

# Never Taking Our Vision For Granted



## OANY Views

- Join us for live monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and receive continuing education credits
- Socialize and network with your fellow Opticians and enjoy the camaraderie
- Special discounts from selected sponsors for members only

## The President's Corner

### A Message From Our Incoming President Steven Lehrer

Welcome back to the beginning of the 20th anniversary OANY celebration. I hope that everyone had a happy, healthy and profitable summer. I would first like to thank Paul Heller, my good friend and past president for all the hard work he has done to continue to make OANY the best organization in New York State. Also, a shout out to everyone on the board for their continued hard work and dedication. As we enter this year, I hope to continue with the growth and strides we have been making. The addition of our upstate group and new sponsors are helping to fuel OANY's growth. I am excited to begin my term as president and lead us to the future.

*(Continued on page 16)*

### A Message From Our Outgoing President Paul Heller

After much reflection I find myself thinking about the future of our industry. Quite frankly I don't know what the direction is. I think that if things continue as they are we won't be going too far. It's very unfortunate that I feel this way, so I propose a challenge to all opticians. Please don't give up, with hard work and dedication to our field hope is on the way. Let's all be positive and let's make a difference.

Our June meeting was a great success as we had a larger attendance. Our speaker Drew Paul provided us with an overview of Shamir's newest product.

I want to wish the new slate of officers

*(Continued on page 11)*

### Our Mission

The Opticians Alliance of New York is an independent, not for profit organization, established to promote continuing competency and betterment of the optical health professional and to provide a standard of excellence in the optical health care for the consumer.

### Tentative 2024-2025 Schedule

Sep. 18, 2024	Sponsor TBA
Oct. 16, 2024	Save the Date
Nov 20, 2024	Save the Date
Dec. 18, 2024	Save the Date
Jan. 15, 2025	Save the Date
Feb. 19, 2025	Save the Date
Mar. 19, 2024	Save the Date

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETING AT  
DOMENICO'S RESTAURANT, LEVITTOWN, NY  
ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEBER 18, 2024

Sponsor: **To Be Announced**  
 Speaker: **To Be Announced**  
 Presentation: **To Be Announced**  
 CE Credit: **To Be Announced**  
 Meeting Room: We will meet in the middle room this month

### Inside Our . Issue

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 The Old Geezer ..... P.11

## *Dinner Options and Schedule For Our September Meeting*

### Schedule of Events

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 7:00 to 8:00PM   | Social hour, meet with sponsor<br>(Cash bar until 7:30PM) |
| 8:00 to 8:30PM   | Business meeting  |
| 8:30 to 10:00 PM | Continuing education and raffle                           |

**Please note that no liquor can be ordered after 7:30 and no alcoholic beverages can be brought into the meeting room after 8:00**

#### Appetizers

- Mozzarella Sticks
- Stuffed Mushrooms

#### Salad Choice

- Caesar or Garden

#### Entrée Choices

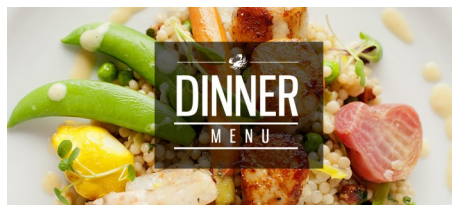
- Veal Marsala
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Eggplant Rollatini
- Rigatoni Ala Vodka\*
- Salmon

\*All served with Penne Pasta or Sautéed Broccoli except Rigatoni Ala Vodka

#### Dessert

- Cake
- Coffee, Tea, Soda

- Dinner is \$45 per person
- 50/50 raffle optional.
- Please bring exact cash or check for dinner.
- Can't make dinner? Come for the CE credits!



### General Information

- The Opticians Alliance of New York meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Schedule, sponsors, and speakers are subject to change.
- It is the responsibility of all members to sign in at the beginning of the meeting. This means sign-in on at least 2 sheets and sometimes 3. You will not receive credit for the continuing education course if you are not signed in. Our CE provider and that of the New York State Education Department prohibit issuance of credits to anyone who has not properly signed in or has not stayed for the complete course.
- If you have received a notice that your

membership has to be renewed, please send in your check today. Better yet, if you're attending our upcoming meeting, you can pay by either check or credit card. If you're writing a check from your business, we kindly request that you *clearly print your name on your check* so we can properly credit you. We regret that if your dues is not paid and up to date, you will not receive your CE credits.

- Donated gifts for our raffle are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged
- Check your e-mail daily or call any member of the Executive Board for updates to our schedule for our upcoming meeting.

