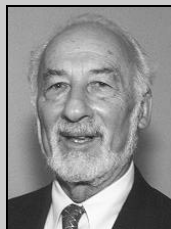




From the president's desk ...

Two major organizational changes, one in membership and the other regarding the Annual Meeting, were approved in Vancouver last October. These changes will strengthen VOSH/INTERNATIONAL and broaden our efforts in providing eye care to needy people all around the globe.



Harry Zeltzer, OD

In the past, participation in the Annual Meeting of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL was unintentionally limited to executive officers and the board of directors, conveying a sense of exclusivity.

To create a closer family of humanitarians within our 32 Chapters, the constitution was amended in Vancouver. Beginning in 2004, each Chapter member will automatically become a member of V/I.

The second major change was to schedule the V/I Annual Meeting to dovetail with the annual American Optometric Association (AOA) Congress that's held in June.

We're eagerly anticipating the upcoming V/I Annual Meeting in San Diego on Tuesday, June 17. We invite all VOSH, SVOSH, and the general membership of the AOA to join us. Thanks to cooperation of the AOA, we now have an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL to a wider audience.

Our co-meeting with the AOA also opens the door to reaching other humanitarian-minded individuals and hence provides us the opportunity to extend our reach in bringing global eye care to those who are deprived of the service.

This upcoming meeting marks a new era for V/I. The schedule enables us to integrate with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who have similar interests. Possibilities for forming relationships with V/I will be explored by a panel of speakers from several organizations. It is our belief that, working together, we can attain the common goals of VISION 2020.

Our presence will not be limited to the one day. Throughout the AOA congress, VOSH/INTERNATIONAL will share a space in the exhibit hall with VOSH-California. You are invited to ask questions, hear our stories and see videos of world missions. We want to meet you and share our joy of purpose.

See you in San Diego in June

Consider joining us in San Diego! The 2003 VOSH/INTERNATIONAL Annual Meeting will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, CA, on Tuesday, June 17.

Our meeting dovetails with the American Optometric Association's major Annual Congress that will get underway the next day, June 18, and run through the weekend.

Here's a wonderful opportunity to meet other VOSHers and explore this unique city which offers a myriad of wonderful attractions like the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, Sea World, Legoland, theatre, golf, galleries, concerts, balmy weather and lots more. (See www.SanDiego.com)

Your V/I Board has planned a full day of interesting discussions and reports, with time built in for you to interact with other VOSHers. (See schedule and speaker bios on pages 2, 3.) Our goal is for you to leave with fresh ideas and solutions to problems, closer contacts with other VOSHers and a deeper awareness of VOSH and its global role in providing eye care to needy people. We need your input and we want to know how we can continue to better serve our Chapters.

This is a historic moment for our organization. By schedul-

ing our meeting back-to-back with the AOA, travel and time costs for optometrists will be reduced, and so hopefully, will be an impetus for more of you to participate in our meeting.



While our formal meeting will take place on one day, your input and assistance is requested as we meet and greet the thousands

of attendees of the AOA Congress from Wednesday to Sunday through the VOSH/INTERNATIONAL booth in the exhibition hall. All non-optometric VOSHers will have access to the V/I booth. We will be staffing and sharing the booth with VOSH-CA.

Hotels, accommodations

The Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, located directly on the San Diego Bay, is the headquarter hotel and that's where our own meeting will take place. The hotel offers a resort-like ambiance with all the city's amenities within easy reach. The San Diego Convention Center is a stone's throw away and the ballpark district is just down the street.

Other nearby hotels include the Embassy Suites Hotel San Diego Bay Downtown, Comfort Inn Gas Lamp District, Ramada Inn Gas Lamp District and Marriott

Please turn to page 2

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING 2003

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel , San Diego, CA

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

(Register <http://www.VOSH.org>)

6:30 AM to 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast

8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Welcoming Remarks

Dr. J. Pat Cummings, President, AOA

Dr. Victor J. Connors, President-Elect, AOA

8:15-11:15 AM Panel Discussion

“Integrating and Sustaining the Humanitarian Effort”

Panel Members:

Tony DiStefano, OD, MPH,

Executive Director, World Council of Optometry

“VOSH integrating with the WCO and the WHO”

Lily Dorment, Program Director, Scojo Foundation, Inc.

