

## OANY Views

- Join us for live monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and receive continuing education credits
- Socialize and network with your fellow Opticians and enjoy the camaraderie
- Special discounts from selected sponsors for members only

## President's Corner

**Editors Note: This** months President's Corner message has been written by Vice-President Steven Lehrer.

Our 3rd Sunday continuing educational seminar is now in the books and I would like to thank everyone on the board that worked so hard to make this happen. A special thank you goes out to Maddy, Alan and Andy who put in so much time and effort to make this a success. Another special thank you goes to our speakers, Mark Cohen and Andy Taddeo June with elections as

who both gave interesting, fun and insightful seminars. As Mark knows, everyone always has a great time

"We need your input as to how we can continue to improve our organization. "

with Optical Jeopardy. On May15, OANY will have our next to last meeting of the year. We will wrap things up in

we take the summer off to gear up and present some exciting things for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone with any concerns, questions or needs about OANY to please get in touch with any of our board members. We need your input as to how we can continue to improve our organization. Your words are extremely important to us. Without your help we can't move ahead. Everything is important, whether it be venue, food, speakers, or

(Continued on page 7)

# **Never Taking Our** Vision For Granted

#### **Our Mission**

The Opticians Alliance of New York is an independent, not for profit organization, established to promote continuing competency and betterment of the optical health professional and to provide a standard of excellence in the optical health care for the consumer.

#### **Tentative 2024 Schedule**

May 15, 2024	Round Table
Jun 19, 2024	To Be Announced
Sept 18, 2024	To Be Announced
Oct 16, 2024	To Be Announced
Nov 20, 2024	To Be Announced
Dec 18, 2024	To Be Announced

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETING AT DOMENICO'S RESTAURANT, LEVITTOWN, NY ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

Participants: See Details on Page 4

Presentation: A Round Table and Discussion on

Combating Online Sales

1 Ophthalmic Dispensing or Business Credit CE Credit:

#### Inside Our May Issue

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### Dinner Options and Schedule For Our May 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

#### **Appetizers**

Mozzarella Sticks

**Bruschetta** 

Salad Choice

**Caesar or Garden** 

**Entrée Choices** 

**Chicken Marsala** 

**Chicken Parmigiana** 

**Eggplant Rollatini** 

**Meatball Parmigiana** 

Rigatoni Ala Vodka\*

Salmon

\*All served with Penne Pasta or Sautéed Broccoli except Rigatoni Ala Vodka

#### **Dessert**

Cake

Coffee, Tea, Soda

- Dinner is \$45 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 Wednesday 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 516-234-4040

Email: office@oany.org Website: www.oany.org

#### **OANY Officers**

**President: Paul Heller** 

**Vice President Steven Lehrer** 

Treasurer: **David Cohen** Secretary: **Judith Deucht** 

**Directors: Mark Cohen** 

**Matty Koenig** 

**Barry Santini** 

**Alan Smith Directors at Large: Phil Feldman** 

**Past Presidents:** 

**Anthony Fulco** 2021-2022 Paul Heller 2016-2019

**Steven Lehrer** 2014-2016

**Judith Deucht** 2012-2014

**Joseph Monestere** 

2010-2012

**Anthony Rebaldo** 

2008-2010

**Peter Bacotti** 2005-2008 2019-2021

Newsletter

E-Mail Blast: **Mark Cohen** 

Official Photographer: **Drew Washton** 

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#### **NYS Education Department**

Thania Fernandez

Executive Secretary for the State Board In Ophthalmic Dispensing The New York State Education Department

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Phone: 518-474-3817 extension 180

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## Cany News

### It's a Busy Month for OANY

### Schedule of Events for May

#### General Meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024

- A Round Table and Discussion on Combating Online Sales
- Nominations for Election of Officers for 2024-2025-see page 5

#### Meeting, Monday, May 20, 2024

Meeting with the State Education Department in Albany

#### CE Event, Tuesday, May 21, 2024

 A fun CE event hosted by Younger Optics, Transitions Optical and OANY at TopGolf course, bar and restaurant in Holtsville, Long Island-see page 5

## A Round Table and Discussion on Combating Online Sales

You'll want to attend our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, May 15th at Domenico's in Levittown. Your board has a very special Continuing Education credit planned and this course will prove to be very relevant. It may be the most important course we've presented in quite a while.

The course, "A Round Table and Discussion on Combating Online Sales," will include 4 OANY members and the owner and founder of a frame manufacturer. You'll get their perspective on how they have successfully combated online sales in their office. You'll hear from 3 OANY members who work for independent practices, 1 who works for a big box location and the owner and founder of a frame manufacturer.

