

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

GREATER BALTIMORE OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY

Affiliated with the Maryland Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association

Revised 9/94

Article I

Section 1. This society shall be known as the Greater Baltimore Optometric Society, and shall affiliate with the Maryland Optometric Association under the rules and conditions provided for in the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 2. The object of this society shall be to further a high standard of education, to keep abreast of advancements, to promote camaraderie amongst colleagues, and to safeguard the best interests of the Optometric profession. Also, to serve the public in regard to promoting the highest level of health and welfare, and education relating to our profession.

Article II

Section 1. Membership - Membership in this society shall consist of Active and Life members. All members must be desirable practitioners in good standing, engaged or retired in the practice of Optometry in Maryland, and adhere to the code of ethics of the American Optometric Association.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be made on the MOA forms, or by proposal by any officer of the society. The application shall be presented for ballot, and a majority of favorable votes of the members of the society shall constitute an acceptance.

Section 3. Privileges and Responsibilities

A. Active member - Active members must be licenses in Maryland, must practice or reside in the GBOS district, must maintain full membership in the Maryland Optometric Association, and the American Optometric Association. Active members shall have the privilege of the floor, and the rights to vote, be included in any rosters, receive any publications from GBOS, shall be eligible for office, and be entitled to any benefits and privileges of the society. Life members must be that of the MOA Life member status.

B. Continuing education may be offered at any meeting. All fully paid active and life members who attend such lectures may obtain C.E. credit. C.E. may not exceed 1 (one) credit per meeting. Credits must be received in person at the end of the lecture. Only one credit slip per individual will be issued. Maryland optometrists who are not Active or Life members of GBOS (and not therefore de facto members of MOA and AOA) may purchase C.E. credit at the current fee; the initial fee for non-members to be \$15.00 per credit hour.

C. Dues for active members shall be assessed annually. C.E. fees for non-members will be assessed annually. They will be sent in correspondence with the MOA fiscal year. Such fees and dues will be determined by votes of members present; no voting by proxy will be allowed. Failure to pay dues in a fiscal year shall be grounds for immediate expulsion. Dues for a fiscal year will be waived when the member presents a one hour C.E. program in that year or the previous year.

Article III

Officers

Section 1. Duties

President- The President shall: preside at all meetings; appoint committee chairpersons and members; shall serve and attend or delegate an attendee to the MOA board of directors; shall transmit to the society all business by the MOA board, and keep minutes of MOA board meetings; shall be the official spokesperson for the society; shall chair the education committee, arranging CE speakers, and submitting such programs to the Md. Board of Examiners for approval.

Vice-President/Secretary- This officer shall: perform all duties of the President in the event of the latter's absence or inability to act; shall keep minutes of all meetings of the society; shall transmit a copy to the members; give notice of meetings; keep accurate records on current membership; be reimbursed for any expenses related to duties.

Treasurer- The treasurer shall: keep all funds of the society, maintaining accurate records, accessing account upon order of the members or the President; keep a detailed report of all disbursements; keep a detailed report of all paid up members; be reimbursed for any expenses; and shall turn over all papers, books, and records to their successor.

Section 2. Nomination and Election of Officers

A. Nominating committee shall consist of the officers or a minimum of 3 (three) active members of the society. The committee must submit a slate of candidates for officers meeting the criteria of active membership, at the April meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor when the slate is introduced. All nominees must have been notified and have agreed prior to official nomination.

B. Elections shall take place at the May meeting, only by members present, and approval must be by a majority of votes. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

C. Terms of Office for all officers shall be one year, or until their successors are elected and duly qualified.

D. Should any vacancy occur in any office, the President shall have the power to appoint an active member, subject to the majority approval at the next meeting.

Article IV

Section 1. Fiscal year shall parallel that of the MOA, from January 1st thru December 31st.

Section 2. The income of this society shall be applied solely for the maintenance and promotion of its objectives, and subject to the discussion of the officers and the members.

Section 3. Dues shall be collected by the secretary, recorded and submitted to the treasurer. Bills will be issued on an annual basis and should be paid in a timely fashion. Amount of dues may be subject to change by a majority vote.

Section 4. Financial records may be audited by any officer or member upon written request to the treasurer.

Article V

Section 1. Meetings shall be held on the 3rd (third) Tuesday of the month, in the evenings, at an agreed upon time, at each month except for December, June, July, and August.

Section 2. Quorum shall consist of 10 active members for the transaction of business at any meeting of the society.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called upon by the President by instructing the secretary to send notices of said special meeting, stating the purpose, at least 1 week in advance.

Article VI

Alterations and Amendments:

The constitution and Bylaws may be altered or amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided said alterations or amendments have been presented in writing at a previous meeting and members notified.

All rules and regulations of the society may be suspended by a unanimous vote of members present as long as a quorum of ten active members are present, when necessary, urgent or important business would justify such action, and when such procedure is not prejudicial to the society.