

Briefing Note

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Registration Committee

DATE: October 3, 2022

SUBJECT: 11.0 Life Member Policy
Appendix A: Draft Life Member Policy

For Decision

For Discussion

Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To provide the Board of Directors with considerations for additional criteria for life membership with the College.

Background:

The College of Opticians of Ontario (the "College") permits registered opticians who have permanently retired from the practice opticianry and met the criteria set out in Article 3.1 of the College's by-laws, to apply or be nominated for life membership. There is no fee associated with applying for or maintaining a life membership.

Life membership is an honorific title granted in recognition of the registrant's contribution and dedication to the profession of opticianry. Being a life member allows retired opticians to stay connected to the profession by participating in the College elections and continuing to receive communications from the College.

Life membership is discretionary of the Board, and the Registration Committee was tasked with developing the eligibility criteria to help guide the Board when making a determination on whether to grant life membership.

For Consideration

The criteria for life membership that the Registration Committee recommends are as follows; they were developed having considered a registrant survey that was circulated in 2018 as well as a recent environmental scan of the practices of other Ontario regulators.

The applicant must:

- Hold or have previously held a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician
- Be permanently retired from the practice of opticianry and agree not to practise opticianry

The applicant must not:

- Be in default of payment of fees or of any other obligation owed to the College, other than for payment of the annual membership renewal fee
- Be the subject of proceedings for professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity in relation to any profession, in any jurisdiction
- Be in breach of an order of a COO Committee or a panel of a COO Committee
- Be in violation of a decision of a panel of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee requiring the member to be cautioned or to complete a specified continuing education or remediation program
- Be the subject of an ongoing inquiry or investigation by the Registrar, a COO Committee, or a panel of a COO Committee
- Have otherwise acted in a manner that is inconsistent with an ongoing association with the College

The criteria proposed by the Registration Committee will ensure that individuals who are granted the life member title will not bring the College into disrepute. In the event that a life member was no longer meeting the criteria of the policy, the College's by-laws permit the Board to withdraw the life member status.

Public Interest Considerations

The Committee agreed that life members should continue to uphold themselves in a manner consistent with the College's standards. Should there be a continuum of infractions or a conduct issue, a review of character would be considered at the Board's discretion. In developing this policy, the Committee noted that the evaluation of character is fluid and is influenced by social norms, which vary based on culture and change with time.

The purpose of regulating the practice of opticianry is to safeguard the public interest. The public in Ontario trusts that opticians not only have the technical expertise but also the ethical competence to uphold the College's standards and have a willingness to put the public interest first.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations

The Committee did not identify any concerns from a diversity, equity, or inclusion standpoint relating to the proposed Life Member policy.

Recommendations/Action Required:

The Registration Committee makes the following recommendation(s):

1. That the Board approve the proposed Life Member Policy

APPENDIX A

DRAFT Life Member Policy

Any person who was a registered optician, having permanently retired from the practice of opticianry, and having the number of years that they have been registered with the College and years of age that together total at least 85, may apply to the Registrar, or be nominated for designation as a Life Member.

Life Membership Eligibility Criteria

In order to qualify for life membership, the applicant must meet the core eligibility criteria set out in Article 3.1 of the College's by-laws as well as the additional criteria below:

The applicant must:

- Hold or have previously held a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician¹
- Be permanently retired from the practice of opticianry and agree not to practise opticianry

The applicant must not:

- Be in default of payment of fees or of any other obligation owed to COO, other than for payment of the annual membership renewal fee
- Be the subject of proceedings for professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity in relation to any profession, in any jurisdiction
- Be in breach of an order of a COO Committee or a panel of a COO Committee
- Be in violation of a decision of a panel of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee requiring the member to be cautioned or to complete a specified continuing education or remediation program
- Be the subject of an ongoing inquiry or investigation by the Registrar, a COO Committee, or a panel of a COO Committee
- Have otherwise acted in a manner that is inconsistent with an ongoing association with COO