OD of the Year

The one O.D. who has made an outstanding accomplishment during the year. Generally awarded to a member who has a history of exceptional service to the Association.

1972  Myron Shofner, O.D.
1976  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1977  Erwin R. Lax, O.D.
1980  Howard Flippin, O.D.
1981  William Townsend, O.D.
1985  George Haas, O.D.
1989  Jean Medlock, O.D.
1991  Perry Amerine, O.D.
1992  Myron Shofner, O.D.
1993  Jim B. Lieblong, O.D.
1994  Howard Flippin, O.D.
1995  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1995  George Haas, O.D.
1996  Jean Medlock, O.D.
1997  Kenneth N. Hubbard, Jr., O.D.
1998  J. Wayne Buck, O.D.
2000  Kenny Wyatt, O.D.
2001  Robert Smalling, O.D.
2002  Dale Morris, O.D.
2006  Bryant Ashley, Jr., O.D.
2007  Harry Harrell, O.D.
2008  Patricia Westfall, O.D.
2009  Annette Webb, O.D.
2011  Creighton Simmons, O.D.
2012  Audie Teague, O.D.
2014  Sabre Wright, O.D.
2016  Susan DeBlack, O.D.
2017  Chevron Ergle, O.D.
2020  Belinda R. Starkey, O.D.
Young OD of the Year

A young O.D. who has been in practice a minimum of four years. The award should be made somewhere in the fourth to tenth year of service to the profession. A person who shows promise and interest in ArOA leadership by volunteering his service to committees and special projects and showing an exceptional zeal.

1995 Creighton Simmons, O.D.
1996 James O. Davis, O.D.
1997 Jeffery K. Smith, O.D.
2000 Dale Ladd, O.D.
2002 Darren Brodie, O.D.
2004 Chris Morris, O.D.
2005 Shane Ford, O.D.
2006 Patricia Westfall, O.D.
2007 Sabre Yocham, O.D.
2008 Chevron Ergle, O.D.
2011 James Hertzog, O.D.
2012 Matthew Jones, O.D.
2013 Joseph Sugg, O.D.
2016 Melia Robertson, O.D.
2018 Katie Brown, O.D.
2019 Alex Bell, O.D.
2020 Julie M. Dolven, O.D.
2022 Jessica Dinwiddie, O.D.
Distinguished Service Award

A member of the Association, who has distinguished his or herself in the service to the profession over many years. This is generally considered to be an award for the mid-career O.D. or older, but certainly not necessarily limited to the older O.D.s when the magnitude of service is so great for this most prestigious honor.

1972  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1974  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1975  Erwin R. Lax, O.D.
1976  Myron Shofner, O.D.
1977  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1979  George Haas, O.D.
1979  Thomas H. Gulley, O.D.
1981  Virgil Cook, O.D.
1985  Robert W. Smalling, O.D.
1989  Bert O. Miller, O.D.
1991  Dale Morris, O.D.
1991  Newt R. Nelson, O.D.
1992  D. Lloyd Guerin, O.D.
1992  Ralph Wilson, O.D.
1993  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1993  Jean Medlock, O.D.
1995  Betty Valachovic, CAE
1996  J. Wayne Buck, O.D.
1996  Bert O. Miller, O.D.
1997  Jim B. Lieblong, O.D.
1998  Audie Teague, O.D.
2000  Patricia Westfall, O.D.
2001  Howard Flippin, O.D.
2005  Kenny Wyatt, O.D.
2006  Jim B. Lieblong, O.D.
2006  Dale Morris, O.D.
2006  John Sugg, O.D.
2007  Wayne Buck, O.D.
2007  Herman Ginger, O.D.
2007  Audie Teague, O.D.
2008  Tasker Rodman, O.D.
2008  Bryant Ashley, O.D.
2009  Dean R. Gurley, O.D.
2012  Rusty Simmons, O.D.
2019  Susan DeBlack, O.D.
2019  Chevron Ergle, O.D.
2022  Bryant Ashley, O.D.
Special Service Award

A member of the Association who served the profession with excellence over a shorter period of time than the Distinguished Service Award. This generally is considered to be an award for the mid-career O.D. or younger, but not necessarily limited to the younger O.D. when the magnitude of service is so great over a shorter period of time that this award is justified. Example: special projects and assignments. A person who has made an outstanding contribution to our profession, the people of Arkansas, the Association and who may not necessarily be an O.D.