For more details and to see who will be on our round table click below.



(See page 5 for more OANY news)

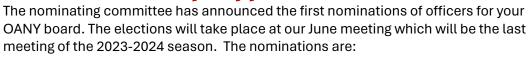






## More Oany News

# Nominations for Your OANY Board Election of Officers 2024-2025





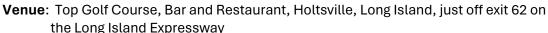
Steven Lehrer Mark Cohen Judith Deucht David Cohen President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Barry Santini Madeline Koenig Anthony Rebaldo Alan Smith Phil Feldman 2 Year Director 2 Year Director 3 Year Director 1 Year Director Director At Large

Remember, that you can nominate anyone you feel qualified (including yourself) for an officer position at our meeting, by mail or by email to the OANY office at <a href="mailto:office@oany.org">office@oany.org</a>.

## A Fun CE Event on May 21st

On Tuesday evening, May 21st, Younger Optics, Transitions Optical and OANY will be hosting a Continuing Education presentation. The CE is being underwritten by OANY. All OANY members are welcome to attend at no charge however you **must** register below. The details and tentative schedule of events are highlighted below.



Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

6:00 PM-Sign-in 6:15 PM-Dinner

6:45 PM to 7:00 PM-Welcome

7:00 PM to 7:30 PM-Information on New Transitions S

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM-Presentation: Technology & Benefits of Polarized Lenses

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM-Top Golf



If you have any questions, please speak with any board member. We hope to see you on Tuesday evening, May 21st.



## Our Condolences

Our condolences go out to Brad Polan. We were saddened to hear about the passing of his wife, Stacy.

## Pictures From Our Dave & Buster's Educational Event

## Congratulations to our gift card winners



Debbie Kakaris





Robin Fierkowsky



Sara Cuzzo







Mark Cohen presents "Optical Jeopardy 2024"



Andy Taddeo presents "Talk Saves Lives Suicide Prevention and Mental Awareness"

## OANY 4 Credit Educational Program at Dave & Buster's on April 15th

On Sunday April 15, 2024, OANY presented a 4 credit continuing education program at Dave & Buster's in Islandia. Breakfast was served to those who attended at no additional charge. We would like to thank everyone who attended to help make this a successful event.

We would also like to thank the following speakers who were instrumental in helping make this a success.

#### Mark Cohen

Optical Jeopardy 2024

#### **Andy Taddeo**

Why do We?
Talk Saves Lives Suicide Prevention
and Mental Awareness

Not only was Optical Jeopardy 2024 a fun and educational event, all in the audience participated. Each correctly answered question earned the participant money. The top 3 money winners earned gift cards and those winners got the chance to compete in Final Jeopardy and earn a \$100 gift card. We would like to congratulate the following winners:

Jay Cohen \$25 gift card
Ed Oriani \$50 gift card
Ken Mittel \$75 gift card

Though our winners were unable to answer the Final Jeopardy answer correctly, we raffled off the \$100 gift card. Congratulations to

Jim DeCicco

Thank you to the following sponsors who donated gift cards that were raffled off at our event

- Smilen Eyewear
- Eight to Eighty Eyewear

We would like to congratulate the following winners of the gift cards:

- Christina Isnardi
- Norma Velasquez
- James DeCecco
- Robin Fierkowsky
- Debbie Kakaris
- Jay Cohen

We want to thank the following OANY board members who worked very hard to make this a successful event.

- Andy Cullen
- Maddie Koenig
- Alan Smith

(Continued from page 1)

## T h e President's Corner

subject matter, please tell us how to make our organization more successful. The May meeting is shaping up to be another good one with a round table discussion. The last time we did this, we had some great input and comments to keep things lively. I would also like to mention something that I am finding hard to believe, that is OANY is quickly approaching our 20th Anniversary. Yes, that's correct, in 2025

we will be together as an organization 20 years. As we get closer we will give you more information. Everyone take care and see you May15.

Steven Lehrer



## **Opticians Alliance** New York **Membership Application**

150			
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- Opticians Association of America (OAA)
- · National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE)
- · NYSSO Which Region\_

#### What is the Opticians Alliance of New York doing for you?

- Providing access to free Continuing Education credits thru our regular monthly meetings
- Monthly Newsletter, Membership in OAA
- Payment Enclosed \$\_\_\_

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### What Am I? Who Am I?

