



ARKANSAS
OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION
Affiliated with American Optometric Association



2026 SPRING CONVENTION PROGRAM

May 7-9, 2026

Virtual Education: May 5 & 6, 2026

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
STATE OF
ARKANSAS

PREPARED BY THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
COMMISSION
DIAGON OF STATISTICS AND
ANALYSES
IN COOPERATION OF THE
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION



<https://arkansas.aoa.org>



Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas



501.661.7675



aoa@arkansasoptometric.org

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Welcome

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our 2026 Spring Convention in Little Rock!

Whether you are a long-standing member or joining us for the first time, we are glad you are here and part of this weekend. Convention is a wonderful time to reconnect with your optometry family, stay current with exceptional education, and take a well-deserved break from the day to day demands of patient care.

We've already kicked things off with four hours of virtual education, and our CE committee has prepared an outstanding lineup of speakers for the remainder of the weekend.

By the time you stop by the registration booth, our annual J.C. Beane Golf Tournament will be wrapped up. This event, held each year during our spring convention, supports student scholarships. We are fortunate to have several student doctors in attendance, and I encourage you to take a moment to connect with them and help welcome them to our professional community.

I would also like to personally invite you to the President's Reception at 9:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, and all members are invited to the Membership Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on Friday morning. While those events may feel only a few hours apart, we promise to have plenty of coffee waiting for you. I also encourage you to visit the Exhibit Hall and take time to thank our partners and exhibitors for their continued support - they play a vital role in making this convention possible.

If you are attending as a non-member, thank you for being here. I invite you to connect with a member of our Board of Directors to learn more about the benefits of membership - we would love to welcome you into the ArOA family.

It has been a privilege to serve our profession in this role for the past year. This experience has allowed me to work closely with our Executive Director, Matt Burns, and Debbie Henley, both of whom dedicate countless hours behind the scenes to plan, lead, and grow our association. Matt is nearing the completion of his second year in this role, and in that time, he has made a meaningful impact not only across our state but also by helping advance advocacy efforts that strengthen our profession nationwide.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It has been an honor to represent Arkansas on a national level. Let's continue working together to preserve, promote, and advance optometry in our state!



Julie M. Dolven, O.D.
President, Arkansas Optometric Association



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	President's Message	14	Speaker Profiles
4	Schedule At-A-Glance	17	Events
5	OD Schedule	18	Exhibitor Contacts
11	Tips & Tidbits	21	Exhibit Hall Map
12	Para Schedule	24	Industry Partners

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Reference: 1. Fogt J, Patton K. Long day wear experience with water surface daily disposable contact lenses. *Clin Optim.* 2022;14:93-99.
See product instructions for complete wear, care, and safety information. 

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Real VIZZ user

INDICATION

VIZZ is indicated for the treatment of presbyopia in adults.

The most common reported adverse reactions of participants were eye redness, instillation site irritation, dim vision and headache.

Reference: 1. VIZZ [prescribing information]. Solana Beach, CA; LENZ Therapeutics, Inc. 2026.
US-ACE-1552-v1 (v1.1) 02/26

 **V I Z Z**
(aceclidine ophthalmic solution) 14.4%

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:00 pm-9:00 pm: Virtual OD Education

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00 pm-9:00 pm: Virtual OD Education

Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:30 am-12:30 pm: J.C. Beane Memorial
Scholarship Golf
Tournament

2:00 pm-7:00 pm: Registration

2:00 pm-4:00 pm: AROA Board Meeting

5:00 pm-9:00 pm: OD Education

5:00 pm-9:00 pm: Para Education

6:45 pm-7:10 pm: Small Bites & Small Talk

9:00 pm-11:00 pm: President's Reception

Friday, May 8, 2026

6:30 am-3:00 pm: Registration

7:00 am-8:00 am: Membership Meeting/Breakfast

8:00 am-4:30 pm: Exhibit Hall

8:30 am-12:20 pm: OD Education

8:30 am-12:00pm: Para Education

12:20 pm-1:30 pm: Lunch on your own

12:30 pm-1:30 pm: Past Presidents Luncheon

1:30 pm-5:00 pm: Para Education

2:10 pm-5:20 pm: OD Education

7:00 pm-10:30 pm: Awards Banquet/Reception

Saturday, May 9, 2026

7:00 am-8:00 am: OD Breakfast

7:00 am-12:00 pm: Registration

8:00 am-1:00 pm: OD Education

10:00 am-11:00 am: AROA Board Meeting

Thank you
for trusting
us with your
patients!



A total of 20 hours of approved continuing education is offered.
16 hours will be live education. 4 hours will be offered virtually (COPE defined SYNCHRONOUS VIRTUAL).
Continuing education and this event are pending COPE accreditation.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 (2 hours virtual CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00-9:00 pm	Neuro Grand Rounds - My Favorite Cases by Chris Borgman, O.D. This grand-rounds style continuing education course will highlight approximately 9 unique neuro-optometry cases that the author has managed and used to increase his knowledge in the neuro- optometry realm of eye care. This course will review and discuss the pathology behind specifically chosen real neuro-optometry and orbital pathology cases that are not seen every day in optometry. An approach to review and use our vast knowledge of ocular anatomy, physiology, and pathology will be reviewed to best manage patients that may not present every day. New thoughts in the management and treatment of neuro-optometry and orbital pathology cases will be reviewed. (COPE: 102826-NO) (2 hours)	Virtual Zoom link will be sent to attendees via email.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 (2 hours virtual CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00-8:00 pm	Interesting Cases from Tornado Alley: Part 1 by Lindsey Bull, O.D. This course is the first part of a 2 lecture series that discusses diseases that won't walk into your office everyday- but will walk in one day! How do we best manage and treatment these patients? (COPE: 103468-SD) (1 hour)	Virtual Zoom link will be sent to attendees via email.
8:00-9:00 pm	Interesting Cases from Tornado Alley: Part 2 by Lindsey Bull, O.D. This is the second part of a two part course that discusses ocular conditions that may not come to the office everyday, but will come to the office one day! The interactive lecture aims to discuss optometry management of disease and emergency cases that may walk into your office any day and at any time! (COPE: 103469-TD) (1 hour)	Virtual Zoom link will be sent to attendees via email.

