



## June Annual Meeting in Orlando coincides with AOA, WCO events

Have you often thought about attending a V/I Annual Meeting, but just never followed through? Mark your calendar now and make the commitment to attend this year. It's an especially exciting time for anyone committed to providing eyecare in places around the world where eyecare is presently not available. What's more, our Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, making it an ideal time to bring along your family and combine business with pleasure.

In a historic precedent, three optometric organizations, V/I, the AOA, and the World Council of Optometry will all be meeting in Orlando during the same week and all three of our organizations will be dealing with the topic of global efforts to enhance eyecare.

The V/I Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 27. The AOA Congress runs from June 23 - 27 and the WCO will meet from June 21 - June 24. Meetings will be within walking distance of one another.

Location of the 2004 V/I Annual Meeting will be the Gaylord Palms Resort, 6000 West Osceola Parkway, site of the 5-day AOA Congress. WCO meetings will be held at the adjacent Caribe Royale Resort/Convention Center.

Registration for the V/I Annual Meeting is \$100 per person if received before May 24. After May 25, fee will be \$125 p/p.

Student registration fee is \$90 per person; \$100 after May 24. A further 50% discount will be given to students who have attended a mission.

See page 3 for a registration form or register by visiting [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org)

Room rates for the Gaylord Palms Resort average \$250 p/p per night.



The Gaylord Palms Resort, Orlando, Florida

Nightly rates for other hotels within a short distance include the Caribe Royale, \$140 avg. pp; Clarion Hotel Universal, \$90 p/p; Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, \$76 avg p/p; Crowne Plaza Resort Orlando, \$96 avg. p/p. Visit [hotels.com](http://hotels.com) on the internet for information on lodging options.

As for Orlando attractions, the list is almost mind-boggling: Epcot, Disney, Sea World, MGM, Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, Old Town, etc. Check out [Orlando.com](http://Orlando.com) on the internet.

For the morning session of our own

meeting we've assembled an impressive roster of speakers. On page 3, you'll find a brief profile of each speaker, along with the topics to be addressed.

During the afternoon session we will review 2004 missions, set goals for 2005, approve new Chapters, discuss final arrangements for Fellow VOSH International (FVI) awards, explore collaborations with S.E.E., and elect officers. Immediately following the meeting there will be a social gathering.

Major sponsor for the V/I Annual Meeting is VISTAKON, a Division of Johnson & Johnson.

VOSH leaders see the timing of our meeting as an opportunity to make more people aware of VOSH and the important work it is doing. To this end, V/I leaders will be staffing a booth at the AOA Exhibit Hall all week.

Join us! Your continued input is vital to the health of our organization.

### From the president's desk ...

Greetings from VOSH/INTERNATIONAL.

It won't be long until we will have the opportunity to get all VOSHers together for a time of business, fellowship, education and discussions about recent VOSH missions. I personally want to invite you to attend this year as the location will be entertaining for the family and meetings will offer great education and fellowship.

The 2004 VOSH/INTERNATIONAL Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida on June 27, 2004. Within this newsletter you will find information pertaining to the location, meeting agenda registration and room reservations.

By scheduling our meeting on Sunday, we've made it possible for you to take part in the WCO education meetings and the AOA Congress earlier in the week.

Once again, the education portion of the VOSH Annual Meeting brings together outstanding speakers on topics of significance to our mission work. I want to acknowledge Dr. Harry Zeltzer for arranging the interesting roster.

We will also hear of the activities of various Chapters regarding missions completed and yet to come. If you have not advised Dr. Zeltzer of your 2004-2005 schedule or of any other doings, please do so. There is a form right at the top of the Missions page for



Dale Cole, OD

Please turn to Page 2

Continued from page 1

you to record data from completed trips, list upcoming trip schedules.

Speaking of the website, the continued activity generated by this great communication tool is truly amazing. VOSH/INTERNATIONAL makes new contacts and receives requests for assistance from around the world on a weekly basis. And, we continue to hear from you that it's an important source for finding volunteers for your teams.

For all of the above reasons, it is essential that we continue to maintain accurate, up-to-date information on our website so please visit it often and keep us informed of any changes or updates in your activities.

Let me take a moment to report on some of the activities of V/I since the last newsletter:

■ We have joined with S.E.E., a medical organization that will coordinate with VOSH regarding medical and surgical needs of patients we see during a mission.



■ We have enhanced our website to make it more user-friendly and more informational.

■ I recently returned from India where I met with the presidents of the VOSH-India Chapter, Ajeet Bhardwaj and VOSH-Varanasi, KK Yadav. During this visit significant groundwork was prepared to enhance the work of VOSH by both India Chapters. Together we met with Lions representatives on the local and district level, attempting to develop a cost-effective method of getting used glasses to them. I served on a panel during a one-day conference as we discussed various aspects of VISION 2020 and how it could best serve the needs of the people of India. Among attendees of the conference were various medical personnel and workers of eye/health camps. I also met with the editor of OPTOMETRY TODAY, a journal related to eyecare work in India.

We look forward to seeing you in June.

Dale K. Cole, OD  
President, VOSH/INTERNATIONAL

## VOSH partners with S.E.E.

While several of our VOSH teams have managed to establish full eye care facilities/services in the countries they serve, the vast majority of the patients with various pathologies do not receive any follow-up care.

Your V/I Board is proud to report that another exciting collaboration is now underway, one that potentially fills the void for at least some of the patients we see. The Boards of V/I and Surgical Eye Expeditions International, Inc. (S.E.E.) have formed an alliance and are already working together on several eyecare missions scheduled for this spring. We will report on these initial efforts at the June Annual Meeting.

