



OANY Views

“New Beginnings”

- New OANY
- New Venue
- New Continuing Education Credits

The President's Corner

I sincerely hope you are all well and weathered the winter and pandemic. It appears that both are coming to a well, welcomed close. It is with great pleasure, and excitement, that I can state that our March 16th meeting will be held at a new venue! Trento Italian restaurant 1058 Broadhollow Rd., Farmingdale N.Y. Also, please note that we decided to move the day to **Wednesday**. Both changes were decided upon with the intent to freshen OANY up. The new location is

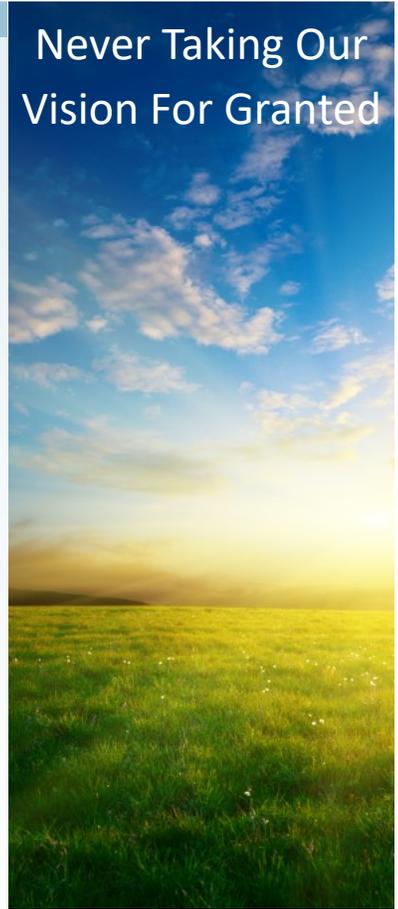
beautifully decorated, private, and provides up

“It is with great pleasure, and excitement, that I can state that our March 16th meeting will be held at a new venue! Trento ”

to date audio, visual equipment. The weekday change, we believe, will enable attendance of many who could not attend our Thursday meetings. Nothing is etched in stone, so we can revisit both decisions

if need be. We welcome your opinions. Barry Santini will facilitate the presentation for our continuing ed credit, so we are assured of kicking off the season with an informative, fun night. On another positive note we have signed on 10 new members since January! Hopefully all will attend our March meeting so we can welcome them on board. Many of you may have seen a poignant article in “The Eye Opener” NYSSO’s newsletter. Penned by Laura Frezza,

(Continued on page 4)



2022 Schedule	
Mar 17, 2022	Barry Santini
April	To Be Announced
May 19, 2022	To Be Announced
June 16, 2022	Tri-Supreme Optical
Meetings and sponsors subject to change	

**JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETING AT OUR NEW LOCATION
TRENTO RESTURANT, FARMINGDALE, NY
ON OUR NEW DAY OF THE WEEK: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022
SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR NEW LOCATION**

Speaker: Barry Santini
Presentation: The Opticians Punchlist:
Troubleshooting Eyewear Issues
CE Credit: 1 Ophthalmic Dispensing Credit

Continuing Education Speakers

- Dr. Joseph Bacotti
- Mark Cohen
- Herb Fletcher
- Joe Forte
- Robert Russo
- Barry Santini

Dinner Options and Schedule For Our March Meeting

Schedule of Events

7:00 to 8:00PM	Social hour, meet with sponsor (Cash bar until 7:30PM)
8:00 to 8:30PM	Business meeting
8:30 to 10:00 PM	Continuing education and raffle

Please note that no liquor can be ordered after 7:30 and no alcoholic beverages can be brought into the meeting room after 8:00

Salad

Trento Salad

Appetizer

Cavatelli Bolognese

Choice of Entree

Chicken Parmesan

Skirt Steak

Grilled salmon

Choice of Vegetable: Seasonal Vegetables or Sauteed Spinach

Dessert

Homemade Napoleon Cake

Coffee, Tea, Soda

- Dinner is \$50 per person
- 50/50 raffle optional.
- Please bring exact cash or check for dinner.
- Can't make dinner? Come for the CE credits!