Notice: You must be registered for OD Education to receive credit for education hours.
Guests or volunteers not registered for OD Education are not eligible to receive credit for education.
If you have questions, please contact the ArOA office in advance.



ADVOCATE

The voice of optometry and eye care
through government relations.



EDUCATE

Deliver essential knowledge
to the optometric team.



ENGAGE

Provide benefits and services
to support member success.



PROMOTE

Increase awareness of eye health,
vision care and Optometric Physicians.

Thursday, May 7, 2026 (4 hours live in-person CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 am-12:30 pm	J.C. Beane Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament	Maumelle Country Club
2:00-7:00 pm	Registration	Wally Allen Ballroom Foyer
2:00-4:00 pm	ArOA Board Meeting	Choctaw
5:00-5:50 pm	Advance Tech IOLs: Right Patient. Right Lens. Right Expectations by Evan Newbolt, M.D. and James Hoffmann, M.D. Advanced IOLs offer powerful solutions, but only when the patient, technology, and expectations are aligned. This session helps ODs sharpen their approach to identifying ideal candidates, counseling patients on trade-offs, and setting expectations that lead to higher satisfaction. Attendees will leave with practical language and strategies to confidently guide patients through advanced lens discussions and support successful surgical outcomes. <i>(State Board Approved) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)</i>	Wally Allen Ballroom D
5:55-6:45 pm	Pediatric Ophthalmology Potpourri by Brita Rook, M.D. This interactive session will review a series of pediatric ophthalmology cases covering a wide range of clinical presentations. Attendees will work through built-in questions designed to highlight diagnostic decision-making and practical management strategies. The course offers a fast-paced overview of key pediatric topics commonly encountered in clinical practice. <i>(State Board Approved) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)</i>	Wally Allen Ballroom D
6:45-7:10 pm	Small Bites & Small Talk - Sponsored by Triad Eye Institute	Wally Allen Ballroom D
7:10-8:00 pm	Laser Vision Correction Update by Ted Penick, M.D. Discuss the current laser vision correction options. Will explore potential benefits and drawbacks of each technology. <i>(State Board Approved) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)</i>	Wally Allen Ballroom D
8:05-8:55 pm	Refractive, Cataract Surgery and Cornea Update by Ryan Conley, D.O. We will discuss case examples based on some of our most frequently asked questions related to cornea, cataract, and refractive surgery. In this one-hour lecture, we will follow a rapid-fire format discussing an assortment of topics including topography-guided refractive surgery, IOL technology, and surgical options for complex cases. <i>(State Board Approved) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)</i>	Wally Allen Ballroom D
9:00-11:00 pm	President's Hospitality Reception	Marriott 18th Floor Pinnacle



2026 ArOA Fall Convention

October 23-24, 2026

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Friday, May 8, 2026 (7 hours live in-person CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6:30 am-3:00 pm	Registration	Wally Allen Ballroom Foyer
7:00-8:00 am	ArOA Membership Meeting & Breakfast (ArOA Members Only)	Arkansas Ballroom - Marriott
8:00-8:30 am	Exhibit Hall (Exhibit Hall will be open 8:00 am-4:30 pm.)	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
8:30-10:10 am	Oral Medications in Anterior Segment Disease by Steven Sorkin, O.D. Oral Medications play a vital role in the treatment and management of anterior segment disease. Various classes of oral medications will be discussed with the use of case studies. Indications and contraindications of antibiotics, antivirals, pain medications and antihistamines will be discussed in this course. (COPE: 99896-PH) (2 hours) (Advanced Procedures)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
10:10-10:40 am	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
10:40-11:30 am	Helping Scars Fade: Innovations and Strategies in Corneal Scarring Management by Steven Sorkin, O.D. Corneal scarring is an inevitable outcome of improper corneal wound healing that leads to visual impairment. This course details the pathophysiology of corneal scarring with the use of diagnostic modalities. Case studies will illustrate applications of therapeutic, procedural and surgical approaches to optimize patient outcomes. (COPE: 104433-TD) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
11:30 am-12:20 pm	Corneal Side Effects of Systemic Meds by Steven Sorkin, O.D. Many drugs can damage the cornea, and drug-induced changes can range from asymptomatic deposits that are incidental findings during an examination to irreversible changes that can be life threatening. This can affect a single layer or multiple layers. This course will review some common (and not so common) systemic medications that can cause changes to the cornea. (COPE: 100181-PH) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
12:20-1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
12:30-1:30 pm	Past President's Luncheon	Quapaw Parlor-Capital Hotel
1:30-2:10 pm	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
2:10-3:00 pm	Recurrent Corneal Erosions- Not again! By Steven Sorkin, O.D. Recurrent Corneal Erosions are one of the most commonly encountered conditions seen in optometric practice. This course will discuss the etiology, medical and surgical treatments of this corneal condition. New research and treatment modalities will also be discussed. (COPE: 100180-TD) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D

Exhibit Hall

Friday, May 8, 2026

Open 8:00am-4:30pm

Grab a snack and explore the latest products, technology, and services shaping optometric care.

