

OHIO CHAPTER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be “The American Academy of Optometry – Ohio Chapter.”

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this Chapter is to support the declared objectives of the American Academy of Optometry by:

1. Providing a forum for the members to keep abreast of the recent scientific and clinical developments in optometry.
2. Assuming the responsibility of leadership within the State of Ohio in the field of professional optometry, in the promotion and maintenance of the highest ethical principles, and actually working to provide the highest quality education in eye and vision care.
3. Aiding and abetting, by whatever co-operative effort required, groups, organizations, professions and institutions concerned with the increased visual welfare of humanity.
4. Recruiting all optometrists and others who are eligible for membership in the American Academy of Optometry.
5. To advance, promote, and support the mission, goals, and objectives of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The officers of the Ohio Chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. All officers, except the immediate Past President, shall be elected every two years and serve a two year term. The nomination and election of officers shall take place at the Annual Meeting. The two-year terms of office shall begin immediately after the Annual Meeting and continue until new officers are elected at the biennial election at the Annual Meeting. All officers, with the exception of the President, may succeed themselves. The Presidency shall not be held by the same individual for more than two terms in succession. If no qualified candidate can be identified to be nominated for the Presidency, or if a qualified candidate declines the nomination and there are no other qualified candidates to be nominated, the term limits may be overruled by a vote of the members of the chapter. A simple majority is needed to overrule the term limits. The President shall be the chairperson and the Vice-President shall chair in the absence of the President.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, and shall be chairman of the Executive Committee. He or she shall be an active/current Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. He or she shall appoint all committees subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. He or she shall perform the duties falling on the office and such others as may be directed by the Chapter.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall share in all correspondence of the Executive Committee. He or she shall perform such duties as the President and Executive Committee shall designate. He or she shall assume the duties of the President in his or her absence or at his or her request. He or she shall also share the responsibility of the Treasurer in the disbursement of funds by countersigning all orders, notes, or checks for withdrawal of funds.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Chapter and of the Executive Committee, conduct correspondence, notify members of the dates of meetings and perform such duties as pertaining to this office or as may be prescribed in the By-Laws.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall keep all money of the Chapter, and disburse same upon joint signature of the Vice-President; keep a correct account of all transactions and report them at each meeting, or when required by the President, and make a full and detailed report of the financial affairs of the Chapter, and shall at the expiration of his or her term of office, deliver to his successors, all funds, papers, and books relative hereto.

Section 5. The Immediate Past President shall serve in a consultative capacity when needed and provide advice to the Executive Committee regarding past practices and other matters to assist the Executive Committee in governing the Chapter. In the event that both the President and Vice-President positions become vacant, the Immediate Past President shall serve as Interim President until the election of a new President. The Immediate Past President shall also serve as the Nomination and Elections Committee Chair.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the Chapter between annual meetings and shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to it by the Chapter. It shall audit the books of the Treasurer. On all matters coming before it for action or decision, a majority vote of the Executive Committee shall prevail. It shall have full authority to act for the Chapter in any crisis or emergency. The Executive Committee shall also serve as planning and policy screening board to formulate policies and suggest plans; and to plan a specific course of procedure for the execution of policies of service.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee which the President shall appoint so that candidates may be voted on during the annual election

meeting. This committee will present a slate of at least one candidate for each of the elected positions on the Board at the annual meeting.

Section 2. If any office is vacated for any reason, the President shall be empowered to fill the vacancy by appointment until the next election is held at the next annual meeting.

Section 3. Officers shall take on the duties and responsibilities of their elected offices immediately following the election.

ARTICLE VI. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP shall consist of any practicing optometrist, who is a resident of, or practices in, Ohio, and have paid the annual dues of the Ohio Chapter. All members of this Chapter have the right to vote and may hold elected or appointed positions of the Chapter.

Section 2. STUDENT MEMBER status may be granted to optometry students who are in good academic standing at an accredited school or college of optometry, to full-time students in vision sciences and related sciences.

ARTICLE VII. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The annual dues shall be set by the membership at the annual meeting by two-thirds of those present. A member will be considered suspended if dues are delinquent ninety days after assessment, which shall occur on January 1st.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

The Chapter shall meet at least twice each year, at a time and place set by the Executive Committee. A complete report of each meeting shall be sent to the Secretary of the American Academy of Optometry. The Executive Committee may meet independently when called to do so by the President.

ARTICLE IX. DUTY TO THE ACADEMY

Section 1. The Chapter will make an earnest effort to induce all eligible and desirable optometrists to become Candidates for Fellowship.

Section 2. Expose students in schools and colleges of optometry to the American Academy of Optometry.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

This Chapter's By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Ohio Chapter by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those members in attendance.

ARTICLE XI. VOTING

Except as specified elsewhere in the By-Laws, voting upon any issues before the Chapter shall be decided upon a majority basis of the members present, or as specified in Roberts Rules of Order Revised.

ARTICLE XII. NON-PROFIT STATUS

This Chapter is organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of the 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. [This is a statement of tax-exempt purposes required under IRC Section 501(c)(3).] As a non-profit organization, none of its members shall be paid for service but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses on behalf of the Chapter. In the event of dissolution of this Chapter, any assets remaining after payment of its liabilities shall go to the American Academy of Optometry.

ARTICLE XIII. NON-DISCRIMINATION

No person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, religion, or sexual orientation, be excluded from participation in, be denied membership in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry.