

## MOA Hosts Successful Legislative Conference

The MOA 2006 Legislative Conference was kicked off by a unique opportunity to have breakfast at the Governor's Mansion and hear Speaker Pro Tem Gibbons outline his thoughts for the upcoming session.

Following breakfast the doctors congregated at the Capital Plaza for two hours of continuing education followed by the Honorable Mary Rhodes Russell of the Missouri Supreme Court speaking on the judicial system. Dr. Q. Michael Ditmore, Director of the Division of Medical Services, spoke about the Medicaid changes and highlighted his willingness to work with optometrists.

Senator Delbert Scott, Senate Sponsor of the Children's Vision legislation gave the noonday address followed by a surprise presentation to Zoe for her years of service to the MOA; a House Resolution for her was presented by Representative Swinger, Representative Tilley and Representative David Pearce. Lobbyists Jerry Burch and Scott Marrs presented the latest Capital Information before the doctors gathered and headed off to the Capitol for the now famous "cinnamon roll" delivery.

The evening culminated with over 250 doctors, paras, MOAA members and elected officials attending the Legislative Reception, where all gathered had the opportunity to discuss issues important to optometry.



The day is off to a great start with breakfast at the Governor's Mansion

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## **Winds of Change**

### **President's Message**

**Thomas W. Hobbs, O.D., President**



As I write this I do so having just signed the contract with the new Executive Director and realize it will be the last message written with Zoe in the driver's seat.

This, of course, brings about a rainbow of emotions. I will miss having Zoe call every day and will feel an emptiness knowing this veteran of MOA politics is no longer there to lend her expertise. However, I am excited that Zoe has an opportunity to advance her career and feel the federal judicial system can only be positively influenced with her presence.

The MOA has a newly appointed Executive Director, Mr. Cory Ridenhour. This makes me feel a bit of trepidation as I know there must be a learning curve as he settles into the new position. On the other hand, I am pumped up knowing that we will have an influx of new ideas and refreshed energy to help lead the MOA in the upcoming years.

When Zoe came on as our Executive Director in 1993 the MOA was facing a financial shortfall. Today we are in very solid financial shape with nearly a quarter of a million dollars set aside in reserves. Over the years the membership has grown 75%, one of the highest percentages for optometric associations in the nation.

In 1993, the doctors of optometry in Missouri could not treat glaucoma and had a drug law that did not allow the automatic use of new medications. With Zoe's guidance this changed in 1995 with the passage of the glaucoma law. Under her watch, we passed the managed-care reform bill with anti-discrimination language in 1997 with an enhancement to that bill in 1999. For five years defeat of co-management legislation became a MOA top priority. And recently, after many hours of tireless work on Zoe's part, Speaker Rod Jetton and Senator Delbert Scott filed Children's Eye Exam bills. With more hard work we will see it pass this legislative session and the children of Missouri will truly benefit.

Cory became the executive director of the Missouri Forest Products Association in 1997. During his tenure there the budget grew from \$200,000 with no cash reserves to over \$2,000,000 and \$60,000 in reserves. Membership stopped falling and started to grow. Cory was able to help lead the association in passing laws that significantly changed the face of the industry, not only on the state level, but on the federal level as well. Just as important is the fact that he was able to lead the way to stopping all legislation that would have limited the association and its members.

As we all know the winds of change continually blow. Sometimes they bring rain and sometimes they bring the sun. There is no doubt that Zoe will be missed, but I truly feel the winds of change are bringing nothing but sunshine for both Zoe and the MOA.

So please join me in welcoming the new executive director, Mr. Cory Ridenhour...and we'll see you at the Capitol.

# Photo Retrospective from MOA Legislative Conference



Executive Director, Zoe Lyle, introduces President Pro Tem, Michael Gibbons.



Dr. Tom Greene, Zoe Lyle, Dr. Mark Curtis, Dr. Tom Hobbs, and Dr. Steve Tilley with President Pro Tem Gibbons.



