

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Governance Committee

DATE: September 23, 2024

SUBJECT: 5.5 Eligibility of Inactive Registrants to Run for Election, Vote or be Appointed as a Committee Member – Stakeholder Feedback

For Decision

For Information

Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To review the consultation feedback received and to approve the proposed by-law amendments to address election/appointment/voter eligibility for members of the new Inactive Class of registration.

Background:

Amendments to the College's Registration Regulation which came into effect on July 1, 2024, introduced a new Inactive Class of registration. The purpose of the Inactive Class is to allow registrants who do not intend to practise for a period of time to maintain their registration with the College. This may include registrants on parental, educational, medical or personal leave, retirement, those practising outside of Ontario or in a different profession.

Registrants may remain in the Inactive Class indefinitely however they must not practise opticianry or supervise student or intern opticians whilst in this class. Registrants in the Inactive Class are not required to keep up with Quality Assurance requirements or to hold Professional Liability Insurance. With the introduction of this new Inactive Class, it is necessary for the board to consider whether registrants in this class should be eligible to run for election, to vote in board elections or be appointed as an appointed committee member.

At its June 3 meeting, the board discussed this issue and agreed that it was important to seek feedback from registrants and other stakeholders before a decision could be reached on this. On August 23, the Governance Committee discussed this feedback and agreed to make a recommendation to the board that:

- Only Registrants holding certificate of registration as a Registered Optician should be eligible for election to the Board or appointment as an Appointed Committee Member. This would therefore exclude registrants in the Inactive Class.
- Registrants in the Inactive Class should be permitted to vote in the COO board elections.

For Consideration:

The consultation opened on June 21, 2024, when registrants were invited via e-blast to complete the survey and to provide feedback. Links to the survey were also posed on the COO's Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn channels. A final e-blast was sent on August 16 which reminded registrants that time spent completing the survey could be claimed as self-directed Continuing Education (CE). In addition, links to the explanatory document (attached at **Appendix A**) and the survey were posted to the [College's website](#). Individuals were invited to answer survey questions and to provide any comments by August 19, 2024 (60 days).

A total of 171 responses were received which represents 5.1% of the College membership. A summary of the survey results, together with comments received is attached for your review and consideration (**Appendix B**).

Feedback received

165 of those who completed the survey identified as a Registered Optician (96.5%). Other respondents included non-opticians (1.2%), representatives of an opticianry association (1.2%) or those who identified as "other" (1.2%).

The majority of respondents (88.5%) indicated that they were currently practising. Those who are currently non-practising indicated that they were either working in the optical industry in a non-dispensing role, working in another field/industry other than optical, currently living/working outside of Ontario, on parental leave, retired or selected "other".

The majority of non-practising respondents were unsure if they would return to practise in the future (63.2%).

Election

It is important to note that only 23 respondents chose to answer the question on whether registrants in the Inactive Class should be eligible to run for election as a member of the board. This should be taken into consideration when reviewing the results.

16 of those who answered agreed that those in the Inactive Class should be eligible to run for election.

Comments included, **"Just because a licensed optician is not currently dispensing, their participation, knowledge and experience should still matter and count"** and **"Their interest, experience and expertise will contribute to the discussion of operational issues and will enhance the quality of policies and procedures"**.

4 of those who answered disagreed with this. Comments included that, **"To run for election as a member of the COO board one should be practicing and be fully involved in the field. This way they would be better equipped to fully understand, and deal with the issues at hand"**.

3 of those who answered the question indicated that they were “unsure”.

Vote

52.2% (85) of those who answered agreed that registrants in the Inactive Class should be eligible to vote. Reasons for this included, **“Just because they are no longer practising doesn’t mean that they are no longer passionate about the profession or intending to return to the profession”, “They have chosen to be inactive for a reason and still pay a fee to be a member indicating they are engaged” and “Just because I’m on mat leave is a ridiculous reason why I can’t participate in my profession”.**

However, 34.4% (56) disagreed with this. Respondents gave reasons such as, **“If they are not practising, they should not be worried about what is happening in the profession”, “If they are not practising and paying full fees, they should not have a say as it doesn’t affect them” and “They are not actively practising and as such do not have a stake in the decisions moving the profession forward”.**

22 respondents indicated that they were “unsure”.

