CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS

2026 CAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Northeast's Premier Optometric Conference offering 16 COPE Accredited CE Credits

Saturday-Sunday September 26-27, 2026

(Opening Night Reception - Sept. 25th)

Mohegan Sun Resort Casino
1 Mohegan Sun Blvd
Uncasville, CT

For registration, lodging & more visit:

www.cteyes.org/conference

SPEAKER

Frances Bynum, OD

Martin, Tennessee

SPEAKER

Valerie Kattouf, OD, FAAO

Chicago, Illinois

SPEAKER

Selina McGee, OD, FAAO

Edmond, Oklahoma

SPEAKER

Sheila Morrison, OD, FAAO, FSLS, FCCSO

Calgary, Canada

PROGRAM SCHEDULE | CAO 2026

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Opening Night Reception - Join us for cocktails, delicious food stations, and Gift Card Raffle *FREE with Registration!*

Saturday, September 26, 2026

7:15 am – 8:00 am – Registration & Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:40 am
What Lies Beneath (and On Top): From Collarettes to Clogs (COPE: 102955-TD – 1 Hour)
Speaker: Selina McGee, O.D.
Not all ocular surface issues start on the surface. This session explores the underlying - and sometimes overlooked—contributors to chronic irritation and inflammation. We'll examine the full spectrum from Demodex collarettes to meibomian obstruction patterns, biofilm, keratinization, and lid-margin changes. Through diagnostic and imaging examples, participants will learn how to identify root causes, choose targeted therapies, and avoid misdiagnoses that slow down healing.

Simplifying the Storm: A Clearer Path with DEWS III (COPE: 103590-TD – 1 Hour)
Speaker: Selina McGee, O.D.
DEWS III introduces an updated framework for defining, classifying, and managing ocular surface disease. This course takes the new definitions, types of ocular surface disease, and disease stages and turns them into a practical process that can be easily used in everyday eye care practice. Attendees will explore how DEWS III compares with prior DEWS reports and other commonly used dry eye management models and discuss how experienced dry eye clinicians are integrating these updates into patient care. An emphasis will be placed on streamlining diagnostic testing, aligning treatment strategies with disease stages, and improving patient communication to support consistent and effective management.

9:40 am – 10:10 am – Break & Exhibits

10:10 am – 11:50 am
Neurotrophic, Neuropathic, Neuro-What? Navigating Nerve-Driven OSD
(COPE: 102957-TD – 1 Hour)
Speaker: Selina McGee, O.D.
Not every "dry eye" patient has dryness as the primary problem. This course demystifies nerve-based ocular surface conditions and how to differentiate them from evaporative or aqueous-deficient disease. We'll cover the "ocular surface" nerve anatomy, key diagnostic clues, imaging findings, and management options for neurotrophic keratopathy and neuropathic pain. Attendees will gain confidence in recognizing these challenging cases early, reducing mismanagement, and guiding patients toward more predictable relief.

The Eyelid Evolution (COPE: 101870-TD – 1 Hour)
Speaker: Selina McGee, O.D.
The eyelids play a crucial role in maintaining ocular surface health, uniquely designed to protect and support the eye. Unlike any other skin on the body, the eyelids are particularly vulnerable to various diseases and the effects of aging. From benign growths and dermatochalasis to fine lines and ptosis, these changes can impact both function and aesthetics. This course will explore the underlying causes, key clinical considerations, and, most importantly, how we as optometric physicians can effectively diagnose, manage, and treat eyelid conditions to support our patients' ocular and periocular health. The eyelids are just the beginning of optometry's next frontier.

11:50 am - 12:10 pm - CAO Election of Officers

12:10 pm - 1:40 pm - Lunch & Exhibits

1:40 pm – 3:20 pm
When to Play & When to Pass: Anterior and Posterior Segment (COPE: 100804-TD - 2 Hours)
Speaker: Frances Bynum, O.D.
This 2-hour continuing education course is designed to enhance optometrists' diagnostic and management skills in both anterior and posterior segment diseases. Through case-based learning and evidence-based clinical guidelines, attendees will refine their ability to distinguish between conditions that can be managed in-office versus those requiring referral to ophthalmology or other specialists. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing red flags, disease progression risks, and evolving treatment protocols. Anterior segment topics include keratitis, uveitis, corneal dystrophies, and ocular surface disease, while posterior segment discussions will cover diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular events, and optic neuropathies. Participants will leave with clear, actionable criteria for initiating treatment, co-managing care, or referring for surgical or subspecialty evaluation.

