

# Value of ALAO Membership

*“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing....” - Edmund Burke*

Dear friends:  
Monumental changes are occurring in medicine including our profession. At the federal level the debate of reimbursement versus controlling health care costs continues. At the state level, continued encroachment by non MD providers such as optometrists has the potential to create a 2nd tier health care system that puts our patients at risk. We cannot sit idly by or “throw in the towel”. The Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology working in close concert with the Medical Association of Alabama and the American Academy of Ophthalmology are diligently cooperating to emphasize quality eye care led by qualified ophthalmologists. We are achieving victories but must have a unified response in these ongoing challenges.  
That is why we cannot do this alone and need you to be involved. Being a member of the Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology gives you an important venue and voice to be heard. Additionally, involvement in our state organization provides opportunities of leadership. Our close relationship with the AAO gives a larger part at the national level as well. Coordination with MASA at the state level allows us the opportunities to interact with colleagues in other specialties as well.  
I encourage you to join the Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology. The officers and board of directors volunteer tirelessly on the membership’s behalf. Together we will prevail in ensuring that quality eye care will always be led by eye M.D.’s.

Ron Braswell, M.D., ALAO President



Success in advocating for the profession and for patients in any state jurisdiction cannot be achieved by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) acting alone. Success requires critical local knowledge of key state issues, politics, and personal relationships. Only the Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology (ALAO) can leverage that knowledge and work to best represent you in Alabama. So when leaders of ALAO or the AAO call asking for your support, remember the importance of everything from scope of practice to regional carrier coverage determinations--and become an active member of the ALAO.

In addition to providing support on advocacy issues, ALAO also offers excellent continuing medical education and networking opportunities. ALAO collaborates with other state ophthalmology societies in the region to present an outstanding annual meeting, the SouthEast Eye Meeting, held each year in Destin, Florida. The national AAO is only as strong as its weakest link in the state societies. Please continue to support ALAO as a strong and thriving state ophthalmology society!

The AAO collaborates with state ophthalmology societies including the ALAO on a wide range of issues and programs, from educating patients about the differences in eye care providers via the EyeSmart program, to practice management and coding education via the CODEquest program, to leadership development of Eye M.D.s via the Leadership Development Program, to public service activities via EyeCare America and professional social media opportunities such as the EyeWiki and the online community. Please join your colleagues in supporting both your national organization and your state society.

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# Membership in ALAO: What’s in it for Me?

