



California Optometric Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS AND NEW BOARD AT ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Sacramento, CA, February 12, 2010 – The California Optometric Association (COA) recently held its 2010 House of Delegates on January 29-30 at the Ontario Airport Marriott in Ontario, CA.

During the event, the 2010 Board of Trustees was elected and sworn in. The new Board is as follows:

President - Harue Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO, who practices in Fullerton, CA
President-Elect - Page Yarwood, OD, who practices in Oakland, CA
Secretary/Treasurer - James Dallas, OD, who practices in Barstow, CA
Trustee – Jan Cooper, OD, FAAO, who practices in Bloomington, CA
Trustee – Movses D'Janbatian, OD, who practices in Glendale, CA
Trustee – Fred H. Dubick, OD, MBA, FAAO, who practices in Burbank, CA
Trustee – Stevin Minie, OD, who practices in Canoga Park, CA
Trustee – John Rosten, OD, who practices in Dixon, CA
Trustee – Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD, FAAO, who practices in Los Angeles, CA
Immediate Past President – Hilary Hawthorne, OD, who practices in Los Angeles, CA

In addition to the installation of the new Board of Trustees, COA also handed out a number of awards to various members and local societies. The highest award bestowed by COA is the **Paul Yarwood Memorial Award**. Given in memory of Paul Yarwood, who served as COA executive director from 1945-1965, the award has only been presented 28 times. The award honors persons, organizations or groups who have made significant contributions to optometry or to the visual care of the American public, and who are not being recognized primarily for their work within COA as a volunteer in the organized structure. The recipient of the 2009 Paul Yarwood Memorial Award was Martin H. Prince, OD, of Beverly Hills, CA, for his many accomplishments across a wide range of services both in the profession of optometry and outside of COA's structures.

The winner of the **Optometrist of the Year Award** was Joseph Mallinger, OD, MBA, FAAO, president and CEO of Vision West, Inc. of Oceanside, CA. And the five winners of the **Young Optometrist of the Year Award** were David Ardaya, OD, who practices in Whittier, CA; Elaine Chung, OD, who practices in San Jose, CA; Stacey Gin, OD, who practices in Glendale, CA; Leanne Lee, OD, who practices in Stockton, CA; and Karen Peschke, OD, who practices in Vista, CA.

The following is a list of additional 2009 awards presented during the 2009 House of Delegates:

VOSH Scholarship — Elise Swanson, student at the Southern California College of Optometry

2009 George I. Deane, Jr., OD, Memorial Leadership Award — Erica Volker, student at the University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry, and Danny Ngo, student at the Southern California College of Optometry

Project Keep Leadership Scholarships — Sarah Cole, OD, who resides in Costa Mesa, CA

Outstanding Society Membership Recruitment Award — Cahuilla Optometric Society and San Gabriel Valley Optometric Society

Society Bulletin of the Year — San Diego County Optometric Society, *The San Diego View*

Society Web site of the Year — South Bay Optometric Society

Society Project of the Year — Orange County Optometric Society for their Diabetes Walk

Society of the Year — Santa Clara County Optometric Society

California Vision Foundation (CVF) Optometrist of the Year — Christopher Ciampa, OD, of Norwalk, CA

California Vision Foundation (CVF) Laboratory of the Year — Hollywood Optical Laboratory, of San Dimas, CA

Excellence in Optometric Education Award — Mark Sawamura, OD, assistant professor and assistant chief of the Jarnagin Primary Eye Care Center at the Southern California College of Optometry; John Corzine, OD, associate clinical professor and graduate adviser at the University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry; Tiffenie Harris, OD, associate professor at the Western University College of Optometry

Legislators of the Year Award — Hon. Kevin DeLéon (Assemblymember, 45th District) and Hon. Audra Strickland (Assemblymember, 37th District)

Keyperson of the Year — Robert L. Shapiro, OD, FAAO, who practices in Los Angeles, CA

About the California Optometric Association

California Optometric Association was established in 1899, and is California's oldest organized community for optometrists. Representing more than 2,700 optometrists, COA is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of health care for the public through the advancement of optometry.

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