Friday, May 8, 2026 (Continued)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3:00-3:50 pm	Corneal Dystrophies 101 by Steven Sorkin, O.D. Corneal Dystrophies are very commonplace in the optometric practice. This course will review the clinical presentations and medical and surgical treatment of these frequently visually debilitating conditions. (COPE: 99899-TD) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
3:50-4:30 pm	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
4:30-5:20 pm	Arkansas Jurisprudence by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry This course reviews the Arkansas Optometry Practice Act and Board regulations, covering scope of practice, prescriptive authority, patient rights, and professional responsibilities. (State Board Approved) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
7:00-10:30 pm	Awards Banquet and Reception (*Must pre-register to attend. Awards and Board Installation during banquet. Reception Sponsored by Essilor Labs)	Salons B & C - Marriott



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innovation.
independence.**

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Saturday, May 9, 2026 (5 hours live in-person CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00-8:00 am	OD Breakfast - Sponsored by Triad Eye Institute	Wally Allen Ballroom D
8:00-8:50 am	Optometry Lasers 2.0 - Beyond the Basics by Andrew Whitley, O.D. This course will focus on various techniques and clinical scenarios that arise while performing YAG and SLT lasers. The intent of the course is to further equip O.D.'s with knowledge of how to handle the less common issues that inevitably show up. What do you do with an iris bleed during iridotomy? Can I perform YAG on an anterior capsular opacification? Is a laser lens required for capsulotomy? These questions and more will be discussed as we talk about the finer techniques of lasers. (COPE: 102452-LP) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
9:00-9:50 am	Vitreous by Andrew Whitley, O.D. This 1 hour course will shed light on the most overlooked structure in the eye. (COPE: 102453-TD) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
10:00-10:50 am	Optometry Lasers 3.0 - Laser Vitreolysis by Andrew Whitley, O.D. This course provides a comprehensive review of laser vitreolysis for the management of symptomatic vitreous opacities. Emphasis is placed on vitreous anatomy and physiology, historical development of laser vitreolysis, patient symptom correlation, review of peer-reviewed literature, and clinical decision-making. The course also addresses procedural concepts, safety considerations, reported outcomes, and current controversies surrounding treatment efficacy. The goal is to equip optometrists with a structured understanding of vitreous floaters and laser vitreolysis to improve patient counseling, appropriate case selection, and co-management decision-making. (COPE: 102494-LP) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
10:00-11:00 am	ArOA Board Meeting	Choctaw
11:00 -11:50 am	Intervention on Neuro-Op Cases by Andrew Whitley, O.D. This one hour course helps optometrists to think through the difficult realm of neuro-ophthalmology. Topics will focus on weighing symptoms with the clinical picture, recognizing patterns, and a deep listening and focusing on patient history. Beyond this, emphasizing inter-disciplinary care in these situations, prompt referrals, and strong networking relationships can be helpful in these concerning conditions. (COPE: 103627-NO) (1 hour)	Wally Allen Ballroom D
12:00-12:50 pm	Interventional Optometry by Andrew Whitley, O.D. This lecture introduces Interventional Optometry as an active clinical philosophy centered on purposeful intervention, innovation, and elevated standards of care. It explores how emerging procedural models within optometry parallel broader shifts in medicine and considers what it looks like to thoughtfully expand clinical impact. Attendees will gain a high-level perspective on the mindset, momentum, and future direction of interventional optometric practice. (COPE: 103862-GO) (1 hour) (Advanced Procedures)	Wally Allen Ballroom D

Partially supported by an educational grant from:



Important Information about Education Credit

For Arkansas licensure, in-state education may be approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry or it may be a COPE accredited event. Some education hours offered during this meeting may only meet Arkansas State Board of Optometry approval. All hours will still be listed in the OE Tracker system house by ARBO/COPE. If you need education credit outside of Arkansas, please consult your state licensing board to determine if the education meets that state's requirements.

You are responsible for capturing your attendance at the end of each class.

There are two ways to capture attendance:

1. Scan the QR code with your OE Tracker app on your phone or tablet.
2. Enter your OE Tracker ID on the device located outside of the education room.

Volunteers and staff will no longer scan your name badge to receive credit.

Your proof of education will be emailed to you directly from COPE OE Tracker.

Paper "receipts" will no longer be handed out.

You will receive a letter stating all of your education hours that you received credit for after convention.

We highly recommend that you download the OE Tracker app on your phone.

How to Download the App: Go to the App Store or iTunes on your iPhone or go to Google Play on your Android phone and search for 'OE TRACKER'. Follow the instructions to download the app. If when installing the OE TRACKER mobile app you are prompted with 'unable to download', or 'invalid software' you should update your mobile phone's operating system.

How to Use the App: After downloading the app, enter your OE TRACKER username and password to log in. We will post a course-specific QR code to scan at the end of each course to record your attendance.

To find out what your OE TRACKER number is or to set up a username and password, call ARBO at 704-970-2710 or 866-869-6852.

Convention Committee

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CE Co-Chair

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CE Co-Chair

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Exhibits Coordinator



Thanks to these great volunteers
for their time and effort to bring
this amazing convention to you!

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Silent Auction

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Silent Auction

Jessi Pearson, O.D.
Silent Auction

Cole Stanton, O.D.
Silent Auction

Jade Coats, O.D.
Speaker Liaison

Katy Hutchins, O.D.
Speaker Liaison

Mary James, O.D.
Education

Sabre Wright, O.D.
Paraoptometric CE

TIPS AND TIDBITS

Wi-Fi:

Network: AOA

Password: AOA2026!

Optometric Physicians CE Verification

All OD CE hours will be uploaded to the OE Tracker website. The ArOA will send official letters of attendance to each registered attendee. The Arkansas State Board of Optometry will check the OE Tracker website for attendance.

OE Tracker App & CE Verification

ODs can use the "OE Tracker" mobile app to record attendance at the courses to receive instant credit. Those who do not have the OE Tracker app can submit their OE Tracker information on the iPad outside the education room. You are responsible for getting your hours verified immediately after class. (see page 10)

Name Badges

Name badges must be worn to gain entrance to all AROA Convention events.

Course Handouts

Lecture handouts were emailed prior to the convention. You can also find them on our convention app. Download at <https://my.yapp.us/AROA>.

