Press Release

July 11, 2013

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COA President is named AOA Advocate of the Year**

**Sacramento, Calif**. -- California Optometric Association (COA) President Fred Dubick, OD, MBA, FAAO, was awarded the distinction of its 2013 Advocate of the Year by the American Optometric Association (AOA) for his work in advocacy for optometry. AOA is a federation of state, student and armed forces optometric associations nationwide that advocates for and serves optometrists in meeting the eye care needs of the public.

“I was completely taken by surprise when I was named the ‘AOA Advocate of the Year,’” Dr. Dubick said.

Most notably, Dr. Dubick advocated for California lawmakers’ co-sponsorship of HR 920, the National Health Service Corps Improvement Act, which would end the exclusion of doctors of optometry from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) student loan repayment and scholarship programs.  The NHSC provides education loan forgiveness and other incentives to attract providers to work in health professional shortage areas. While in Washington, Dr. Dubick secured a key co-sponsorship from Rep. Waxman, D-Los Angeles, for HR 920.

 “I have spent many years cultivating a relationship with my congressman, Henry Waxman.”

Waxman is a leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, ranking member of the Energy & Commerce Committee which has oversight on public health issues and was one of the sponsors of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

“It is very powerful to have the president of the state affiliate in the offices of legislators from California.  I am humbled by this award from the AOA and hope to have the opportunity to continue to make a difference in some small way,” Dr. Dubick said.

Dr. Dubick, who graduated with his master’s in business administration from the University of Redlands in 2006, has led a most prestigious career as a doctor of optometry, COA society leader, COA Board of Trustees member, and State Board of Optometry member. During his career, Dr. Dubick has volunteered in many capacities, including as a member of the AOA Disaster Preparation Project Team and as chief of eye care services for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee. He also served as a charter member of the AOA Contact Lens Section and president of the COA San Fernando Valley Optometric Society.

Established in 1899, the California Optometric Association is California's oldest organized community for doctors of optometry. Representing doctors of optometry throughout the state, COA is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of health care for the public through the advancement of optometry. Learn more at [coavision.org](http://coavision.org), Facebook.com/CaliforniaOptometric and [Twitter.com/COA\_Vision](http://www.twitter.com/COA_Vision).