3:20 pm – 3:50 pm – Break & Exhibits

3:50 pm – 5:30 pm
Compliant Coding for the Modern Optometric Practice: 2026 Updates (COPE: 103376-PM - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Frances Bynum, O.D.
This course provides optometrists with a comprehensive, 2026-updated review of compliant billing, coding, and documentation standards in modern optometric practice. Emphasis is placed on proper use of Evaluation and Management (E/M) coding, accurate application of ophthalmic testing codes, medical necessity standards, risk-based documentation, and payer-specific considerations. Participants will learn to apply current Medical Decision Making (MDM) guidelines, reduce audit risk, and improve revenue integrity while maintaining ethical and regulatory compliance. Real-world case examples will reinforce practical implementation in a full-scope optometric setting.

What the Inflammation!? Understanding Ocular Inflammatory Disease (COPE: 105464-SD - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Frances Bynum, O.D.
Ocular inflammation is a common and potentially vision-threatening finding encountered in everyday optometric practice. Early recognition, accurate diagnosis, and timely intervention are essential to preserving vision and identifying underlying systemic disease. This one-hour, case-based course provides a practical approach to evaluating patients presenting with ocular inflammation, emphasizing differentiation of common inflammatory conditions affecting the anterior and posterior segments. It will review the clinical signs, diagnostic work-up, and evidence-based management of conditions including episcleritis, scleritis, anterior uveitis, keratitis, and selected posterior segment inflammatory diseases.

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Saturday Night Cocktail Reception
Located in the Exhibit Hall - *FREE* with Registration!
Join colleagues, industry partners, and friends for networking and conversation. Enjoy complimentary cocktails and a selection of light hors d'oeuvres while exploring the exhibit hall and connecting with fellow attendees. This is the perfect opportunity to catch up with colleagues, meet new contacts, visit with exhibitors, and make plans for dinner and evening activities.

6:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own - Enjoy Mohegan Sun!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE | CAO 2026

Sunday, September 27, 2026

7:15 am – 8:00 am – Registration & Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:40 am

Playing Myopia Monopoly: Risk Factors, Treatment Moves, and Winning Strategies
(COPE: 102867-GO - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Sheila Morrison, O.D.

Myopia management has become a standard of pediatric eye care, yet many clinicians struggle with when to intervene, how to integrate treatment into busy practices, and how to communicate value to families. Using a "game strategy" approach, this course explores risk assessment, treatment selection, and practical workflows through case-based discussions designed to improve long-term outcomes for children.

Seeing Change: The Spectacle Solution for Modern Myopia Care (COPE: 101607-GO - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Sheila Morrison, O.D.

This course provides an evidence-based review of spectacle lens options for myopia control. Participants will explore the science, clinical applications, and real-world outcomes of leading spectacle technologies and their role within a comprehensive myopia management program.

9:40 am – 10:10 am – Break & Exhibits

10:10 am – 11:50 am

The Essential Triad: Dry Eyes, Myopia, and Binocular Vision (COPE: Pending - 1 Hour)

Dry eye, myopia, and binocular vision disorders are increasingly common in children and teens. This course examines how screen use, environment, and lifestyle influence ocular health while exploring the connections between these conditions and current management strategies, including contact lenses and pharmaceutical therapies.

Modern Scleral Lens Fitting Demystified: Technology vs Traditional Fitting (COPE: Pending - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Sheila Morrison, O.D.

This course explores indications and current trends in scleral lens fitting, including emerging technologies and their clinical value. It will teach attendees who do not regularly fit scleral lenses how to best co-manage and safely follow scleral lens patients. Through case examples, participants will learn about the fitting process using traditional versus technology-driven fitting approaches while gaining practical insights to improve efficiency, confidence, and patient outcomes.

11:50 am - 12:00 pm - CAO Announcements

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm – Lunch & Exhibits
Exhibit Hall closes at 1:30pm

1:30 pm – 3:10 pm

Pediatric Examination Clinical Pearls
(COPE: Pending - 1 Hour)
Speaker: Valerie Kattouf, O.D.