Education Etiquette

- Please turn off or silence your phones during CE. If you must accept a call, please step out of the room. Please respect others by not engaging in sidebar conversations during a lecture.
- Remember that there are over 100 people in the same room, temperatures of the rooms vary, and the best course of action is to dress in layers to combat cold or heat.
- If there is a problem, please contact the registration desk.

Paraoptometric CE Verification

Paraoptometric credit hours are verified at the end of each course. Paras should sign in or have their forms signed after each lecture. Attendees are responsible for submitting their own verification to Ark. ABO, ABO, and AOA CPC.

E-mail Correspondence

We correspond before and after convention via e-mail. If you have not received your e-mails regarding convention, please visit the registration desk.

Speaker Evaluations

Help us provide outstanding education and meetings by completing the online evaluation that will be emailed following convention.

Disclaimers

ANTI-TRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Arkansas Optometric Association, Inc. (the "Association") intends to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Under no circumstances will the Association directly or indirectly be involved in conduct that leads to or implies an agreement among its members that would restrain trade and/or otherwise violate antitrust laws. Any conduct by Association officers, directors, or employees that is contrary to the antitrust laws is contrary to the Association's policy. Any officer, director or employee found in violation of this policy, or the applicable antitrust laws will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

SPEAKER DISCLAIMER

The Arkansas Optometric Association (ArOA), its Board of Directors, Convention Committee and staff make no representation, warranty, or guarantee that the information contained in this lecture is error-free and will bear no responsibility or liability for the results or consequences of the use of this information. Any view of opinions stated with the context of a lecture is not endorsed by ArOA.

HOTEL DISCLAIMER

Checkout time is Noon. If you need late check out, please contact the front desk prior to departure date to find out availability and pricing.

COPE ACCREDITED CME DISCLAIMER

Financial support from commercial interests must be in the form of an educational grant. Commercial supporters cannot give financial incentives or reimbursements to instructors to impact the content of COPE accredited CE, including persons involved in the education planning activities.

SUNSHINE ACT DISCLAIMER

The Physician Sunshine Act, § 6002 of the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-748 (2010)) ("the Sunshine Act"), requires eye product manufacturers to report attendance registration information for any continuing education courses and/or meals or other items of value which are supported (in whole or in part) by grant funding from such companies. ArOA partners in the pharmaceutical and device industries have asked ArOA to assist them in gathering this information. In honoring these requests, ArOA will attempt to gather and provide its eye product sponsors with the information required by the Sunshine Act.

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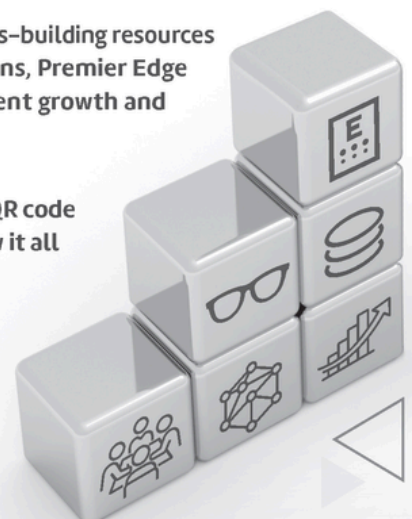
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Scan the QR code to see how it all stacks up!



Thursday, May 7, 2026 (4 hours live in-person CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3:00-7:00 pm	Registration	Outside Drew
5:00-6:00 pm	Eyes, Eyes, Baby by Tami Arnett The eye has so many parts and pieces that when working together allows us to see. Together we will familiarize eye anatomy and function, from the corneal windows to the retinal walls. (1 hour) (CPC) (ABO)	Drew
6:00-7:00 pm	Tools of the Trade by Tami Arnett There is so much information that we can get from patients with various tests performed in- office. Together we will go over the different tools used in the pre-testing and exam and why they are used. Plus we will get into various special testing used to diagnose and treat dry eyes, macular degeneration, glaucoma and more. (1 hour) (CPC)	Drew
7:00-8:00 pm*	Much Ado about Contacts by Tami Arnett Contact lenses have a surprisingly long history from it's first concept in 1508 to not-so-Science Fiction concepts of tomorrow. We will explore more about how contact lenses work, correction types, and discuss tips and tricks for insertion and removal whether they are hard, soft, or a little of both. (1 hour) CPC)	Drew
8:00-9:00 pm	Are Their Glasses Dirty or Do They Have Cataracts? by Tami Arnett If you live long enough, everyone gets cataracts in some fashion. Together we will go in- depth on how cataracts are formed, what kinds of cataracts there are, and how a surgeon can correct them. Paras with an understanding of all the minutia a patient could experience at all points of the cataract extraction process become assets to your office and patient with the ability to help answer questions and concerns of surgery. (1 hour) (CPC)	Drew

* A boxed meal will be served during the 7:00 pm class.

PARA SPEAKER



Tami Arnett, CPOA, ABOC

Tami Arnett, CPOA, ABOC, and office Sensei, is a certified paraoptometric professional, optician, and national speaker. She serves as Paraoptometric Committee Chair for Idaho Optometric Physicians and is an active educator at regional and national meetings, focusing on optical dispensing, practice management, and paraoptometric development.

Tami began working in eye care over 10 years ago with minimal knowledge about eyes or glasses. Starting as both a technician and optician, Tami quickly learned testing, scribing and selling glasses, and became certified as both a CPOA and ABOC in 2015. After serving as the technician team lead, Tami cross trained in the billing department — giving her a full perspective of how each area of the office functions and works together.

Her ultimate passion is teaching her young padawans and watching their eyes light up, whether it's under the slit lamp or when learning something new. Affectionately referred to as a "spazzy nerd," Tami is known for her fun facts, geeky toys, and awesome paintings.

