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Three New Sections Formed

At its summer meeting, CAO Council approved the creation of three new Sections of the Canadian Association of Optometrists, one conditional upon a minor revision to its proposed By-laws.

1. Low Vision

In their submission for Section status, members with a special interest in Low Vision offered the following rationale of the need for a Low Vision Section in CAO:

The average age of the Canadian population is steadily increasing. As a result, the number of visually impaired Canadians requiring low vision services is increasing annually. Both elderly and young patients with low vision require, and are increasingly demanding, high quality, readily accessible low vision services.

As the largest provider of primary vision care in Canada, Optometry has the professional obligation, as well as the unique opportunity, to ensure that visually impaired patients receive the highest quality low vision services available.

In order to enhance the delivery of low vision services via Optometric practices across Canada, it is necessary that Canadian optometrists have access to the latest theoretical and practical clinical information relating to diagnostic and therapeutic low vision procedures. It is also important that governments and others involved in low vision rehabilitation be made aware of the unique services which optometrists offer the visually impaired. Optometry must therefore speak with a unified voice in order to communicate effectively with all parties concerned with low vision rehabilitation.

It is for these reasons that the Canadian Association of Optometrists should establish a section on LOW VISION.

Following, for the information of members in general and, in particular, those who might be interested in joining the CAO Section on Low Vision, is the Section's purpose and by-laws as were approved by Council at its summer, 1986 meeting.

Purpose of a Low Vision Section

1. To advance the well-being of visually impaired Canadians and to promote their universal access to high quality low vision care.
2. To promote high quality basic and applied low vision research.
3. To encourage the legitimate role of Optometry as a key provider of clinical low vision services within a comprehensive interdisciplinary low vision service.
4. To cooperate constructively with other agencies, organizations or professions who share the Canadian Association of Optometrists' desire to help Canadians with low vision.
5. To help visually impaired Canadians cope with their increasingly technological environment by providing directly, or by referral when necessary, exposure to advanced low vision technology.
6. To participate actively in the delivery of quality low vision services to the multiply-handicapped.

7. To promote a better understanding of low vision conditions by educators, employers, legislators, agencies for the blind and the general public.
8. To encourage appropriate health-care measures leading to earlier detection, diagnosis and treatment of sight-threatening diseases or injuries.
9. To provide low vision services to visually impaired Canadians whose level of impairment can be easily remedied by in-office Optometric services.
10. To better inform medical practitioners concerning the pressing need for early referral for professional low vision services as an integral part of their management of patients with ocular disorders.

Bylaws of the Section on Low Vision

Article I — Name and Purpose

Section 1

This section shall be known as the LOW VISION SECTION.

Section 2

The purpose of this section is to enhance low vision services provided to the public served by Optometrists practicing low vision care; to promote, advance and enhance the identity of Optometry as a profession providing these services; to assist in the provision of low vision continuing education courses; to provide a forum for members of the Canadian Association of Optometrists having an interest in this specialty area to exchange and interchange ideas and information with respect to low vision diagnostic and therapeutics; and to act as a resource on the subject of low vision to both the profession of Optometry and the general public.

Article II — Membership

Section 1

Membership shall be open to any members of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. Unless otherwise specified, each member of the Section shall pay to the Canadian Association of Optometrists annual section dues of \$50.00 except student members of the Canadian Association of Optometrists who shall pay no annual dues.

Article III — Officers and Section Delegates

Section 1

The officers of this Section shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Section 2

There shall be a Council which shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and the last retiring Chairman, together with two other members, to be elected by the Section as hereinafter provided.

Section 3

The Council shall select the Section liaison to the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

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Article IV — Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1

At least ninety days before the Annual Meeting of the Section in the year that the terms of office expire, the Chairman shall appoint a nominating committee of three members of the Section who are not candidates for the office. The nominating committee in turn shall at the Annual Meeting submit its nominations for the following offices: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and two members of the Council. The report of the nominating committee shall not preclude any member of the Section for making a nomination for any office from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2

Except for the last retiring Chairman, Council officers and members shall be elected biennially by the Section members at the Annual Meeting of the Section. A majority of the votes cast on a particular office shall be required for election to that office.