Appointment

39.4% (63) of those who answered agreed that registrants in the Inactive Class should be eligible for appointment as an Appointed Committee Member. Agree statements included, **“Excluding Inactive registrants could be a missed opportunity for the College as they may have a lot to contribute and could bring a different perspective to the board and/or committees”, “Working a full-time job and maintaining a balanced family life can be challenging, a retired professional would be perfect for the job” and “There are so many reasons as to why someone is inactive. By excluding this class of registrants, we are missing out on what this class of registrants could offer”.**

47.5% (76) of those who answered disagreed with this. Comments included, **“One should be practising and fully involved in the profession, so they are better capable to deal with related issues”, “Most Inactive Opticians are not caught up with the most recent industry practices as it isn’t their main focus/every day interest” and “If they are not in practise, they should let other members who are active participate in committees”.**

21 respondents indicated that they were “unsure”.

General themes identified

Diversity of Inactive Class

Survey responses recognised that the group of registrants within the Inactive Class will be diverse and that each of their individual circumstances would be different. A common theme identified was the suggestion that the College should differentiate between the circumstances of each inactive registrant in order to determine their eligibility.

For example, respondents suggested that:

- Those who were not dispensing but otherwise active in the field should not be excluded.
- Those who had served in opticianry for many years and were therefore well equipped with knowledge and expertise should not be excluded.
- Those who were on sick or maternity leave should not be excluded.
- Inactive registrants should be required to have a certain number of dispensing years as a condition of eligibility.
- Those in the Inactive Class who wish to be eligible must complete their QA portfolio every year to stay up to date.

It should be noted, however, that it is not possible to determine eligibility on an individual basis and that one rule must be applied to all inactive members.

Knowledge and Insight

Respondents provided conflicting opinions on whether inactive members would have enough knowledge and insight to be able to contribute. Some comments indicated that those in the Inactive Class would be well equipped with knowledge of the industry (especially those who had practised opticianry for a number of years) and that they would be able to add a valuable contribution and a unique perspective to the COO's board and committees.

Others provided a differing opinion by suggesting that inactive members would not be up to date with the latest industry practices or be able to deal with the current issues at hand as the industry was constantly evolving. It was also suggested that as inactive registrants would not be practising, they would not know who the best candidate would be to vote for in the board elections.

Right to contribution

The comments shared in survey responses provided differing opinions on whether inactive members should be entitled to contribute. Some responses acknowledged that inactive registrants were still engaged as they had chosen to pay a fee and that allowing them to contribute would give them an opportunity to stay active within the profession and encourage their return in the future. Others disagreed with this and suggested that as they would no longer be practising or paying a full fee to the College, they should not be able to make decisions that could affect those registrants who were practising and paying a full membership fee.

The Governance Committee discussed this feedback at its most recent meeting and considered three separate questions on whether registrants in the new Inactive Class should be able to:

- Run for election as a member of the COO Board of Directors.
- Vote in the COO Board Elections.
- Be appointed as an Appointed Committee Member.

The committee agreed that it was important to remember that one rule for each question must be applied to all inactive members and that it was not possible to determine eligibility on an individual basis.

Election

The committee acknowledged that the professional members of the board bring expertise about the practise of opticianry and an understanding of today's realities into their decision-making. The committee noted that as the field is changing rapidly, it is important that professional members sitting on the board are practising and therefore up to date with changes within the profession. The committee appreciated that the feedback received was in favour of allowing inactive members to run for election but noted that this did not align with the College's mandate of protecting the public. It was also acknowledged that due to the low engagement on this question, the results received were of limited statistical value.

The committee agreed to make a recommendation to the board that only Registrants holding a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician should be eligible for election to the Board. This would therefore exclude those holding a certificate in the Inactive Class.

A by-law amendment for this is not required as the [by-laws](#) currently restrict election to Registered Opticians.

Voting

The committee noted that as inactive members were required to renew their registration on an annual basis and pay a (reduced) membership fee this indicated that they were still engaged with the profession. It was also noted that should inactive members return after a short period of time, they could be impacted by the decisions made by those elected. The committee also agreed that allowing inactive members to vote would not significantly impact the public interest as they would not be the decision makers themselves.

The committee agreed to make a recommendation to the board that the by-laws should be amended to permit Registrants holding a certificate of registration in the Inactive Class to vote in the COO Board elections.

The proposed by-law amendment is attached at **Appendix C**.