Dr. Tilley and Dr. Swinger present Zoe with a House resolution.



Sen. Delbert Scott sponsor of the Children's Eye Exam bill addresses the group.



Dr. Michael Ditmore, Director of Division of Medical Services addresses the MOA.



Lobbyist Jerry Burch explains the legislative process.



Dr. Ryan Powell talks about MoPAC!



Speaker Jetton announces 83 co-sponsors of the Children's Bill at the Legislative Reception.



Rep Michael Spreng with Trustee Weaver.



Dr. Steve Rice with Rep. Bob Dixon



New Executive Director Cory Ridenhour talks with Drs. Hobbs, Ream, and Detring.



MOA members talk to Rep. Mike Cunningham.



Rep. Ed Emery and Rep. Tom Villa pause for a picture.



## **Executive Director's Report**

by Cory T. Ridenhour, CAE

I don't have a lot to report at this point, since I have only been at the Association for two days, but it is exciting to be a part of MOA. There is obviously a learning curve, but I am glad to have an experienced staff here to get me up to speed and a predecessor who has been gracious to give me her knowledge.

Legislative process is in full swing and we are at the forefront with MOA legislation. The introduction phase is complete and now the deliberation phase has begun. The next month will be critical to our success in the deliberative process.

I look forward to meeting each of you throughout the next few months through societal meetings, my visits to offices across the state to learn about your businesses, and with upcoming MOA meetings. If you are in Jefferson City, please take the time to stop by your MOA Office!

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## **College of Optometrists in Vision Development**

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) elected Carol L. Scott, O.D., FCOVD, Springfield, Missouri as Vice President at its' 35th Annual Meeting held November 1-5, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Scott was first elected to the COVD Board of Directors in 2002, as Central Regional Director.

A Fellow of COVD, Dr. Scott is a 1983 graduate of Southern College of Optometry, and completed a residency program in pediatric vision care and vision therapy in 1985. She maintains a private practice emphasizing developmental optometry and vision therapy and works extensively with children and adults with learning related vision problems, vision perception deficits and brain injuries. Dr. Scott lectures frequently to schools and parent organizations on behavioral approach to vision and learning. She also offers workshops for occupational therapists and teachers on identifying and treating visual problems.

Serving with Dr. Scott on the COVD Board of Directors during the coming year are the following officers and directors: President—Drusilla H. Grant, O.D., Cuyahoga Falls, OH; President-Elect—Dan Fortenbacher, O.D., Saint Joseph, MI; Secretary/Treasurer—Robert Byne, O.D., Mahopac, NY; Immediate Past President—Lynn F. Hellerstein, O.D., Englewood, CO; Eastern Regional Director—Andrea Thau, O.D., New York, NY; Central Regional Director—Bradley Habermehl, O.D., Flint, MI; Western Regional Director—Carole L. Hong, O.D., San Carlos, CA; At-Large Regional Director—Sue E. Lowe, O.D., Laramie, WY.

COVD is an international membership association of optometrists, optometric vision therapists and optometry students. It provides educational programs in developmental and behavioral vision care and Board certification in vision development and vision therapy. For more information contact: Dr. Stephen C. Miller, COVD Executive Director (314) 991-4007

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## **MOA Notes Passing of Dr. Harry M. (Bud) Agniel**

Dr. Harry M. (Bud) Agniel, age 82, of Jefferson City, died peacefully Thursday, December 22, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas. He was a member of the Missouri Optometric Association and a "Life Member" of the American Optometric Association. In 1975, he was awarded 'The Missouri Optometrist of the Year'. Dr. Agniel is survived by his wife of 60 years, Anna Leah Agniel; two daughters, Rebecca Marie Herbert and Michele Louise Stephens; three sons, Dennis Hart Agniel, Theodore Duhring Agniel and Christopher Stephen Agniel. Our sympathies to the family.

