

DR. RON BANNISTER ASSUMES SECO PRESIDENCY

SECO ELECTS NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ATLANTA (February 12, 2010) – SECO International elected a new slate of officers today, during the annual House of Delegates meeting at the SECO International meeting in Atlanta. The new officers include: Ron M. Bannister, O.D., President, of Thomasville, GA; Neil Draisin, O.D., F.C.O.V.D., President-Elect, of Charleston, SC; Ronald Foreman, O.D., Vice President, of Lake City FL; Darby Chiasson, Treasurer, of Cut Off, LA; James Herman, Secretary, of Hurricane, West Virginia; and Jonathan Shrewsbury, O.D., Immediate Past President, of Beaver Dam, KY.

SECO ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

SECO's new president, **Dr. Ron Bannister**, was first elected as an officer to the SECO International Executive Committee in 2006 when he became secretary. Then, he served subsequently as treasurer, vice president and president-elect prior to becoming president of SECO in 2010. In addition, from 1991 to 2004, Dr. Bannister served on SECO's Continuing Education Committee and then served as a Georgia Trustee from 2004 to 2006.

Practicing optometry for 33 years, Dr. Bannister returned to his hometown of Thomasville, Georgia after optometry school to fill the need for optometric care in the area. He began a private practice and continues to practice full-scope optometry, performing comprehensive eye examinations for patients of all ages. Also, one day per week, he is in a co-management setting at the Moultrie Eye Center, located in Moultrie, GA.

In addition to SECO International, Dr. Bannister has been involved in other organized optometry organizations, including the Georgia Optometric Association where he held positions as president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and district trustee. He was selected as Georgia Optometrist of the Year in 1988-1989. Dr. Bannister also is a member of the American Optometric Association.

Dr. Bannister is a 1977 graduate of the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. Prior to attending SCO and earning his undergraduate degree, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971 and received an honorable discharge.

As an active member of the Thomasville community, Dr. Bannister is a long-time member of the Thomasville Kiwanis Club, serving on the executive board for many years before becoming a senior member in 2006. Dr. Bannister also has been active in the Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and served as Board Chairman in 1996.

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An instrument-rated private pilot with over 1,000 hours of “pilot-in-command” time, Dr. Bannister spends much of his free time with the Thomasville Aviation Club and their annual October Fly-In. Also an avid golfer, Dr. Bannister served on the Glen Arven Board of Governors for more than 10 years and as President in 1997 and 1998. Glen Arven is one of the oldest clubs in the nation, having been established in 1892. He and his wife are active members of the Thomasville First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Bannister and his wife, Susan R. Bannister, have been married for 36 years and have one daughter, Laura. B. Pittman, also an O.D.

SECO BEGINS PLANNING FOR 2011

The incoming officers have already begun planning for 2011. Held Feb. 9-13, 2011, next year’s SECO will feature a wide array of course topics – all designed to help raise the level of optometric care while simultaneously building and sustaining successful practices, as well as advancing the individual careers of professionals in attendance.

“We will build on the success of the 2010 meeting to deliver a truly innovative educational program,” said Dr. Bannister. “SECO 2011 undoubtedly will be exceptional in every possible way and reinforce SECO’s reputation as the Education Destination.”

THE SECO TRADITION

SECO International is produced annually by SECO International, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Southern Council of Optometrists, Inc. SECO International, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is a not-for-profit membership association founded in 1923, and counts as its members practitioners in the 12 southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The annual SECO conventions regularly attract more than 7,000 national and international eye care professionals, vendors, and allied ophthalmic personnel. SECO International is widely acknowledged as the largest optometric educational meeting in the world.

For more information on SECO International, LLC, please contact Elizabeth Taylor, Executive Director, at SECO International, LLC, 4661 N. Shallowford Road, Atlanta, GA 30338, or by phone: (770) 451-8206, fax: (770) 451-3156, or e-mail: etaylor@secostaff.com.

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Editor’s Note: High-resolution photos of the officers are available upon request.

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