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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OAA SELECTS MARK CLOER AS STATE LEADER OF THE YEAR**

**LAKELAND, TN, April 23, 2009** – The Opticians Association of America (OAA) is pleased to announce that Mark Cloer, HFOAA of Jackson, Mississippi has been named OAA’s State Leader of the Year. Presented annually at the Opticians Association of America’s State Leadership Conference, the award represents the highest honor the association can bestow upon an individual.

The recipient of this prestigious award must meet the following requirements: involved in state leadership, past or present; attended at least two OAA State Leadership Conferences; promoted the advancement of opticianry in own state or other state(s); be ABO, NCLE certified, or State Licensed; and be a member of a state association for a minimum of five consecutive years.

Tom Hicks, OAA President said, “Mark Cloer exemplifies leadership, love and commitment to our profession and his dedication to opticianry in Mississippi and OAA has been selfless and inspiring.”

Mark Cloer has been involved in the optical industry for over 30 years. Mr. Cloer is a past President of the Opticians Association of America, served two terms as President of the Mississippi Association of Dispensing Opticians, is the current owner and President of EYE2EYE, Inc., serves as an instructor and director for the Contact Lens Service at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, is an OAA Honored Fellow, has spoken on the national level and has had several articles published in ophthalmic trade journals.

Established in 1926, the Opticians Association of America (OAA), a 501(c) 6 trade association serves as the only national organization representing opticianry's business, professional, educational, legislative and regulatory interests. The Opticians Association of America fosters, supports and sponsors programs of competency certification, licensing and continuing education for professional development.

For more information about the Opticians Association of America please contact the 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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