

A composite image featuring a night-time rafting scene at the top and a resort building at the bottom. The rafting scene shows three people in a blue inflatable raft, splashing through white water. The man in the front wears red shorts and has his arms raised. The woman behind him wears a red and white patterned shirt. The person in the back wears a dark shirt. The bottom scene shows the Kalahari resort building at night, illuminated with warm lights. A large fountain is visible in the foreground, and a yellow rope barrier is at the very bottom.

2025 POA SPRING CONGRESS

Kalahari



Explore the Excitement of the Kalahari Resort

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions isn't your typical resort. Its authentically African theme is designed to bring families together, and that isn't just a marketing ploy. The African spirit of Ubuntu or "togetherness"— the philosophy that encompasses a belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all of humanity — is reflected in every aspect of Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, from the handcrafted artwork on the convention center walls to furniture placed in guest rooms, recorded music from the streets of Cape Town echoing in the resorts, and original crafts available for guest souvenirs. It's all part of Kalahari's commitment to bring guests a beyond-expectations experience.

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Pocono Mountain, home to one of America's Largest Indoor Waterparks, has something for everyone to experience during your stay. In addition to the unparalleled waterpark experience, the award-winning resorts feature: dry-play activities including virtual reality sensation the Arena, indoor theme parks, seasonal outdoor waterparks, outdoor ropes courses and zip lining, delicious on-site dining options, Spa Kalahari and Salon, and outstanding convention center facilities.

Hotel Reservations

Each standard room has either a king or two queen beds (please specify at reservation)

with plenty of room to spread out and relax. Our group room rate is \$222/night. Each room includes 4 waterpark passes for each day of your visit. Check-in as early as noon and the hotel will store your luggage as you hit the waterpark. You can also stay in the waterpark until 9:00 p.m. on your day of check-out. Make your reservation [online](#) or by calling 877-525-2427 and asking for the Pennsylvania Optometric Association block. The room reservation cut-off for our special rates is March 2, 2025.

Kalahari has moved to a kiosk check-in process, which is a quick and easy way to confirm your reservation and receive your wristbands or keycards. Kiosks are available in the hotel lobby as well as adjacent to the POA registration desk in the Convention Center. Assistance is available in both locations, and the front desk is staffed for personal service.

Annual Golf Outing

On Thursday, April 3, enjoy a round of golf at the award-winning Mount Airy Golf Course, located just minutes away from the Kalahari. Each hole is inspired by Sports Illustrated's "Best 18 Holes in America" and reinterpreted by master golf architect Hal Purdy. We invite you to test your skill on a course that many consider "The Champion" of Pocono Mountains courses. The course is known for its distance drives and 6,500 yards of

manicured greens. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a 11:00 a.m. start. Boxed lunches will be provided. Beverage carts will be available based on weather but drinks will be available “to go” with hole #9 returning you to the Clubhouse.

Annual Awards Ceremony

The POA’s annual awards ceremony takes place Saturday afternoon before an evening on your own. Please join us in celebrating our 2025 award recipients for awards such as Optometrist of the Year and Young Optometrist of the Year.

President’s Reception

This year’s President’s Reception will be full of fun, laughter, food, and music. Please join Jessica Young, O.D., the POA’s 2025 President, for a casual late-night of munchies and music by The Extra Miles. It’s going to be epic!

Find the Latest and Greatest in our Exhibit Hall

The exhibitors are coming! We will be kicking off our meeting with an opening cocktail party in the exhibit hall Friday evening followed the next day by a continental breakfast and lunch. Stop in for a drink and some light snacks as you walk around and see who you’ll come back to speak more with on Saturday. Prizes will be awarded at each session, so make sure you’re present.

“What Does My Association Do For Me?” – Lunch and Learn

We invite all POA members to join us as our guests at our State of the Association lunch. Enjoy networking with your colleagues over lunch, and then engage with our select Business Partners as they let you in on what’s new with their companies. This will be followed by an update by POA President Jessica Young, O.D. and Executive Director Jen Keeler, CAE on membership benefits and legislative efforts in 2025.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT – Are You Camera Ready? (Limited Number)

The POA is excited to announce a new member benefit for this meeting. We have engaged Shelby Berger Creative to provide complimentary headshots exclusively for POA members. These can be used for your office marketing, social media, and a myriad of other opportunities. Make sure to sign up when you register for Congress. THE NUMBER IS LIMITED AND WE WILL KEEP A WAIT-LIST. This is currently only available to POA members.

