



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 23, 1986

SUBJ: Commission's Report

TO: American Optometric Association House of Delegates

FROM: Craig F. Willoth, O.D.
Chairman
Commission on Optometric Specialties (CmOSP)

The American Optometric Association House of Delegates, in 1984, directed the AOA Board of Trustees to create a Commission on Optometric Specialties to establish policies and procedures for organizations that certify individuals in optometric special interest areas; grant recognition to no more than one agency to conduct certification and recertification; and report annually to the House of Delegates.

This constitutes the CmOSP's 1986 annual report.

In 1985, I reported to the AOA House of Delegates concerning the Commission's progress to that date. Today, I am pleased to report that the Commission has completed all developmental work and is prepared to accept petitions from individuals or groups to recognize special interest areas in optometric practice.

The copy for the CmOSP Petitioners Guide for Special Interest Recognition is in the House of Delegates' handbook. The Guide contains all the elements that the 1984 AOA House of Delegates requested the Commission to develop. It contains the criteria For Special Interest Area Recognition, Guidelines for Petitioners Who Seek to Meet Those Guidelines, the CmOSP Procedures for Considering Petitions, Instructions to Petitioners, and CmOSP Procedures for Considering Applications from Groups to Serve as Certifying Bodies.

The Commission has worked diligently these past two years to develop criteria and procedures that are credible and defensible. It has gone to great lengths to assure that views and concerns of AOA members have been considered in carrying out the Commission's charge. The CmOSP conducted an open forum at the 1985 Annual Congress. We will conduct an open forum at this Congress on Monday, June 23. This past Sunday, June 22, I spoke with the presidents of state optometric associations, and last May 16, I addressed the Ohio Optometric Association.

I would be pleased to answer delegates' questions concerning the elements contained in the Petitioner's Guide and any other related issues in which the delegates may have interests.

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