

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 khyam@hotmail.com.



Nannette Magnani
CPS Board Member

WELCOME! New CPS Members

Danielle Gonzales



VOLUNTEERING: A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

As a new California Paraoptometric Section (CPS) board member for 2009, I had the opportunity to volunteer my time on behalf of CPS at Monterey Symposium this past November. Since this was my first time volunteering at a COA event, I wanted to share my rewarding experience with fellow CPS members who may be apprehensive about volunteering.

From start to finish, it was all very positive. I arrived Friday shortly before noon and the hotel graciously allowed us to check in early, which was a positive beginning for me as I was a little nervous and wanted to freshen up before reporting for duty and meeting my fellow peers and doctors.

A majority of my time was spent volunteering in the Exhibit Hall at the CPS booth where I worked with Kim Pantel, who is a certified paraoptometric with AOA and has served as chair of CPS since 2004. Kim was so kind and provided me with all of the necessary information I needed so I could answer all of my fellow peers' and doctors' questions regarding the mission and goals of CPS. My nerves quickly subsided as I found how easy and fun working at the booth was. We answered questions about special dues for COA member doctors to enroll their employees in CPS through an office-based membership plan. We also introduced doctors and staff to our large variety of books and DVDs available from our resource library, and provided guidelines on borrowing from the library. We educated them on how it is much more cost-efficient to enroll employees as a CPS member to utilize the library and prepare them to become certified for less than the cost of buying the certification prep books themselves. I liked working in the booth and I enjoyed meeting people from all over the state. It was surprising to meet people that didn't know that CPS existed, but I felt good knowing I helped to educate them about the section and let them know we are here to assist optometric staff so that we can better serve our doctors and ultimately our patients.

I also got the chance to introduce various speakers before their classes, which was fun! Everyone was so friendly and helpful — they made me feel very comfortable and at ease. The speakers and classes were awesome. It is always great coming back to work feeling a little more confident and always good meeting your peers and fellow members.

If you are thinking about volunteering for CPS, I would definitely say to go for it! Expand your life and take the initiative and try it. CPS has many volunteer opportunities for you to take advantage of your skills. You can make a difference. For me it has been a very positive experience and I am proud to represent my doctor, colleagues and fellow CPS members.

CPS is always in search of interested volunteers who would be willing to contribute their time and their expertise to the continued development of the Section. If you are interested in finding out more about the volunteer opportunities CPS has to offer, contact Lisa Ah Po at lisaa@coavision.org or call 800-877-5738, ext. 238.

CPS Update

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR AOA PARAOPTOMETRIC SECTION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Do you know a paraoptometric that serves both the patients in his/her office and is active in the community? Then nominate them for the AOA Paraoptometric Section 2010 Community Award! The award is given to a paraoptometric who demonstrates a commitment to helping improve their community and a dedication to the profession of paraoptometry. The recipient will be presented a plaque of recognition, a \$100 personal cash award, and a \$100 award to the charity of the recipient's choice during the Paraoptometric Section Awards Luncheon at the 113th Annual AOA Congress & 40th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting® in Orlando, FL. For more information and a nomination form, visit www.aoa.org/x4979.xml or email PS@aoa.org. Nominations are due by March 31, 2010.