

From the Registrar *continued from page 3*

Age Summary Report

	15-19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39		40-44		45-49		50-54		55-59		60-64		65-69		70-74		75+		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	A		
Active/Regulated	0	0	0	0	21	33	48	47	51	44	26	19	16	11	37	5	32	3	29	0	13	0	4	0	3	0	280	162	442
Cancelled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Courtesy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deceased	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intern	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resigned	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7
Retired	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total:	0	0	0	0	21	33	49	49	53	45	26	21	16	11	38	5	32	4	30	1	13	0	5	0	4	0	287	169	456



the communicator

Summer 2008

VOLUME 9 - ISSUE 1



A Word from the President ...
Shane Keddie, O.D.

There's a legend passed down in optometric folklore that suggests any time a college president feels smug about how smoothly their term is going he/she had better be prepared for all hell to break loose. While I am not prone to superstition, I would like to highlight for you this year's College priorities and activities.

Our primary focus for this term continues to be the update and modification of the Optometrists Profession Regulation. Through the persistence and tireless efforts of our Registrar we have had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Health & Wellness, the Hon. Ron Liepart, and various senior members of Alberta Health and Wellness. We have been assured that our requests appear reasonable and allow our College to regulate current competence standards while continuing to uphold our mandate of protecting and serving the public interest. There will be expected controversy with a few of the requested additions as the profession of optometry builds on the foundation of providing professional eye care to all Albertans. It does appear, however, that Alberta Health & Wellness is comfortable with change, as long as it is cost effective and in the best interests of Albertans.

The ACO has also joined the AAO in recent discussions about the possibility of establishing an Alberta based Faculty of Optometry. While the University of Lethbridge is keenly interested in aggressively pursuing a Faculty of Optometry, other government departments are suggesting that the new faculty may be a better fit at the new Faculty of Allied Health at the University of Alberta. There is little doubt that the four Western provinces will require additional optometric

manpower in the next several decades due to the demographic shift of our membership and our ever-growing population.

The one year Anniversary of the College and Association moving to our new joint venture location is this July. The partnership appears to be very rewarding and the staffs of both organizations are equally enthused with the ambiance and office space layout.

The ACO Council and I look forward to meeting all members once again at our Fall AGM to be held on September 25th, 2008 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

ACO Council

Although e-mail is the preferred method of communication with Council members, you may also contact any member of Council by telephone.

Executive Committee

Dr. Shane Keddie, President
Tel: (780)468-2020
skeddie@telusplanet.net

Dr. Mark Bourdeau, Vice President
Tel: (403)256-0606
markbourdeau@gmail.com

Dr. Gerry Leinweber, Past President
Tel: (403)346-1177
gerry@doctorseyecare.ab.ca

Dr. Rod Huszar, Secretary-Treasurer
Tel: (403)320-1144
huszar@visualef.com

Council

Dr. Lori Jaffray
Tel: (403)912-0999
drlori@gmail.com

Dr. Scott Poxon
Tel: (780)875-1700
wspoxon@telus.net

Dr. Stan Russo
Tel: (780)488-0944
therussos@shaw.ca

Public Members

Mr. Gary Christopherson
Tel: (780)338-2000
gary@wispernet.ca

Mrs. Gayle Stevens-Guille
Tel: (780)430-7962
gestevens@shaw.ca

ACO Office

Dr. Gordon Hensel, Registrar
Tel: (780)466-5999 or 1-800-668-2694
registrar@collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca

Mrs. Bonnie Sniedze, Adm. Assistant
Tel: (780)466-5999 or 1-800-668-2694
admin@collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca

Mrs. Betty Gill, Bookkeeper
Tel: (780)466-5999 or 1-800-668-2694

Alberta College of Optometrists
(780)466-5999
1-800-668-2694
admin@collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca

From the Registrar ... Gordon Hensel, O.D.

Recall Cards

I would like to remind all members that all postcard-type recall cards should be enclosed in a sealed envelope so that the only personal information publicly seen is the patient's name and address.

AHC Agreement

The Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) requests that all members contact the Alberta Association of Optometrists (AAO) should they have any questions about the appropriate manner to bill AHC under the original children's and seniors' AHC agreement or the new medically necessary (middle age group) agreement. Since the AAO negotiated both AHC Agreements, they are in the best position to answer your questions.

