOA: Respond by January 30

**Proposed Contact Lens Rule misguided; AOA encourages doctors' comments to FTC**

Regulators have proposed new prescription requirements under Contact Lens Rule revisions that AOA believes are imbalanced and do little to address patient safety concerns.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) currently solicits public comments on the proposal through Jan. 30, 2017, after which time regulators will consider posting a final rule or revised proposal at a future date. This is an opportunity for doctors to speak out against the misguided proposal, and the AOA encourages immediate action.

Doctors are encouraged to provide their comments directly to the FTC by January 30 and doctors can access a sample message to let FTC officials know where optometry stands. Visit [www.ccosociety.org](http://www.ccosociety.org) for more information.

# CCOS President Message

**Margie Recalde, OD, FAAO**

Every year I am amazed by how quickly time flies. It's even more shocking to look back and realize how much we've accomplished in a relatively short amount of time. Thanks to more society meetings this year, we had more opportunities to see each other and catch up. Our lines of communication have also improved. In addition to emails, we now share information with monthly newsletters and raise awareness through our website.

**MEMORIES  
TAKE US BACK,  
DREAMS TAKE US  
FORWARD.**  
QUOTESLIFE101.NET

My hope for 2017 is that we not only continue this energetic trend of activity and communication, but we also capture the interests of members to become more involved. Every member has something important to contribute. If you want your annual dues to be worthwhile and valuable, then learn how you can participate more with CCOS. We need fresh ideas and new energy to maintain and grow our society.

I hope during this happy season of giving, you count your blessings and find many reasons to celebrate. Wishing all of you a Christmas filled with wonderful memories. From my family to yours, have a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year!



## CCOS Member Spotlight Dr. Dennis Chinn

### Where do you work and what are your responsibilities? Describe a typical day of work for you.

Since I first opened my office in 1957, I have had five locations. Two were in association with other ODs. This last one is a private practice. My main responsibility is to assure every patient leaves with a healthy, comfortable, single binocular vision that addresses their visual needs.



### What do you do on your days off?

I used to play tennis but, of the group I played with, one has passed away, one had back surgery, the 3<sup>rd</sup> has dementia and knee problems and I can't see the ball accurately anymore.

### Did you ever consider a profession other than optometry?

When I graduated from Edison High School in 1947 I was planning to attend Fresno State. My father asked me what I wanted to be. I replied that I did not know what I wanted to be. Since I didn't know, I wasn't going to go to college. So I went down the list of professions. Since I wore spectacle prescription since the age of 4 I felt the clearest path was optometry. When I told my father of my choice, he said I could go to college.

### What advice do you have for recent graduates?

Los Angeles College of Optometry in the late 40's only required 2 years of pre-optometry and three years of optometry school.

When I graduated with my O.D. in 1952, my student draft deferment expired (we all signed up for the draft at age 18). In the 50's, O.D.s were not immediately granted a commission. My father and I fought to obtain a direct commission. I was drafted into the United States Army on December 2, 1952. My direct commission was granted on December 15, 1952. During my tour of duty I served with two other O.D.s who did not apply for a commission but performed the same duties as I did. O.D. graduates now have many opportunities of which they should take advantage.



## CCOS Member Spotlight

### Dr. Dennis Chinn

#### **What type of positions did you have as a CCOS member?**

CCOS in my day (1940's and 1950's) was the leading society in California at that time. The president of AOA and COA were members of CCOS at the same time!! I served as CCOS president in 1967. I was the treasurer of a local California senator and assemblyman. In the COA I was editor of a column in the COA journal which then led to a term as the director of public Information. One of my fellow department heads became COA president and AOA president.

#### **Looking back at your optometric career, what is your biggest accomplishment?**

For my 54 years of practice in Fresno I have never advertised my service. I will admit my practice has always been very quiet and low key. I still remember the little old lady who had an exam in my office in 1959. She remarked to me that her physician had warned her not to go to an optometrist. I asked what reason he had for giving her that advice. She replied, "because they advertise"!!!

#### **Who are the members of your family and what do you like to do for fun?**

I've been married to my wife, Sylvia, for 52 years. We have two children, a boy and a girl, who are now in their late 40's. Our son has given us four grandchildren. The twin boy and girl are nine, and the two younger boys are 7 and 3.