Engagefully – the POA’s Meeting App

The app is back! We will again be using our Engagefully app, which will contain everything you need to know about the meeting: schedules, room locations, course handouts, exhibitors, and more! This will also allow you to check out of your CE courses on your phone. If you haven’t downloaded the app, you’ll receive an email prior to the meeting. This year we hope to include a little competition for prizes for check-ins, interactions, exhibitor visits, and other fun stuff. After all, we are at the Kalahari. You never know when you’ll run into a wild animal to photograph.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations will incur a \$50 cancellation fee. No refunds will be provided after March 23.



DOCTOR SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 3

5:45-7:00 p.m.

7:00-9:45 p.m.

Bausch & Lomb Industry Dinner (pre-registration required)

101 Innovations In Eye Care (3 credits TPA)

Friday, April 4

7:15-8:15 a.m.

8:30-10:10 a.m.

10:20 a.m.-Noon

Noon-1:20 p.m.

1:45-4:15 p.m.

1:30-3:10 p.m.

3:20-4:10 p.m.

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Alcon Industry Breakfast (pre-registration required)

201 The Perplexing Discrepancy Between Dry Eye Signs and Symptoms: Examining the Role of Corneal Nerves (2 credits)

202 Navigating Silence and Shadows: Understanding Hearing Loss and Dual Sensory Impairment (2 credits)

State of the Association lunch (members only, pre-registration required)

House of Delegates

203 Future Approaches for Glaucoma Assessment and Management (2 credits Glaucoma/TPA)

204 Comfort Through the Chaos: Navigating the Dry Eye Dilemma in Glaucoma Management (1 credit)

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall



Saturday, April 5

7:00-8:15 a.m.

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

8:30-10:10 a.m.

10:10-10:40 a.m.

10:45 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

12:30-2:15 p.m.

2:30-4:10 p.m.

4:20-5:20 p.m.

5:30-6:30 p.m.

9:00-11:00 p.m.

Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall

PCO Student Event

301 Rapid Fire Roundtable including Peds, Low Vision, Dry Eye, and Concussion (2 credits)

Break in the Exhibit Hall

302 Challenging and Interesting Glaucoma Case Series (2 credits Glaucoma/TPA)

Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

303 Nd:YAG Capsulotomy (2 credits)

POA Annual Awards Ceremony

VSP New Grad and Student Reception (licensed 2015-2025)

President's Reception – everyone invited

Sunday, April 6

7:15-8:30 a.m.

8:45-10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

LKC Industry-Sponsored Breakfast (pre-registration required)

401 Pain Management – Practice of Prescribing Opioids and Alternatives (2 credits TPA)

402 Act 31 Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Training (required every license renewal) (2 credits)



Innovations in Eye Care – Greg Caldwell, O.D.; Michael Cymbor, O.D.; Tom Kislán, O.D.

This course will reveal, feature, and spotlight innovations in eye care that will impact every optometrist. Technologies, pharmaceuticals, products, services, and processes that advance eye care will be discussed in a rapid-fire presentation by a union of esteemed optometrists. This course will keep you in the know for delivering advanced patient care.

The Perplexing Discrepancy Between Dry Eye Signs and Symptoms: Examining the Role of Corneal Nerves – Kaleb Abbott, O.D.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of treating eye pain and discomfort is the inexplicable mismatch between patient symptoms and clinical signs. This deviation is partially responsible for varying clinical decision making, the lacking number of FDA-approved medications for dry eye, and poor patient outcomes. Here, we explore a different approach when treating ocular surface disease based on heightened attention to the role of corneal nerves.

Navigating Silence and Shadows: Understanding Hearing Loss and Dual Sensory Impairment – Lindsay Bondurant, Ph.D.

