

The Visionary

Ventura ∞ Santa Barbara ∞ San Luis Obispo

Winter 2015

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

2014 was a very successful year for TCOS and I'd like to take this opportunity and thank all of the board members for their outstanding help and fulfilling their responsibilities. All the board members are volunteers and work extremely hard for the profession and the society, please acknowledge their efforts at the upcoming CE meeting.

Looking back, we've had some amazing CE this year at venues such as; Santa Barbara Polo Club, UCSB and the Cliffs resort in Pismo Beach. Most recently in December, we enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with members and spouses at the Casino Royale themed TCOS Christmas Party held at the elegant University Club of Santa Barbara. The event was a major success, thank you to everyone who attended and helped plan the event.

2015 marks the one year anniversary of the updated TCOS web site, which I'm proud to announce, has been nominated for COA website of the year. The enhanced web site offers new features including the ability to register online for TCOS CE events and an updated classifieds tab allowing members to search for equipment/employment opportunities. Special thanks to TCOS Past President James Weitkamp for the addition.

The highly anticipated TCOS Winter CE event Sunday, January 18th will be at the Crown Plaza Grand Ballroom. The speaker list includes our very own TCOS Past President Rupert Chowins, OD! We'll have five hours of CE, TCOS awards as well as the swearing-in of the 2015-2016 TCOS board members.

I'd like to recognize Tri-County member Bob Pazen, for receiving the prestigious Fainer/Tauber Vision Care Specialist of the Year Award from the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation. He's the first optometrist/ophthalmologist to receive the award from the foundation. Congratulations Dr. Bob Pazen on the outstanding achievement!

TCOS is actively looking to fill some board positions for the upcoming year. If you'd like to enjoy some of the benefits of serving on the TCOS board, please contact me at skrommeod@gmail.com.

Kristopher Skromme, OD
President, Tri-County Optometric Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

TCOS SPRING CE 2015

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

SANTA BARBARA

CRC MEDICAL COMPLEX

TCOS SUMMER CE 2015

TBA

UPDATES

WE NOW HAVE PHOTOS FROM OUR
EVENTS! CHECK THEM OUT!

[HTTP://TCOSVISION.ORG/PICTURES/](http://tcosvision.org/pictures/)

2014 TCOS AWARD WINNERS

BOB PAZEN, OD

LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD

KRISTOPHER SKROMME, OD

OD OF THE YEAR

KATIE LOWRY, OD

YOUNG OD OF THE YEAR

Winter 2015 Continuing Education Event

Presented by:
Tri-County Optometric Society

Sunday, January 18th, 2015
The Crown Plaza Hotel, Ventura
Limited space available, Register Now!

Meeting Location: The Crown Plaza Hotel
Top of the Harbor Grand Ballroom
450 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura, CA 93001

RSVP: *Limited Space Available, RSVP Now!*
www.TCOSVISION.ORG
Or Melinda Thompson, OD at
melindathompsoncos@gmail.com

Cost: COA Members \$40
Non Members \$70

Payment: www.TCOSVISION.ORG
Or Make Checks Payable to
"TCOS" Bring Checks to CE event

Schedule:
7:30am - 8:00am **Breakfast and Registration**
8:00am - 10:00am **Randall Thomas, OD & Ron Melton, OD**
Current Trends in Medical Management
10:00am - 10:30am **Break and Sponsor Presentations**
10:30am - 11:30am **Paul Dougherty, MD**
Topography Guided LASIK
11:30am - 1:00pm **Lunch and TCOS General Meeting**
1:00pm - 3:00pm **Nathan Steinle, MD & Rupert Chowins, OD**
Most Common Medical Retinal Disorders



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LASER VISION

Alcon

NOTE: TCOS would like to extend an invitation for you to attend one CE event for FREE! Take advantage of this opportunity to receive complimentary CE and an enjoyable day in the company of your fellow optometrists. When registering, please indicate that you are using your complimentary one time meeting invitation. This is for COA members AND non members.

