

February 14, 2021

Bradley Jorgensen, O.D.
1225 West Northland Avenue
Appleton, WI 54914

RE: Nomination of Stacey Thibodeau for WPA Paraoptometric of the Year

To the Nominating Committee:

I would like to present Stacey Thibodeau as a candidate for the 2021 WPA Paraoptometric of the year. Stacey has worked in the optometric field since 1996. She was in our office for an eye exam and she presented as an intelligent, personable women who was looking for employment after graduating from college. I asked her if she would be interested in working in an optometric office. Her decision to join our practice and work for us back then not only has benefited our practice, but the many WOA/AOA member practices she has assisted through her leadership positions with the AOA and Vision Source.

Stacey has been unrelenting in her pursuit of knowledge about paraoptometry, optometry and the business of optometry. Within the first three years of becoming a paraoptometric she had already gained her ABO certification and NCLE certification. In 2011 she passed the Certified Paraoptometric Coder exam during the first testing period of that year. She has served our patients in every aspect of our practice.

Stacey became our office manager in January of 2012. In that role she has been an inspiration to the entire staff and doctors. She leads by example with wit and fairness. Staff all know they can approach her on any matter. She has encouraged staff to gain as much knowledge as they can. She has been instrumental in leading them through educational programs provided through the AOA/WOA and Vision Source.

In the fall of 2012 I asked Stacey to be our regional Vision Source Representative Facilitator. She gladly accepted the opportunity to channel her skills and enthusiasm to other offices in Northeast Wisconsin. She leads staff members from our affiliated offices to achieve excellence in their offices. She is well respected by those paraprofessionals and gets many calls from our doctor members seeking advice about various topics.

Many of those calls come because of her expertise in billing and coding. As she got to know other paraoptometrics on the national level she became involved with the AOA Paraoptometric group. She was invited to join the Certified Paraoptometric Coder Committee when it formed in 2011, eventually becoming the chair in 2018. She was invited to join the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification in 2016, then became the Chair of the committee in 2020.

All of these regional and national accomplishments were done while raising two fine sons. She was involved with volunteering for their various school activities and still guides them through their college endeavors as a proud mom.

Stacey has not only been an exemplary paraoptometric to our practice, and patients, but also to all of her paraoptometric colleagues across the nation that she has met through the years.

I hope your committee will consider her for this distinguished award. She is truly deserving of it through her many unselfish contributions to our profession of optometry.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Jorgensen, O.D.

WOA past President

Vision Source Administrator, Northeast Wisconsin