This course explores the intersection of hearing loss, communication challenges, and dual sensory impairment (vision and hearing). Designed for optometrists, it provides an overview of hearing loss types, degrees, and impacts on patient communication and mental health. Participants will learn about co-morbid conditions like Usher syndrome, diabetes, and age-related disorders, highlighting their effects on both vision and hearing. The session emphasizes clinical strategies for managing patients with dual sensory impairment, enhancing communication, and fostering interdisciplinary care. Attendees will leave equipped with practical tools to better address the complex needs of these patients, improving outcomes and quality of life.

Future Approaches for Glaucoma Assessment and Management – Andrew Meagher, O.D.

Glaucoma treatment for decades now has been aimed at lowering of intraocular pressure, our only modifiable risk factor. While this continues to be the mainstay of treatment, emerging research is providing us with insight that one day may better tailor our treatment based on the individual's physiology and genetics. Additionally, neuro-protection has continually been on the forefront as the next approach to glaucoma treatment with some promising findings in the area of vitamin supplementation. This one-hour lecture will provide the listener with insight to the future approaches of glaucoma assessment and management.

Comfort Through the Chaos: Navigating the Dry Eye Dilemma in Glaucoma Management – Kaleb Abbott, O.D.

Ocular surface disease is a common comorbidity of glaucoma. The management of dry eye in glaucoma presents a unique challenge to eye care practitioners as IOP-lowering drops have extensive mechanisms for causing or exacerbating damage to the ocular surface. Here, we discuss specific mechanisms involved and ocular surface friendly tips for glaucoma management.

Rapid Fire Roundtable Including Pediatrics, Low Vision Dry Eye, and Concussion – Members of the POA Clinical Practice Resources Committee

In this roundtable format, participants will spend 25 minutes with a presenter who has expertise in one of the program topics in a question-and-answer format. Speakers will move from table to table over the course of the 100-minute program.

Challenging and Interesting Glaucoma Case Series – Andrew Meagher, O.D.

A typical day in the Glaucoma Service at The Eye Institute involves cases dealing with the difficult to treat, the highly advanced end stage, the potential surgical referral, the "in need of tighter IOP control," the "in need of continuity of care," or all the above. This lecture includes a series of complex cases treated; each case displaying all pertinent glaucoma testing and clinical examination. Drs. Bennett and Meagher will share the clinical pearls and anecdotes of each case concentrating on the best management and care of the patient.

Nd:YAG Capsulotomy – Ryan Kern, O.D.

The course will review the fundamental knowledge required to evaluate, diagnose, and treat posterior capsular opacification with an Nd:YAG laser. The clinical spectrum and most current literature will be discussed.

Pain Management – Practice of Prescribing Opioids and Alternatives – Tracy McGowan-Offerdahl, PharmD, RPH

This course describes the appropriate use of opioid medications, with an emphasis on pain management within the scope of optometry and general pain management. Case anecdotes will include management of ocular pain, with specific emphasis on oral/systemic medications. Opioid medications will be evaluated in terms of risk versus benefit, with an emphasis on appropriate use of pain medications, evaluation of potential addiction, and a description on how to protect both patient and practitioner.

Act 31 Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Training – A representative from SafeMonroe

This course is mandatory with every license renewal and meets the State Board requirements as an approved program.

PARA SCHEDULE

Friday, April 4

7:00-9:00 a.m.

9:00-9:50 a.m.

10:00-11:50 a.m.

12:00-12:50 p.m.

1:00-1:50 p.m.

2:00-2:50 p.m.

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Registration

Children's Eye Exams (1 CPC/ABO credit)

Hands-on Workshop Pt 1 (2 CPC/ABO/NCLE credits)

See course description; additional items needed for class

Lunch on your own/Registration open

Hands-on Workshop Pt 2 (1 CPC/ABO/NCLE credit)

See course description; additional items needed for class

Put a Lid On It (1 CPC credit)

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Saturday, April 5

7:00-9:00 a.m.

7:00-8:15 a.m.

8:30-9:20 a.m.

9:30-10:20 a.m.

10:20-10:40 a.m.

10:50-11:40 a.m.

