The OOA offers several different categories of membership; contact info@ooa.org for further information.

**ACTIVE MEMBER** OD working an average of 25 hours or more per week.

**PARTIAL PRACTICE MEMBER** OD working an average of 24 hours or less per week. Pays discounted annual dues based on weekly work hours.

**OPTOMETRIC EDUCATOR MEMBER** OD educator working full-time in school-related activities such as teaching, research, or administration. Pays educator rate discounted annual dues.

**LIFE MEMBER** OD who has accumulated 45+ years of membership in the AOA. Pays NO annual dues.

**POST GRADUATE MEMBER** OD in residency program or enrolled full-time in a graduate program. OOA covers AOA annual dues obligation.

**RETIRED WITH BENEFITS MEMBER** OD aged 55 or older that is no longer engaged in compensated optometric-related activities. Pays highly discounted annual dues. Continues to accumulate years toward Life membership.

**RETIRED MEMBER** OD aged 55 or older that is no longer engaged in compensated optometric-related activities. Pays NO annual dues and does NOT have access to member advantages. Does NOT accumulate years toward Life membership.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER** An OD or non-OD who does not meet the criteria of other membership categories (i.e., an OD who affiliates with a different state yet wants to continue to participate in Ohio optometry). Pays highly discounted annual dues and has limited access to member advantages.

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**MISSION OF THE OOA**

The Ohio Optometric Association serves its members and their patients by advocating for the profession to the public and policymakers, promoting the importance of and access to comprehensive eye care, and providing meaningful resources that strengthen professional viability.

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**OOA DUES INFORMATION**

Full member dues are roughly $155 a month, or about the cost of a contact lens exam.

OOA membership dues include OOA, AOA, and regional Zone fees.

**ASCENDING DUES**

Member ODs within their first five years of graduation take advantage of the ascending dues schedule.

Members in their first full year following graduation pay roughly 15% of combined AOA and OOA total dues.

The ascending dues schedule progresses to roughly 30% for the second full year following graduation, and then 55% and 77% for the third and fourth years respectively. Members begin paying full dues in their fifth year following graduation.

**AUTOMATIC DUES PAYMENT (ADP) PLAN**

The ADP Plan allows member ODs to divide their combined AOA/OOA annual dues into monthly payments automatically deducted from their credit/debit card or checking account. The standard ADP cycle runs June—May. Altered plans are available for members who enroll mid-cycle.

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**OOA CONGRESS**

The OOA holds its annual business meeting, OOA Congress, in conjunction with the EastWest Eye Conference. At Congress, members elect the board of trustees and discuss major issues facing optometry. With the exception of Post Grad, Retired, and Associate members, all members in attendance may vote. Every member is invited to attend and debate important issues.

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**I love using ADP to pay my dues. It saves both me and the OOA time and cost. It’s easier to budget small payments than one lump sum. Plus, I don’t have to worry about re-enrolling; I know my membership is taken care of each year.**

Drusilla Grant OD, 1981 grad

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I can’t stress enough the importance of OOA membership. There’s so much changing with new technology and innovations. We must have a strong voice and be proactive to modernize the profession and protect our patients. Our success is a direct result of strong membership that represents the vast majority of optometrists in Ohio. More is on the horizon. You can’t afford not to be a member.

Michael Earley OD, PhD, 1988 grad