2014 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LETTER ASSIGNED: A  TITLE: To Amend Resolution #1877 Optometric Assistants And Technicians (Adopted 1990, Mod. 1995, Mod. 2005)

SOURCE: Board of Trustees

STATUS: Submitted to the Resolutions Committee

DATE: June 25, 2014  TIME: 8:00 am

Optometric Assistants And Technicians

WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association representing the profession of optometry has a continuing concern for interest in the training of suitable ancillary personnel; and

WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association recognizes its responsibility in the organization and development of training programs in these areas so that competent personnel can be trained; and

WHEREAS, in the public interest such training programs, in whatever institution, should have effective liaison with the profession of optometry through the appropriate American Optometric Association committee or council; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of formally educated optometric assistants and technicians; and

WHEREAS, the demand for professionally trained optometric assistants and technicians is increasing as optometrists seek to efficiently utilize their ancillary personnel in the delivery of quality eye care; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the curriculum for optometric assistants and technicians be appropriate for a variety of institutions, including community colleges if practical experience can be provided; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the duties of the optometric assistants and technicians shall be limited to mechanical and technical functions, not requiring the exercise of professional...
discretion and/or judgment which violate state laws and regulations and shall not in any manner represent an extension of optometric licensure to those not licensed to practice optometry in the state wherein they are performed; and be it further RESOLVED, that existing training programs be under continuous review by the American Optometric Association so as to advance the health and welfare of the public and serve the needs of the profession; and be it further RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association continue to support optometric assistants and technicians through the Paraoptometric Resource Center and through liaison with the Paraoptometric Section and the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification.

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS YOU CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: none.
Paraoptometric Membership, Training, and Certification

WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association (AOA) urges all eye care professionals to provide the highest quality eyecare; and

WHEREAS, paraoptometrics perform an integral role in delivering this care; and

WHEREAS, when credentialing healthcare providers, managed care entities are requesting information on the training and/or certification of ancillary staff; and

WHEREAS, the AOA Paraoptometric Section has provided continuing education for its membership paraoptometrics for many years; and

WHEREAS, the AOA Paraoptometric Section, in consultation with leaders in optometry, has developed three levels of certification with competency-based examinations administered by the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC); now

therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association recommends that all optometrists encourage paraoptometrics in their offices to become Associate Members of the AOA and active members of the AOA Paraoptometric Section and that they obtain appropriate certification through the CPC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association pursue ways to make paraoptometric education and testing more accessible at the state level.
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POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: 
___ none ___.


WHEREAS, brain injury including concussion often produces visual symptoms related to binocular, accommodative, visual processing or eye movement dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, optometrists have the unique education related to the visual sequelae of brain injury including concussion; and

WHEREAS, optometrists have the training to diagnose and manage vision disorders related to brain injury including concussion; and

WHEREAS, optometrists have the rehabilitative skills necessary to treat vision disorders related to brain injury including concussion (please refer to the American Optometric Association’s published Brain Injury Manual (2014) <http://www.aoa.org/tbi> (BIERM); now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association recommends an Optometric evaluation to determine the presence of brain injury-related vision disorders and to administer Optometric Vision Therapy/Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation including the use of lenses, prisms, filters and other therapeutic compensatory strategies for persons who have incurred a brain injury.

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