



NEWS RELEASE

[California Optometric Association](http://www.coa.org)

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Contact: Bill Howe, bhowe@coavision.org, 916.266.5023

CALIFORNIA EYE DOCTOR NAMED WESTERN STATES OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR

Sacramento, CA – The California Optometric Association (COA) congratulated its past president Dr. Robert M. (Bob) Theaker, OD for being named 2017 “OD of the Year” by The Great Western Council of Optometry. Recognized as the 2016 California OD of the Year by COA in February, Dr. Theaker has been a practicing optometrist since 1991 and currently serves patients at the Hollister Vision Center near the Monterey Peninsula.

“The California Optometric Association is thrilled that Dr. Bob Theaker has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the eye health of patients in California and beyond,” said Dr. Sage Hider, president. “Dr. Theaker’s commitment to the profession of optometry, his advocacy for eye care access, and his passion for serving the public and his patients make him an outstanding choice as OD of the Year.”

The award recognizes Dr. Theaker’s exceptional contributions to the field of eye health, which include longtime leadership in the COA Monterey Bay Optometric Society and the California Optometric Association, where he served as president from 2007-08. Theaker has also been influential in optometric practice nationwide as a member of the American Optometric Association’s Federal Relations Committee and Congressional Conference. Theaker’s leadership on behalf of the profession resulted in a landmark California law that expanded optometrists’ role in treating glaucoma and in expanded access to eye care for members of the public through the Affordable Care Act.

“It’s been a pleasure to help my profession thrive,” said Dr. Theaker. “I really care about helping my patients see better and making sure they have good eye health and vision.”

Theaker has made the eye health of the public a personal mission, having volunteered with Flying Doctors and traveled to Mexico to provide vision and eye health care to needy children in Mexico City and patients in rural areas that lack eye care professionals. Over several decades, Theaker has also provided care to many patients at Monterey-area health fairs serving the uninsured and migrant communities.

Outside of his optometry practice, Dr. Theaker is a longtime, active member of the Monterey Peninsula Sunrise Rotary Club and a former president of the club. In that capacity, he has helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for local youth services, coastal preservation and school classrooms.

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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 support and advance the profession of optometry to assure quality health care for all Californians. Learn more at coavision.org, [Facebook.com/California Optometric](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaOptometric) and [Twitter.com/COA_Vision](https://twitter.com/COA_Vision).

The Great Western Council of Optometry was formed in 1991 to provide a common voice for the optometric community and provide opportunities for professional development across thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.