

**MOA MEMBERS
FROM SUE A. WEINGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JUNE 19, 2009**

**BOARD CERTIFICATION/MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION MOTIONS TO
BE MADE AT AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

Forwarded for your information:

**David A. Cockrell, O.D.
AOA Trustee**



Dear Colleague:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the leadership you have shown as our profession has prepared for the upcoming Board Certification/Maintenance of Certification (BC/MOC) discussion at Optometry's Meeting®. The time, attention to the details of the process and the study you have given it are certainly appreciated.

David Cockrell, O.D.

The AOA Board of Trustees realizes the pressures that have been brought upon each of you. Those pressures have come both from members within our respective affiliates as well as from Internet blogs. We appreciate the efforts of every affiliate leader in bringing this topic to your membership and discussing all sides of the issue.

In reflecting on what we as optometrists and health care providers do know about

change, which has been talked about for years, has finally come to health care. We do know that we are going to be required to demonstrate proof of continued competence. We also now know with certainty that the "way we have always done it" will not be sufficient in the future. We are fortunate, I believe, to know that Maintenance of Certification is listed specifically and approved as a way to demonstrate continued competence. We each know that you cannot maintain a certificate unless you are first granted one. There is no way around that fact. Our challenge now is how does the profession of optometry develop a process to get us there?

A recap of the points that we have made in our recent e-mails and *AOA News* articles follows:

Following the release of the draft of the model proposed by the Joint Board Certification Project Team (JBCPT), the AOA Board of Trustees reviewed all of the information available on proposed changes in health care administration and delivery. Last night, after reviewing the information at hand and the latest news about health care reform, we have taken a formal position to endorse the presentation and passage of the proposed model at next week's House of Delegates.

At the same time, we have worked to ensure that every AOA member has access to all information available to the board. As many of you have seen, the news of proposed changes that will affect how we practice and how we are paid is being released and updated constantly and quickly. This has resulted in a constant flow of information to you; we want to ensure you are well-informed.

We have also worked to solicit comments from our members and affiliates for changes they would like to see in the model. As you know, we have been able to achieve the approval by the JBCPT of almost all of the changes that the AOA has requested. Some observers have interpreted this to be a model that is so dynamic that they cannot take a position on it, rather than viewing it as the AOA listening and taking action on behalf of its members.

health care scene. We have seen organized medicine's response to the proposed changes. It has rapidly adopted a position of change and sought inclusion through the use of its MOC programs. Medicine is now moving all certification processes to develop MOC processes that mirror each other. Ophthalmology started its program three years ago.

We are convinced that the model proposed in January has been improved by the dialogue over the past four months. We also believe that the profession is ill-served by delaying its participation in changes we see as inevitable. I hope you will join in voting to create the American Board of Optometry and to take the next step in the profession of optometry's evolution.

The two motions that I will introduce on Friday are [linked here](#). One declares the AOA's support for the concept of Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification. The other recommends that the American Board of Optometry adopt certain principles and follow the model developed by the JBCPT. I hope you will take time to review the motions prior to the discussion next Friday.

In closing, thank you again for your support. I am looking forward to seeing each of you next week at Optometry's Meeting®!

Sincerely,

David A. Cockrell, O.D.
AOA Trustee

