

NEW YORK STATE YOUNG OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

PURPOSE

Young optometrists often show outstanding leadership skills when serving their profession, their patients and their community. The Young Optometrist of the Year Award is intended to recognize an optometrist who has been in practice for less than ten years and who demonstrates these abilities. The American Optometric Association recognizes a national Young Optometrist of the Year at its Annual Congress. A State Association's Young 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 in active optometric practice less than 10 years. Age of the doctor is not a criteria for this award.
3. 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 YOUNG OD OF THE YEAR

I. SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY

1. What leadership roles (include titles and dates) has the nominee held in his or her local optometric society, state optometric association, or the American Optometric Association? (Include any special assignments, committees, and project teams.)
2. What major accomplishments can be attributed to the nominee's participation in these roles?
3. Has the nominee been instrumental in initiating and/or implementing any unique plan, program, or action on behalf of optometry? If yes, please explain.
4. Has the nominee shared his or her expertise with colleagues by publishing any professional articles or research findings? (Include the total number of published works and briefly describe the most significant.)
5. How has the nominee fostered interest in optometry as a career among potential students? What assistance, if any, has he or she provided to optometry students and/or recent graduates?

II. SERVICE TO THE VISUAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC

6. Has the nominee worked with any sight-saving groups or charities dedicated to the visual welfare of the public (e.g. VISION USA, VOSH, Lions Clubs, etc.)? What was the extent/impact of the nominee's involvement?
7. Has the nominee participated in any solo public-service efforts (vision screenings, public speaking, etc.) to heighten the community's awareness of eye health and visual welfare? What were the results of these efforts?
8. What government programs, if any, has the nominee participated in to bring eye care services/information to the general public and/or disadvantaged groups?
9. Has the nominee served on any political committees or actively supported any legislative efforts to advance the public's visual welfare? If yes, please describe these efforts and the nominee's role.

III. PUBLIC SERVICE

10. Briefly describe any exemplary public service provided by the nominee to benefit his or her community. These efforts need not be limited to those that are eye-care or vision-care related. Include offices held, awards won, honors bestowed, or any other significant accomplishments.

Consider each of the following areas:

- a. Political service including political offices held, campaign and/or special-interest group support, and committee or council appointments.
- b. Public health or military service.
- c. Work in education including service on local school boards, alumni associations, scholarship foundations, and youth/sports associations.
- d. Leadership in community issues including participation in local business and civic organizations, service groups, and disaster relief projects.
- e. Participation in charitable causes and institutions (including serving on boards of directors and/or as consultants or keypersons).
- f. Community service provided through involvement with religious groups or institutions.
- g. Other.

Nominations should be accompanied by a statement answering the questions posed in the eligibility criteria. Not every question is applicable to every nominee. Questions that are not applicable may be skipped. Specific information should be included in the written document to support answers to the questions and 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

2003: Amelia G. Bartolone, OD
2004: JoAnne Palumbo-Mozloom, OD
2009: Christopher Colburn, OD
2010: Stephanie Su, OD
2011: Stephen Baker, OD
2013: Raymond Pirozzolo, OD
2014: Jeffery Williams Jr., OD
2015: Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev, OD
2016: Daniel J. Kirchheimer, OD
2017: Marina Su, OD, FAAO
2018: Mark Parsons, OD, FAAO