### OANY

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Website: [www.oany.org](http://www.oany.org)

### OANY Officers 2024-2025

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>          | <b>Steven Lehrer</b>   |
| <b>Vice President</b>      | <b>Mark Cohen</b>      |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | <b>Judith Deucht</b>   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | <b>David Cohen</b>     |
| <b>Directors:</b>          | <b>Madeline Koenig</b> |
|                            | <b>Anthony Rebaldo</b> |
|                            | <b>Alan Smith</b>      |
| <b>Directors at Large:</b> | <b>Phil Feldman</b>    |
|                            | <b>Barry Santini</b>   |

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  - Anthony Fulco**  
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  - Judith Deucht**  
2012-2014
  - Joseph Monestere**  
2010-2012
  - Anthony Rebaldo**  
2008-2010
  - Peter Bacotti**  
2005-2008  
2019-2021

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Newsletter</b>             |                     |
| <b>E-Mail Blast:</b>          | <b>Mark Cohen</b>   |
| <b>Official Photographer:</b> | <b>Drew Washton</b> |

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In Ophthalmic Dispensing  
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# OANY News

## OANY Member of the Year and Vendor of the Year



Alan Smith displays his "Member of the Year" award.

At our June meeting, we awarded both our **OANY Vendor of the Year** and **OANY Member of the Year**. The Vendor of the Year criteria is based on advertising with our organization, overall support as well as monetary support such as donating gift cards for us to raffle off to our members. The Member of the Year criteria is based on the person who attends the majority of our meetings, who has contributed and done the most for our organization and is in good standing with their dues paid. We are pleased to announce that **Alan Smith** was awarded our **OANY Member of the Year** and **Scott Smilen** our **OANY Vendor of the Year**. Scott will be present at our September meeting and will be presented with his award. Congratulations to both Alan and Scott.

## Gift Card and OANY Shirt Raffle

At our June meeting we were pleased to raffle off a gift card and our brand new OANY Shirt. Congratulations to the following winners:



### Gift Card

- Joe Monestere

### OANY Shirt

- Paul Glaser
- Ed Oriani

See more OANY news on Page 6

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MEMBERS ONLY

# More OANY News

## OANY 20th Anniversary



In 2025, our organization, The Opticians Alliance of New York, will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. Over the coming months, your board will be discussing plans to celebrate our anniversary. Watch for our future newsletters and e-mail blasts which will show the 20th Anniversary logo shown above.

If any of our members have any ideas on how to celebrate our 20th anniversary, please see any member of your OANY board.



## Winner of our 50/50 Raffle

We could like to congratulate Lisa Flynn. She was the winner of our 50/50 raffle at our June meeting.

## List of Advertisers



We are pleased to list the names and website addresses for our advertisers as well as the page number that each of their ads appears on in this newsletter. **Please patronize our advertisers and visit their website for any possible specials and promotions they may be offering.** Remember they support our organization and we should support them!

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Warby Parker	<a href="https://www.warbyparker.com/jobs">https://www.warbyparker.com/jobs</a>	Page 3
Younger Optics	<a href="https://www.youngeroptics.com/EN/welcome">https://www.youngeroptics.com/EN/welcome</a>	Page 7

# Legislative Report and Other Important News in Our Industry

By Anthony Rebaldo, Legislative Committee

- The American Optometric Association is issuing a new alert urging consumers to consult with their local Doctor of Optometry before purchasing or using over-the-counter eye drops that claim to change eye color. The alert comes after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning letter to a company producing these products.
- The United Opticians Association has appointed James Morris as CEO. Mr. Morris will assist the ABO and NCLE board of directors with reorganizing the structure of the ABO and NCLE.
- The Department of Health and Human Services issued three final rules for HIPAA privacy rules:
  1. Prohibits the use or disclosure health care providers or others who seek, obtain, provide or facilitate reproductive health care in a way that will lead to investigate or impose liability.
  2. Requires a regulated health care provider, health plan, clearinghouse or their business associates to obtain a signed attestation that certain requests for PHI potentially related to reproductive health care are not for these prohibited purposes.
  3. Requires regulated health care providers, health plans and clearinghouses to modify their notice of privacy practices to support reproductive health care privacy.
- The Florida Board of Opticianry has approved the Opticians Development Program which is a significant milestone which qualifies the completion of ODP to count for 2,800 hours of training for Florida apprentices. The program includes three comprehensive courses-boot camp, spectacle, and contact lens covering critical topics that is structured as a flexible work-study program. ODP allows learners to access content anytime, anywhere, and at their own pace.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### What About Our License?