“Creating local sustainable reader distribution systems
in underdeveloped countries”

David Green, Executive Director, Project Impact

“Sustaining VOSH”

Steven Klein, OD, VISIONUSA, AOA Committee

“VOSH integrating with VISION USA”

Bruce Moore, OD, Professor of Pediatric Studies, NEWENCO,
member/trip leader, VOSH-NECO

“VOSH integrating an untapped pool”

Meredith Tilp, Vice-president, ChildSight (R) Helen Keller Worldwide

“VOSH and the strategic partnership
with Helen Keller Worldwide”

11:15 AM to Noon Questions for the panel

Noon to 1 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM to 1:30 PM VOSH-CA Report

1:45 PM to 4:00 PM Business Meeting

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM Social Hour

San Diego in June

Continued from page 1

Courtyard San Diego Downtown. Check Orbitz or Travelocity on the internet for other options.

Signing Up/Registration Fees

Cost to register for the VOSH/INTERNATIONAL Annual Meeting is \$60 (US) per person. The fee includes a deluxe Continental breakfast, a sandwich buffet lunch and a late afternoon social hour.

Sign up now! The first 75 registrants will receive a free copy of Dr. Brian Chou's excellent manual, “eye care in Spanish” (val. \$25), courtesy of our diamond sponsor, VISTAKON®, a Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

Registrations received after May 15 will be \$75 per person (US). To register, fill out the form on page 3 and send it with your check to Charles Covington, Sr., V/I Sec./Treasurer, 111 Linda Lane, Lake Mary, FL, 32746-4208.

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Corporate Sponsors

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL wishes to acknowledge special financial support provided by the following corporations for our 2003 Annual Meeting events:

Diamond Sponsor: VISTAKON®, A Division of Johnson & Johnson, Inc.

Supporter Sponsors: Alcon Laboratories, Soderberg, Inc., the Newton Group and Elsevier.

See www.VOSH.org

Be sure to check the VOSH/INTERNATIONAL website frequently - www.VOSH.org - and be sure to send in any updated information regarding your upcoming trips or other activities. Help us help you.

At the same time, your updated information is making the site an invaluable clearing house for eye care efforts around the globe. Equally important are the messages being posted on the message board from around the globe.

We welcome any suggestions or improvements you recommend. Let us hear from you: harryizeltzer@attbi.com.

About our panelists

Tony DiStefano, OD, MPH

Dr. Anthony F. DiStefano currently serves as Executive Director of the World Council of Optometry (WCO).



He is Vice-President and Dean for Academic Affairs at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate of the PCO, holds a MEd from Temple University and a MPH from John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Additionally, Dr. DiStefano represents the institutional commitment of PCO to advance international optometry through cooperative programs of excellence.

He has been instrumental in PCO's Master of Science Program in Clinical Optometry for international ophthalmic practitioners who wish to advance their optometric knowledge and clinical skills.

Dr. DiStefano was recently appointed to the Helen Keller Worldwide (HKW) Medical Advisory Board.

Lily Dornment

Lily Dornment is the Program Director at Scojo Foundation, a non-profit organization based in New York City that is dedicated to broadening the availability of affordable reading glasses to low-income individuals worldwide.



A graduate of Yale University, Ms. Dornment has worked in the fields of international and economic development, juvenile justice and social entrepreneurship. Since joining SCOJO Foundation at its inception in 2001, she has worked in India and El Salvador to develop a low-cost reading glasses distribution model. This model engages low-income local women in the screening and eyeglass distribution process by offering them ongoing training and access to micro-credit loans and affordable glasses.

