



April 2026 Newsletter

This month's newsletter highlights student-led clinics in Uganda and hands-on training in Puerto Rico, upcoming service opportunities in Thailand, a brainstorming meeting for our US SVOSH chapters, and a strategic meeting in Nairobi for our African chapters to strengthen optometric education across this region. We also celebrate Dr. Vicki Weiss, recently named as Philanthropic Optometrist of the Year by the Virginia Optometric Association. We hope you enjoy it, share it, and help us continue creating meaningful change.

VOA
VIRGINIA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

**VIRGINIA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
PHILANTHROPIC OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR
2026**

DR. VICTORIA WEISS

The Virginia Optometric Association honors Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss as Philanthropic Optometrist of the Year for her decades-long commitment to expanding access to eye care for underserved communities locally and globally.

A graduate of the State University of New York College of Optometry, she began her humanitarian work as a student with SVOSH and has since served in clinics across Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

Early in her career, she cared for underserved populations in New York City through the William F. Ryan Community Health Center, the Kress Vision Program, and NY Downtown Hospital. After moving to Virginia, she helped establish VOSH Virginia and served as Vision Director for more than 80 domestic clinics. She continues to provide mobile care across Central Virginia, serving patients in over 15 nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Dr. Weiss is a Fellow of VOSH/International and the Virginia Academy of Optometry, a past VOSH Humanitarian of the Year, educator, and longtime board member. Her work has earned widespread recognition, and she remains active in volunteer care. She currently serves as Vice President of VOSH Virginia and is set to lead VOSH/International, continuing her mission to deliver accessible, quality eye care worldwide.

Congratulations, Dr Weiss!

VOSH/International President honored as the Philanthropic Optometrist of the Year

Dr Vicki Weiss, President of VOSH/International, has been named Philanthropic Optometrist of the Year by the **Virginia Optometric Association** for her decades-long commitment to expanding access to eye care for underserved communities. The award will be presented at the VOA Annual Conference in May. Read more about Dr Weiss [here](#).

Congratulations!.

VOSH in Africa

VOSH INTERNATIONAL
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity®

in partnership with

national vision

THE COALITION FOR CLEAR VISION

VOSH in AFRICA
Strategic Gathering
June 2 – 3
Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital
Nairobi – Kenya

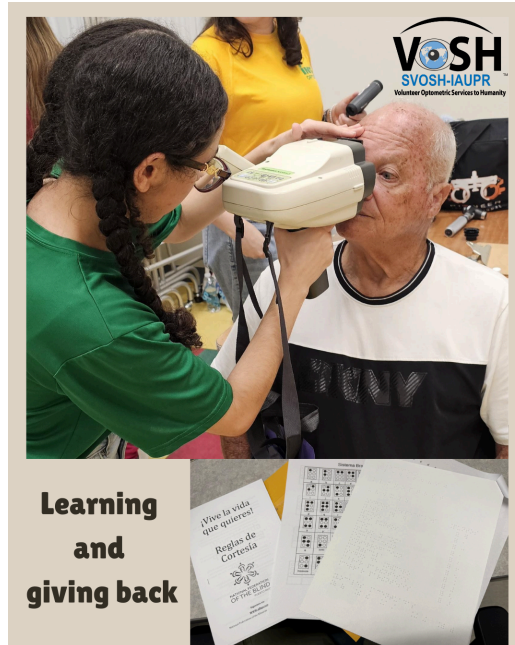
African VOSH and SVOSH chapters to meet in Nairobi

In partnership with National Vision and The Coalition for Clear Vision, VOSH/International is convening a meeting of its African SVOSH and VOSH chapters to strengthen optometric education and humanitarian clinical standards, advancing the integration of optometry within national eye care and overall health systems, explore sustainable career pathways for optometry graduates and market opportunities and constraints affecting access to quality vision care. The meeting will be held at the Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital. The program is available [here](#).

News From Our Chapters

SVOSH-IAUPR: learning and giving back



SVOSH-IAUPR participated in a health fair and received training on protocols for assisting blind people in public and clinical spaces. Read more about these activities [here](#).



SVOSH-Makerere-Uganda organizes a World Optometry Week screening

Optometry students at Makerere University in Uganda organized a two-day clinic in celebration of World Optometry Week. Read the report [here](#).





**SVOSH–Rocky Mountain
University College of
Optometry is seeking ODs to
join them in northern Thailand**

SVOSH-Rocky Mountain University College of Optometry: ODs needed for Thailand clinic

This chapter will travel to Phayao Province, Northern Thailand, from August 16–26 and is seeking 4–5 ODs to join them. The team expects to examine approximately 1,500 patients and provide glasses. Estimated cost (excluding airfare): \$1,500, covering food, accommodations, in-country transportation (including Bangkok–Chiang Rai flight), and cultural activities.

Interested volunteers may contact Dr. Adam Hickenbotham at adam.hickenbotham@rm.edu



**US SVOSH Chapters Leaders
are invited to a lunch
meeting in Phoenix, Arizona**

US SVOSH chapters: Invitation to a lunch meeting at AOA Optometry’s Meeting

US SVOSH chapter leaders attending Optometry’s Meeting in Phoenix, AZ this June are invited to a lunch brainstorming meeting.

If you plan to attend, please [complete this form](#) and join the discussion on strengthening our collective work.

See you in Phoenix.

News From Our Partners

SeeWell Readers: where beauty meets purpose

Sarah Jones, founder of [See Well Readers](#), created a company inspired by kindness and committed for everyone to see.

US VOSH and SVOSH chapters, if you are interested in **+1.50 to +3.00 readers** for international clinics, contact Sarah Jones at sarahjones@seewell-eyewear.com.

Chapters must cover shipping costs.

For every pair sold, SeeWell donates one

SeeWell
READERS

Beauty and kindness combined

Together We Create Change



Help Us Go Further

Every activity we organize depends on the generosity of people who believe in the power of vision.

As our global network continues to grow, so does the need. Your support—whether through a personal donation or by encouraging others to give—helps us reach more people and change more lives.

If you're attending any of the major US optometry meetings, stop by our booth. Discover the incredible work our 125 chapters are doing around the world and join us in expanding access to eye care for all.

Your contribution truly makes a difference. Please [donate](#) if you can.

Visit our Website



VOSH/International | 12660 Q Street | Omaha , NE 68137 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

How did you like this email?