As a licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser in the State of New York and having membership in the Opticians Alliance of New York, I have a thought, which does not make me happy. Why is the Opticians Association of America merging with the other organizations? Originally, it seemed to me to make sense until the American Board of Opticians released news that they were taking over the practical exam in Ophthalmic Dispensing. Not only that but they were going to make it an online exam. How does that work?

The fear we all should exhibit is where is all the leadership in State licensing that New York always had. In my opinion, our license was degraded more than enough with New York having to lower its standards to meet all the unlicensed states standards by only needing ABO certification to dispense and fit eyewear.

All we must look at is the number of new licenses issued each year in New York to understand that men and women wanting to enter our "profession" do not need their license to make a living. Not only that, but even the ABO certification is not needed. There are no OPD investigators to police our "profession" and even then, prosecution of those not licensed is not enough of a crime to pursue. Why bother with a license?

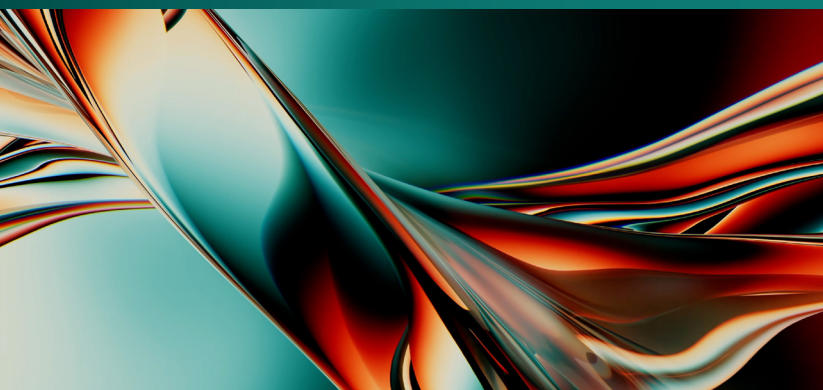
I also believe that **our State Board Opticians** is a hollow vessel of what it was and should be. It is very different from the days of old and our Executive Secretary overseeing the Board is stretched to the breaking point with the number of Boards she oversees.

Maybe our organization, OANY should take a proactive approach to all this and try to change the avenue it has gone down and return us to our former status of leaders in the field of Ophthalmic Dispensing. -**Someone who cares for our future**

***We encourage our members to join the conversation and create some dialog.***

*Please send your comments to me at [moodymet@aol.com](mailto:moodymet@aol.com). We'll print some of your responses in future newsletters. Your opinion matters. -Editor*

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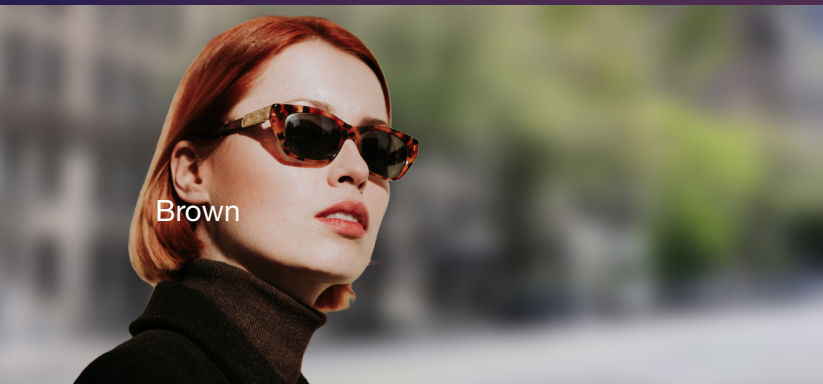


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# News From the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of OANY



From Lisa Tinson and Terri Netto  
Check out our Fall meeting schedule



**Monday, September 16, 2024, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**2 hours New York State Approved Continuing Education Credits**

- Location:** Cosmo's Poughkeepsie, 120 Delafield St. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
**Speaker:** Drew Paul, Shamir, Licensed Optician  
**Course #1:** Driver Intelligence Sun and Moon, 1 Hour NY CE Approved  
**Course #2:** How Important are the Measurements? Compensation vs. Optimization, 1 Hour NY CE Approved

[Register](#)

**Friday, October 4, 2024, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**4 hours New York State Approved Continuing Education Credits**

