

NYSOA PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This award is given to an individual who has been very active in promoting and serving the visual needs of his or her community. This individual may or may not be an optometrist. For example, he/she might be a public health officer. This award can also be given to a group of service organizations; for example, a Lions Club which has been very active in promoting and serving the visual needs of its community. If given to a group, the presentation will be made to the group's leader(s), e.g. a club president.

Past Recipients

Past recipients include: Dr. Leo V. Feichtner, Chief of the Bureau of Health, New York State Education Department; Dr. Emerson E. Leuallen, Assistant Commissioner for Professional Education, New York State Education Department; Honorable A. Frederick Meyerson, State Senator; Commissioner Charles Taylor, WNBC-TV; Adolph Schnurmacher; Francis Conrad, M.D.; Mrs. Judith Peters, Rochester Association of the Blind; Mr. Herbert Alfasso, Bureau of Consumer Affairs; William L. Hodson, Director of Northport Veterans Administration Hospital; WABC-TV; Bureau of Health, Drug Education and Services, New York State Education Department; Gaston Germain Trigos, MD; the late Mrs. Gladys Kohn; the Western New York Task Force on Mainstreaming Blind & Visually Impaired Children and the SUNY College of Optometry VOSH Chapter; Drs. David Dozack & Richard Frio, Co-Chairs of the Give One Day Program; the Albany Adult Learning Center; The New York Times - Neediest Cases Fund; Consumer's Union/Consumer Reports; and Designs for Vision, Inc. In 1996, the award was presented to Senator Kenneth P. LaValle. In 1997, the award went to The Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped, Inc. In 1998, the award went to the Jewish Braille Institute. Good Morning America (CBS) received the award in 1999 for its consumer awareness program on vision examinations and prescription eyewear.

In 2000, Mr. Herman Washington was presented this award for his service and commitment to the profession of optometry through his distinguished service as a member of the College Council. New York City Vision Coalition of Prevent Blindness New York received this award in 2001 for its service and commitment to the visual welfare to the children of New York City. In 2002 this award was presented to Dr. Richard A. Frio for his work as a clinical director of the Special Olympics Lions Club International Openings Eyes Program. In 2004 Dr. Rosemary Clemens was presented this award for her efforts to improve the visual welfare of school-aged children in New York State. Dr. Jorge Won received this award in 2005 in recognition of his dedication to VOSH New York and the cause of eye care for the underprivileged in Latin America. Ben Lynch of Winchester Optical was presented this award in 2007 for his distinguished role as a mentor and resource to many young optometrists in New York State. In 2008, Dr. Joan Portello was presented the award for her ongoing commitment to providing optometric care and services to disadvantaged communities in the United States and Mexico. John B. Clark, MPA, MA, EdD, received the award in 2009 for recognition of his service to the profession of optometry and to the people of the State of New York through his services as Interim President of the State University of New York College of Optometry and as an Interim Chancellor of the State University of New York.

Harvey Moscot, OD, received the award in 2010 in recognition of his commitment to the profession of optometry and to the underserved people of New York City as the founder of the MOSCOT Mobileyes Foundation, Inc. In 2011, the award was presented posthumously to Thomas Little, OD, in recognition of his humanitarian contributions and his extraordinary commitment to

the visual welfare of the people of Afghanistan. In 2012, the award was presented to the Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired, in recognition of its Vision Wellness and Preventive Services programs. In 2013 the award was presented to Phillip Jessen, MEd, in recognition of his work with the Glens Falls Association for the Blind. In 2014, the award was presented to Raymond Ziomek, in recognition of his commitment to improving the vision and quality of life for the legally blind and visually impaired in Western New York. In 2015, the award was presented to Diane Cress, OD, in recognition of her humanitarian service to the people of the Dominican Republic. In 2017 the award was presented to Richard C. Malara, OD, in recognition of his humanitarian service to those in need of eye care, both overseas and at home. Ms. Dawn Yager received the 2018 award in recognition of her work with OneSight.