Section 3

All terms of office herein specified shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which the election takes place, and shall end two years hence at the close of the next Annual Meeting.

Article V — Duties of Officers

Section 1 — Chairman

The Chairman, or Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Section, and of the Council. He or she shall formulate and present annually to the Canadian Association of Optometrists a report of the work of the Section for the current closing year. He or she shall appoint the Chairman of any committees within the Section who are to hold office during his or her term as Chairman. He or she shall plan and superintend the program of the Section at the Biennial Congress of the Canadian Association of Optometrists during his or her term, subject to the directions and approval of the Section Council. He or she shall superintend the performance of all activities of the Section. He or she shall keep the Council fully informed and carry out its decisions. He or she shall perform such other duties and acts that usually pertain to his or her office or as may be designated by the Council.

Section 2 — Vice-Chairman

Upon the death, resignation or during the disability of the Chairman, or upon refusal to act, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman for the remainder of his or her term or disability, as the case may be. The Vice-Chairman shall aid the Chairman in the performance of his or her responsibilities in such a manner and to extent as he or she may request.

Section 3 — Secretary

The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents and other property of the Section, with the exception of Section monies. He or she shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Council, whether assembled or acting under submission. With the Chairman, he or she shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section for its Annual Meeting for publica-

tion in an Annual Report. He or she, in conjunction with the Chairman as authorized by Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section. He or she is to keep an accurate record of all monies appropriated by and expended for the use of the Section.

Article VI — Duties and Powers of the Council

Section 1

The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Canadian Association of Optometrists and the Bylaws of the Section. It shall especially authorize all commitments and contracts which shall entail the payment of money and so authorize the expenditure of all monies appropriated for the use of the Section. It shall not, however, authorize commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment or more money during any fiscal year than the amount which shall have been previously appropriated by the Section for said fiscal year. The Council may further authorize the Chairman at the beginning of his term to appoint an Executive Committee with the approval of the Council to act in instances when time will not permit the calling of a meeting of the Council. Action by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Council.

Section 2

The Council may authorize the Chairman to appoint committees from Section membership to perform such duties and exercise its powers as the Council may direct, subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Section 3

The Council, during the interim between Annual Meetings of the Section, may fill vacancies in its own membership or in the office of the Secretary, or in the event of a vacancy in all the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Members of the Council and all officers so selected shall serve until the close of the next Annual Meeting of the Section. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Section delegate, the Council shall select a successor.

Section 4

A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. All binding actions of the Council shall be by the majority vote of the members present.

Section 5

The Council of the Section, during the interim between meetings of the Section, shall have full power to do and perform all acts and functions which the Section itself might do or perform, not inconsistent with any action taken by this Section. Any such action taken by the Council shall be reported to the Section at its next meeting.

Article VII — Meetings

Section 1

The Section shall hold business meetings annually at the place and time so designated by the Council of the Section.

Section 2

Every two years the annual meeting of the Section will be

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held in conjunction with the Biennial Congress of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Section 3

Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chairman upon approval of the Council, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

Section 4

The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5

All binding action of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present. Each member of the Section who is not a student member of the Canadian Association of Optometrists shall be entitled to vote on any matter coming before the Section. Those members of the Section who are student members of the Canadian Association of Optometrists shall be considered as a group for purposes of voting and therefore entitled to one vote on any matter coming before the Section.

Section 6

Except as may otherwise be required by the Constitution or Bylaws of the Canadian Association of Optometrists or of this Section, all meetings shall be governed by the parliamentary and usages contained in the then current edition of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms.

Article VIII — Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1

The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Section 2

All bills incurred by the Section, before being forwarded to the office of the Canadian Association of Optometrists for payment, shall be approved by the Chairman or the Secretary, or both if so directed by Council.

Section 3

No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer, council member, or member of a committee.

Section 4

Any action of this Section must be approved by the Canadian Association of Optometrists before the same becomes effective as the action of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. Any resolutions adopted by the Section shall be reported by the Chairman of the Section to the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists for the Association's approval and recommendation.