- Location:** Doubletree by Hilton AKA Poughkeepsie Grand, 40 Civic Center Plz. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
**Sponsor:** Below Courses sponsored by **Hoya**  
**Speaker:** Kelly Roseman  
**Course #1:** Binocular Brilliance, 1 Hour NY CE Approved, Technical Level I  
**Course #2:** Lens Compensation-It Matters, 1 Hour NY CE Approved Technical II
- Sponsor:** Below Course sponsored by **Cherry Optical Lab**  
**Speaker:** Rick Tinson  
**Course:** Electronic Order Management, 1 Hour NY CE Approved
- Sponsor:** Below Course sponsored by **EssilorLuxotica**  
**Speaker:** Sarah Comeau  
**Course:** Creating Perceived Value, 1 Hour ABO/NY CE Approved



**Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**2 hours New York State Approved Continuing Education Credits**

- Location:** Fishkill, NY  
**Speaker:** Barry Santini  
**Additional details to be announced**

This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, learn new things, and enjoy a delicious meal. Don't miss out on this chance to expand your knowledge and network with others in the field. Mark your calendar and we'll see you there!

If you have any questions, please contact us at the e-mail below.

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# Do I or Don't I

By The Old Geezer (AKA Peter Bacotti)



As I sit here pondering my latest masterpiece I must ask myself, self, do I or don't I write another. I

would like to think maybe there are a few individuals out there who might enjoy and want to hear what I have to say and put to written words. Are you one of those and does my writing mean anything to you? Do the articles I write provide any enjoyment, memories, or God forgive me, any tidbits to use in your repertoire of tricks of the trade? Then I say I enjoy doing this, the brain still functions (to some extent anyway), it is not too taxing (my nap comes later), and maybe a few of you nice people out there might let me know that I should keep writing.

Now I say Okay maybe we can try this again, spin the wheel, and if it lands on more, then I will see what kind of dribble I can write here again. So here, we go again with a topic that has always created a little stir in many people's minds.

When I first started out on my journey into the profession of Ophthalmic Dispensing, I worked in a retail establishment of medium size that belonged to my father. The practice was a member of the Guild of Dispensing Opticians, which was an elite way of saying the practice was of the highest standards for service, care and

products used. The establishment did not join the Guild; you applied for membership and had to meet the Guilds standards before being able to have membership. Two stores down was an optical shop with an independent Optometrist and dispensary. Further, down, same side of the street was another Optical store; across the street was another Optical retail store. Within a quarter mile of my father's store, if my memory serves me well, there were at least 12 optical establishments, 5 Optometrists, and 18 Ophthalmologists. I do not believe this will ever happen again, but back then, that was the norm. The quandary the Optical Professions have today is how this could work, it did. The question is how and why, the answer is quite simple. The more stores, the more OD's, the more Eye Doctors in a given area the more people shopped and were drawn to the area. That was not all; these people all got along together and worked together. I fondly remember Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Opticians who were like part of my family. Gosh, I grew up with their children; we would have dinner at either their house or ours. This relationship was much more than a business relationship.

I am still friends with some of the individuals who worked for these different professionals and share memories that our younger generation does not have and probably never will. Memories like having lunch with them in

each other's place of business and sharing with all the employees. It was not unheard of; it was the norm to go to one of your competitors for a lens you were out of stock on or a frame to fit a shape or style we did not have. How about asking for help in the shop if someone was out sick, no one refused, that was what friends were for.

In honesty, I can say that everyone benefited from the competition, from the patients, the examiners and the optical stores. I cannot recall one of these optical professions going out of business, if one of the owners died or retired one of the "**competitors**" would help the spouse and family run the business until it could be sold usually to one of the existing establishments in that neighborhood. That is why so many retail independents had hyphenated names.

What this means is that competition is not only good but is something that is necessary on the basis of the way it was and the way it should be.

What everyone should remember is that there may not be a Guild of Dispensing Opticians as there was but there is OANY to carry on the meaning of the quality of care needed for member's patients and consumers. Please do not forget that OANY is a means of sharing experiences with fellow members and making memories for the future. It is up to all of us to join in and make the optical industry great again.

It's perfectly OK to talk to yourself and it's perfectly OK to answer yourself. But it's totally sad that you have to repeat what you said because you weren't listening.

