

Member Benefits

Highlights for New Graduates



Your Voice for a Strong Optometry

The mission of the Pennsylvania Optometric Association is to represent the interests of Doctors of Optometry in Pennsylvania and to advance eye and vision care for the citizens of the Commonwealth. That's it; that's what we do. **Each day. All month. Every year, for our members and their patients.**

What is the most important member benefit?

- Advocacy – Legislative
- Advocacy – Regulatory
- Advocacy – Third Party
- Advocacy – All of the Above

And that will never change, whether you are a new licensee or a 50-year Life Member. Here's why: Did you know optometric services had been removed as covered services in the Healthy Pennsylvania Medicaid Waiver application? Individual optometrists might not have known about the removal of their services as a covered benefit or been able to do anything about it. ***But POA knew, and did something about it.*** Thanks to the efforts of the staff and volunteers of POA and AOA, optometric services are now included in the approved Healthy Pennsylvania Medicaid Program – a victory for your patients and profession.

In addition to the ongoing advocacy of the Legislative Affairs Committee, POA's Third Party Center is also constantly working on your behalf to ensure that you are paid with parity for the services you provide.

Our advocacy strength is our members. YOU are POA.

There are many other valuable benefits of your membership as a new licensee. To highlight just a few ...

To name *just a few...*

Your Resource for All Things Optometry (*this is BIG!*)

Your membership gets you access to **members-only information** in the *Keystoner*, websites, blogs, emails, and POA and local society meetings.

As part of your membership, you have access to the **Resource Guide for New Optometrists**, which is available on POA's website in the Students & Educators section. It's filled with information you need to know to start practicing in Pennsylvania, from obtaining your DEA number to registering as an employer; from third party reimbursement to what insurance coverages you need; and from what's required on a prescription blank in Pennsylvania to FTC requirements for spectacle and contact lens prescription release.

Your membership also provides access to POA's staff and volunteer leaders, who are an incredibly **valuable resource for you**. You will have lots of questions – and as a member, you have access to the answers. If we can't answer your question or direct your inquiry immediately, we'll do the research and get back to you.

C&E Buying Group Discounts (*and DUES CREDITS!*)

Membership during your first year of licensure is free. After that, your dues are assessed on a sliding scale as you establish your practice. A great way to offset the cost of your dues is participation in POA's endorsed buying group, **C&E Vision Buying Group**. In addition to discounted group pricing, your participation in C&E will help **pay for your POA and AOA dues** and generates non-dues revenue for POA, which helps keep the cost of your dues down.

Insurance Coverage

Each state has its own rules regulating insurance coverages. POA has a long history of working with **USI Affinity** and other agencies to ensure that you have the appropriate coverage for an optometrist practicing in Pennsylvania. Life insurance, disability insurance, business owners and malpractice insurance – we've got you covered.

Marketing Materials

POA members enjoy inclusion in optometry's exciting national Think About Your Eyes advertising campaign. Also **Included in your membership** is access to marketing materials for your pediatric and diabetic patients. POA's Kids Welcome Here® and Diabetes posters are suitable for framing, and the Kids Welcome Here® brochure is a great educational tool for pediatric patients. **These materials are only available to members.**



Advocacy – Legislative, Regulatory & Third Party

Expert Information at Your Fingertips or Via Phone

Networking with Your Colleagues

Continuing Education through POA and Local Societies

Advocacy

Buying Group Discounts

POA's Electronic Claims Service

Credit Union Membership

Debt Collection Service

Excuse Forms & Eye Exam Report Forms

ADVOCACY

Rx Pads

Medication • Spectacle • Contact Lens

Insurance Protection

Disability • Group Term Life • Long Term Care
Accidental Death & Dismemberment • Employee Salary Protection
Malpractice • Business Owners • Overhead

Marketing and Public Health Materials

Kids Welcome Here® Brochures and Posters • Diabetes Posters

Memorial Cards

Resource Guide for New Optometrists

... and did we mention Advocacy?

More from POA...

Prescription Pad Blanks – Each state has its own regulations for prescription pads, in addition to federal requirements. POA is the only organization that will ensure that your pads are compliant with all Pennsylvania and federal regulations, including Medicaid anti-forgery requirements. POA will design your personalized medication, spectacle and contact lens prescription blanks and have them delivered to you at a discounted rate.

Pennsylvania Diabetic Eye Health Alliance (PDEHA) – AOA has recently adopted POA's premier program for implementation in other states. Sign up to participate in PDEHA and receive a free diabetes poster to display in your office. For more information, contact Kelsey@poaeyes.org.



In addition to the benefits from your POA membership, AOA has great benefits for new licensees! Check them out online:

www.excelod.com/student

HIGHLIGHTS:

Business Cards – Look professional for your interviews with business cards including the AOA logo ... ***included in your membership the year you graduate (no additional cost to you)***

Optometry's Career Center – Post your resume ... ***included in your membership (no additional cost to you)***

Education Loans – Special discounts on consolidation loans or loans for expenses related to your education program

Pennsylvania Optometric Association

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