

# 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

I would like to thank everyone who attended our first meeting of the 2024-2025 year for their continued support of OANY. It was great to see you and I'm looking forward to another great turnout for the October meeting. A big thank you to our last-minute sponsor, Kevin Serfass from Bolle and Serengeti. Your support was greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to Barry Santini for delivering another excellent continuing education seminar. We appreciate

that we can always count on you. As most, if not all of you already know, the practical exam as we

*"The practical exam as we know it no longer exists."*

know it no longer exists. The State or governing bodies have decided to go virtual with the exam, being given by the ABO. I for one find this to be

unacceptable. Although there is not much we can do about it, OANY will make its voice heard in whatever capacity we are able to the appropriate leaders. Thinking back to the test we all had to take to get our license, this is like a cake walk. You can't properly judge the skills of an individual without a hands-on approach. This is where your support of OANY truly helps. It's having the

*(Continued on page 4)*

### 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

Oct. 16, 2024	Drill Specialty
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, 2025	Save the Date
Apr. 16, 2025	Save the Date

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETING AT  
DOMENICO'S RESTAURANT, LEVITTOWN, NY  
ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

Sponsor: **Drill Specialty**  
 Speaker: Barry Santini  
 Presentation: Helping People Discover Their Sense of Style Through Customized Eyewear  
 CE Credit: 1 Ophthalmic Dispensing Credit  
 Meeting Room: We will meet in the back room this month

### Inside Our Oct. Issue

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## *Dinner Options and Schedule For Our October 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

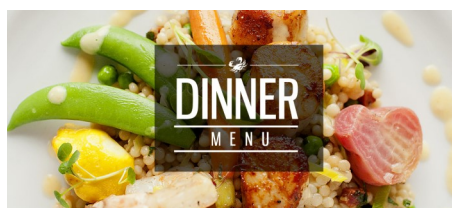
- Veal Marsala
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Eggplant Rollatini
- Rigatoni Ala Vodka\*
- Salmon

\*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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Oceanside, NY 11572  
516-234-4040  
Email: office@oany.org  
Website: 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>   |

#### Past Presidents:

- Paul Heller**  
2022-2024  
2016-2019
- Anthony Fulco**  
2021-2022
- Steven Lehrer**  
2014-2016
- Judith Deucht**  
2012-2014
- Joseph Monestere**  
2010-2012
- Anthony Rebaldo**  
2008-2010
- Peter Bacotti**  
2005-2008  
2019-2021

#### Newsletter

**E-Mail Blast:** Mark Cohen

**Official Photographer:** Drew Washton

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#### Office of Professional Discipline

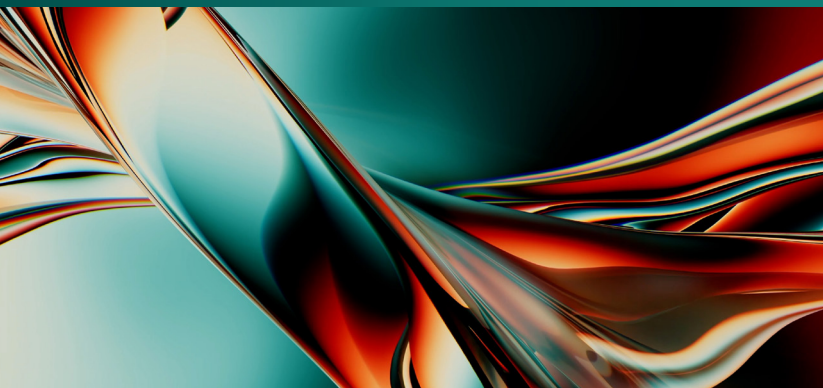
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### NYS Education Department

Thania Fernandez

Executive Secretary for the State Board  
In Ophthalmic Dispensing  
The New York State Education Department  
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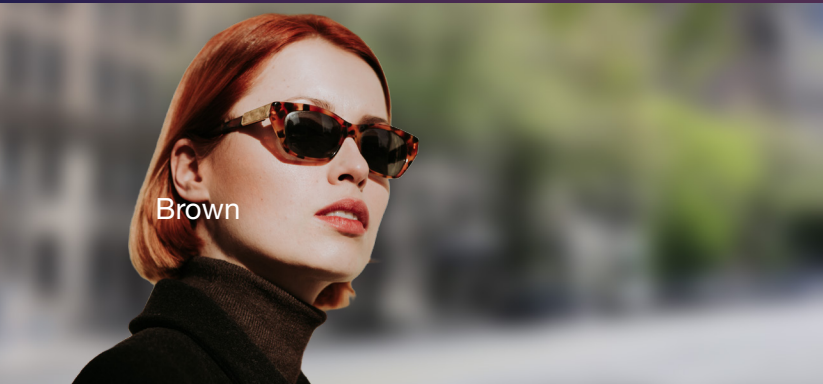