This lecture will review infant examination techniques and clinical presentation as well as deviations from normal in the infant population. Methods of visual acuity determination, detection of strabismus and amblyopia, and common refractive errors will be discussed.

The Neuro-Ophthalmology of Concussion: The Evaluation Management of Vision and Visual Motor Abnormalities
(COPE: Pending – 1 Hour)
Speaker: Valerie Kattouf, O.D.

A presentation of the topic of concussion geared toward the primary care optometrist. We will review the clinical picture of concussion and the significant effect on the visual system. The focus will be on the optometric examination sequence and the role the optometrist plays in the decision for the concussion patient to return to their previous level of activity.

3:10 pm – 3:20 pm – Home Stretch Ice Cream Break

3:20 pm – 5:00 pm

Dementia Through Different Lenses: Neuro-Ophthalmic Manifestations & Caregiver Perspectives (COPE: Pending – 2 Hours)
Speaker: Valerie Kattouf, O.D.

This course provides a comprehensive overview of dementia. We will explore the various types of dementia, including Alzheimer's, Vascular dementia, and Frontotemporal lobular degeneration. The course delves into the clinical presentation, pathophysiology, and neuropathological hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease, such as the presence of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. We will also examine non-ocular and neuro-ophthalmic findings associated with Alzheimer's disease. A significant portion of the course is dedicated to understanding the challenges faced by family caregivers, the concept of early-onset dementia, and the role of healthcare providers in optimizing communication within the healthcare triad.

Please Note: The conference schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, including travel delays, technical difficulties, weather conditions, or other factors beyond our control. While we will make every effort to maintain the published schedule, session times and speakers may change as needed. Please check the conference app, website, and on-site signage regularly for updates and announcements. We appreciate your understanding and will do our best to keep attendees informed.

2026 Annual Education Conference

REGISTRATION

ONLINE: WWW.CTEYES.ORG
FAX: 860-529-4411
EMAIL: INFO@CTEYES.ORG

First Name:_____ **Last Name:** _____

Preferred First Name on Badge:_____ **OE Tracker #:**_____

Office Name:_____

Mailing Address:_____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **Zip Code:**_____

Phone:_____ **Email:**_____

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone):_____

Dietary Allergies/Restrictions:_____

Two Days – Saturday & Sunday, September 26-27, 2026	Early Bird	After 8/21/26
CAO Member	☐ $475	☐ $550
AOA Affiliate Member	☐ $475	☐ $550
Non-Member	☐ $575	☐ $675
One Day – Saturday, September 26, 2026	**Early Bird**	**After 8/21/26**
CAO Member	☐ $325	☐ $400
AOA Affiliate Member	☐ $325	☐ $400
Non-Member	☐ $375	☐ $450
One Day – Sunday, September 27, 2026	**Early Bird**	**After 8/21/26**
CAO Member	☐ $325	☐ $400
AOA Affiliate Member	☐ $325	☐ $400
Non-Member	☐ $375	☐ $450
Social Events	**Please RSVP**	
Friday Opening Night Reception (September 25, 2026)	☐ Yes, I will attend	☐ No, thank you
Saturday Night Exhibit Hall Cocktail Reception (September 26, 2026)	☐ Yes, I will attend	☐ No, thank you

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Payment: _____ **Please complete below** VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER NETWORK
or enclose check made out to: CAO

Credit Card #:_____ **Exp. Date:**_____ **CVV2 Code:**_____

Name on Card:_____ **Signature:**_____

Billing Address:_____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **Zip Code:**_____

Please note:
The CAO will adhere to all applicable state public health guidelines in effect at the time of the conference to ensure a safe and responsible gathering. Please note that course content and instructors are subject to change without prior notice. Every effort will be made to inform attendees of any updates as they arise. If you require any special accommodations to participate fully in this conference, please contact us at 860-529-1900. The CAO is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and all related regulations.

Registration Cancellation Policy:
Requests for cancellation must be submitted in writing and received by September 21, 2026, to be eligible for a refund, less a $50 administrative processing fee. After this date, no refunds will be issued for cancellations. Participant substitutions are permitted. Please note that no refunds will be granted for no-shows.