Friday, May 8, 2025 (6 hours live in-person CE)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6:30 am-12:00 pm	Registration	Outside Drew
8:00-8:30 am	Exhibit Hall (*Exhibit Hall will be open 8:00 am-4:30 pm.)	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
8:30-9:30 am	Every Dolla Makes Me Holla by Tami Arnett After this super cool lecture, paras will have a jumping off point for learning how the world of third party payers works. From knowing what information is needed in order to submit and collect, to knowing how to address patient's out of pocket expenses at time of service, it pays to have a better understanding of insurance. When most patients don't know very much about their own plans, learning the basics can help a practice with long term revenue. (1 hour) (CPC) (ABO)	Drew
9:30-10:00 am	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
10:00-11:00 am	What Every Biller Wished You Knew by Tami Arnett There is so much more that happens on the other side of the fee slip once you record it for your biller - in this class we will look at "scrubbing claims", explanation of benefits for various insurance plans, write offs, corrected claims, appeals, and all those other terms that are a whole other language to everyone else. Fantastic for people new in billing or for those billers to brush up skills for all of us battling getting paid. (1 hour) (CPC) (ABO)	Drew
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Systemic Medications Affect the Eyes Too by Tami Arnett Eye exams are not just about ophthalmic prescriptions - various systemic medications can have an effect on the eyes and it's important to understand how and why. Understanding which common medications can affect eyesight, and screening patients for related symptoms, is an important step in ensuring the patient receives a complete eye exam. (1 hour) (CPC)	Drew
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch on your own	
1:00-1:30 pm	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
1:30-3:30 pm	Eyes have Layers, Ogres have Layers. End of Story by Tami Arnett Like Donkey talking to Shrek, it's all about the layers. Structures within the eye have their own layers - layers upon layers. Digging deeper into different pathologies of the eye, we will explore some less common to rare eye diseases and conditions. (2 hours) (CPC)	Drew
3:30-4:00 pm	Exhibit Hall	Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
4:00-5:00 pm	I have a THING and I Need to See the Doctor NOW - or do you? By Tami Arnett You answer the phone and your patient begins to spill all the issues they are having with their eye - how do you decide if this is an emergency? Urgency? Does their urgency match the office's urgency? We will explore signs, symptoms and questions to ask to help guide you to the best scheduling for you and your patient. (1 hour) (CPC) (ABO)	Drew
7:00-10:30 pm	Awards Banquet and Reception (must be registered to attend)	Salons B & C (Marriott)

SPEAKERS



Chris Borgman, O.D., FAAO

Dr. Chris Borgman is an associate professor at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. He earned his O.D. degree from the Illinois College of Optometry then completed a one-year residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease at the Illinois Eye Institute in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to joining the faculty at SCO, Dr. Borgman spent three years in a multi-doctor, private ophthalmology practice in Des Moines, Iowa, which specialized in primary care, ocular disease, cataract surgery, and laser refractive surgery. He is a member of the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Tennessee Association of Optometry Physicians (TAOP), and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

He has authored numerous articles published on the topics of various ocular disease conditions, and has also lectured in many continuing education venues, both nationally and internationally, on the topics of primary care ocular diseases, ocular pharmacology, ocular manifestations of systemic diseases, and neuro-optometric diseases.

Dr. Borgman enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters, and is a slow-pitch softball and baseball enthusiast.



Lindsey Bull, O.D., FAAO

Dr. Lindsey Bull is a Certified Ocular Disease Trained Optometrist currently practicing at EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa, where she enjoys utilizing the skills she has been trained for, including anterior segment laser procedures, in office surgical procedures and treatment of a wide variety of ocular diseases. In addition to her daily practice, Dr. Bull is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is active in the American Optometric Association and the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians.

Dr. Bull has received a number of awards including the American Optometric Association “Eyes on the Future” award, the “Golden Retinoscope” and the “Outstanding Clinician Award” both presented by Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, and was asked to present research on that she completed while attending NSU College of Optometry at the American Academy of Optometry conference. She was also published as the cover story in the October 2017 edition of Optometric Management.

Originally from Novi, Michigan, Dr. Bull obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 2008. Dr. Bull received her Doctorate of Optometry from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah in 2012, and completed a residency in ocular disease through NSU at EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa in 2013.

Dr. Bull enjoys serving patients less fortunate. She has participated and led three separate medical mission trips to Honduras, where she has helped provide eye care to over 2,500 patients. She is also a frequent volunteer in the Tulsa community providing her services in helping optometric students provide care to patients in desperate need. Dr. Bull plans are to continue to stay active and assist patients with their ocular needs in Oklahoma. She currently resides in Tulsa with her husband William Bull.



Ryan Conley, D.O.

Ryan P. Conley, D.O. is a board-certified Ophthalmologist who grew up in Pryor, Oklahoma. He attended college at Northeastern State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude, and was a member of Alpha Chi and Phi Theta Kappa honor societies. He then attended medical school at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing a traditional internship and ophthalmology residency at Oklahoma State University Medical Center, Dr. Conley completed a fellowship in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery at the renowned, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Conley has established himself at the forefront of advanced cataract surgery and performed Oklahoma’s first LenSx laser-assisted cataract surgery in 2012. He also performs refractive lens implant surgery (ICL, Multifocal and Toric), LASIK, PRK, and various cornea transplant procedures.

Dr. Conley is a frequent speaker at educational events for other physicians and the public and serves as a clinical investigator for new medications in FDA trials. He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, American Osteopathic Association, and Oklahoma Osteopathic Association.

SPEAKERS



James Hoffmann, M.D.

Dr. James Hoffmann is a board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in cataract surgery and comprehensive medical eye care. He is known for his attentive, patient-focused approach and commitment to delivering high-quality outcomes through advanced surgical techniques and personalized treatment plans. Dr. Hoffmann provides modern cataract surgery and a full range of ophthalmic services, including the diagnosis and management of eye conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic eye disease. He is dedicated to helping patients maintain clear vision and long-term eye health, ensuring they feel informed and confident throughout their care.