Ms. Dornment was born and raised in London, England. She is currently a resident of Brooklyn, NY.

David Green

David Green is the Executive Director of Project Impact, a non profit organization dedicated to making medical technology and health care services sustainable, affordable and accessible to all, particularly to the poorer two-thirds of humanity living mostly in developing countries.



In 1992, David directed the establishment of Aurolab (India), the first non-profit manufacturing facility in a developing country to produce affordable intraocular lenses (IOLs), suture, pharmaceuticals and eye glasses.

Aurolab is now one of the largest manufacturers of IOLs in the world.

David also helped develop Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India, which performs 200,000 surgeries per year. Sixty percent of the care is provided free, yet the hospital is able to attain 50% profit margin. For Lumbini Eye Hospital in Nepal, he developed a system of financing from user fees to enable the hospital to be self-sustaining. David has replicated this cost recovery model in Malawi, Egypt, Guatemala, El Salvador, Tibet, Tanzania and Kenya. He has assisted the Lions Aravind Institute for Community Ophthalmology in their related efforts.

Steven Klein, OD

Steven Klein, OD, is a 1989 graduate of the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO) and is in private practice with his wife, Kim Plattner, OD. He is past president of Lions Optometric Vision Clinic in San Diego and serves as Treasurer and Secretary of the California Vision Foundation, a chapter of VISION-USA, an organization that provides free eye care to the indigent in the USA.

Bruce Moore, OD

Dr. Bruce Moore graduated from the New England College of Optometry (NEWENCO) in 1975 and immediately began practicing in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Children's Hospital, Boston, and at its primary care satellite clinics. In 1995 he was granted a faculty position as Clinical Assistant in Ophthalmology in the Dept. of Ophthalmology of the Harvard Medical



School. Dr. Moore assumed the position of Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies at NEWENCO in 1997 after serving 22 years and having cared for over 100,000 pediatric patients at Children's Hospital.

Dr. Moore has participated in 5 VOSH trips to rural Nicaragua. Based on his experiences, Dr. Moore and his colleagues are developing two alternative systems of providing eye care to underserved people in Latin America, one utilizing trained college students supported by a limited number of ODs, another based on training local health care providers to provide basic refractive care.

Meredith Tilp

Meredith Tilp serves as Regional Director for the Americas Division of Helen Keller International and she serves as Vice-President of the organization's ChildSight® program.



She was instrumental in the establishment of the ChildSight® project, aimed at providing vision screening and free prescription eyeglasses to students living in urban and rural poverty. Ms. Tilp has increased the annual budget of ChildSight® from \$54,000 in 1994 when it got underway, to its present level of over \$4 million.

As a result of her activism during the South African struggle for freedom, she holds the position of secretary for the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation.

Ms. Tilp holds a BA from the School for International Training and holds an MA in politics and ethics from Drew University. She is fluent in French, conversant in Swahili, Spanish, Xhosa and Swedish. She is currently working on an MA in health services management at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

REGISTRATION VOSH/INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Diego, CA, Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Name _____

City/State/Zip/Country _____

Chapter _____

E-mail address: _____

P/P Registration Fee: **\$60**
After 5/ 15, \$75 pp

Includes Continental breakfast, sandwich lunch, social hour. First 75 registrants will receive a free copy of the manual "Eyecare in Spanish," by Dr. Brian Chou.

Please fill out this form and send it with your registration fee, to VOSH/INTERNATIONAL, Charles Covington Sr., Sec./Treasurer, 111 Linda Lane, Lake Mary, FL 32746-4208.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a voluntary non-profit organization whose primary goal is to facilitate the provision of vision care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL accomplishes this goal by service as a coordinating body for affiliated Chapters, by administratively supporting activities of Chapters and members and by actively promoting the formation of new Chapters and new members.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a non-sectarian and non-political organization. Currently there are 32 VOSH Chapters. In addition, there are 17 active student Chapters.

V/I website:

www.VOSH.org

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