Appointment

The committee acknowledged that COO committees were composed of both public and professional members to give a range of perspectives. Therefore, the committee felt there was a strong rationale that those professional members should be actively practicing to ensure that they bring up-to date expertise to committees and are in a good position to identify issues and concerns that could impact the public.

The committee agreed to make a recommendation to the board that only Registrants holding a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician should be eligible for appointment as an Appointed Committee Member. This would therefore exclude those holding a certificate in the Inactive Class.

A by-law amendment is not required as the by-laws currently restrict appointment to Registered Opticians.

Public Interest Considerations

The committee agrees with the rationale for specifying that the profession should be governed by those who are actively practising as they will be in a better position to identify issues and concerns that could impact the public. However, allowing members to vote would not significantly impact the public interest as they would not be the decision makers themselves.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Considerations

The committee is of the view that excluding inactive members from eligibility for election and appointment is reasonable in order to ensure that those governing the profession are actively practising and aware of the issues that will impact the public interest. The committee was of the view that this outweighs concerns about excluding a group of individuals from eligibility.

Risk Management Considerations

The committee is of the view that those who are actively practising are in a better position to identify issues and concerns that could impact the safe and ethical delivery of opticianry services to the public.

Recommendations/Action Required

The Governance Committee recommends that the Board adopt the proposed approach to the eligibility of inactive members by approving the draft amendment to the COO's by-laws. This would make registrants holding a certificate of registration in the Inactive Class eligible to vote but ineligible for election or appointment.

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed as a committee member - Request for Feedback

We would like to hear from you

The College is seeking your input on whether registrants in the new Inactive Class of registration should be able to:

- Run for election as a member of the COO Board of Directors
- Vote in board elections
- Be appointed as an appointed committee member

What is the Inactive Class of registration?

The amended Registration Regulation will come into effect on July 1, 2024. This will introduce a new class of registration: the Inactive Class.

The purpose of the Inactive Class is to allow registrants who do not intend to practise for a period of time to maintain their registration with the College. This may include registrants on parental leave, educational leave, medical or personal leave, retirement, those practising outside of Ontario or in a different profession.

Registrants in the Inactive Class **must not practise opticianry or supervise student or intern opticians**. Registrants may remain in the Inactive Class indefinitely. If an inactive optician wishes to return to practise, they will be required to undergo an assessment of their current knowledge and skill, based on the number of years since they last practised.

Who is currently eligible to run, vote or be appointed?

Currently, only registrants holding a current certificate of registration are eligible to run for election, to vote or be appointed to committees.

Registrants who are administratively suspended (for non-renewal or non-payment of fees) are not eligible. Excluding those in the Inactive Class would therefore be keeping the status quo with the current practise of restricting elections, appointments and voting to practising registrants.

Have the Board of Directors discussed this issue?

The board discussed this issue at its meeting on June 3, 2024, and identified the following points:

- Excluding Inactive registrants from participating would ensure that those governing the profession are actively practising. Those who are actively practising are in a better position to identify issues and concerns that could impact the safe and ethical delivery of opticianry services to the public.
- Excluding Inactive registrants could create an unnecessary barrier to participation, especially for those on parental or medical leave.

- Inactive registrants would continue to pay a (reduced) membership fee. This could indicate that they are still engaged in the profession or intending to reengage in the future.
- Excluding Inactive registrants could be a missed opportunity for the College as they may have a lot to contribute and could bring a different perspective to the board and/or committees. For example, those in retirement could provide an important insight with their many years of experience in the profession.
- Including Inactive registrants could keep them engaged with the profession and with the College.
- Inactive registrants will not be permitted to practise opticianry and therefore may not have enough up-to-date knowledge to be able to fully contribute.
- Those registered in the Inactive Class will have chosen to do so. Should they be able to govern the profession when they have chosen to disengage with it?

The board agreed that it was important to consider if inactive members should be eligible to participate in some (but not all) ways and questioned where to strike the balance on this.

Why is the College requesting feedback on this issue?

The Board agreed that it was important to seek feedback from registrants and other stakeholders before a decision could be reached.

How can I provide feedback?

