



October 2025 Newsletter

This month, we welcome Dr. Victoria Weiss as the new President of VOSH/International, alongside our newly appointed Vice-President and a Lebanese Board Member. We stand in solidarity with Brazilian optometrists, share a brief update on our recent Annual Meeting and Fundraising Dinner in Boston, highlight recent activities from our chapters and partners, celebrate the achievements of several award recipients, and announce a new collaborative agreement with Keralink International—among other exciting news.

President's Insights

October 2025

The vision for my
presidency



President's Insights

Dr Victoria Weiss, the new President of VOSH/International, shares her goals for her presidency as delivered during her installation on October 12th at NECO in Boston, USA

Read the article in English [here](#) and the Spanish version [here](#).

Meet our new President, Dr Victoria Weiss

Dr Victoria Weiss, OD is a seasoned VOSHer who got inspired to follow the humanitarian route at optometry school.

Read more about her journey as a VOSH volunteer in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#).



And a final article from the Immediate Past President

Immediate Past President, Hector Santiago shares his last article in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).

Governance



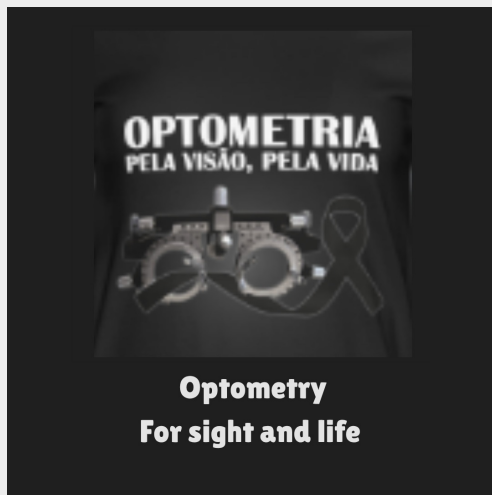
Jeffrey Weaver, OD,FAAO
VOSH/International
Vice-President (2025-2027)




Ameer Abou Adela
VOSH/International
Board of Directors (2025-2028)

At the Annual Meeting in Boston, [Dr Jeffrey Weaver](#), was formally appointed as Vice-President of VOSH/International. We also welcomed, Ameer Abou Adela, of Lebanon to the Board. Ameer is the founder of the Vision Care Association (VCA) and President of the VOSH-VCA-Lebanon chapter. Learn more about Ameer [here](#).

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Tim Wingert, OD, outgoing Chair of our Education Committee, and Michael Ciszek, OD, VOSH/International Past President, for their dedication and commitment to our mission. We look forward to their continued involvement in different capacities.



Say NO to intolerance

It was with great sorrow that we received the news from the [Brazilian Confederation of Optometry and Optics \(CBOO\)](#) about the murder of Optometrist Marcelo Nogueira, reportedly by a local ophthalmologist. At VOSH, we stand for the mutual respect, safety, and collaboration among all eye care professionals. No one should practice in fear of losing their life or mental well-being.

You can read CBOO statement [here](#) and VOSH/International letter to CBOO in English [here](#) and Portuguese [here](#).

Annual Meeting in Boston –A summary



This year's Annual Meeting, hosted by the New England College of Optometry (NECO) in Boston, was another success. With over 70 participants attending in person and over 150 registered online, the Meeting facilitated the sharing of experiences around Children's vision from Jordan, Colombia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Kenya and the US.

We are indebted to NECO, Dr Gary Chu and Dr Bina Patel for their hospitality and support in organising and delivering the meeting. Attendees in Boston enjoyed a venue of historical relevance and architectural beauty.

Thanks to our loyal sponsors, [NVI](#) and [VSP Vision](#), and our exhibitor [Plenoptika](#) for their trust and constant support.

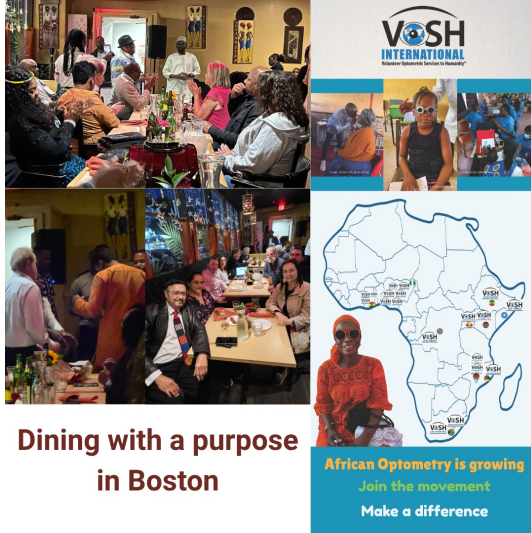
The individual videos of the lectures have been uploaded to our Vimeo account [here](#).

Fundraising Dinner in support of SVOSH African chapters

On October 11, the fundraising dinner in support of African SVOSH chapters took place at [Suya Joint](#) in Boston. Organised in partnership with the [AAO African chapter](#), the dinner was attended by over 80 participants who enjoyed a traditional Nigerian meal and lovely African music.

It was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievement of over 30 African delegates obtaining their [Fellowship at the American Academy of Optometry](#). What an

achievement!



**Dining with a purpose
in Boston**

**African Optometry is growing
Join the movement
Make a difference**

An exciting partnership to benefit US chapters

VOSH/International and Keralink International establish a partnership

VOSH/International and **KeraLink** International have entered into a partnership to expand access to eye care and corrective eyewear in underserved communities worldwide.

