



Contact: Chris Allen, Executive Director  
Tel. 901.388.2423  
Cell Phone: 901.568.0306  
Email: chris\_allen14@att.net

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LAKELAND, TN, October 13, 2009** – At the recent National Opticians Convention, the Opticians Association of America (OAA) elected their Officers and Board of Directors. The election took place during OAA’s Annual Delegate Assembly Meeting. The Delegate Assembly serves as the voting body of the association and consists of OAA members from all over the United States.

Diane Charles (WA)	President
Shirley Earley (OH)	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Mike Szczerbiak (NC)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Russell B. Fritz, Jr. (CT)	Secretary/Treasurer
Bob Reynolds (GA)	Director Representing Licensed States
Roxanne Slancik (MI)	Director Representing Non-Licensed States
Tom Barracato (OH)	Director Representing Firm Membership
Thomas Blair, Jr (GA)	Director Representing Firm Membership
Sandy Brown (KY)	Director Representing Individual Members

Following the election, Chris Allen, OAA’s Executive Director, had this to say, “Our new Board brings together an outstanding balance of the opticianry industry with a deep and broad experience base, which will help the Opticians Association of America continue to grow and offer superior services to our membership. The most exciting part is that OAA’s Board of Directors represents every aspect of the industry from firm owners and honored fellows to educators and large optical companies.”

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. OAA fosters, supports and sponsors programs of competency certification, licensing and continuing education for professional development.

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).

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