



## 2022 NJSOP/AOA DUES STRUCTURE

Organized optometry is a federation of affiliated organizations on the national (American Optometric Association), state (New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians) and local society level. Each member is required to maintain membership in good standing with all three organizations. Each organization sets its own dues level. NJSOP bills and collects dues for both NJSOP and AOA. Local societies, however, bill and collect their own dues. The amount of dues you will pay to NJSOP and AOA will vary with a number of factors, such as your age, year you joined, and your original year of licensure.

**HOW ARE DUES RATES DETERMINED?** The annual dues of a newly degreed member are waived for the year in which you become originally degreed (in any state). The following year would be billed at the 1<sup>st</sup> year member rate and would increase yearly until the 6<sup>th</sup> year level of membership. NJ dues are on a six year ascending scale. The AOA dues are on a five year ascending scale. A new member pays pro-rated dues beginning with the month membership is approved. Please refer to chart below:

### DUES SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>NJSOP</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>AOA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st year member	10%	\$ 111.20	10%	\$ 97.20	\$ 208.40
2nd year member	15%	\$ 166.80	20%	\$ 194.40	\$ 361.20
3rd year member	25%	\$ 278.00	50%	\$ 486.00	\$ 764.00
4th year member	50%	\$ 556.00	75%	\$ 729.00	\$ 1285.00
5th year member	75%	\$ 834.00	100%	\$ 972.00	\$ 1806.00
6 <sup>th</sup> year member	100%	\$1112.00	100%	\$ 972.00	\$ 2084.00

**"NEVER-MEMBER" DUES SCHEDULE:** A special ascending scale for NJSOP dues only is available to newly-admitted members who are three or more years in practice and who have never been a member of NJSOP. The "Never-member" schedule provides for fifty (50%) percent of NJSOP dues in the year of admittance to membership, seventy-five (75%) percent of NJSOP dues in the year following admittance, and one hundred (100%) percent of NJSOP dues thereafter. Please note that AOA does not have such a schedule.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Assessments, which are special levies upon the membership that expire after one year, are approved by a two-thirds vote of the NJSOP membership. Assessments are payable at the same rate as regular NJSOP dues and full payment is required to maintain one's membership in NJSOP and AOA. There is no assessment from NJSOP for 2022.

**DUES SCHEDULE FOR MILITARY AND EX-MILITARY PERSONNEL:** In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, a member who serves in the US armed forces, during the time of such services, is eligible for a moratorium on NJSOP dues by requesting ASSOCIATE MEMBER status. The NJSOP Board of Directors has set Associate Member dues at \$100 per year. Members who serve in the armed forces must, however, continue to pay AOA dues in full according to the ascending dues scale based upon year of licensure. Upon retirement from active duty, the member would begin to pay NJSOP dues in accordance with the original ascending schedule or the "Never Member" schedule, whichever is less.

**RESIGNATION FROM MEMBERSHIP:** A member must submit a written request to the NJSOP Board of Directors in order for a resignation to be considered. A member may resign at any time during the year; however, NJSOP/AOA dues must be paid in full through the current month in order for a resignation to be accepted. Under the provisions of the NJSOP Constitution, resignation does not relieve a member of any unpaid dues obligation, although in special circumstances the Board of Directors may agree to waive a back dues balance and accept a resignation.

(continued on reverse side)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Members are eligible to become Life Members upon 45 years of accumulative AOA/NJSOP membership. The member must be nominated for Life Membership by his/her local society. Such members have full member privileges but are not required to pay AOA/NJSOP dues.

**PARTIAL PRACTICE:** NJSOP and AOA have created a special membership classification entitled "Partial Practice" for those members who are still actively practicing optometry on a part-time basis due to maternity or other family leave situation. NJSOP Partial Practice dues are thirty-five (35%) of full dues. AOA Partial Practice dues are sixty percent (60%) of full dues based on total number of hours worked per week. Partial Practice membership must be re-certified annually by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications for partial practice membership are available upon request from the NJSOP office. **Members must be current with their dues at the time of applying and will be required to enroll in the auto pay program upon approval of their application.**

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** **Auto-pay dues are payable in full by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.** Dues are billed over a twelve month period (January thru December) in equal installments. For example, the total dues for 2022 for a full-dues member are \$2084. Dues would then be paid in twelve equal monthly installments of \$173.67. A preliminary mid-December dues bill is sent thereby allowing a member, in consultation with his/her accountant, to decide whether or not to take a year-end tax deduction. Members who are not current in their dues payments may have their membership suspended and/or revoked for "failure to pay dues on a timely basis", at the sole discretion of the NJSOP Board of Directors. Monthly payments must be received at the NJSOP office by the 29<sup>th</sup> of each month or a late fee may be charged. **Self-pay dues are payable in full by September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and are billed over a period of nine months.**

**AOA PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** 25% of dues must be paid to AOA by the end of each quarter or membership will be terminated.

**\*\*\*\* BENEFIT OF PAYING DUES IN FULL BY MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> -- 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> year full dues member paying their dues in full (by check) by March 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a 3% discount. Members who are on partial practice or waivers are not eligible. Dues must be paid in full by March 15<sup>th</sup> (no exceptions!)**

**DUES WAIVERS:** In certain extenuating circumstances, a member's dues may be reduced for that year by action of the NJSOP Board of Directors. An example of such circumstances would be a partial physical disability that did not permit full-time practice. A waiver is granted for only one calendar year and must be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If a disabling condition exists for more than one year, the Member must re-apply for the following year. An application for a dues waiver is available from the NJSOP office. **Members must be current with their dues at the time of applying and will be required to enroll in the auto pay program upon approval of their application.**

**REMINDER:** Local society dues collection is the responsibility of the local society. Please contact your Local Society President for specific dues amount. Most locals provide a combination of free dinners and free CE at the society's monthly meeting as part of the dues package. Please remember that each member must maintain membership in good standing with one of the nine local societies affiliated with NJSOP in order to maintain "good standing" with NJSOP and AOA.

## **QUESTIONS????**

**Call Edna McKinney at (609) 323-4012 X 114**

**Monday through Friday 9 AM – 5 PM**