By The Old Geezer (AKA Peter Bacotti)



Well, I guess I can answer that question easily enough. I am the old Geezer, a male sitting at my

computer trying to come up with something meaningful for anyone looking at my latest venture into the unknown. I would not call myself the greatest writer or the most knowledgeable on any given topic. I do have opinions and have been known to give them, whenever there is an opening in the conversation, sometimes without even waiting for that opening. After all is said and done, I start getting these weird thoughts that maybe I am wrong or maybe I came on too strong, or God forbid maybe nobody wanted my opinion.

The way things are, today we can only wonder whether we will weather the storm of inflation and make the changes necessary to ride it out to the next level. We should know one cannot sit back with their head in the sand waiting for a change of "LUCK." The answer my friends are up to you to make those changes in our approach and the way we deal with the problem. Everyone has been or is affected by that evil we call inflation. No matter if we are in the high or low-income bracket, no one is immune to the

outcome. That is where some adjustments come in handy enabling us to move forward.

As the person caring for the people in our community, we must realize that there are several of them in need of financial and or psychological help. I believe it is our moral obligation to do what we can to assist these individuals. I for one want to be able to go to bed at night with a clear conscience and rest easy. In the old days, we had a jar (container) for tips after adjusting, aligning, or minor repairs. The money collected we donated for a worthwhile cause in our community. In addition, old glasses accepted for collection when no longer needed were available for those not able to pay for a new pair. It was not unheard of to reduce cost to meet needs or even make the occasional free pair.

Over the years, I found that if you treat patients (customers) the way you would want to be treated. Kindness and charity go together, and we are repaid in many different forms.

Sometimes in a trade of service or remembered later when these less fortunate will return and be able to pay our normal fees. Some customers just need to have us listen to them for a few minutes when no one else is available. What a pat on the back when this person sends a thank you card or calls me with those

thanks. This is the type of person to spread the word and send their family and friends to us for care.

This all leads us to the rest of the equation, who am I, and what am I? Need I say I am a licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser (Optician) in New York who has served his profession in many ways over the years? Nay, need I say I helped found the Opticians Alliance of New York? Nay, need I say I was a teacher in our field, or served on the Ophthalmic Dispensing State Board for many years? Nay, need I say I served on the BVI Board for years and on and on? No not really, I was glad to be able to help those who needed it the most and would do it all over again. Maybe even find other ways of helping others in need.

I am still the same person I was years ago and would like to say that it was a good ride, hopefully to continue for a while longer. Maybe it takes longer to arrive at my destination than it did back when, but I am still available to assist all to the best of my ability. I would like to think more than one individual over the years has benefited from my experience including a few in our profession. My gratitude goes out to you the reader for putting up with me and knowing that so many of you do care and want to help others. Maybe there is a reason we are here doing what we do.

## Legislative Report and Other Important News in Our Industry

By Anthony Rebaldo, Legislative Committee

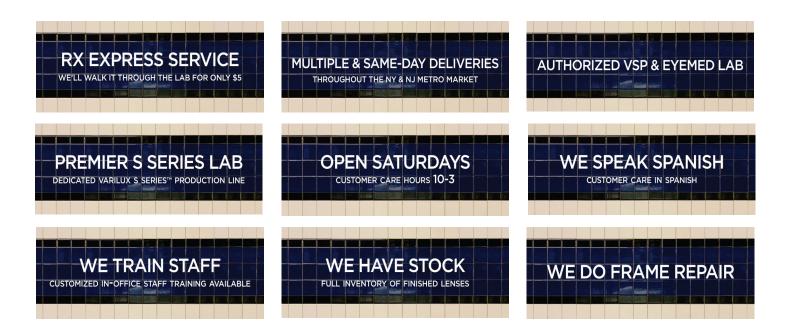
Prevent Blindness, the nation's leading eye and health and safety nonprofit
organization, launched a retinopathy of prematurity education and support program
that has offered free educational resources to the public and professionals. These
programs show retinopathy of prematurity on complications of preterm birth and or low birth weight of the
retinal blood vessels in better diagnosed and treatments towards severe vision.





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The Opticians Alliance f New York P.O. Box 631 Oceanside, NY 11572 516-234-4040

> E-mail: office@oany.org Website: www.oany.org



22 Gazza Boulevard • Farmingdale, NY 11735

Robert P. Lupo, Jr. Vice President

(800) 843-6999 (631) 753-9861 Fax: (631) 753-9864

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## AUTOMATED MERCHANT SERVICES

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