



1985 Congress Business Report

As reported in the last issue of the CJO, the Social Program organized and mounted by the Regina Local Arrangements Committee under co-Chairpersons Dr. Len Koltun and his wife, Betty Lou, provided many memorable highlights of the 1985 Biennial Congress.

But a Social Program alone doth not a Congress make and, as is the case with all CAO Biennial Congresses, the Association took advantage of the presence of virtually all national and provincial Association representatives to conduct an extensive program of CAO Business meetings: Interaction '85; CAO Council's annual summer meeting; the annual summer meeting of the COETF Board of Trustees; a meeting of the provincial Association Presidents; CAO Section Information Sessions and, as required by our Constitution, our Biennial General Business Meeting.

Following, then, are a few of the representative highlights from some of the above meetings.

Interaction '85

Optometric personnel, the current needs, the future crisis — problems and solutions. That, in brief, summarizes the focus of this year's Interaction meeting.

Developed under Committee Chairperson and (then) CAO President-elect Dr. Bruce Rosner, Interaction '85 set out to identify the present and projected optometric personnel needs of the profession across Canada. It began with a historical review by Dr. Jack Huber of the activities of a number of CAO Committees, including the New Academic Facilities Committee and the President's Committee for a Western Canadian School of Optometry. Dr. Huber, in addition to having served as CAO President from 1979-80, chaired the New Academic Facilities Committee for several years.

The program was also designed to observe and discuss potential solutions as are presently being addressed by a number of specific groups, including the BC Optometric Association, l'Association des

Optométristes du Québec and the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo*.

In late 1984, several provincial Associations conducted extensive optometric personnel surveys and, in a few cases, were shocked to discover that their future needs, even in the short term, pointed to a crisis in terms of the number of practising optometrists available to meet the growing demand for vision and eye care services.

Interaction '85 laid the groundwork for the development of a co-ordinated national program to meet that need in provinces where the requirements will be particularly acute in the years ahead.

CAO Section Information Sessions

As the profession of Optometry grows in Canada, so too does the diversity of special interests of our members. One means of enabling a practising optometrist to focus his or her enthusiasm for a specific aspect of practice is through membership in a body of people with similar backgrounds, and similar interests. Such was the guiding principle behind the scheduling of CAO Section Information Sessions in conjunction with the 1985 Biennial Congress.

Prior to the Congress, provincial Associations were solicited for information on those areas which would elicit the strongest favorable response from among their members, were such areas to be developed into formalized Sections of CAO. Sports Vision, Children's Vision, Aviation Vision, Contact Lenses and Volunteer Optometric Services were the most consistently cited, with several others proposed as having the potential for future development.

In the post-Congress analysis, the two most popular areas proved to be Children's Vision and Sports Vision, co-ordinated under CAO Councillor for Ontario, Dr. Margaret Hansen des Groseilliers and (then) CAO President Dr. Ralph Rosere respectively. Contact Lenses, under CAO Councillor for Manitoba Dr. Keith Letts, Aviation Vision, under CAO Secretary Treasurer Dr. Tom Adamack and Volunteer Services, under (then) CAO past President Dr. Roland des Groseilliers were also explored, with the former two now being developed towards formal Section status. As reported by Dr. des Groseilliers, at present, there does not seem to be sufficient committed interest to warrant the development of

***Editor's Note:** Dr. Tony Cullen, Associate Director of the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, delivered a presentation on that institution's present contribution to the profession in Canada, and its options in dealing with future personnel needs. Dr. Cullen's presentation is currently being edited for presentation in a coming issue of the CJO.

volunteer services as an independent Section of CAO.

At its Fall, 1985 meeting in Montreal, CAO Council was delighted to approve the founding documentation of the CAO Section on Children's Vision, making it the first officially struck Section of the national Association. Future issues of the CJO will carry ongoing news from this and other Sections as they are developed and expanded.

1985 General Business Meeting

Whether because of the extensive package of pre-meeting reports, or whether because of the firm gavel wielded by (then) President and Meeting Chairperson Dr. Ralph Rosere, no one is entirely certain, but the 1985 GBM left many veteran Congress delegates scratching their heads over its smooth dispatching of a lengthy agenda in the space of only one afternoon.

In the post-Congress evaluation forms returned by over 100 of the delegates, many noted the lack of controversy and commentary from the floor at this year's GBM. In a few cases, it was missed; in other cases, its absence was lauded by the delegate. In either case, there is no doubt that it was an exceptionally smooth meeting.

The abbreviated format this year was necessitated by the scheduling of CAO Section Information Sessions on the afternoon normally reserved for Day II of the General Business Meeting. Needless to say, Chairperson Dr. Rosere did express some pre-meeting concerns during the Council discussion that resulted in this decision. As a result, a good deal of extra effort was put into soliciting, developing and

early circulation of all pre-meeting reports well in advance of the Congress. As delegates were advised going into the meeting, time would thus be taken up not with the delivery of the report from the Committee in question, but rather with questions from the floor.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a presentation by newly elected President of the American Optometric Association, Dr. Gerald Easton. Dr. Easton tackled the issue of commercialism within the broad field of vision and eye care, and spent a few minutes examining how it is being addressed by the AOA, and by various state Associations.

The Post-Congress Evaluation

This year, every registered Congress delegate, whether optometrist, spouse or junior delegate, received a short questionnaire after returning home from the Congress, soliciting comments and suggestions about the 1985 Congress in particular and about future Congresses in general.

The bottom line: a hearty round of congratulations to the entire 1985 Local Arrangements Committee, to the chefs who produced the food, to the bands who produced the music and to the organizers of the class reunions; indeed, to the entire Province of Saskatchewan and the City of Regina for showing us what real Western hospitality is all about.

CAO's **Merry-time Mingle** is already in the works for August, 1987 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Watch the CJO pages in the months ahead for early information about our 20th Biennial Congress.

MJ DiCola

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