

# **NEW YORK STATE OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

## **PURPOSE**

The NYSOA Optometrist of the Year Award is intended to recognize a deserving optometrist for performance of outstanding services on behalf of the profession and to the visual welfare of the public. The American Optometric Association recognizes a national Optometrist of the Year at its Annual Congress. A State Association's Optometrist of the Year may be nominated for national recognition.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. The nominee must be an NYSOA member in good standing.
2. The nominee must be nominated by his or her respective local affiliate optometric society. Local affiliate optometric societies are limited to one nominee per year.

## **CRITERIA USED TO JUDGE NOMINEES FOR OD OF THE YEAR**

### **I. PUBLIC SERVICE**

1. To the country, state or other political subdivision in any capacity.
2. To education and/or the educational system.
3. To their community.
4. To religious or service organizations.
5. To philanthropic or charitable causes.

### **II. SERVICE TO THE VISUAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC**

6. With sight-saving groups (e.g. VISION USA, VOSH, Lions Clubs, etc.).
7. Involvement with legislative activities beneficial to the visual welfare of the public.
8. Participation in governmental health care programs.
9. Participation in public service programs such as vision screening projects, etc.

### **III. SERVICE IN OPTOMETRY**

10. Contributions of personal time and effort on behalf of the profession's advancement.

### **IV. SERVICE TO THE AOA, NYSOA AND LOCAL AFFILIATE SOCIETY**

11. Service as an officer, committee chair or member, etc.
12. Promotion of the association's goals and programs.
13. Activity in support of the association's projects.
14. Involvement in public information activities.

Nominations should be accompanied by a statement addressing the categories presented in the eligibility criteria. Not every category is applicable to every nominee. Categories that are not applicable may be skipped. Specific information should be included in the statement to support the nominee's qualifications. The statement should explain the nature of the nominee's contribution based on their optometric career to date, not just the accomplishments of the past year. Supplemental information (e.g. curricula vitae, letters of recommendations, copies of newspaper/journal articles) may accompany the nomination. The nomination statement may not exceed 2,000 words and should be concise, clear and complete.

### **Past Recipients**

#### 1970s – 1990s

This award was presented for the first time in 1970 to Dr. Harold Greene. The 1971 recipient was Congressman Donald J. Mitchell. This award has also been presented to Dr. V. Peter Mastrococco, Dr. Frank Field, Dr. Stephen S. Solomon, Dr. Richard Hobart, Dr. Harvey West, Dr. Paul Grattan, Dr. Robert Bloom, Dr. Alexander Crinzi, Dr. Alden N. Haffner, Dr. Earl Golden, and Dr. William T. Ling. In 1987, the award was presented to Dr. Gerald Wexler; in 1988, to Dr. Allen H. Cohen; in 1989, to Dr. John Costello; in 1990, to Dr. Edward Cordes; in 1993, to Dr. Jesse Vics; in 1994, to Dr. Jerome Hurwitz and Dr. Saverio Blancato; and in 1995, to Gary Weiner, OD. There was no Optometrist of the Year in 1996. In 1997, the award went to Richard D. O'Connor, OD. In 1998, the award went to Dave Jordan, OD. George Janofsky, OD, received the award in 1999.

#### 2000s

2000: Salvatore Shakir, OD  
2001: Joseph Birnbaum, OD  
2002: Larry Jerge, OD  
2003: Alden N. Haffner, OD, PhD  
2004: Mark Ainsworth, OD  
2005: Andrea P. Thau, OD,  
2006: Richard P. Soden, OD  
2007: William Lapple, OD  
2008: Mitchell Horowitz, OD

#### 2010s

2010: Edward Johnston, OD  
2011: Richard Madonna, OD  
2012: Charles Gold, OD  
2013: Frank Pirozzolo, OD  
2014: Denise Whittam, OD  
2015: Dawn Chivers, OD  
2016: Katherine Mastrotta, MS, OD, FAOO  
2017: David N. Ciccone, OD

2018: Daniella Rutner, OD, MS, FAAO

