



NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

- President Patti Cook
- Vice President Shannon Pearson
- Secretary Christina Seaton
- Treasurer Debra Ball
- Past President Felicia Shepherd

- Directors Marlin Freeman
- Jennifer George
- Vickie Magee
- Rick Rakotz
- Rusty Acebo

SPRING MEETING

May 15-16, 2021
Embassy Suites
Little Rock



The spring meeting will be held two days, May 15 and 16, 2021 at the Embassy Suites, Little Rock, Arkansas. Both days will offer 5 hours of Arkansas State Board credits. A few of the classes will be ABO/NCLE, all classes will be ABO.

The Annual business meeting will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday May 15, 2021. If you would like to run for an office or a board seat, please contact, Felicia Shepherd, nomination chairman. The Group code for reservations at the Embassy is DOP, and the rate is \$129 a night. Please make your reservations as soon as possible so we will have enough rooms to fill our block.

You will find the registration for the meetings in this newsletter. There will be NO Registration at the door, a mask will be required, and your temperature will be checked. All seating will be assigned.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Educational Reminder . . . Remember!!!!

You must have five hours of State Board approved educational hours between July 1, 2020 and July 1, 2021
To renew your certificate July 1, 2021
If you did not get any hours on 2019-2020
You will have to have nine hours
To renew your certificate July 1, 2021

This is your
association please
help . . .

Send all information for
newsletter and classes
at the meetings to the
association office.
We need your input

President's Letter

Good Bye 2020 and Hello 2021!!!

I hope that this letter finds everyone healthy and working every day to offer the best solutions to our patients! 2020 was a most difficult and sad time for so many! My deepest sympathy to any who may have lost a loved one during the pandemic! Even though things are brighter for the future please do not allow yourself to become complacent to following the CDC guidelines to protect yourself and each other. We are considered "essential care workers" but we have always known that haven't we? We are the experts on providing the best eyecare possible to our patients so let us all embrace that role now more than ever! I hope to see many of you at this year's meeting! Stay safe and be proud to be an OPTICIAN!!

OPTICIANS ARE AWESOME!!

See you soon!

Patti Cook, OAA President

**Watch the web site for updates and location
(aropticians.org)**



OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 15, Sunday, May 16, 2021,

7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Embassy Suites

11302 Financial Centre Parkway Little Rock, Arkansas 72211

501-312-9000



REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

DISPENSARY _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

BEFORE 5/01/21

AFTER MAY 1

AMOUNT DUE

or to reserve a seat and pay at the door

FULL REGISTRATION – Saturday and Sunday

MEMBERS* \$85.00 \$115.00 _____

NON-MEMBER \$165.00 \$195.00 _____

SATURDAY ONLY

MEMBERS* \$55.00 \$85.00 _____

NON-MEMBER \$135.00 \$165.00 _____

SUNDAY ONLY

MEMBERS* \$55.00 \$85.00 _____

NON-MEMBER \$135.00 \$165.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

IF PAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE PERSON, PLEASE FILL OUT A FORM FOR EACH PERSON. YOU MAY COPY THIS FORM. COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO: **Optician Association of Arkansas, PO Box 1, Lexa, AR 72355** 870-275-5977

If you are paying at the door there will be a mail bag to drop your payment into.



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AGENDA

Saturday, May 15, 2021

7:30 - 8:00 Seating and Questions

8:00 - 10:00 *Problem Solving for uncommon Prescriptions

Diane Drake

10:00 -11:00 Prism – Is it Prescribed or is it Unwanted?

Diane Drake

11:00 – 12:00 *Customer Service 101

Diane Drake

12:00 – 1:00 State Board Review

1:00 – 1:30 Business Meeting



Sunday, May 16, 2021

7:30 - 8:00 Seating and Questions

8:00 - 10:00 *Unequal refractive Errors and the Effect on Vision

Diane Drake

10:00 -12:00 *Anatomy and Physiology-How the Eye Works

Diane Drake

12:00 – 1:00 State Board Review

All classes are Arkansas State Board and ABO approved. Classes with the asterisk are NCLE approved. Please make sure you get the proper educational certificates stamped before you leave the class.

About Diane Drake

With over 30 years in the Optical business, Mrs. Drake is an approved speaker for ABO and NCLE as well as an advanced course approved speaker and lectures both locally and nationally. She was president and owner of ALL ABOUT EYES VISION CENTER in Griffin, Georgia for 19 years. She is a licensed optician in Georgia, advanced certified by both the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners and also has received her Masters in Ophthalmic Optics Certification by the ABO. She is a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America and Fellow of the National Academy of Opticianry. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for the National Academy of Opticianry, and the Opticians Association of Georgia, having served on numerous committees, and chaired several. She regularly guest lectures high schools, colleges and universities in her area. She is also active in her local community with local charities.



ATTORNEY GENERAL
LESLIE RUTLEDGE

ARKANSASAG.GOV

**EMERGENCY ADVISORY TO ARKANSAS LICENSING
AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS
OF AN IMPOSTER SCAM**

March 17, 2021 – This emergency advisory is directed to the members, directors, and licensees of Arkansas licensing agencies, boards, and commissions.

The Office of the Attorney General recently became aware of a telephone scam targeting Arkansans who hold a professional license issued by the state. The caller poses as an agent for the licensing office and claims that the licensee is under an investigation and that their license has been suspended. The licensee's caller ID may even display the licensing office's phone number. To further attempt to appear legitimate, the caller may pretend to be a law enforcement officer or transfer the call to another person posing as a law enforcement officer or federal agent. The caller then offers to fix the problem or issue a temporary license and asks for personally identifiable information and a payment for a bond, *e.g.*, \$5,000. The caller likely will require that the payment be made by purchasing gift cards at a local retail store.

The caller may direct the licensee to travel to a UPS store or other such location to receive purported official documents, *e.g.*, a letter of the licensee's suspension, and to fax copies of the gift cards as payment. Of course, once the scammers have the gift card numbers, they immediately cash out the cards, and are never heard from again.

There have been several recent instances of this scam in Arkansas. We are also aware that this activity is occurring in other states.

If any consumer receives any of the scam calls described above, we request that they contact our office at: imposterreports@arkansasag.gov. An investigator will respond to request any information we may need.

If you have any questions, contact the Attorney General's Office at (501) 682-2007 or at Consumer@ArkansasAG.gov.