## **UMSL Optometrist Named J. William Fulbright Scholar**

Dr. Timothy Wingert, associate professor of optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, has been named a J. William Fulbright Scholar and will spend the Spring 2006 semester at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland.

Becoming a U.S. Fulbright Scholar means joining the cadre of men and women, past and present, who shape the world through direct contact with people in other countries, form lasting bonds with colleagues from other nations and gain research and teaching insights. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Wingert's optometric research focuses on public health issues, including the validity of clinical testing procedures and access to optometric services. "At Poznan University, I plan to work with my hosts regarding vision conditions that affect children," he said. Wingert will also teach courses and deliver a series of lectures, with the help of a translator and handouts. He says the entire experience will hopefully broaden his perspective of optometry. "Spending a semester in Poland will ultimately have a positive impact on my future teaching and research experiences at UMSL," Wingert said. "That's the fundamental goal of this opportunity."

Dr. Larry Davis, dean of the College of Optometry at UMSL, said being named a Fulbright Scholar is a tremendous distinction. "Dr. Wingert will no doubt make a positive influence on the delivery of eye and vision care in Poland," Davis said. "The unique opportunity for him to serve in such a capacity is a testament to his fine work and many years of dedicated service to the college and organized optometry within Missouri and throughout the United States."

Former U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright started the Fulbright Scholar program following World War II. He envisioned a program that would promote a mutual understanding between the United States and people in other countries. The program was signed into law in 1946. Since then, thousands of select American scholars and professionals have lectured and conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have been afforded the same opportunity in the United States.

Wingert will be joined in Poznan by his wife and two children. Their stay will last about five months. "We are all excited about going," Wingert said. "It's hard not to think about what it will be like, but we really have to live the experience to find out."

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## **Each One Reach One (EORO): Optometrists Join ASCO Career Promotion Corps**

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's (ASCO) "Each One, Reach One" campaign is a practitioner-based career promotion effort that encourages O.D.'s to talk to their patients and other gifted young people about optometry as a future career.

The goal of the "Each One, Reach One" program is to increase optometry's national applicant pool to three applicants for each first year position and to develop an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the U.S. population. . According to a ten-year study on incoming students at all schools and colleges of optometry, the majority of students indicated that their decision to choose optometry as a career was due to the encouragement of individual optometrists. You are optometry's best advocates — your enthusiasm and commitment to the profession will encourage students to choose optometry as a career.

An important note: this program is not about increasing the number of graduates from the nation's optometry schools. It's about making sure that those who are selected continue to reflect the profession's ability to attract bright and caring young people. It's easy to become a member of the "Each One Reach One" Career Corps and promote your profession to the optometrists of tomorrow. Just go to the ASCO website: [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) and click on Career Corps or contact Victoria Smith-Moore at ASCO: [vsmithmoore@opted.org](mailto:vsmithmoore@opted.org)

## Society Reports

### **Kansas City Optometric Society John Gelvin, O.D., F.A.A.O Trustee**

This has been a busy fall season for the doctors of the Kansas City Optometric Society. Having been given good direction regarding what needs to be done to help promote children's visual wellness, doctors have been meeting with numerous people in order to increase awareness problems associated with children's vision and hopefully help move the process along.

In November, we had a very nice sponsored meeting at the Crown Center Plaza. Updates were given about issues related to both Kansas and Missouri. The December Christmas meeting was a large success at a new venue. The MOA Presidential visit brought our Executive Director, Ms. Zoe Lyle our MOA President, Dr. Tom Hobbs to Kansas City for an MOA update. The party was sponsored by Sutherlin Optical. Steve Sutherlin gave a very nice presentation of their operation. This time allowed him to go into the relationship between Missouri labs such as his and their involvement in the MOA. This was a very entertaining evening. There was no January meeting due to the Legislative Conference being so close to the beginning of January. All doctors were encouraged to attend the January conference in Jefferson City.