#### **In retrospect, what do you know now that you wish you knew before you began to pursue your education or career?**

How dominant the health care field would become. At one time we had gas stations on every corner. Now we have drug stores on every corner! And the big salaries are going to health care insurance CEOs!!

#### **Dr. Chinn's Words of Wisdom**

During my 63 years of practice, I have always tried to serve the patient welfare first. This may have been contrary to what my practice consultant may have advised but I have had a comfortable, professional life. Optometry has provided that and allowed me to send two kids to college and to assist in raising four grandchildren.



## Mojave Desert Optometric Society Invitation

We are very excited about offering six (possibly seven) hours of Continuing Education by an esteemed list of speakers lined up for our 2017 Mammoth Ski Seminar Friday March 17th and Saturday March 18th, 2017:

Dr. Neil Vyas MD (cornea)  
Dr. Stuart Richardson OD, JD  
Dr. David Parks MD (retina)  
Dr. Lawrence Hopp MD (cornea)  
Dr. Dilsher Dhoot MD (retina)  
Dr. Pinakin Davey PhD, OD, FAAO (glaucoma)

We will again be using the conference room on the second floor at the Shilo Inn in Mammoth Lakes, CA. Registration fees are \$50 for MDOS members, non-members \$150. Refreshments will be provided at all sessions.

We have a block of 30 rooms set aside (10 King bed, 20 with 2 Queen beds). To get the room at our discounted group rate, mention that you are participating in the event with the Mojave Desert Optometric Society. The Shilo's phone number is 760-934-4500.

Hope to see you all there in March!

To RSVP for the CE Seminar, email Dr. Richard Petersen: [drrichard@avoc.net](mailto:drrichard@avoc.net)



## California Optometric Association

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Greetings, fellow doctors:

I write to update you on COA's actions relative to various issues of what is called "disruptive technology," in other words, technology that is being used to unlawfully replace the services of an eye doctor. As many of you may be aware, Devlyn Optical and Smart Vision Exams have [announced](#) a partnership at three Devlyn locations in the Los Angeles area. "Smart Vision Exams" allow ophthalmologists to analyze nonsubjective auto refraction results remotely and issue a digital eyeglass prescription. COA believes the manner in which these services are being performed is unlawful. COA has filed a complaint against both entities with the State Board of Optometry (SBO) and Medical Board of California.

COA and AOA are extremely concerned about opticians offering to fill lens prescriptions based on auto refraction technology. In addition to AOA's actions, on the advice of COA legal counsel, COA has taken the following steps to prevent companies from issuing prescriptions based primarily on auto refraction:

- Filed complaints against Opternative, Simple Contacts, Jins Optical, 2020 Now, Smart Vision Labs and Devlyn Optical with the appropriate state agency.
- AOA has filed complaints with the Fair Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration
- Collected examples of harm
- Testified at SBO hearings to encourage the SBO to take action against online refraction
- Met privately with regulators about our concerns
- Encouraged other organizations to oppose prescriptions based on auto refraction
- Reached out to reporters to bring attention to the issue
- Developed a [video](#) and published other messages aimed at the public about online exams via social media

**You can help succeed in this legal battle.** If you have a patient between 18 and 40 who came to you asymptomatic, but had a life- or sight-threatening condition that you were able to detect during your exam, please [report the case to COA](#). We need your help to collect these patient examples to aid COA in demonstrating the risks to consumers, the media and elected officials.

This is about the health and safety of our patients and the larger public. This is a top priority for AOA and COA. Please watch for updates in the *e-Governmental Affairs Weekly* and monthly *COA Member News*. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact me at [mineye2020@gmail.com](mailto:mineye2020@gmail.com).

Stevin Minie, OD  
President  
California Optometric Association



# Thank you to our sponsors for 2017



## OptoWest San Francisco on February 12

On February 12, the first of three OptoWest CE Conferences will take place in San Francisco. The House of Delegates and Presidents' Council Meeting are scheduled to precede the OptoWest CE Conference. Chris Fisher, John Barron, Michael Mendoza, and I will be representing CCOS at the meetings. We are looking forward to hearing what COA has planned for our association in 2017.