General Information

- The Opticians Alliance of New York meets the 3rd Thursday of the month. Schedule, sponsors, and speakers are subject to change.
- It is the responsibility of all members to sign in at the beginning of the meeting. This means sign-in on at least 2 sheets and sometimes 3. You will not receive credit for the continuing education course if you are not signed in. Our CE provider and that of the New York State Education Department prohibit issuance of credits to anyone who has not properly signed in or has not stayed for the complete course.
- If you have received a notice that your membership has to be renewed, please send in your check today. Better yet, if you're attending our upcoming meeting, you can pay by either check or credit card. If you're writing a check from your business, we kindly request that you *clearly print your name on your check* so we can properly credit you. We regret that if your dues is not paid and up to date, you will not receive your CE credits.
- Donated gifts for our raffle are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged
- Check your e-mail daily or call any member of the Executive Board for updates to our schedule for our upcoming meeting.

OANY

P.O. Box 631
Oceanside, NY 11572
516-671-6883
Email: office@oany.org
Website: www.oany.org

OANY Officers

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Treasurer:	David Cohen
Secretary:	Judith Deucht
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Thania Fernandez
Executive Secretary for the State Board
In Ophthalmic Dispensing
The New York State Education Department
89 Washington Ave. 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12234
Phone: 518-474-3817 extension 180
Fax 518-402-5944



An Important Message to All OANY Members New Meeting Venue, New Day of the Week For Our March Meeting

Dear OANY Members:

As you know, your board has been discussing several options regarding our monthly meetings such as new venues and the meeting day. The idea is to gauge if another meeting day is more convenient for our members as well as a better venue location.

The Board of Directors of OANY is pleased to announce that we will have a live meeting on **Wednesday, March 16th, at Trento Restaurant in Farmingdale**. The venue is opposite Republic Airport on the West Side of Route 110. Please keep in mind that we have not yet finalized our permanent meeting day and venue. That will be left up to our members.

As with all other products and services, the price for dinner will increase by approximately 10% or \$50 per person. For those of you who have visited Trento, we're sure you'll agree that the food and service are excellent. We were fortunate to negotiate a reasonable rate and the additional \$5 is worth it. To keep the price reasonable for our members, OANY will be absorbing the cost of the gratuities. For those members who do not want to partake in dinner, you have the option to pay a \$10 "venue" fee.

Your board feels that this move is necessary to project a more professional attitude of our organization. We also hope we can attract more members from eastern Long Island to increase our membership. Look for additional announcements as we get closer to our meeting day.

Fraternally
Your OANY Board

The Squirrels

A Very, Long Funny Joke

This is a very funny joke. It's kind of long so please read to the end-Editor



The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Director. In short, the thesis is for professional unity to stop the proliferation of our license. Not only is this a great read, but offers all Opticians, regardless of affiliation, the opportunity to constructively act and participate in efforts to report license violations to the **"New York State Education Department and Office of the professions."**

I not only couldn't agree more, but sincerely urge you to participate in this endeavor. Laura has the ear and attention of the State Education Department which is

a huge step in being heard, as well as effectively reporting flagrant violations that need to cease. In closing, I look forward to seeing you March 16th. And remember, OANY **belongs** to you and operates **for you**, a cornerstone since our inception. We will always try to understand our constituency and grow OANY accordingly.

Anthony Fulco



Koos Van Witzenburg
Territory Manager
President's Club

CHARMANT USA
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Vision Coverage Covered by Medicare

Recently, OANY Legislative Committee member, Anthony Rebaldo, was in touch Matt Willette, Chief Federal Advocacy Officer for the American Optometric Association to inquire about vision benefits being covered by Medicare. Here is a summary of that e-mail conversation Anthony Rebaldo had with Matt Willette. The conversation has been edited for better clarity and content.

Anthony Rebaldo:

I want to thank you for getting back to me. The questions I wish to ask is on bill HR-4187 on providing coverage for certain vision items and services under part B of the Medicare program.