S.E.E. is willing to set up a surgical clinic following VOSH trips (where feasible), and use VOSH referrals for seeing patients with cataracts, pterygium and other pathologies and scheduling surgery.

Founded in 1974 by a CA ophthalmologist, S.E.E. provides medical, surgical and educational services by volunteer ophthalmic surgeons with the primary objective of restoring sight to disadvantaged blind individuals worldwide. S.E.E. requires a host ophthalmologist from the areas they serve to oversee scheduling and post-op follow-up.

Their teams will usually do from 50 to 100 cataract surgeries over a five-day period. They work in settings from large teaching hospitals to small clinics in rural settings. For further information about the organization, visit: <http://www.seeintl.org> or e-mail: [monika@seeintl.org](mailto:monika@seeintl.org).

Once again our website has proven invaluable in helping V/I connect with other related organizations and to work with them to secure the full spectrum of eyecare services needed by the patients we see in third-world countries.

## Have you visited [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org) lately?

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

Did you know that VOSH Chapters can have their own Photo page on the V/I website? Has your Chapter taken advantage of this opportunity?

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. Have you read the scope of letters recently?

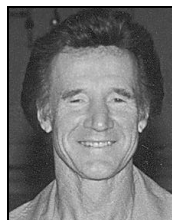
We've made some changes recently to make the website more user friendly and we've added a listing of trips by date per your request. We continue to welcome your suggestions for improving the website. Let us hear from you. Contact Interim Webmaster Harry Zeltzer, OD: [harryzeltzer@attbi.com](mailto:harryzeltzer@attbi.com).

## About our speakers at the V/I 2004 Annual Meeting

### Stan Brock

"Remote Area Medical (RAM) in Rural USA and other Remote Areas"

You're bound to recognize Stan Brock from his many years of weekly television appearances as host of the popular Wild Kingdom series. Prior to taking on that challenge, Mr. Brock had been living with the Wapishana Indians in the Amazon Rain Forest. Mr. Brock is also recognized as the founder of Remote Area Medical (RAM), a non-profit, airborne relief corps dedicated to providing free health, eye and dental services, vet services and technical assistance in remote areas of the USA and the world. Mr. Brock has been working closely with VOSH-VA on projects in Appalachia. Currently the group has an ongoing project in the wilderness interior of Guyana. A seasoned pilot, he frequently fills his vintage biplane with supplies and brings them to areas otherwise difficult to access. stanbrock@ramusa.org



### Alfred Rosenblum, OD

"Low Vision Practice in a Public Health Setting"

Dr. Al Rosenblum is a Chicago optometrist and renowned low-vision specialist. Dr. Rosenblum has led many missions throughout the world, including to Casablanca, Chicago's sister



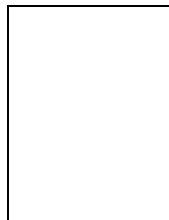
city. He was recently honored by the city of Chicago for his work as a humanitarian. Dr. Rosenblum will be discussing treating low vision at a VOSH mission. aarlovis@voyager.net

### Joshua Silver, PhD

"Self-Refracting Eyeglasses"

Joshua Silver, PhD is an inventor and physicist from the University of Oxford, England. "It is estimated that one billion people in the developing world need a vision correction," he notes. Dr. Silver has addressed the problem by inventing adaptive liquid lenses which are cheaply produced. He will demonstrate his invention and discuss a pilot program employing the device in Africa.

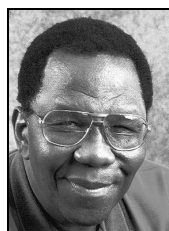
josh.silver@new.ox.ac.uk



### Dumas M. Simeus

"Providing Medical Relief to Haiti"

Dumas M. Simeus is Chairman and CEO of Simeus Foods and he is a member of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL. The oldest of twelve children, son of a poor, illiterate, subsistence farmer, Mr. Simeus made his way to the USA, earned a degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Chicago where he recently was honored with a Distinguished Service Award. In 1999,



Mr. Simeus established the Simeus Foundation (TSF). Since then TSF has donated truckloads of food to food banks throughout the USA. In addition, the foundation provides scholarships and runs a charitable medical clinic in the Haitian village where Simeus was born.

vdickey@SIMEUSFOODS.com

### H. Hauser Weiler, MD

"Partnering with VOSH in Honduras"

Dr. H. Hauser Weiler is a Virginia ophthalmologist and a prominent member of Lions International. He recently founded a clinic in Honduras for optometrists and ophthalmologists. Dr. Weiler will discuss collaboration of the two professions to eliminate preventable blindness. Dr. Weiler has worked with VOSH-VA and Remote Area Medical (RAM) for several years. weiler@sylvaninfo.net



Thank you again,

VISTAKON®

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL wishes to acknowledge the special financial support provided by VISTAKON®, A Division of Johnson & Johnson, Inc. for our 2004 Annual Meeting events.

VISTAKON's financial support during the past two years has enabled us to make major strides and to embrace our role as an international organization.

## REGISTRATION VOSH/INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Gaylord Palms Resort, Orlando, Florida, Sunday, June 27, 2004

Per Person Registration Fee:

**\$100** After 5/24, \$125pp

Student Registration Fee:

**\$ 90** After 5/24, \$100

Further discount of 50% for students who have attended a mission

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Country \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

You can also register by visiting our website: [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org)



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 33 VOSH Chapters. In addition, there are 17 active student Chapters.

V/I website:

**www.VOSH.org**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Please display newsletter in your office or otherwise circulate.

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