



# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY NEWSLETTER

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## BE SURE YOUR CE COUNTS!

As a reminder – any COPE-approved CE course, whether live or online, may be applied toward your Nevada CE requirements. If you received your TPA certificate in the current license year, your 40-hour preceptorship counts as your full CE requirement.

## CONGRATULATIONS OPTOMETRY!

With the work of dozens of optometrists led by Dr. Mariah Smith, AB 77 of the 2019 Legislative Session passed! Read the [enrolled bill](#) here.

## Ch- Ch- Ch- CHANGES

1. When you renew your license next FOR 2 YEARS AT A TIME by February 28, 2020, you must have completed only **18** (if you hold no certificate for pharmaceutical prescribing) or **30** (if you are pharmaceutical agent certified) **COPE-approved CE hours**. Click to review the [Board Policies](#) for other pre-approved courses. In 2022, your renewal will require 2-years of CE. **But not this year!**
2. Your upcoming 2020 renewal fees will be doubled with the newly implemented 2-year renewal period, so plan accordingly.
3. **NOTE: AB 77 removed the authority of optometrists to prescribe Schedule II drugs.**
4. If you hold a PAC (pharmaceutical agents certificate - the new term for the former TPA), please review the new law carefully. While you're at it, if you hold a PAC, check the Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program every 6 months at <http://bop.nv.gov/links/PMP/> to be certain your prescription records in that database are accurate. If you find an error, contact the [Pharmacy Board](#).

## Corporate, Company and Practice Formation, Operation and Control

Optometrists' challenges to implement and abide by Nevada's practice ownership and control laws is becoming a pervasive dilemma, even among those most involved in staying compliant! Because the issue is so widespread, the Board has granted a

### **REGULATORY REPRIEVE**

to all licensees for violations of optometry laws related to the signage, naming, organization or control of optometry practices

**NOW is a good time to make sure you are in compliance.**

Board Member Jeffrey Austin is coordinating outreach and education effort on this topic as well as the changes made by the legislature. Sessions will likely be coordinated with the NOA. All licensees, whether solo or multi-location groups will want to sit up and take notice.

Carefully consider your operations in relation to Ch 636 of NRS and NAC. Consult your legal and financial advisors for a review of your arrangements in light of the recent changes. Pledge to put your house in order in the next 3 months.



**IF YOU HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO WITH THE BOARD. The Board is authorized to communicate with licensees exclusively via email, so please keep us up-to-date!**

Board member Drew Johnson is working to update our website to be more user friendly and functional.

Thank you Drew!!

### **More changes on the horizon. REGULATIONS & PUBLIC WORKSHOPS**

Now that our statutes have been scrutinized and revised, the Board is reviewing and proposing changes to the Optometry Regulations in [Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 636](#)

Board Vice-President Mariah Smith, O.D. is leading the regulation review efforts after her success in the Legislative Session. If you wish to submit your ideas changes in writing, feel free to [email them here.](#), or join Dr. Smith in **Reno on MONDAY, JULY 29 at 5:30 PM** for a roundtable Stakeholder's Session at **Rapscallion Seafood House**. No host food and beverages available.

We also will hold a **telephonic** Stakeholders' Session the next evening, **Tuesday, July 30 at 5:30 PM** for those who cannot attend in Reno. (712) 451-0223, Access code: 292304

### **There is so much to keep track of!**

AB 77 of the 2019 Legislation Session includes new laws that allow the Board and the profession to:

- **Certify Mobile Optometry Clinics**
- **Clarify "practice of optometry"**
- **Remove Schedule II Prescribing**
- **Permit Delegation to Assistants**
- **Renew Licenses every 2-years**
- **Eliminate Anonymous Complaints**
- **Allow Glaucoma Certification by Endorsement**
- **and so much more!**

# NV STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

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Email us your ideas,  
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meetings and brainstorming  
sessions, and become  
involved in the licensing  
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We're all in this together.

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## UNSUNG HERO: Board President Chen K. Young, O.D., a

humble man, dedicated volunteer, public servant and quiet leader, has been the least applauded, most under-recognized, the smallest ego in the process of optometric change over the past 3 years and longer. Dr. Young was instrumental in bringing our Executive Director on board in 2016, worked with policymakers, colleagues, industry, staff and past Presidents to bring Nevada's optometry laws into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and into the next. He leads from behind - giving credit and accolades to others every time. Dr. Young is a management mastermind, and we've all benefitted from his leadership. So please drag him out from behind the curtain and thank him for his outstanding service to the optometric profession in Nevada!



## AAO requests your responses to NV survey

As an initiative to improve vision care as well as enhance delivery of care for its providers, the American Academy of Ophthalmology has a Leadership Development Program that conducts projects to improve eye care in the US. One LDP participant practicing in Nevada has asked for assistance from Nevada optometrists. The following very brief (2 minute) survey sent to all eye care providers (ophthalmology and optometry) is aimed at **understanding practitioners' experience with low-vision patients and their interaction with the DMV**. This voluntary and completely anonymous survey aims to provide information that will help all eye care providers in delivering quality care to patients in Nevada.

**TO PARTICIPATE, CLICK**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eOXS0\\_1twIRQ6DQu\\_tUpy1pxyDitjet3xpNNKQOwg0s](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eOXS0_1twIRQ6DQu_tUpy1pxyDitjet3xpNNKQOwg0s)

**The survey opens July 8 and concludes August 12, 2019.**