



## National Association of VA Optometrists ♦ NAVAO

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Dear Fellow VA Optometrist:

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The National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists (NAVAO) welcomes you to our organization! The NAVAO is a private, non-profit organization of VA optometrists founded in 1977. The objectives of the NAVAO are to encourage and promote the best possible eye care for our nation's veterans; to promote the education, training, professional growth, and welfare of our optometric staff, research fellows, residents, and students; and to foster camaraderie among VA optometrists.

There is a monthly VA Optometry Service Conference Call, which is open to all VA optometrists and moderated by the Director of the VA Optometry Service, Dr. John Townsend. It is held at 3:00PM (Eastern Time) on the third Friday of every month. The conference call agenda is emailed to all VA optometrists prior to the call. The conference call number is 1-800-767-1750, access code 16019. Minutes of this conference call are an exclusive benefit available to NAVAO members. The minutes and all attachments are published to the members' area of the NAVAO website shortly after each conference call.

NAVAO holds its annual business meeting and dinner on a Thursday evening in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) conference. All members are given a discounted rate for the event, which includes food and drinks. Announcements about the dinner meeting are posted to the website and emailed to members as the date approaches. The meeting is a great opportunity to network and meet fellow VA optometrists. We hope you'll visit the photo gallery to see images from past events!

Please take a moment to look through the NAVAO website.

On the [www.NAVAo.org](http://www.NAVAo.org) website, you will find an abundance of resources we hope you will find useful and informative.

On the website, you will find our quarterly newsletter, Optimum VA. We encourages all members to contribute, whether it is an interesting clinical case or any other news that you would like to share with the membership. You will find an archive of our newsletters in the "Newsletters" section of the website.

Miss a conference call or Optometry Service email? Not only are minutes from the monthly VA Optometry Service Conference Call available, you may also find minutes and information for the annual NAVAO meeting, C&P workgroup, Contact

lens workgroup, Low vision workgroup, TBI workgroup and Access to Care workgroup. The Optometry HQ section of the website is updated regularly with news and announcements relative to VA Optometry.

NAVAO Members also have free access to NAVAO sponsored COPE-approved continuing education. You will find these courses along with other COPE approved courses in the Continuing Education section of the website.

There are several FAQ sheets available to members in the FAQ section. Answers to questions about the Advanced Competency in Medical Optometry (ACMO) exam, VA promotion process for VA optometrists and more can be found online.

There are also many directives, handbooks, and guidelines that deal with how we practice optometry in the VA. Need to know who is eligible for eye glasses, low vision devices, or how large a panel size an optometrist should be expected to see?

We have several resources posted in the Member Resources section of the NAVAO website. These include basic information about NAVAO and VA optometry along with links to useful groups within VA Eyecare, Handbooks and Regulations and more. One such link is the VA Optometry Service Directory in case you need to get in contact with another VA optometrist: [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/Service\\_Directory.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/Service_Directory.asp). Please make sure your listing is correct.

Thank you for the outstanding care you will provide to our nation's veterans and thank you for supporting NAVAO!

Kind regards,



Kevin J. Mercado, OD, FAAO  
President, NAVAO