- Does this bill allow for a patient getting glasses to send into Medicare and get back something themselves?
- Can an Eye Care Professional who is a Medicare participant supply glasses and get paid or can any Eye Care Professional bill regardless?
- Is \$100 the price for a complete pair or can the patient pick out anything they want and then Eye Care Professional deduct the \$100 and bill Medicare the \$100?

I hope you can help on some answers to these questions. Thanks again for your time and help, Anthony

Matt Willette:

Hello, Mr. Rebaldo. HR-4187 would create a Medicare vision benefit directly administered by Medicare. Before I go further, though, I will say that the bill was included in early versions of the House version of the Build Back Better Act, but has since been dropped. So the likelihood of this becoming law soon is not good. Yes, only a Medicare enrolled ECP would be able to provide the benefit to Medicare patients. Yes, the \$100 for materials would be an allowance and the patient could choose something above the \$100 and pay the difference OOP (out of pocket)

Matt

Editor-as you can see, we still have a long way to go for this to become a Medicare benefit.



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Shower Thoughts

This month we present "Shower Thoughts." What do you think about when you're taking a shower? Here's a sampling. Thanks to Peter Bacotti for sending these. Do you have any "Shower Thoughts" you would like to share with us? Just send them to me and I'll publish them a future newsletter. E-mail to: moodymet@aol.com.



1. "Cellphones ended water balloon fights."
2. "A keychain is a ring invented so that you can lose all of your keys at once."
3. "If someday we get to a 3-day workweek, we'll be defined by our hobbies, not our jobs. Instead of being a lawyer who games, you'll be a gamer who laws."
4. "Vampires keep getting into relationships with mortals because they know they'll eventually get their inheritance, which is also how all vampires eventually become wealthy."
5. "There's absolutely no reason for the prey animals in The Lion King to be happy that Simba is born."
6. "You have matching underwear with lots of strangers."
7. "Having a sore throat is probably way worse for some languages compared to others."
8. "Some cars go their entire lives without ever touching another car."
9. "You only notice how bad Hollywood is at foreign countries when you see your country in a movie."
10. "Milking is taking milk but watering is giving water."

via Reddit

Legislative Report and Other Important News in Our Industry

By Anthony Rebaldo, Legislative Committee

- Vision Expo East in accordance with New York City law are required to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 by all participants as well as approved face coverings to be worn at all times.
- ONL therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company, raised \$46.9 million in funding for developing treatment to protect the vision of patients with retinal disease such as retinal detachment.
- Santinelli International is acquired by Advancing Eyecare. No financial terms of the deal were disclosed.
- Eyemed will pay \$600,000 to resolve a 2020 data breach that compromised the personal information of about 2.1 million consumers nationwide. In the breach, attackers gained access to an Eyemed email account with sensitive customer information that included consumers' names, mailing addresses, social security numbers, identification numbers for health and vision insurance accounts, medical diagnoses and conditions, and medical treatment information. Out of 2.1 million U.S. residents 98,632 were in New York state. The company also failed to maintain adequate logging of its email accounts, which made it difficult to investigate security incidents.
- Surgeon completes first successful implantation of wireless prosthesis brain implant. This is an intracortical visual prosthesis, an implant that bypasses the retina and optic nerves to connect directly to the brain's visual cortex. Was developed by multi-institution team led by PHD, Philip R. Troyk.
- Federal agents recently seized more than \$479,000 worth of undeclared contact lenses. Officers with U.S. customs and border protection and the U.S. food and drug administration found 26,477 pairs of undeclared, or mis declared decorative contact lenses, according to the release.



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During the Pandemic, we swiftly rerouted some production to PPE, offering much needed equipment to front line personnel, as well as ECP's and private citizens, and launched a virtual catalog for you to use with your customers. In short, there is nothing we have not changed and will not continue to change to better service you, our partner.



We are still true to our independence and are proud of our heritage. If you were a customer of Rochester Optical 5 years ago you simply would not recognize it as the same entity we are today. The change to RLab is, in part, to share our new and exciting story, to reflect the growing National nature of our business and to cast our ship definitively forward on this new exceptional path. In short, if you haven't tried the new RLab you really don't know *RLAB*.

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