Dr. Hoffmann earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine in 2012. He completed an internal medicine residency from 2012 to 2013, followed by an ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute from 2013 to 2016, where he received advanced training in medical and surgical eye care.



Evan Newbolt, M.D.

Dr. Evan Newbolt is a board-certified cataract and LASIK surgeon. He is a highly skilled and detailed physician known for his laid-back personality and ability to relate to his patients. Dr. Newbolt provides bladeless LASIK surgery, laser cataract surgery, and traditional cataract surgery. He was the first Ophthalmologist in the state of Arkansas to implant a Tecnis Symfony® lens, a new lens to decrease dependence on reading glasses.

He provides comprehensive medical Ophthalmology, including diagnosis and treatment for a number of eye diseases like glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic eye care, and offers patients Avastin® Retinal Injections in all four McFarland Eye Care locations. Dr. Newbolt is a sought-after surgeon for LASIK in Central Arkansas. Having undergone LASIK surgery himself, he knows firsthand what his patients experience during every stage of their eye care. Dr. Newbolt was born and raised in Mena, Arkansas. He is an avid fan of the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Denver Broncos. He sees patients at the Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, and Little Rock locations.



Edward Penick, III, M.D.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Dr. Edward “Ted” Moore Penick, III, brings a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted commitment to eye care. After graduating from Little Rock Central High School, Dr. Penick embarked on a journey of academic excellence, earning his bachelor’s degree in biology from Davidson College in North Carolina. Returning to his hometown, he obtained his medical degree from the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, solidifying his dedication to serving the local community. Dr. Penick’s passion for precision and innovation led him to an ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he distinguished himself as Chief Resident. Board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, Dr. Penick is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the Arkansas Ophthalmological Society, and the Arkansas Medical Society.

With over 18 years of surgical experience, Dr. Penick has performed over 40K refractive procedures. His expertise spans LASIK, PRK, and refractive cataract surgery, making him a sought-after specialist in the field. Dr. Penick’s commitment to community extends beyond his practice; he serves as the medical director of Shepherd’s Hope, a local charity eye clinic, and serves on the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Arkansas. Outside the clinic, Dr. Penick cherishes family time with his wife, Jill, and their three children.



Brita Rook, M.D.

Dr. Brita Rook is a pediatric ophthalmologist and adult strabismus specialist at McFarland Eye Care. She is known for her compassionate, patient-centered approach and her ability to connect with both children and adults. Dr. Rook provides expert care for eye alignment conditions, including strabismus and double vision, offering both medical management and surgical treatment to improve vision and quality of life.

She also delivers comprehensive ophthalmic care, including the management of glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, and myopia progression. Dr. Rook was drawn to ophthalmology for its unique blend of long-term patient relationships and the ability to make a meaningful impact through both clinical care and surgery.

A Little Rock native, Dr. Rook is proud to care for the community she calls home. Outside of the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their two active boys, often at a ball field or court. She is a Razorbacks fan, enjoys group exercise and strength training, and loves a good book.

SPEAKERS



Steven Sorkin, O.D., FSLs

Dr. Steven Sorkin is the Director of Specialty Contact Lens Services at Corneal Associates of New Jersey in Fairfield, New Jersey. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from the State University of New York College of Optometry. He lectures extensively throughout the country and internationally on contact lenses, ocular therapeutics and corneal disease. He has a special interest in difficult to fit contact lens patients, such as those with keratoconus and post surgical cases and manages many patients with complex anterior segment conditions.

Dr. Sorkin currently serves as President of the Essex County Optometric Society and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians. He also serves as a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the International Keratoconus Academy. He is a Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society. He is adjunct clinical faculty at Salus University and the New England College of Optometry.

He was named New Jersey Optometrist of the Year in 2018 by NJSOP and Preceptor of the Year by PCO in 2025.



Andrew Whitley, O.D., FAAOMS

Dr. Andrew Whitley is an optometric physician specializing in medical, laser, and surgical eye care. He is known for his advanced clinical skillset and focus on delivering innovative treatment options to improve patient outcomes. Dr. Whitley provides comprehensive care for a wide range of eye conditions, combining medical management with in-office procedures and co-management of surgical cases.

Dr. Whitley's areas of focus include dry eye disease, glaucoma, cataracts, retinal conditions, floaters, and diabetic eye care. He also has extensive experience in refractive surgery consultations and has been performing Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) since 2017. Notably, he was among the first optometrists to perform laser procedures in more than one state, reflecting his commitment to advancing the scope of optometric care.

He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2013. During his training, he completed an ocular disease externship with BVA and refractive surgery training at TLC in Tulsa. He then went on to complete a 13-month Ocular Disease and Surgical Residency at Bennett and Bloom Eye Centers, where he gained extensive experience working alongside cornea, glaucoma, retina, and cataract/refractive surgeons.

Dr. Whitley is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometric Medicine and Surgery (FAAOMS). He currently practices at Tulsa Eye Specialty, where he remains passionate about expanding access to advanced eye care and improving vision outcomes for his patients.



Awards

2026 RECIPIENTS

James Hertzog, O.D.



Optometrist
of the Year Award

Zach Burroughs, O.D.



Young Optometrist
of the Year Award

Aaron Tollett, O.D.



Special
Service Award

Beatrice Reed, O.D.



Distinguished
Service Award

Creighton Simmons, O.D.



Distinguished
Service Award

Senator
John Boozman, O.D.



Lifetime of
Excellence Award

EVENTS



**J.C. Beane Memorial Scholarship
Golf Tournament**
Thursday, May 7, 2026
8:30am-12:30pm
Maumelle Country Club



AOP-PAC Silent Auction
Friday, May 8, 2026
8:00am-4:30pm

Wally Allen Ballroom Foyer



Small Bites & Small Talk
Thursday, May 7, 2026
6:40pm-7:15pm
Wally Allen Ballroom D
On Thursday night, we'll have
boxed meals for a light dinner.