1972  Virgil Cook, O.D.  2016  Eric Robbins, O.D.
1976  Thomas H. Gulley, O.D.  2016  Alex Bell, O.D.
1977  Myron Shofner, O.D.  2016  Airiell Schwab, O.D.
1987  George Haas, O.D.  2016  Sharon Carter
1992  William D. Simmons, O.D.  2020  Matthew E. Jones, O.D.
1994  Creighton A. Simmons, O.D.  2020  Joe Sugg, O.D.
1995  J. Wayne Buck, O.D.  2020  Chevron Ergle, O.D.
1995  Robert W. Smalling, O.D.  2020  Susan DeBlack, O.D.
1996  Ralph H. Wilson, O.D.  2020  Creighton A. Simmons, O.D.
1996  Jerry T. Young, O.D.  2020  Bryan Armstrong, O.D.
1997  Bryant Ashley Jr., O.D.  2021  Richard Castillo, O.D., D.O.
1998  Roger Totten, O.D.  2022  Christina Vranich Miller, O.D.
Myron Shofner Award of Excellence

This award denotes legislative excellence. A mentor optometrist who has been an excellent example of professionalism and has been very active in the legal legislative arena, with a long history of service to the ArOA. An optometrist who is serving or has served in the Arkansas legislature with distinction and has worked for the good of the people of Arkansas.

1989  Myron Shofner, O.D.
1991  Erwin Lax, O.D.
1995  William H. Townsend, O.D.
1997  Charles I. Hughes, O.D.
1998  Bert Miller, O.D.
2003  George Haas, O.D.
2006  Howard Flippin, O.D.
2007  Robert W. Smalling, O.D.
2008  Jim Lieblong, O.D.
2009  John Boozman, O.D.
2018  Bryant Ashley, Jr., O.D.
2020  Creighton A. Simmons, O.D.
## Lifetime of Excellence

This award is given to an optometrist who has exemplified the highest ethical, professional and caring character during his or her practice life and who has reached the later years of their service to optometry, or has retired, and has shown a willingness to serve in numerous capacities. His/her career has been an example for all Arkansas Optometrists to follow and their life has been one that has had a positive influence upon their family, community, and peers. This member has been an example to others of what it means to put the Arkansas Optometric Association ahead of personal goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Lloyd Guerin, O.D.</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>William Simmons, O.D.</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Bert Miller, O.D.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Jerry Park, O.D.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Henry B. Burton, O.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Erwin Lax, O.D.</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Glen Bryant, O.D.</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Jean Medlock, O.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Thomas Gulley, O.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Ralph Wilson, O.D.</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Darrell Broadway, O.D.</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Garry Haas, O.D.</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Harry Denison, O.D.</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Dale Morris, O.D.</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Kenny Wyatt, O.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Harry Harrell, O.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Herman Ginger, O.D.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>George Haas, O.D.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>DeAnne Witherspoon, O.D.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Bob Smalling, O.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Howard Flippin, O.D.</td>
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</table>
Paraoptometric of the Year

This award is given to an outstanding paraoptometric who works for a member of the Arkansas Optometric Association and has shown Service to Optometry and the association; community involvement and has a personal endorsement from a member of the Arkansas Optometric Association. Criteria to consider may include Office competence – office management and technical skills; service to optometric association; contributions of personal time and effort on behalf of the profession’s advancement; participation in public information activities (vision screening projects, service with sight saving groups, etc.).

2018 Lauren Harmon, Heber Spring Eye Care
2019 Kari West, Arkansas Eye Care Group
2020 Bailey Woodson, Heber Spring Eye Care
2022 Amanda Coley, Robertson Eye Center