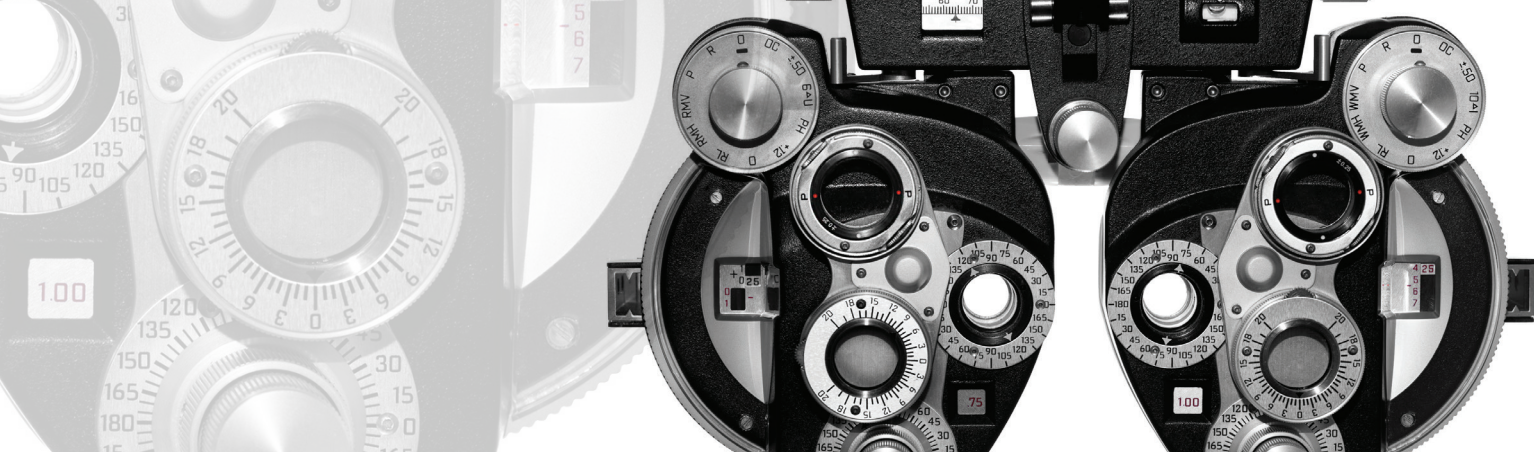
## A Message From Our Outgoing President Paul Heller

*(Continued from page 1)*

the best of luck.

I also want to thank everyone for giving me the support for four terms as your President. It was truly an honor. Here's to the future.

*Paul Heller*



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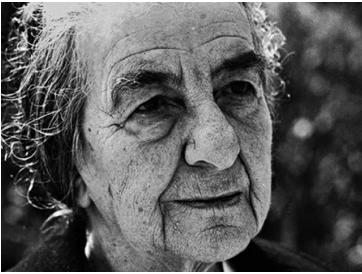
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# Thank You to Andrew Paul Our Speaker at Our June Meeting

We would like to thank Andrew Paul from Shamir for presenting our CE credit at our June meeting. The presentation, "Driver Intelligence, was good for 1 Ophthalmic Dispensing credit.

**Q Who was the only woman to hold the title of Prime Minister of Israel?**

**A** Golda Meir was the fourth Prime Minister of Israel and the first and only woman to hold the title. She was elected Prime Minister of Israel on March 17, 1969, after serving as Minister of Labor and Foreign Minister. Israel's first woman to hold such



an office, she was described as the "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics years before the epithet became associated with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. By the end of her life, she had become a hero as one of the first women to head a nation in the modern era. She died in Jerusalem on December 8, 1978.

**Q In which layer of the atmosphere do planes fly?**

**A** The Earth's atmosphere is composed of five major layers, each with distinct characteristics. Starting from the Earth's surface and moving upwards, these layers are the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere. Planes fly in the second layer of the atmosphere, called the stratosphere. Positioned above the troposphere and beneath the mesosphere, the stratosphere derives its name from its temperature stratification, where warmer layers reside at higher altitudes while colder layers hug our planet's surface.



## A Message From Our Incoming President Steven Lehrer

*(Continued from page 1)*

The members of the board are doing an amazing job, and I am grateful to all of them. A special thank you goes to Mark Cohen for being our new Vice President and all his continued hard work and support. My first order of business is to ask for your help, support and time to keep this momentum going. If you have anything to contribute, please let us know. We are always on the lookout for any new ideas, be it continuing education, venues or any other suggestions. If you have any interest in getting involved on the board or in any way offering some help please let us know. There are many interesting things going on in the field of Opticianry and we will be discussing some of these at our upcoming meeting. There are always new things

happening in our field and we try to keep everyone updated.

One major change going on at this time is how the practical exam will be given. Nothing is resolved at this time except that an in-person practical will no longer be given. We will bring you any new updates as they become available. We hope to have new 4 credit Sunday classes and exciting different seminars at our monthly meetings. Please plan to attend our monthly get-togethers. Your presence is needed. Let's make 2024-2025 OANY's best year yet. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

*Steven Lehrer*





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