11:50 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

Registration

Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall

Dealing with a Difficult Patient (1 CPC credit)

OCT Basics (1 CPC/ABO/NCLE credit)

Break in the Exhibit Hall

My Last Nerve (1 CPC credit)

PPA General Business Meeting and Installation of Officers

All paraoptometrists are encouraged to attend; must be in attendance to win the prize basket drawing

Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

The Magic of Patient Scheduling (1 CPC credit)

What Every Optician & Tech Should Know About Ocular

Emergencies (1 CPC/ABO/NCLE credit)

POA Annual Awards Ceremony

President's Reception – everyone invited

Sunday, April 6

8:45-10:30 a.m.

Pain Management – Practice of Prescribing Opioids and Alternatives
(non-credit for staff)

10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Act 31 Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Training
(additional charge for staff)





Children's Eye Exams (Intermediate Course) (1 CPC/ABO Credit)

This course will identify the differences in caring for the young patients of optometry. It reviews testing procedures and the different techniques involved in treating children. The course will discuss how to approach young children as well as different testing tools and techniques. It will also address selecting the value of selecting the proper frame and the importance of a good fitting frame.

Hands-on Workshop Part 1 & 2 (Basic Course) (3 CPC/ABO/NCLE Credits)

The focus of this course is to identify pre-screening techniques performed in a routine examination. A discussion will take place on the purpose behind each test and how to perform it. There will be a demonstration and practical evaluation for attendees. PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING ALONG: color vision testing, stereo testing, Amsler grid test, transilluminator (flashlight), cccluder, pinhole, plus-lens test, disposable contact lenses, artificial tears, and if possible, a tonopen.

Put A Lid On It (Intermediate Course) (1 CPC Credit)

This course teaches anatomy of the eyelid, functional defects with the eyelid, diseases of the eyelid, and surgeries associated with the eyelid. This lecture is a graphic pictorial of the eyelid and its function.

Dealing with a Difficult Patient (Basic Course) (1 CPC Credit)

This course is designed to identify proper ways to deal with difficult patients and ways to neutralize difficult situations with difficult people. The course will address ways to keep safety for both patients and staff, and prevent workplace violence. The course will address how to identify and avoid the "hot buttons" that threaten the

entire environment.

OCT Basics (Basic Course) (1 CPC/ABO/NCLE Credit)

This course will review the anatomy of the eye and the use of the OCT in primary eye care practice. It will discuss the types of diseases monitored with the OCT and how to effectively incorporate the use of the OCT into a clinical setting.

My Last Nerve (Advanced Course) (1 CPC Credit)

This course is designed to identify the cranial nerves that impact the ophthalmic system. It will assist attendees in connecting the dots of nerve innervations and function for the basic structures of the ocular system. This is a more advanced course; knowing basic anatomy would be helpful.

The Magic of Patient Scheduling (Intermediate Course) (1 CPC Credit)

This course is designed to teach the art of patient scheduling and what must be considered prior to implementing the scheduling template. This course will also discuss the need for a resource review upon deciding the correct amount of provider and staff capabilities.

What Every Optician & Tech Should Know About Ocular Emergencies (Intermediate Course) (1 CPC/ABO/NCLE Credit)

Presents an overview of how phone triage and walk-in office visits should be handled from an optician and technician's perspective. We will discuss key elements of triage, and the difference between an emergency and urgent care. Suggestions for setting up protocols will be discussed.

DOCTOR REGISTRATION

	Registration on or before 2/3/25	Registration on or after 2/4/25	+Per Credit Hour Charge
OD AOA Member	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$28.00
OD AOA Member (Sun. only)	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$28.00
OD AOA Life Member	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$28.00
OD Non-AOA Member	\$337.00	\$375.00	\$42.00
OD Non-AOA Member (Sun. only)	\$150.00	\$160.00	\$42.00
Students	\$70.00	\$70.00	N/A
Guests	\$200.00	\$200.00	N/A

OD/Student registration fees include industry-sponsored programs; State of the Association Lunch (members only); opening reception in the exhibit hall; breakfast and lunch in the exhibit hall; awards ceremony; student programming; and President's Reception. Course fees are additional.

Guest registration fee includes opening reception in the exhibit hall; breakfast and lunch in the exhibit hall; awards ceremony; and President's Reception.

PARA REGISTRATION

	Registration on or before 2/3/25	Registration after 2/4/25
Para PPA Member	\$295	\$350
Para Non-PPA Member	\$345	\$400
Sunday add-on	\$56	\$56
Guests	\$200	\$200