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# OANY News

## OANY Shirt Raffle



At our September meeting we were pleased to raffle off several our brand new OANY Shirts. Congratulations to the following winners:

- Scott Kornfeld
- Fred Rapps

## New Members



We would like to welcome the following new OANY members. We hope to see you at our Chapter meetings.

### Long Island Chapter

- Ralph Barocas, Plainview
- Devon Morton, Long Beach
- Lloyd Malsin, Woodmere

### Hudson Valley Chapter

- Maria Alvarez, Poughkeepsie
- Stacey Koch, Highland
- Jennifer Oberhauser, Beacon



## Winner of our 50/50 Raffle

We could like to congratulate Anthony Rebaldo. He was the winner of our 50/50 raffle at our September meeting.

See more OANY news on page 12

*(Continued from page 1)*

numbers to prove what a strong organization we need to be. I'm hoping to have some new updates at the next meeting.

Your board members are hard at work to come up with something special to celebrate our 20th anniversary next year. This is a great milestone for us, and we are looking forward to giving you the details later. I hope to see everybody at our next meeting on October 16th. To those members that celebrate, I'd like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Steven Lehrer*

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MEMBERS ONLY

# Pictures From Our Sept Meeting



*Left to right, Mike Sabia, Tom Polizzi, Mike Kwartner*



*Rick Miller, Stacey Forur*



*Drew Washton*



*Ralph Barocas, left, Gary Friedman*



*Lisa Greenwald*



*Joe Monestere*



*Wendy Hollander*



*Steven Lehrer*



*Paul Heller*



*Chuck Abramson*



*Alan Smith*



*Fred Rapps*

## *Thank you to our sponsor and our speaker*



Thank you to **Kevin Serfass** and Bolle/ Serengeti brands for sponsoring our September meeting.



Thank you to **Barry Santini** for presenting our continuing education course in September, "Do You Feel Like Your Life is Run by Monopolies?"



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## Jigsaw Puzzle

By The Old Geezer (AKA Peter Bacotti)



Once all the pieces fit together, the puzzle is finished. Does this mean that since the puzzle is now

finished there is no more for us to do? Well, that would be a sorry situation. What then would be the next step, would there be a next step? Since we all start out in life equally, except for those born with mental or physical shortcomings. It is what we will make of this jigsaw puzzle called life. This is what will determine the next step and where we will end up. If we put the puzzle together then preserve and seal it together and maybe framed it, we would have something and would be proud of it. Something to look back on and show off, something that shows just how hard it was but we still had the patience and perseverance to finish it. Life is a puzzle, a jigsaw puzzle that has many twists and turns to it just like puzzle pieces. Some of those shapes can be nice, easy, and beneficial; some of those edges can be nasty and leave a feeling of despair. It is up to each of us to make those pieces mesh and fit together. That is when we will

see the whole picture and know if we made it work. Sometimes a jigsaw puzzle takes days if not weeks to finish, why is it because there are more pieces to the puzzle, or the pieces are smaller. Sometimes in imitation of the puzzle life is more difficult and takes a little or a lot longer to put together and finish. However, there are times that everything gels and comes together for us, and we reap the benefits of our endeavors. I know there were times growing up that I wondered what it was all about and had doubts as to how it all would end. School was a trial of my patience to finish up with decent grades to move on and up, some subjects loved and some hated, but all had to be passed. How about when I moved out of my parents' house, got married, and raised a family. This was accomplished on a salary that would be a tip by today's standards. I hope no one thinks it was all a bed of roses, I know everyone in that situation suffered with their own thorns the way I did with mine. Thank God it turned out well and I can look back and be proud of all that transpired once we used that piece of the puzzle and it fit. Do not get me wrong, there is always good along with the thorns and lucky me the good far outweighs the bad.

Hey, that family I have is the best and I could not want more or better. Hey, I found the other joy of my life, Ophthalmic Dispensing and have spent more than 60 years at the labor of my love. Hey, I am still there or here and feel like I am accomplishing something every day to make someone's life better and mine is included. That will make that last piece of the puzzle fit the way it should.

