

PROFILE

Dr. Gray was born and raised in Decatur, IL. He completed his undergrad at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 1979. As a pre-med major in Biology and Physics, Optometry seemed like a good combo. Doctor Gray remarks that he chose to stay in Decatur, IL not only because of his family but because IL "is The Soybean Capital of the World, The Agribusiness Capital of the World, the birthplace of the GOP, and [home to the] NFL/Chicago Bears."

BOARD MEMBER FEATURE:

Gary G. Gray, Jr., O.D.

AWARDS/POSITIONS HELD

IOA President 1998-1999 / IOA Journal Editor 2002-2010 / IOA Golf Chair 1995-2010 / IOA OD of the Year 2002 / IOA Keyperson of the Year 2009 / ICO Alumnus of the Year 2002 / North Central States Optometric Council President 2001-2002 / National Academies of Practice Fellow / ILFDPR Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board 2006-2017

WHAT HE LOVES MOST ABOUT HIS JOB

"I enjoy the people – patients and colleagues"

UNUSUAL OR SURPRISING DIAGNOSIS

"I see a lot of undiagnosed diabetes."

ADVICE FOR NEW OPTOMETRISTS

"Embrace the scope and support your association that established that scope."

HOBBIES

"I enjoy golf, trivia, reading, and until the pandemic, softball. Our team, the Killer B's, played for 40 years."

SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT DR. GRAY

He survived Typhoon Olive in 1971 and her 100 mph winds and 36+ inches of rain – in a tent! And, his go-to choice for karaoke is "Tequila" – the song, not the libation.