



Contact: Tom Hicks, President  
Tel. 513.523.6616  
Cell Phone: 513.226.5983  
Email: thref@aol.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **OAA NAMES CHRIS ALLEN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**OXFORD, OH, February 16, 2009** – The Opticians Association of America (OAA) is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Chris Allen of Lakeland, TN to lead the organization as Executive Director. Mr. Allen has over twelve years of professional experience in dealing with public relations, fundraising, government affairs, event management, executive leadership and general business administration. Mr. Allen’s past experiences have included several leadership roles, including a position on the staff of former U. S. Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN), executive director of the Hardwood Forest Foundation, executive director of the Hardwood Federation—the nation’s largest forest products association, and executive director of MPACT Memphis.

As executive director of the Hardwood Federation, Mr. Allen was responsible for all aspects of fundraising, corporate partnerships, motivating and mobilizing volunteers and staff, tracking industry and government trends, managing day-to-day operations of the Hardwood Federation and determining which federal candidates the Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee (HFPAC) would support. Mr. Allen also traveled extensively throughout North America representing the Hardwood Federation at meetings, conventions and trade shows, and was ultimately responsible for building and maintaining what has become the forest products industry’s most politically powerful and dynamic organization.

Tom Hicks, President of the Opticians Association of America said, “Mr. Allen’s experience speaks for itself; however what excites us most about Chris is his ability to effectively communicate and bring fresh and innovative ideas to the association, its members and opticians throughout the country.”

Mr. Allen is a graduate of Florida State University and is a very active member in his community where he is a past recipient of the coveted Memphis Business Journal’s “Top 40 under 40” designation. Mr. Allen has also served as a board member of the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce, is a founding member of the Memphis Grizzlies’ Fan Advisory Board and is a member of the Memphis Orpheum Theatre Advisory Committee.

Established in 1926, the Opticians Association of America (OAA) serves as the only national organization representing opticianry’s business, professional, educational, legislative and regulatory interests. For more information about the organization please contact the OAA office at 4064 E Fir Hill Drive, Lakeland, TN 38002, 901.388.2423, chris\_allen14@att.net, or [www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org).

###