



Howard Cooper, NJSOP Executive *Retires*

At the end of December, the NJSOP's Executive Director, Howard Cooper, will embark upon his next chapter: retirement. Howard has guided the association for the last 13 years and we are grateful for his many contributions and guidance.

Howard began his career after graduating from the University of Miami. He started working in state and local government, serving as Assistant to the Mayor of Trenton, CEO of the Greater Raritan Workforce Board, and COO of Somerset County Chamber of Commerce. In 2004, he became Executive Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Bucks/Montgomery, before finally coming to the NJSOP in 2008.

When Howard accepted the executive director position, he set out to make an already beloved association even better by focusing on member needs and updating the NJSOP's abilities to stay in touch with and communicate to members throughout the state. He also gave considerable attention to the legislative needs of the profession and worked hard to help the NJSOP's legislative committee achieve its goals. Some of those victories include The Physician-Delegated Scope of Practice and OD Protections Bill, enacted in 2015; the 2017 Telemedicine Bill; and the 2018 Patient Access Bill.

Under Howard's leadership, the NJSOP focused on updating its image and becoming more accessible to members. Everything from *Eye on New Jersey* to www.njsop.org got a new

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BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT AND SO MANY SINCERE THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OPTOMETRY IN NEW JERSEY AND NATIONWIDE OVER THE YEARS. YOU ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A TRUE AND EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL AND SUCH AN EASY AND NICE GUY TO WORK WITH. HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME. -DAVID GUBMAN, OD

Director, es



HOWARD COOPER

[HOWARD] HAS BECOME ONE OF OUR STRONGEST ADVOCATES, AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF INFORMATION, AND A FRIEND TO ALL THAT HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH HIM. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OVER THESE LAST 13 YEARS. -MIKE VELIKY, OD

look, and internal communications became a priority. Members were offered new options like paperless and automatic dues billing, additional benefits (including paper shredding, child care savings, payment card solutions, and more!), and access to online CE. Howard's commitment to the strength and longevity of the NJSOP was exemplified in the establishment of the Association's strategic plan which was revisited every three years during a dedicated retreat for leadership and staff.

Howard quickly became connected to other State ED's throughout the country and has been an active member of the International Association of Optometric Executives (IAOE). Additionally, Howard served on the AOA's Member Engagement Committee, and its former Communications committee. He also works closely with and volunteers time to the NJ Special Olympic games.

The NJSOP wishes Howard a healthy and full retirement and congratulates him on a successful career! ●



IT CAN BE INTIMIDATING WALKING INTO A ROOM FULL OF THE BEST OF YOUR PEERS. HOWARD ALWAYS MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG. HE ALWAYS GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MOVE OUR PROFESSION FORWARD, AND HE DOES IT WITH A QUIET GRACE. HE WILL BE SORELY MISSED. -DAWN ARNOLD, OD

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