



## 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 general 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.
2008	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
1991	Verrell O. McNabb, O.D.	2020	Belinda R. Starkey, O.D.
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.
1999	Creighton A. Simmons, O.D.		
1999	Jeff Smith, O.D.		
2000	Scott Seller, O.D.		
2000	Lynne Wyatt		
2001	DeAnne Witherspoon, O.D.		
2002	Harry Denison, O.D.		
2004	Shane Ford, O.D.		
2005	Bryant Ashley Jr., O.D.		
2008	Patricia Westfall, O.D.		
2006	Chris Morris, O.D.		
2006	David Witherspoon, O.D.		
2006	Sabre Yocham, O.D.		
2007	Annette Webb, O.D.		
2007	Trisha Morris		
2007	Shirley Liles		
2008	Wanda Vaughn, O.D.		
2009	Kim Slaten		
2009	Jason Gates, O.D.		
2010	Joe Chaney, O.D.		
2013	Auxiliary to the ArOA		
2014	James Hertzog, O.D.		
2015	Derek Long, 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.

2008	Lloyd Guerin, O.D.
2008	William Simmons, O.D.
2008	Bert Miller, O.D.
2009	Jerry Park, O.D.
2009	Henry B. Burton, O.D.
2010	Erwin Lax, O.D.
2010	Glen Bryant, O.D.
2010	Jean Medlock, O.D.
2011	Thomas Gulley, O.D.
2011	Ralph Wilson, O.D.
2012	Darrell Broadway, O.D.
2012	Garry Haas, O.D.
2013	Harry Denison, O.D.
2013	Dale Morris, O.D.
2013	Kenny Wyatt, O.D.
2014	Harry Harrell, O.D.
2014	Herman Ginger, O.D.
2015	George Haas, O.D.
2015	DeAnne Witherspoon, O.D.
2022	Bob Smalling, O.D.
2022	Howard Flippin, O.D.



## 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