MENU

Breakfast

7:30am-8:30am

Breakfast Sandwiches

*

Freshly Brewed Fair Trade Organic Coffee

*

Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot Tea and Assorted Juices

Luncheon

11:30am-1:00pm

Grilled Mahi Mahi

Finished with garlic ginger sauce served with steamed rice & fresh vegetables

*

Wine Country Salad - hearts of romaine, feta cheese, caramelized walnuts & red grapes

*

Dessert

Black Forest Torte - a delicious blend of chocolate, cherries and whipped cream



Special Events Catering

Featured Speakers

Randall Thomas O.D.

Dr. Randall Thomas O.D. is an internationally known speaker in the field of ophthalmic medications. He emphasizes in the medical treatment of glaucoma and comprehensive eye care. He began practice in Concord in 1993. Dr. Thomas was raised in Boone, North Carolina and he attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He also received his Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina. He was the co-recipient of the 2014 Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award by the American Academy of Optometry for outstanding and sustained contributions to the Academy's Lectures and Workshops program. He has been awarded many other honors over the years. He has been an appointed member of the adjunct Faculty for Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Pacific University College of Optometry and State University of New York College of Optometry. He has lectured at over 250 continuing medical education conferences throughout the world and has published numerous articles.

Ron Melton O.D.

Dr. Ron Melton O.D. attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He is an adjunct faculty member for Indiana University School of Optometry, State University of New York College of Optometry, Pacific University College of Optometry, and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Dr. Melton served as a Captain in the US Army as a clinical optometrist at Hawley Army Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Melton has authored and co-authored more than 100 articles on eye diseases and eye care for peer reviewed journals and magazines. He is appointed to the Editorial Boards of numerous Optometric journals and magazines.

Paul Dougherty M.D.

Dr. Paul Dougherty M.D. was among the first laser vision surgeons in the United States to perform LASIK on an investigational basis before it was approved by the FDA in 1995. Since then, he has performed nearly 25,000 laser procedures. He serves as medical director of Los Angeles-based Dougherty Laser Vision, and as assistant clinical instructor of ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. He is also one of just 40 surgeons worldwide to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Refractive Surgery*. Dr. Paul Dougherty is also an authority on cataract surgery and other non-laser surgical techniques, including the new generation of implantable contact and intraocular lenses. Dr. Paul Dougherty graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania. He then attended UCLA Medical School, where he graduated first in his class. He completed his residency at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. He next studied corneal and refractive surgery as a fellow at the Phillips Eye Institute in Minneapolis. Dr. Paul Dougherty's research has been published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. He routinely teaches advanced surgical techniques, and lectures worldwide at universities and major ophthalmology conferences.

Nathan Steinle M.D.

Dr. Nathan C. Steinle M.D. is currently a part of the California Retina Consultants as a vitreo-retinal specialist. Prior to this Dr. Steinle began his education receiving his Bachelor of Science at Black Hills State University, South Dakota, where he graduated summa cum laude and was Valedictorian of the Class of 2001. He then graduated summa cum laude at University of South Dakota School of Medicine where he received his Medical Doctorate. Dr. Steinle did his residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Kentucky. He completed his Surgical Vitreoretinal Fellowship at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Steinle has received many honors and awards including, but not limited to: Chief Resident chosen by the department faculty, Wirschafter Outstanding Teacher award chosen by fellow residents and many scholarships and leadership awards. Dr. Steinle has been a leader in his medical schooling serving on many committees. He has been a part of many publications, presentations and projects as well as clinical studies.

Rupert Chowins O.D.

Dr. Rupert Chowins is the Director of Optometric Services for Pacific Eye serving multiple locations from Lompoc to Paso Robles. Dr. Chowins has been Morro Bay Citizen of the Year, the Grand Marshall of the Morro Bay Lighted Boat Parade, and President of the Rotary Club. He has held numerous other leadership positions including President of TCOS. He has earned multiple civic and professional honors. Dr. Chowins attended the Illinois College of Optometry as well as University of Michigan Department of Ophthalmology. He has certification by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Opticianry.



TCOS BOARD MEMBERS 2014

- **President:** Kristopher Skromme, O.D.
- **President-Elect:** Melinda Thompson, O.D.
- **Vice-President:** Morgan A. Ruiz O.D.
- **Secretary:** Teresa Mayhew, O.D.
- **Treasurer:** Dave Alford, O.D.
- **Past-President:** James Weitkamp, O.D.
- **Visionary Editor:** Morgan A. Ruiz, O.D.
- **Govt Affairs (CA):** Joanne Gronquist, O.D.
- **Govt Affairs (Fed):** Mike Boggs, O.D.
- **Public Awareness:** *Position Available*
- **Professional Affairs:** Lauren Tackett, O.D.
- **Membership Chair:** Katie Lowry, O.D.
- **Photographer:** Morgan A. Ruiz, O.D.