The crazy thing about all this is that even when we feel the end is there and we are finished, we really are not. Who in their right mind is able and willing to sit or lie on their past laurels? I know I want to take a beating and keep on ticking; life is being able to start each day with a purpose and being available to make a difference in someone else's life. I want to be around to pick up the pieces wherever need be, thankfully, the optical profession has always been there for me with my family's support. Here is hoping you can finish that jigsaw puzzle and feel the way I feel, it is what life is all about, Alfie.

May everyone share in the joys of life as I have, that's life. Put that jigsaw puzzle together.

## Legislative Report and Other Important News in Our Industry

By Anthony Rebaldo, Legislative Committee

- it is now official. The New York State practical exam in Ophthalmic Dispensing has become virtual and those candidates who meet the education department's rules can take the exam at different test sites in New York State at times and locations specified by the State Education Department of the Professions in New York State.
- An Oregon optical owner took matters into his own hands. James and Dr. Laura Armstrong had a goal to find and retain qualified opticians. In 2016 James reached out to Portland Community College and pitched the formation of an ABO training program. It took time for pieces to come together, and the program started in the year 2020 and will help to expand the level of proper skill and training for the field.







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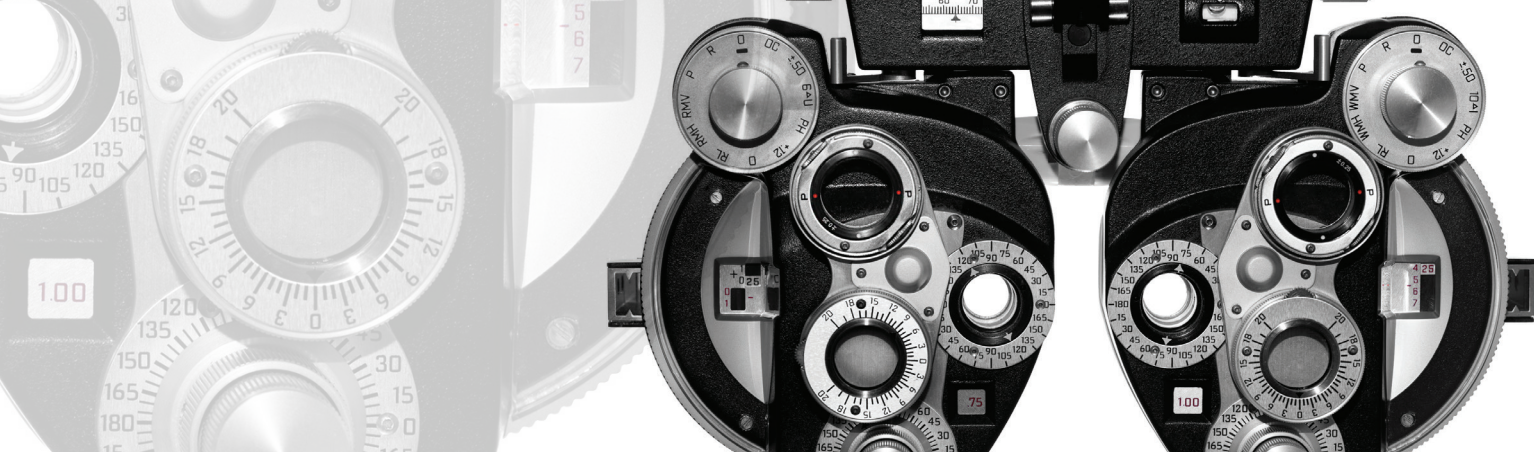


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# More OANY News



## Would You Like to Own an OANY Shirt?

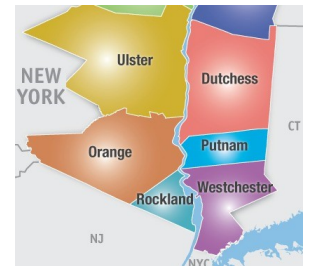
We are pleased to make available our brand new OANY shirt, pictured on the left. We have approximately 6 shirts left in sizes XL and 2X. The shirt is \$25.00. If you're interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Andy Cullen at [office@oany.org](mailto:office@oany.org) or you may contact any member of your OANY board.

## News From the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of OANY



From Lisa Tinson and Terri Netto

**Save the Date**



**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! Watch for our e-mail blasts as registration will open shortly.

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

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