Sponsored By Platinum Partner  **TRIAD EYE**
INSTITUTE



Past President Luncheon
Friday, May 8, 2026
12:30pm-1:30pm

Capital Hotel - Quapaw Parlor
Past ArOA President Only
Invitation will be shared
individually



President's Hospitality Suite
Thursday, May 7, 2026
9:00pm-11:00pm
Little Rock Marriott
18th Floor Pinnacle



AROA Awards Banquet
Friday, May 8, 2026
7:00pm-8:30pm

Little Rock Marriott
Salons B & C, Must Pre-Register



AROA Membership Meeting
Friday, May 8, 2026
7:00am-8:00am
Little Rock Marriott
Arkansas Ballroom
Breakfast served
AROA Members ONLY



Awards Celebration!
Friday, May 8, 2026
8:30pm-10:30pm

Little Rock Marriott
Salons B & C
Post-party with music & drinks!

Sponsored By Gold Partner 

Exhibit Hall

Wally Allen Ballroom ABCE
Friday, May 8, 2026
Open 8:00am-4:30pm
Check Schedule for Specific Times

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1. Euromonitor, 2022 data; Retail value amongst spectacle lenses category, brands representing progressive lenses.

2. Internal R&D simulations - 2022 - according to patient behavior. The extension of the near vision zone is based on the patient need/results on the Near Vision Behavior test.

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EXHIBIT HALL MAP

Booths

1 -Professional Computer Services, Inc. - Silver Partner

2 -Tixel

3 -Bausch + Lomb - Bronze Partner

4 -Tarsus - Bronze Partner

5 -Midland Optical Laboratory - Bronze Partner

6 -Central Arkansas LASIK - Gold Partner

7 -Carl Zeiss Meditec USA - Bronze Partner

8 -Optos, Inc. - Bronze Partner

9 -SUN Pharma - Bronze Partner

10 -CooperVision - Bronze Partner

11 -LENZ Therapeutics - Silver Partner

12 -EssilorLuxottica / Eye Care - Bronze Partner

13 -Essilor Labs - Gold Partner

14,15 -Alcon Vision - Silver Partner

16 -MacuHealth - Bronze Partner

17 -LKC RETeval

18 -Glaukos

19 -House Of Modo

20 -Essilor Instruments

21 -Shamir Insight

22 -Johnson & Johnson Vision Care - Bronze Partner

23 -rxotulsa - Silver Partner

24 -I-deal Optics

25 -Walman Optical

26 -AbbVie

27 -Unity Vision

28 -BioTissue

29 -Europa Eyewear

30 -Arkansas Artificial Eye - Real Life Faces

31,32 -McFarland Eye Care - Gold Partner

33 -Avulux - Bronze Partner

34 -TruForm Optics

35 -Modstyle International

36 -A&A OPTICAL

37 -Topcon Healthcare

38 -Designs for Vision

39 -Hoya Vision Care - Bronze Partner

40 -PECAA - Silver Partner

41 -VisionSouth Medical Solutions

42 -iCareUSA

43 -AmniOptix

44 -Heidelberg Engineering

45 -Arkansas Air National Guard

46 -2M Medical Solutions, LLC

47 -Triad Eye Institute - Platinum Partner

48 -David Spencer Eyewear

Exhibit Hall
Friday, May 8
8:00am-4:30pm

The exhibit hall is located in the Wally Allen Ballroom and concourse.