During the December KCOS meeting, we elected officers. The 2006 officers will be Melanie Linderer, O.D., President; Lisa Nutt, O.D., Vice President; Lori Swopes, O.D., Secretary-Treasurer.

### **Greater Ozark Optometric Society Michael C. Frier, O.D., Trustee**

The GOOS society met Tuesday 17th January and we elected officers for the coming year: President - Scott M. Burks; Vice-President - Bethany Whitesell; Sec/Tres - Lane Nutt.

We discussed the Legislative day's event and Children's Vision Bill and all were congratulated for receiving 10 co-signers for our children's vision bill. Wes Kemp spoke about AOA legislation and issues of Medicare and other national optometric concerns.

We set the Presidential visit for Feb 21st with location to be determined. We set up a monthly calendar of further talks with children vision for our March meeting with Dr. Carol Scott presenting. Dr Scott has a pediatric practice specializing in vision therapy, and she serves as Vice-President for COVD.

### **Greater Ozark Optometric Society, cont.**

In April there will be a DSEK talk and multifocal IOL's with a speaker from Missouri Eye Institute (MEI). Dr. Bureman will help organize and host. MEI was a Grand Champion sponsor for our last MOA convention and Friend of Optometry winner in 2002. In May we hope to have Dr. Tom Byers present a talk about his tour of duty in Iraq. GOOS will support MOA legislative issue with their time and talent.

### **Central Optometric Society Debbie Hettler-Arbeitman, O.D.**

At the Central Optometric Society November, 2005 meeting Dr. Jeff Gamble was unanimously elected to serve as the new COS president. The next COS meeting is scheduled January 24, 2006 at 6:30 PM, with the location yet to be announced. The February meeting will be February 28, 2006 and MOA president Dr. Tom Hobbs and the new Executive Director of the MOA will be our guest.

Many COS members attended the very successful Legislative Day on January 9 and witnessed the introduction of the Children's Vision Bill in the Missouri House of Representatives. This followed a long day of MOA committee meetings the previous day, with many CMOS members serving on committees this year.

### **Saint Louis Optometric Society Jeffrey L. Weaver, OD; Thomas J. Cullinane, OD**

The Saint Louis Optometric Society welcomes to our area MOA Executive Director Emeritus Zoe Lyle. Missouri Optometry would not be leading the way as it is today without Zoe's guidance during her tenure as ED. Thank you, Zoe, for all your exceptional service to our profession. We hope your move to St. Louis brings professional success and personal happiness.

The latest meeting of the St Louis Optometric Society on January 10, 2006, featured Randall Bruce Cox, OD, speaking on "New paradigms in glaucoma diagnosis," in an event sponsored by Alcon Laboratories. The December holiday party was a festive "Trivia Night," hosted by Midland Optical. The February 21 (moved from February 14 by romantic SLOS members) meeting will feature Grand Rounds by UMSL faculty including John Crane, OD. The special March 14 meeting with SouthWest Illinois Optometric Society in Collinsville will be a New Technology Symposium with rapid-fire presentations by Oasis Medical, TLC, ZeaVision, Heidelberg, and Touch Scientific. Non-SLOS optometrists should call their SLOS colleagues to get up to date!

Saint Louis Optometric Society, cont.

SLOS members were well-represented at the MOA legislative conference. Twenty of the 82 co-sponsors of HB 1269 were from SLOS districts. St. Louis area ODs will continue to contact our representatives and senators urging them to support so that the children of Missouri will receive the eye and vision care that they deserve.

### **Northwest Optometric Society G. Ryan Powell, O.D. Trustee**

The Northwest Optometric Society met on Monday, January 16th at Boudreaux's in St. Joe. There were 12 OD's in attendance to hear Scott Murphy, M.D. talk about Oculoplastic diagnostics and surgery techniques. We had a brief discussion about current MOA issues including MOPAC and Children's Vision. There is great interest in Northwest Missouri with Any Willing Provider legislation because of the impact it will have on our patient's access to eye health care.

