Tennessee Paraoptometric Association

Outlook
Quarterly Newsletter

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Follow us on social media!
Keep up with TPA happenings and fun.
#TNPARAS

Message from our President

Happy New Year! I'm sure we are all happy to have a fresh start to a new year. A fresh start, a clean slate, a time of renewal and hope.

I am honored to serve as president of the TPA. Your officers are very excited about upcoming plans for 2021. We met for an officers meeting in November. Many ideas were exchanged and are beginning to be put into place. One of those ideas being this newsletter, Outlook. We are committing to reaching out across the state, to connect Paras in all offices to inform and invite participation. As we grow our organization, we become a stronger force in being recognized as the healthcare professionals we are.

Newly elected TAOP president, Dr. Tom Graves, and I have been in discussion on how we can bring both organizations together, and are planning joint education opportunities. Dr. Graves expressed interest in having CE to prepare us for scope of practice expansion. It is exciting to hear his appreciation for Paras and what we bring to the profession.

Our yearly Congress will be October 14-17, 2021 We are preparing for on-site meetings. As we prepare for our annual conference, we want to offer YOU an opportunity to tell us what CE you would like, as well as speakers you have heard and would like to hear again. Please see the “Call for courses” section on page 3 of this newsletter.

There is much more information to share with you. Please continue to read the complete newsletter. Let us hear from you with your feedback and ideas. Looking forward to a great 2021!

Blessings,
Melanie Jenkins, CPO
melanie@springhilleyecare.com
Meet the board for 2021-2022

Melanie Jenkins, CPO
President
melanie@springhilleyecare.com

Melanie has been in the eyecare profession for 13 years. She began her optical career as a Paraoptometric Technician and is now the Office Manager at Spring Hill Eyecare.

Earning her CPO certification through the AOA she also completed the Optometry Office Managers Certification through Houston College of Optometry. Previous recipient of Tennessee Para of the year, Para of the Year, Southeast region, and the AOA Para of the Year.

Melanie has previously served the TPA as President and as board member.

Heather Atliff
Vice President
heather@drtammyhjones.net

Heather began her optical career as a paraoptometric technician in 2013. Heather is currently using her paraoptometric skills in the capacity of optician, where upon completing her apprenticeship, she hopes to become a Licensed Dispensing Optician.

Heather has previously served the TPA as Treasurer.

Amie Robinson, ABOC, CPOA
Secretary
amierobinson2020@outlook.com

Amie's career began nearly 30 years ago as a cashier and file clerk. She is now the Optical Manager at Spring Hill Eyecare.

Amie does freelance work with AOA's Continuing Education Review Committee, as well as, the CPOA Standard Setting in partnership with Professional Testing Corporation.

Amie is new to the TPA board.

Donna Hyder-Rogers
Treasurer
donna@drtammyhjones.net

Donna Mae began her optical career several years ago as a receptionist in a private practice in St Charles, Missouri. Upon moving back to east Tennessee she reconveined her carrer as a paraoptometric technician and has since transitioned into a position as a scheduling coordinator.

Donna Mae is new to the TPA board.
Call for courses for October 2021 Congress

Call for courses simply means, let us know what you want/need and we will proceed to research classes and speakers that match those request. These submissions can be sent to any of the officers at the contact information. Deadline for submitting request is March 31st.

Are you ready to get involved in TPA?
There are many positions available!

These positions offer a way to ease into the TPA. All it requires is time and desire. Guidance is always available from our more senior volunteers.

Currently, we are seeking assistance with the following committees:

- Education Committee
- Public Relations
- Special Awards

Reach out to any of the board members, on page 2 for information, or to sign up.

1. The TPA now has a button on the TAOP webpage. Information and updates will be added periodically.

2. Every Wednesday there is a Wondering Wednesday question posted to the Tennessee Paraoptometric Association, Facebook page. All the questions are taken from the AOA’s Self Study Guide for Paraoptometric Assistants and Technicians. The answers to these questions are posted on Thursday.