

July 21, 2009

Dear OAM Member and Massachusetts Optician,

As most of you have heard, the Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians is conducting a continuing education audit of all Opticians who have been licensed since 2007 or earlier. OAM is supportive of the Board's efforts to ensure that Opticians are obtaining the continuing education that is so important in our profession as well as ensuring that all Opticians are operating under the same expectations.

The OAM office has received a number of phone calls from Opticians who have attended the education meetings offered by OAM. Many of the callers are looking for copies of credits or some type of verification of attendance. Unfortunately, OAM does not currently have the ability to produce copies of credits or to verify course attendance. The only available documentation is that a registration form was submitted. We cannot verify that someone actually attended nor can we verify what course was taken.

It is up to each professional Optician to obtain and maintain the appropriate number of credits needed over the two year period. As stated in the regulations:

3.04: Verification of Continuing Education Activities

2. Each licensed dispensing optician shall maintain a record of all continuing education courses or programs he or she has completed for a period of not less than two consecutive licensure periods, inclusive of the licensure period during which the course or program was completed.

Please keep in mind that OAM is a grassroots organization made up of a volunteer Board and a part-time Executive Director. We work very hard to ensure that Opticians in Massachusetts have access to excellent educational opportunities.

If you have any further questions or concerns you can call either President Tom Merrill at 617-573-3183 or Immediate Past President Denise Cook at 617-421-2373.