KeraLink will complement the humanitarian clinics of US VOSH chapters by ensuring access to the glasses their patients need and other support. The partnership started supporting VOSH-PA needs for their recent clinic in Haiti. You can read more about the partnership [here](#).



For more information, please contact Jeff Soulliere at jsoulliere@keralink.org or Maria Arce at arce@vosh.org

News from our chapters

SVOSH-PUCO visits Peru

SVOSH-PUCO Amigos was in Peru in August. They partnered with **Project Peru** and served the community of El Zapallal, north of the capital, Lima. The 12-person team stayed on site and served over 500 patients. They were joined by a delegation of local SVOSH-Eurohispano providing a unique opportunity for international exchange and collaboration. Both teams enjoyed a dinner at the end of the clinic. Read the report on this clinic [here](#).

For more information, contact Dr Carol Rymer at rymercz@pacific.edu



and SVOSH-Eurohispano leads the follow-up

In a true spirit of collaboration, **SVOSH-Eurohispano** got over 70 prescription glasses made locally and coordinated with Project Peru to distribute them to the patients. This ensured a timely delivery of the prescription glasses, supported the local economy, and more awareness of Project Peru..

A great partnership has been established to continue growing and benefit Peruvian patients.

For more information, contact Dr Severo Sanchez at ssanchez@eurohispano.edu.pe



SVOSH-IAUPR organises an introductory sign language course

On October 29th, a 1.5-hour free introductory workshop on sign language was organised for students and faculty by SVOSH-IAUPR. Hearing loss affects nearly 20% of the world population, prevalence increases with age.

Gaining basic sign language skills helps optometrists serve deaf patients more empathetically. What a great initiative of this SVOSH chapter.

For more information, contact Adamaris Castillo, VP of this chapter at 000648826@optonet.inter.edu

Optovision 2025 continues contributing to optometric education in Peru

From October 9 -11, Optovision 2025 convened over 200 attendees in Lima, Peru. The congress featured a strong academic program including 22 expert-led lectures, 2 specialised workshops, 1 panel discussion and over 20 hours of education. Optovision offered an attractive exhibition.

A spirit of collaboration and professionalism marked the event. Dr. Severo Sánchez, Chair of the Organizing Committee and faculty adviser of SVOSH-Eurohispano, highlighted Optovision's role in fostering knowledge exchange, innovation, and the sense of community among Latin American optometrists. Dr Santiago, Immediate Past President of VOSH/International, offered two lectures online



Plans are already underway for Optovision 2026. You can read the Spanish press release [here](#).

Awards

Dr Greg Pearl honoured at OGS dinner.

On October 7th, Dr Greg Pearl, VOSH-CA President, was awarded the Brien Holden Founders Award by Optometry Giving Sight (OGS) in Boston, USA.

A well-deserved recognition for a life of service.



Dr Yazan Gammoh receives the Optometrist Award 2025

Dr Gammoh, faculty adviser of SVOSH-Al-Ahliyya Amman University in Jordan received the Optometrist Award 2025 for the Gulf region at the Optoverse Conference in Dubai.

Your dedication has been duly recognized.



Dr Amy Puerto receives the Theia Award of Excellence Young OD

Dr Puerto, AOA representative at VOSH/International Board of Directors received a Theia Award of Excellence in the Young OD category following the Women's Leadership Conference at the AAO meeting in Boston.

A tribute to your contributions to optometry.



News from our partners

VNHope needs volunteers for Vietnam

VNHOPE SUMMER MEDICAL MISSION 2026



Volunteers needed

* Student volunteers (50)
- college/graduate students
- professional students: medical,
Dental, Pharmacy, nursing,
Optometry, etc.
- Highschool students may
participate if accompanied by
Parents or college siblings
* Adult Non-Medical volunteers
are also needed and welcome

*Professional volunteers

- MD, DO, RN in
- Adult primary care
- Pediatrics
- Gynecology
- Pain management
- Dentist DDS, DMD
- Optometrist OD
- Pharmacist
- RN
- Nutritionist
- good opportunity for resident
physicians

Sunday June 21 through Sunday July 05-2026
Consists of 6 clinics plus field trips

Tây Ninh, Đồng Nai, South Vietnam

REGISTER TODAY: online registration at vnhope.org is open on Nov 1-2025

Vietnamese fluency not required -

FOR INFORMATION Please contact: vnhopesummer@gmail.com



VNHOPE ALLIANCE
Bainstar, Irvine, CA 92614
vnhopesummer@gmail.com - vnhope.org

VNHope, a non-profit organization from California is looking for OD volunteers for a medical mission to South Vietnam between June 21 to July 5th.

Registrations open on November 1st.
For more information, please contact
vnhopesummer@gmail.com

GMAC Launches Free Myopia Awareness Toolkit for Eye Care Professionals

The Global Myopia Awareness Coalition (GMAC) has launched the **GMAC Myopia Awareness Toolkit**, a free resource designed to help eye care professionals (ECPs) have more effective conversations with families about childhood myopia and its management

The toolkit includes 12 practical, ready-to-use educational assets. These materials support clinical discussions and raise awareness among parents about the importance of early myopia management. All resources are available for free download at myopiaawareness.org/toolkit.

Free GMAC Myopia Awareness Toolkit

Complete the form below for ready-made tools and resources to be able to educate, engage, and empower parents to take early action on about the progression of their child's myopia.

Take a look!

Do you want to see how big VOSH/International is?

Visit our Website



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

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