

**ABOUT****THE PRESIDENT**

Michael S. Gzik, FCLSA is a graduate of the Ophthalmic Dispensing program at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York. He is a New York State licensed optician and contact lens practitioner. He is a Fellow in the Contact Lens Society of America, JCAHPO Certified Ophthalmic Technician and NCLE advanced certified. Mike works in a private optical office in Syracuse, New York and at the Syracuse VA Hospital as an optician. He is an adjunct instructor for contact lens technology at SUNY Health Science Center, Department of Ophthalmology resident program. He is a frequent lecturer on contact lens fitting at all levels.

Mapping Out Our Future

CLSA's Annual Education Meeting has just been completed. I would like to acknowledge the long hours and dedication of Bernie Ferguson, the Educational Chairman for his work on the program. I would also like to thank the outgoing members of the CLSA Board of Directors for their contributions to CLSA over the last three years. This includes Trudy Grout, FCLSA, Carri Ferguson, FCLSA, Kristi Green, FCLSA and Terri Klein, FCLSA, all of whom gave of their time and talents unselfishly to CLSA.

Over this past year the leadership of CLSA has worked to rekindle and open meaningful dialog with other ophthalmic organizations. We coexist in the same community and I believe can benefit from each other to help our organizations grow and thrive.

Your leadership has held meetings with the American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners (ABO/NCLE), the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists (CLAO), the Opticians Association of America (OAA), the Contact Lens Manufacturers Association (CLMA), and the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO). We've also continued to keep the lines of communication open with our industry partners. We take these steps to continue our role as a key contact lens educational association.

To remain a viable provider of education we must have flexibility in the future as CLSA moves further into the 21st century. This year we initiated a membership survey that was designed to understand and document the role our members play in the contact lens health care delivery system. We also needed to know why CLSA members *are* members, information vital to our future. Your Board of Directors are using this information to help us map out our future directions.