

## UPDATE FROM FORMER OPTOMETRIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

October 20, 2023 Lakemont, GA USA

From: BILL SHARPTON, O.D. - Former member of the Optometric Historical Society Board

I am now 85, having given up my Georgia License back in 2020.

The late Dr. Irving P. Bennett is responsible for my being on the Board in the first place. He passed on a few years back and was like a father to me for many years. I still correspond with his children.

I recently had heart surgery and a "stent" implanted to get more oxygen to my system. It was successful, and I am now in rehab with a couple of months to go.

I will likely offer to submit an article to you in the next few years that I hope will educate younger OD's that the privileges that they enjoy were not easily gained. So many who have passed did so much to literally change our profession which resulted in optometry being on a more even level with ophthalmology and now respected more as a profession than ever before.

## 2024 "BLAST FROM THE PAST" CHALLENGE



The Optometric Historical Society invites all optometry students to submit an entry about an influential person,

event, or development in Optometry History in any form of media. The top three finalists will present during an hour long virtual Blast from the Past education event that will take place during the first week of May 2024 in the evening.

The application and a full list of requirements can be found at [aoafoundation.org](http://aoafoundation.org). Go to the programs drop down and visit the

Optometric Historical Society's Blast from the Past Challenge page for more information.

## OPTOMETRY'S FUND FOR DISASTER RELIEF



Optometry's Fund for Disaster Relief has changed the lives of many optometrists by providing immediate financial relief for critical and urgent needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

Disasters are unpredictable and can be life-altering; it is our goal to ensure that the fund is always poised and ready to help, so doctors can get back to doing what they do best – providing eye and vision care to their community.

Doctors and students who have property damage to their home or practice can apply for a disaster relief grant at [aoafoundation.org/ofdr](http://aoafoundation.org/ofdr).

## 2024 OPTOMETRY CARES STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship Winners!

**Dr. Larry J. Alexander Scholarship** - Meagan Seufert from Pacific University College of Optometry

**Dr. Seymour Galina Scholarship** - Shawn Matsumoto from State University of New York College of Optometry

**Bernard Maitenaz Scholarship** - Faye Nie from Southern California College of Optometry