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### **Para Report Monica Clay, Paraoptometric Chair**

In January, the Para Board was able to meet before committee meetings. Key discussion items were convention wrap-up, cookbooks and various others. Those involved in committees left with many new ideas and excited about the year ahead.

Donita Stanek, long-time Para Trustee for GOOS, has decided to step down after serving on the Para Board for several years. The Para Board is sad to see her step down but wishes her all the best.

In the following months, the Para Board will be concentrating their efforts on filling the open Para Trustee positions. If anyone is interested in becoming a Para Trustee, please contact any of the Para Board or myself.

The Para Board will also begin focusing on ways to increase society participation and membership.

Visit the NEW Paraoptometric section  
of the MOA Web site:

[www.moeyecare.org/para](http://www.moeyecare.org/para)

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

### **2006**

February 10-12: Heart of America  
Kansas City, MO

May 1-3: AOA Congressional Congress  
JW Marriott, Pennsylvania Ave. , Washington, DC

May 11-13: Midwest Vision  
Chicago, IL

May 19-21: MOA Leadership Retreat  
Country Club Hotel & Spa  
Lake Ozark, MO

June 21-25: AOA Congress  
Las Vegas, Nevada

October 5-8: MOA Annual Convention  
Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO

### **2007**

January 7-8: MOA Legislative Conference  
Jefferson City, MO

February 15-17: Heart of America

April 23-25: AOA Congressional Congress  
JW Marriott, Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC

June 27-July 1: AOA Congress  
Boston, Massachusetts

October 3-7: MOA Annual Convention  
Ritz Carlton Hotel, St. Louis

### **2008**

January 27-28: MOA Legislative Conference  
Jefferson City, MO

February 14-16: Heart of America

June 25-29: AOA Congress  
Seattle, Washington

## Staff

### Executive Director:

Cory T. Ridenhour, CAE  
573/635-6151 • F: 573/635-7989  
[moopt@socket.net](mailto:moopt@socket.net)

### Administrative Assistant:

Jessica R. Taylor

### Finance Manager:

Linda K. Morrison

### Government Relations Consultants:

J. Scott Marrs  
573/636-5873 • F: 573/636-4532

Jerry W. Burch

573/636-4599 • F: 573/636-4532

### Legal Counsel:

Marc H. Ellinger  
573/634-2500 • F: 573/635-3358

## Officers

### President

Thomas W. Hobbs, O.D.  
660/747-7300 • F: 660/747-5322  
[thobbs@earthlink.net](mailto:thobbs@earthlink.net)

### President-Elect

Thomas F. Greene, O.D.  
573/659-5560 • F: 573/659-5561  
[greenes@socket.net](mailto:greenes@socket.net)

### Treasurer

Gregory J. Goetzinger, O.D.  
417/359-0600 • F: 417/359-0601  
[eyedrg@carthagevisionclinic.com](mailto:eyedrg@carthagevisionclinic.com)

### Secretary

Wesley D. Kemp, O.D.  
417/777-9000 • F: 417/777-9003  
[weskemp@alltel.net](mailto:weskemp@alltel.net)

### Immediate Past-President

Richard C. Wilson, O.D.  
816/353-1872 • F: 816/5022  
[twilson@bso-ae.com](mailto:twilson@bso-ae.com)

## Trustees

### Central Society

Debbie Hettler-Arbeitman, O.D.  
573/814-6575 • F: 573/814-6340  
[dhett@aol.com](mailto:dhett@aol.com)

### Greater Ozark Society

Michael C. Frier, O.D.  
417/876-6052 • F: 417/876-3352  
[mikeftwoi@centurytel.net](mailto:mikeftwoi@centurytel.net)

### Kansas City Society

John B. Gelvin, O.D.  
816/931-4733 • F: 816/931-9498  
[gelvin@hunkeler.com](mailto:gelvin@hunkeler.com)

### Northeast Society

Duane A. Thompson, O.D.  
660/258-7409 • F: 660/258-5043  
[datbat@shighway.com](mailto:datbat@shighway.com)