AHC Legal Opinion

All regulated members are required to have their own practitioner ID number and use it when billing Alberta Health for optometric services. You may not have two or more practitioners billing for their combined services under one number. If you work at several different locations, simply use your practitioner ID at these business facilities. Should you require additional information please contact practitioner services at AHC.

Continuing Competence Program

The fall on-site practice reviews have been moved up one month in order that they may all be completed in time for the committee as a whole to review at their upcoming meeting which is customarily scheduled during the AAO/ACO Annual General Meetings and Continuing Education Sessions. If you have been selected to undergo a random practice review this summer or early fall, we ask for your cooperation in making yourself available for the required 3 hour time slot in order to facilitate efficient completion of your review.

If you have any questions, please contact the ACO office or Dr. Gary Watson, Chairman of the Competence Committee.

ACO Annual General Meeting

The ACO AGM will be held at 10:15 am - 12:15 pm on Thursday, September 25, 2008 in the Monaco Ballroom at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. Please mark your calendars today. A complete information package will be mailed out to all members next month.

ACO Council Meetings

All ACO Council Meetings are open to members and the general public. If you would like to attend a meeting, please call or email the ACO office for confirmation of future meeting dates and times. All meetings are held at the ACO office in Edmonton, except for organizational meetings held before and after the AGM at various locations in Alberta. Please be advised that some portions of the meeting may be required to be held in camera.

ACO Website

The ACO website is in the process of being updated and should be operational by mid-July. To view the new website, go to www.collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca after this time frame to view our new website. In keeping with our policy of openness and transparency, the new website will have a vast array of historical and current documents which Council anticipates will assist all members and the public as well.

Continuing Education

As of the end of June, of the 210 members whose 3-year competency period comes due at the end of this year:

- 102 have already completed their required 60 CE credits;
- 32 require 0-10 CE credits;
- 42 require 11-25 CE credits; and
- 25 require 26+ CE credits.

Please review your enclosed CE confirmation summary report to determine your current status recorded at the ACO office. If you have any additional credits which are not contained in this report please fax, e-mail or mail your proof of attendance forms to the ACO office so that your individual CE roster may be kept up-to-date.

Internet or Mail Order Spectacles

Some patients may request a copy of their spectacle prescription to use to order spectacles over the internet. According to Section 5, Schedule 17 of the Health Professions Act, all regulated members must offer the patient a written copy of his/her optical prescription. The optical prescription is to include the patient's refractive error including, if appropriate, reading add, prisms and back vertex distance.

Most internet order sites also require the patient's PD and some even require a fitting height for multifocal lenses. Should one of your patients request their PD or fitting height, it is the opinion of the Alberta College of Optometrists that practitioners and/or their staff offer patients one of the following options:

- Explain in advance to the patient that these measurements are extra tests not covered by their exam fee; however, your office would be pleased to provide these measurements at no charge.
- Explain in advance to the patient that these measurements are extra tests not covered by their exam fee and your fee for providing the service is \$x. The patient then has the choice of paying the fee and having the service performed or declining to pay and going elsewhere for the service.

In either case, we ask that the performance of these services be treated the same as any other non-insured service provided in your office. This means that patients are to be advised in advance of your fee for the service being provided and allow them the opportunity to accept or decline the provision of the service.

It is also the opinion of the ACO that expired optical prescriptions must be released to patients and/or other health care practitioners as historical data, but may not be used to fill a new prescription. For further information on optical prescriptions, please refer to ACO Advisory OPCLS and Standards of Practice Guidelines 5.1.6 and 5.2.

Internet or Mail Order Contact Lenses

According to Section 5(3), Schedule 17 of the Health Professions Act, after completing all the services required to dispense contact lenses, regulated members must offer the patient a written copy of the specifications of the contact lenses. It is the opinion of the Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) that our regulated members will decide when all services (required to dispense contact lenses) have been completed and that neither they nor any other third party may dispense contact lenses until that time.

It is also the opinion of the ACO that expired contact lens specifications must be released to patients and/or other health care practitioners as historical data, but may not be used to fill a new prescription.

For further information on contact lens specifications, please refer to ACO Advisory OPCLS and Standards of Practice Guideline 5.1.6 and 5.2.