

President's Insights

October 2025

Acceptance speech of VOSH/International President, Dr Victoria Weiss

VOSH has been one of the backbones of my career and life. I've had the privilege of being a member of VOSH/International since Optometry School, a few years ago. As a student, I attended the VOSH Annual meeting in St. Louis, participated in my first clinics in Honduras and then started a vision clinic at a homeless shelter in NYC. That was inspiring and the start of a great journey in Optometry with VOSH. Over time, I have seen the changes, growth, and adaptation of VOSH/International to the needs of global eyecare.



Roatán, Honduras 2019 -10.00 diopter myope with her first eyeglasses

I had two mentors who helped me see the spark in them and understand what could be done in healthcare where there are gaps. Sister Bernie Kenny, a Catholic nun and Nurse Practitioner, started to serve those in rural Virginia from her Volkswagen Beetle. We later collaborated with clinics and VOSH-Virginia. Dr. Harry Zeltzer, a VOSH past president, guided me in expanding the work of VOSH-Virginia and becoming more involved with VOSH/International.

I also had the continued support of my husband OD VOSHer Douglas Weiss as well as my two now adult children, who each participated in many clinics. Doug and I got engaged in Roatán, Honduras, on our second VOSH clinic with SVOSH-SUNY.

Now, I am truly honored to be able to serve as the 25th President of VOSH/International and hope to continue to learn from those before me and I ask for their support. Thanks, Héctor, for your tireless work these past two years and thank you to the most recent Presidents

Ellen, Tracy, Dan and Michael, as well as Ruth and Greg. Two out of four women VOSH Presidents are Weiss' – what are the odds?

I plan to utilize my team and resources of the past presidents, Board of Directors, our Vice President, Dr Jeffrey Weaver, and our Chapter leaders, to continue the movement of VOSH/International forward into our next two years. Additionally, I appreciate and really look forward to continuing to work with our dedicated and talented Executive Director.

I plan to help continue to grow and strengthen the practice of Optometry by strengthening collaboration between US VOSH and SVOSH Chapters with our international SVOSH and VOSH Chapters. I will encourage mentorship among VOSH/International Chapters, making VOSH/International a more collaborative network worldwide.



Free clinic at Charlottesville, Virginia

Thank you to our partners, especially National Vision and VSP Vision, who support this and previous annual meetings. I will continue cultivating the alliances Héctor Santiago helped to develop. We appreciate our partnerships with Alcon, Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics (ALDOO), American Optometric Association (AOA), Keralink, One Sight EssilorLuxotica Foundation (OSELF), OPTOGLOBE, Optometry Giving Sight (OGS), Plenoptika, Special Olympics, Lions and Rotary Clubs. We value our membership in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), the WHO SPECS 2030 network, and the World Council of Optometry (WCO).

A special thanks to Charity Vision and their collaboration with our Technology Transfer Program (TTP). This

collaboration is helping strengthen our quality and ability to distribute donated equipment.

I am excited to continue working with these and other partners I have not mentioned to reach those who are not getting the vision services they need, our common goal.

I would like to share the VOSH/International Mission:

VOSH believes in the freedom to see. Our mission is to provide the gift of vision and quality eye health to people worldwide. VOSH facilitates the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

Our goal is to increase our global impact whenever possible by supporting sustainable eye clinics, optometry schools and optometric educators in areas lacking sufficient eye care.

Currently, the fastest membership growth of VOSH/International is among SVOSH-International Chapters. Part of VOSH/International's work is to help increase and support sustainability, optometric education and schools, while remaining culturally aware when working to reach underserved groups.

As we increase our efforts on data collection and reporting, we recognize the potential of this data to influence public policy. By demonstrating the significant scale of the need and the impact of our volunteer eyecare services, we aim to support decision makers and other organizations of the eyecare sector to make informed decisions, reinforcing the value of our work. Thank you, Beatriz Gomez, for leading our data collection work.

VOSH/International is a strong organization. We are proud to be the largest global network of Volunteer Optometrists. We have 122 VOSH and SVOSH Chapters in 33 countries and continue to grow. We can continue to serve as a model of clinical care and empower our colleagues by sharing our skills and knowledge in low and middle-income countries and areas of underserved populations.



Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss, OD

With YOUR help we can together continue to move VOSH/International forward as the leaders of volunteer Optometric care worldwide.

Delivered by Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss, OD, FVAO, FVI
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