**Thank you to all of our
Sponsors!**

**We would love for you to
join the board!**



To Contact us for Sponsorships,
Memberships, Board positions or
Classifieds:

<http://tcosvision.org/contact/>

2014 Events!

Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club



UCSB

The Cliffs Resort: Pismo Beach



University Club of Santa Barbara: Casino Royale Holiday Party



Miotic Minutes

MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 4, 2014 GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 by President Kristopher Skromme at the Cliffs Resort in Pismo Beach

SECRETARY: (Mayhew) The minutes of the August 9, 2014 General Meeting were read and approved by the membership (Skromme/Ruiz)

TREASURER: (Skromme for Alford) The Union Bank checking account balance as of 9/24/14 is \$40,866.08 with \$8,751.17 in the Vision One Credit Union. The total sponsorship to date for 2014 is \$20,000! Great job to the board members who helped get speakers and sponsors this year. The 2014 year budget for expenses are \$26,420.00 and expenses to date are \$15,325.23. We still have the Christmas party to expense out for the year.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STATE: (Gronquist) Bills involving the COA

SB492: The COA sponsored bill passed both committees and got stuck in the Fiscal Committee. The COA pulled the bill at that time due to the skeleton that was left from the original bill.

AB1877: Sponsored by VSP. They want a section on California Covered so an adult can add separate vision coverage to their plan. The Bill went through the Assembly and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor.

AB1840: The School Vision screening bill to specify what type of eye chart is used at vision screenings. The COA opposed this bill due to the fact that we would like an eye exam not screening before a child starts kindergarten.

SB1172: The school vision screening bill that would require near vision testing. This bill passed but the COA opposed due to the fact that we would like a full eye exam.\

AB2418: This bill would authorize health plans to pay for early refills on eye drops. This was due to the fact that many eye drops are wasted when the patient tries to get the drops into the eye. This bill passed the Assembly and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor.

AB2533: Allows patients to be treated out of network if there are no in-network providers available. The out of network provider would have to agree to the same terms as an in-network provider. This bill died on the Senate floor.

Prop 46: The Malpractice Bill introduced by the lawyers. This bill would increase the award for malpractice suits and require random drug testing. Go to NoOn46.com for more information.

PRESIDENT: (Skromme) The president's council is being revamped. Kris is on the committee to update.

Upcoming events: December 6, 2014: Christmas Party and Casino night at the University Club in SB

January 18, 2015: Winter Meeting at the Crown Plaza in Ventura

November 7 – 9, 2014: Monterey Symposium with President's Council Nov. 9th

President elect Margit Craig is moving out of the area so Melinda Thompson will take over as President elect effective immediately. Morgan Ruiz will now be Vice President and Visionary Editor.

Katie Lowry will step down as Membership Chair in January.

The board has discussed cutting the number of CE events from four per year to three per year and increasing the number of hours for each event.

Adjournment: President Skromme adjourned the meeting at 2:06pm

Continuing Education:

Melissa Barnett, OD – Indications and Complications of Scleral lenses

Dilsher Doot, MD- Diabetic Macular Edema and Vein Occlusions

John Davidson, MD – Basic to Complicated Refractive Surgery Cases

Sponsors:

California Retina Consultants

AccuLens

NVision

Heidelberg Engineering

Oculus

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Mayhew, Secretary

WINTER MEETING THANKS

Sponsors: Review of Optometry, Bausch & Lomb, California Retina Consultants, Vistakon, CenterVue, Dougherty Laser Vision, Alcon

Speakers: Randall Thomas O.D., Ron Melton O.D., Paul Dougherty M.D., Nathan Steinle M.D., Rupert Chowins O.D.

Please take note of our upcoming TCOS Events and mark them on your calendar!

TCOS Spring CE 2015

WHEN: Saturday, May 30th
WHERE: Santa Barbara CRC Medical Complex

TCOS Summer CE 2015

TBA