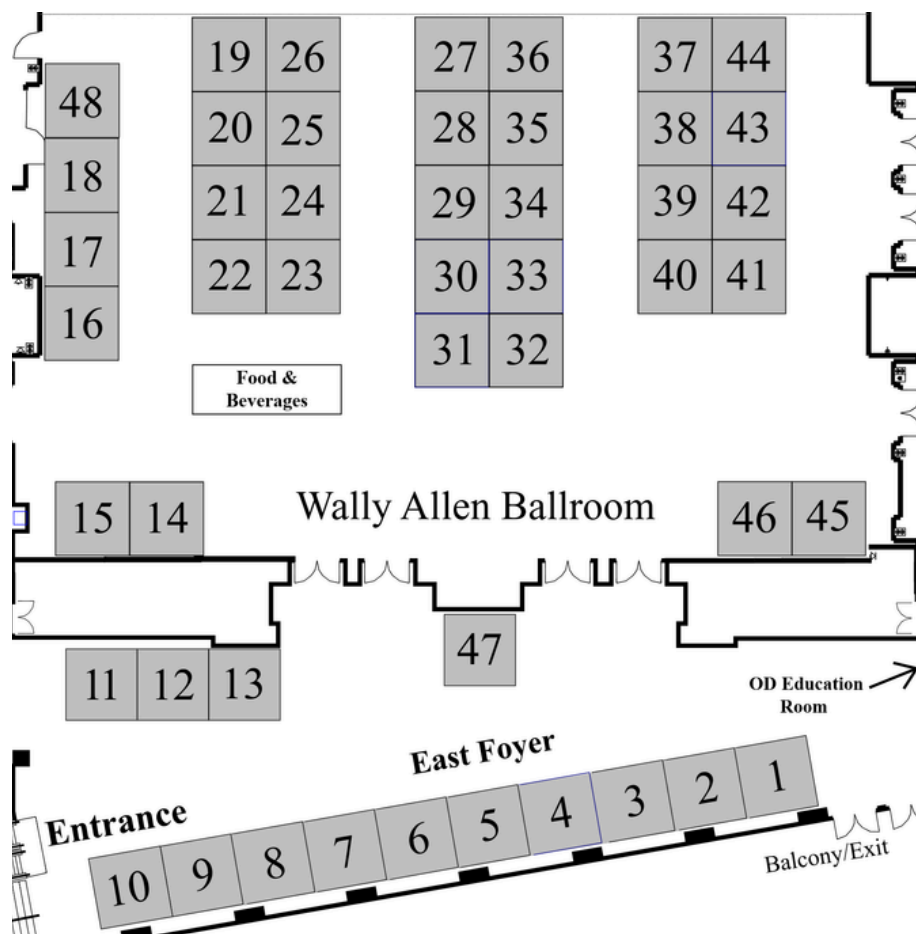
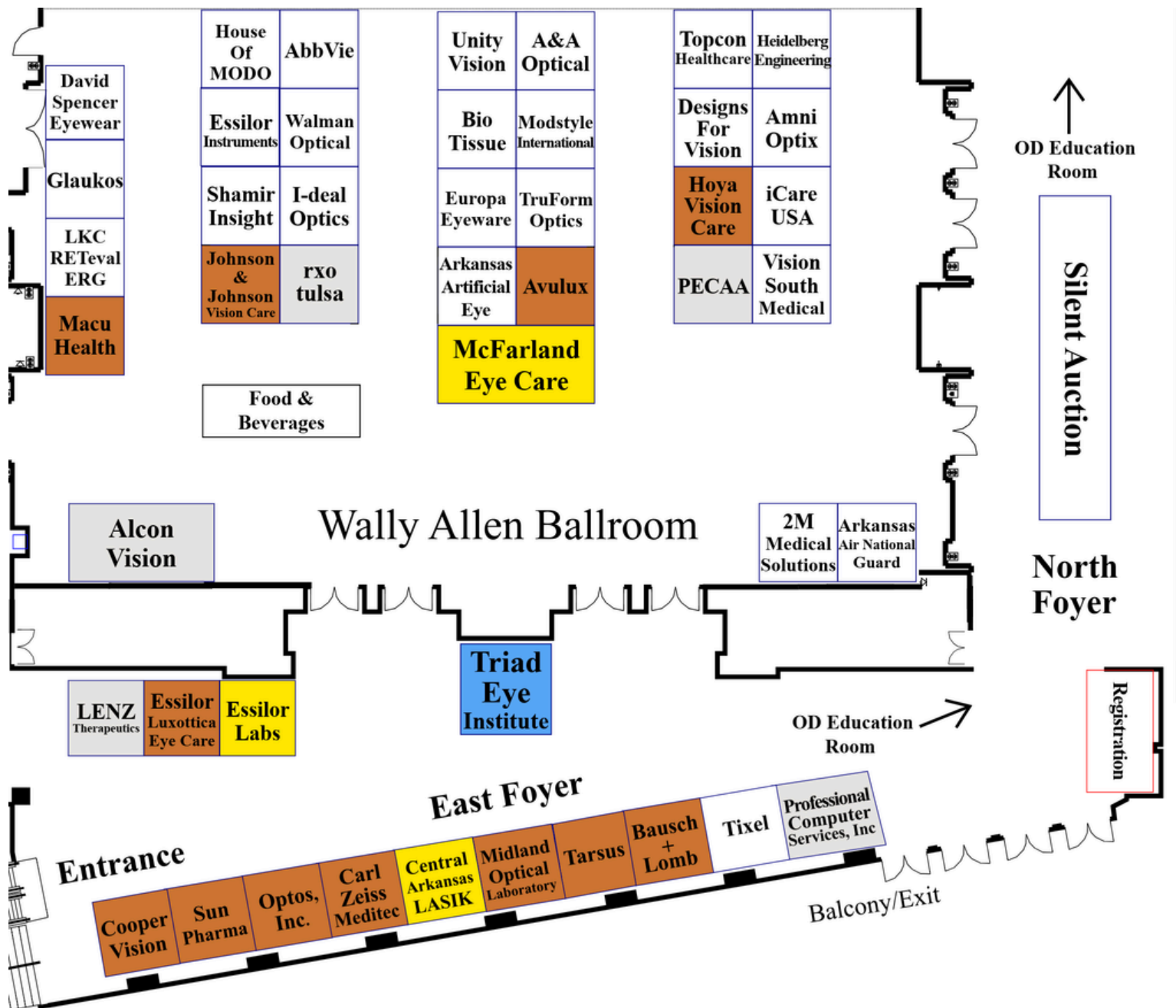


EXHIBIT HALL MAP



SAVE THE DATES

2026 FALL CONVENTION

October 23-24, 2026

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort

Hot Springs, Arkansas

OD Education: Features 12 hours of CE for ODs

Para Education: 5 hours of accredited education

2027 SPRING CONVENTION

Virtual: April 27-28

Live: April 29-May 1

Little Rock Convention Center

OD Education: Features 20 hours of CE for ODs

Para Education: 10 hours of accredited education

AOP-PAC

Silent Auction

Support the **Arkansas Optometric Physicians Political Action Committee (AOP-PAC)** by purchasing an item from the Silent Auction!

All items have been donated by AROA members and exhibitors and all proceeds from the sale of the items go to build the AOP-PAC account.

The Silent Auction will be open from 8:00am-4:30pm on Friday, May 8, 2026.

An opening bid price will be listed on the sheet. Open the bid by writing your name and phone number along with your bid. Outbid others throughout the night but be the last name on the list to get your item!

Credit cards, cash, or checks accepted!

Make a Contribution

Contributions can be made to **Arkansas Optometric Physicians Political Action Committee (AOP-PAC)** by stopping by the registration desk and making a contribution by credit card or check.

Monthly drafts can be set up at this time! Anyone may make a contribution to the AOP-PAC.



Arkansas Optometric Physicians Political Action Committee



2026 PARTNERS

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The Arkansas Optometric Association Industry Partnership Program was created to provide year-long collaboration between the association and industries. Industry Partnership funding supports non-educational expenses for the Arkansas Optometric Association. No industry funding will be used towards expenses related to any continuing education, including but not limited to, speaker honoraria, travel or related expenses, course development or filing fees.

