

The mission of the Opticians Association of Ohio is to enhance the quality and growth of opticianry.

Nominations are now open for the OAO Bud Thoma Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Opticians Association of Ohio on an Ohio-licensed optician. It is intended to recognize an individual who has provided superior service to the OAO and the opticianry profession in Ohio over many years.

This award is given in memory of Sebastian W “Bud” Thoma. Mr. Thoma was one of the original pioneers in forming what is now known as the Opticians Association of Ohio. His many years in the business were spent on organizational work promoting education and involvement in raising the standards of Opticianry. He served nationally, at the state level, and locally, working toward that goal.

The Bud Thoma Award Committee will evaluate candidates for the award. The nomination submission should include the nominee’s qualifications and contributions to OAO and the opticianry profession. Please refer to the award’s parameters below and submit all nominations on the attached nomination form by July 30, 2025, to: info@oao.org.

PARAMETERS FOR BUD THOMA AWARD

General Description:

The OAO Bud Thoma Award is the highest honor of the Association bestowed on an Ohio Licensed Optician. It is intended to recognize an individual who has provided superior service to the Opticians Association of Ohio and the opticianry profession in Ohio over many years. Furthermore, the Bud Thoma Award is intended to recognize those who make exceptional individual contributions, rather than the contributions of an individual representing the accomplishments of many.

Nominations:

The Bud Thoma Award Committee shall evaluate candidates for the Award. The nomination submission should include a written report on the nominee’s qualifications and contributions to OAO and the opticianry profession.

Requirements:

To be eligible for the OAO Bud Thoma Award, a person shall:

1. Have provided significant contributions, over a sustained period, to OAO and the opticianry profession in Ohio in the form of leadership, teaching (including seminar speaking), writing, mentorship of other members, volunteerism in support of the industry and the Association, and/or promotion of the interests of the profession and OAO.
2. Have the respect of their peers in the profession.
3. Have been a member of OAO in good standing for at least ten (10) years
4. Have been engaged in the Opticianary profession for at least twenty (20) years.

Award Presentation:

Not more than one (1) Bud Thoma Award may be presented in any given year. The Award is not required to be given every year. If there is a year when no nominees meet the requirements, then no Award shall be presented. An individual may only be the recipient of the award once. The Bud Thoma Award shall be presented to each recipient during the Annual Meeting of the OAO. The presentation shall include a summary of the recipient’s contributions to OAO and the opticianry profession.

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Bud Thoma Award Nomination Form

Submitted by: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications & Contributions to OAO

Qualifications & Contributions to Opticianry Profession

Please submit nominations by July 30, 2025, to info@oao.org.