### Northwest Society

G. Ryan Powell, O.D.  
816/476-4017 • F: 816/476-4021  
[insighteyecare@kc.rr.com](mailto:insighteyecare@kc.rr.com)

### Southeast Society

James M. Hunt, O.D.  
573/996-3937 • F: 573/996-3937  
[eyecare40@hotmail.com](mailto:eyecare40@hotmail.com)

### Southwest Society

Lorry W. Lazenby, O.D.  
417/782-9151 • F: 417/782-7321  
[lazenbyopt@4state.com](mailto:lazenbyopt@4state.com)

### St. Louis Society

Jeffrey L. Weaver, O.D.  
314/991-4100 • F: 314/991-4101  
[jlweaver@aoa.org](mailto:jlweaver@aoa.org)

### St. Louis Society

Associate Trustee  
Thomas J. Cullinane, O.D.  
314/579-0909 • F: 314/514-1747  
[seeingme@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seeingme@sbcglobal.net)

### West Central Society

Mark D. Curtis, O.D.  
660/747-8196 • F: 660/747-5322  
[mcurtis@earthlink.net](mailto:mcurtis@earthlink.net)

## Committees

### Administrative Services

Rob Bernskoetter, O.D.  
573/874-2030 • F: 573/449-0253  
[mlnod@cs.com](mailto:mlnod@cs.com)

### Affiliated Organizations

Lori Ehlers Swopes, O.D.  
816/884-5212 • F: 816/884-3313  
[LoriSwopes@yahoo.com](mailto:LoriSwopes@yahoo.com)

### Clinical/Educational

Erica Burton, O.D.  
314/911-4100 • F: 314/911-4101  
[jlweaver@aoa.org](mailto:jlweaver@aoa.org)

### Coordinating Committee

Richard C. Wilson, O.D.  
816/353-1872 • F: 816/353-5022  
[hartsdad@swbell.net](mailto:hartsdad@swbell.net)

### Governmental Affairs

Mark D. Curtis, O.D.  
660/747-8196 • F: 660/747-5322  
[mcurtis@earthlink.net](mailto:mcurtis@earthlink.net)

### Membership Services

Robert G. Goerss, O.D.  
636/272-1444 • F: 636/272-1359  
[drgoerss@yahoo.com](mailto:drgoerss@yahoo.com)

### Public Relations

Kyle Brost, O.D.  
573/445-8636 • F: 573/446-9122  
[lbarrett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbarrett@sbcglobal.net)

### Corporate Optometric Task Force

Lorry Lazenby, O.D.  
417/782-9151 • F: 417/782-7321  
[lazenbyopt@4state.com](mailto:lazenbyopt@4state.com)

## Affiliated Organizations

### Paraoptometric Chair

Monica Clay  
660/747-7300 • F: 660/747-5322

### MOAA President

Marty Poynter  
660/582-5222 • F: 660/582-6558  
[martypoynter@earthlink.net](mailto:martypoynter@earthlink.net)

### MOF President

Rex Newcomb, O.D.  
417/468-6682 • F: 417/468-7922  
[rand289@msn.com](mailto:rand289@msn.com)

### State Board President

Dayna Stock  
417/235-5250 • F: 417/235-5259  
[dstock@umsl.edu](mailto:dstock@umsl.edu)

### MOA Vision

Missouri Optometric Association  
Editor of Publications: Lee Ann Barrett, O.D.  
201 West Broadway  
Columbia, MO 65203  
Phone: 573/445-8636 • Fax: 573/446-9122  
E-mail: [lbarrettod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbarrettod@sbcglobal.net)

The VISION newsletter is published bimonthly at 100 E. High Street, Ste. 301, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Phone: 573/635-6151.

Send all unsolicited articles, news, and advertising to the MOA Central Office. All opinions and statements of supposed fact in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Missouri Optometric Association. Deadlines are the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November.