Resolution

HONORING RICHARD E. WEISBARTH, OD, FAAO
AS HE RETIRES FROM ALCON VISION LLC

Whereas, Dr. Richard Weisbarth has been an outstanding leader in optometric education, the optometric profession, vision research, and public health throughout his more than four-decade career; and

Whereas, Dr. Weisbarth earned his Bachelor of Science in Physiological Optics in 1978, his Doctor of Optometry in 1980, both from Ohio State University, and completed post graduate training in the Contact Lens Practice Residency Program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) School of Optometry in 1981; and

Whereas, Dr. Weisbarth spent most of his career working in the optometric industry holding positions in Professional Development and Partnerships, Professional Services, Clinical Services and Clinical Research in both Ciba Vision and Alcon, and recently retiring from his position as Vice President of Professional Affairs for Alcon Vision LLC; and

Whereas, During Dr. Weisbarth’s tenure at Alcon, he was one of the earliest and most steadfast supporters of Optometry Gives Me Life, which encourages new students to consider optometric careers at the 24 schools and colleges of optometry. Dr. Weisbarth’s strong desire to see optometry flourish and grow is clearly evident in his widespread involvement in optometric advocacy at all levels; and

Whereas, Optometric education and the profession have benefitted greatly from Dr. Weisbarth’s expertise and leadership while serving as an adjunct visiting professor at Southern College of Optometry 2005-2015; and
Whereas, Dr. Weisbarth’s career reflects a deep commitment and dedication to the advancement of the profession by serving admirably and with distinction in roles for many optometric organizations and by maintaining professional membership and affiliations which include, specifically in the last two decades, the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) 1983-present, American Optometric Association (AOA) 1980-present, American Optometric Association - Contact Lens Section (AOA-CLCS) 1982-present, American Academy of Optometric Foundation (AAOF) 2017-present, Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) 1992-present, International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) 2009-present; and

Whereas, Dr. Weisbarth became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry in 1983, a Diplomate in its Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies in 1986, the AAO Hall of Fame Inductee in 2022, and a AAO Society Emeritus Fellow in 2023; and

Whereas, Additional accolades for Dr. Weisbarth’s contributions to academic and professional communities include, the Innovation Award -Precision 1 Connect Program from Alcon Laboratories, the Professional Affairs Award from the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Legions Award and Dr. Rodger Kame Award from the American Optometric Association - Contact Lens and Cornea Section (AOA-CLCS), the Ophthalmic Industry Leadership Award from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), and the Neal J. Bailey Optometry Medal from The Ohio State University College of Optometry; and

Whereas, Dr. Weisbarth has worked passionately and tirelessly in the advocacy for vision care safety since 1998, meeting internationally and nationally with representatives of the Federal Trade Commission and Food and Drug Administration, with senators, representatives, and legislators regarding contact lens safety, telehealth expansion, and interprofessional health care; therefore, be it

Resolved, that ASCO and its members earnestly thank Dr. Weisbarth for his service, contributions to optometry and vision science, optometric education and ASCO; and be it further

Resolved, that the ASCO family extends its very best wishes to Dr. Weisbarth upon his retirement with the sincere hope for much happiness and good health in the many years ahead.