



The California Paraoptometric Section is interested in having more volunteers serve on the section's board. Please join us in developing useful programs for our members, and to spread the word by recruiting new CPS members! Contact Kim Pantel for more information at khym@hotmail.com.

THE OPTOMETRIC-PARAOPTOMETRIC RELATIONSHIP

By Jan L. Cooper, OD, FAAO
COA Trustee and member of the Inland Empire Optometric Society

CPS Update

The team approach is important in serving patients in health care delivery and cannot be over-emphasized. Optometry continues to evolve as an integral part of the public health model; with rapid advances, it requires a technologically current staff to support the operations of vision and eye care delivery. Illustration of advancement through liberation is seen in the passing of the recent optometric Scope Expansion Bill. Confident staff, passionate for their work, help redefine the team approach; essential for the success of patient care.



A busy and energy filled room of optometrists and paraoptometrics at the October 2008 Inland Empire Optometric Society meeting. Shelly Mariscal, pictured in red, effectively spoke at the podium about the benefits of being a member of CPS.

The California Paraoptometric Section (CPS) is a professional organization dedicated and committed to supporting optometrists in practice by furthering the paraoptometric professional goals through education, fellowship, and professionalism. As the CPS Board Liaison, I saw the importance of bringing greater attention to this affiliate of the California Optometric Association (COA) in showing the benefits CPS provides to the entire body of the profession. At the September 2008 monthly Inland Empire Optometric Society (IEOS) meeting, my proposal to support the development of a local CPS chapter was presented to the membership as an opportunity to serve as a model. One month later the IEOS membership brought their paraoptometric staff to listen to the

proposal once again, hearing the testimony of CPS member Shelly Mariscal, CPO, CPOA, ABO, NCLE. Attendance was heightened with 17 of 53 attendees listed as paraoptometrics.

Shelly confirmed her knowledge and confidence gained in the profession by being a member of CPS. As a paraoptometric not only was this acquisition an internal benefit for her, but one that also served externally to patients and the entire optometric practice. Through education and enhanced communication Shelly received her certifications due to CPS membership benefits. Support of a CPS member by the optometrist, and in reaching goals of certification levels are keys to success. First encouraged by Dr. Lee Goldstein, and now by Dr. Anna Torres, Shelly is one of 337 CPS members involved with professional paraoptometrics.

The optometric and professional paraoptometric relationship is one requiring support of the other. The main purpose is to provide excellence in vision and eye care services to the people of our communities. Thus, the advent of starting a local chapter of CPS affiliated with IEOS has begun; the call for increased optometric support of CPS shall continue.

WELCOME! New CPS Members

Jennifer Craig
Antonella Gutierrez
Sandra Heath
Michelle Howk