Section 5

These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval thereof by the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Section 6

All printing for this Section or for the Council or any committee of the Section shall be done under the supervision of the headquarters office of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Article IX — Amendments

Section 1

These Bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the

Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided such proposed amendment shall first have been approved by a majority of the Council and providing further that no amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

2. Voluntary Optometric Services

Council also agreed with a second submission which stated:

There is a need to provide the means whereby optometrists interested in opportunities to assist and participate in voluntary projects have access to information and encouragement to become involved in such programs.

Optometrists may give of their time, expertise, experience, management, training, equipment, instrumentation or whatever resources they may have access to or may wish to contribute.

What follows is the approved purpose and proposed By-laws for the Voluntary Optometric Services Section of CAO:

Purpose

1. To encourage and develop vision care programs, particularly in the Third World, for the needy, underprivileged and to those who otherwise would not have access to nor could afford vision care services.
2. To establish a network of personnel with expertise in all related areas of eye care. This Section recognizes the interdependence of all the related eye care professions in helping to deliver such needed services.
3. To initiate appropriate communication, public relations, educational materials and programs to assist the public in becoming more aware and understanding of the demand for vision care services to the underprivileged.
4. To enhance the quality of life, increase self-sufficiency and the broadening of education through the promotion of proper vision care to the needy and disadvantaged.
5. To support private businesses and community service organizations where projects are considered to have viable potential and significant benefit to the objectives and purposes of this Section.
6. To encourage and solicit funding from private, corporate and government sectors, in an effort to assist existing and proposed future voluntary vision care projects.

Proposed Initial By-laws

1. Membership

Membership shall be open to all optometrists who are members in good standing with the CAO. Unless otherwise specified, each member of the Section shall pay to the CAO annual Section dues of \$25.00.

2. Officers and Executive Committee

- i) The Officers of this Section shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

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- ii) The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and the last retiring Chairman, together with two other members elected by the Section.
- iii) Officers and Executive Committee members shall be elected every two years coinciding with the CAO Biennial Congress by the members of the Section who are present.
- iv) Activities undertaken on behalf of this Section must have the approval of the Executive Committee of this Section.
- v) Initial by-laws regarding this Section may be formulated and amended by a majority vote of the members. Proposed by-laws in future may be ratified accordingly at the meeting of the Section at the CAO Biennial Congress.

to approving the establishment of a Section on Aviation Vision, Council requested that a redraft of the proposed membership criteria be undertaken so as to allow for membership by those optometrists who, though perhaps lacking in the full background of information required for examining pilots, may still join so as to add to their professional qualifications through membership in this particular Section.

The creation of this Section was approved subject to a revision of the membership criteria and it is expected that this will have been completed in the Fall. The full By-laws will therefore appear in the Winter issue of *The Canadian Journal of Optometry*.

Special Note: Elsewhere in this issue is a boxed announcement advising of a meeting, being held in Toronto in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry meeting in December, for optometrists interested in the **Aviation Vision** specialty. Members interested are invited to contact meeting organizer Dr. Lorne Hart at the address in the announcement.

3. Aviation Vision

Aviation Vision, Council agreed, is every bit as specialized an interest as its proposed By-laws would seem to indicate. Prior

The following application form is designed for those members of CAO who wish to apply for membership in any of the currently approved Sections of the Association. Elsewhere in this issue is a Section status update.

Please ensure that the completed form (i) clearly identifies the Section for which you wish to apply (If for more than one Section, please use a separate form for each); (ii) fulfills the terms for membership in the Section.

If you wish information about any of the approved Sections of the Canadian Association of Optometrists, please contact the national Association.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists — Application for Section Membership —

I would like to apply for membership in CAO's _____ Section
(Approved Sections as at October '86: Children's Vision; Sports Vision; Contact Lenses; Low Vision; Voluntary Services)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code

Telephone

I am a member of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

(If an application fee is required by the Section for which you are applying as indicated in the Terms of Reference, please ensure that it is enclosed with your completed form).

Return this form to CAO.

(Signed)

(Date)