Please complete this [short survey](#) to share your feedback on the following questions:

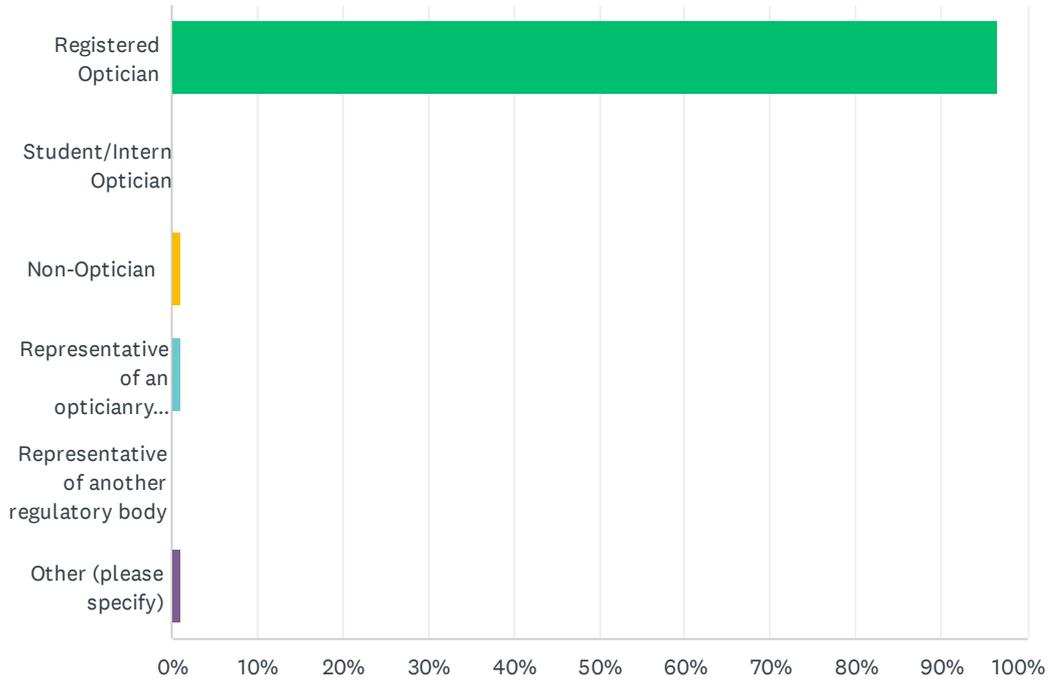
Should registrants in the new Inactive Class of registration be able to:

1. Run for election as a member of the COO Board of Directors?
2. Vote in the COO Board Elections?
3. Be appointed as an appointed committee member?

The survey will be open until **August 19, 2024**. Thank you for taking the time to provide your valuable input.

Q1 Please indicate if you are a:

Answered: 171 Skipped: 0

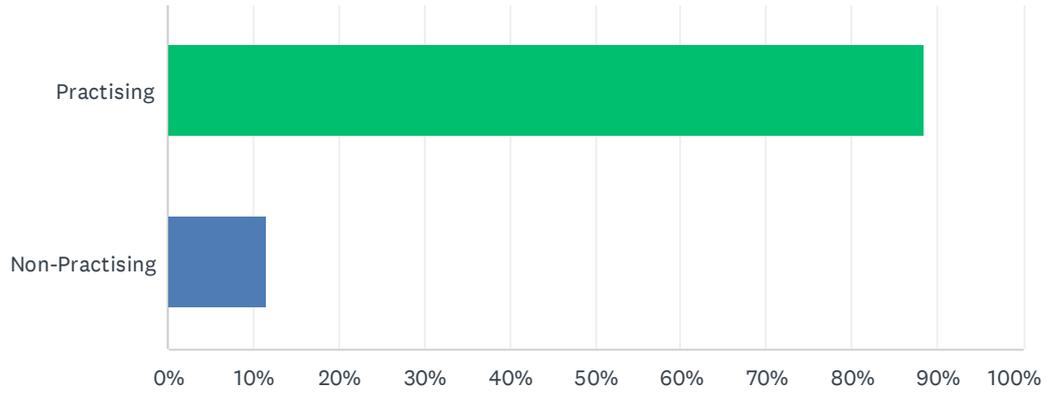


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Registered Optician	96.49%	165
Student/Intern Optician	0.00%	0
Non-Optician	1.17%	2
Representative of an opticianry association	1.17%	2
Representative of another regulatory body	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.17%	2
TOTAL		171

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Public Member	8/20/2024 10:37 AM
2	Inactive optician	8/19/2024 3:53 PM

Q2 Are you currently practising or non-practising?

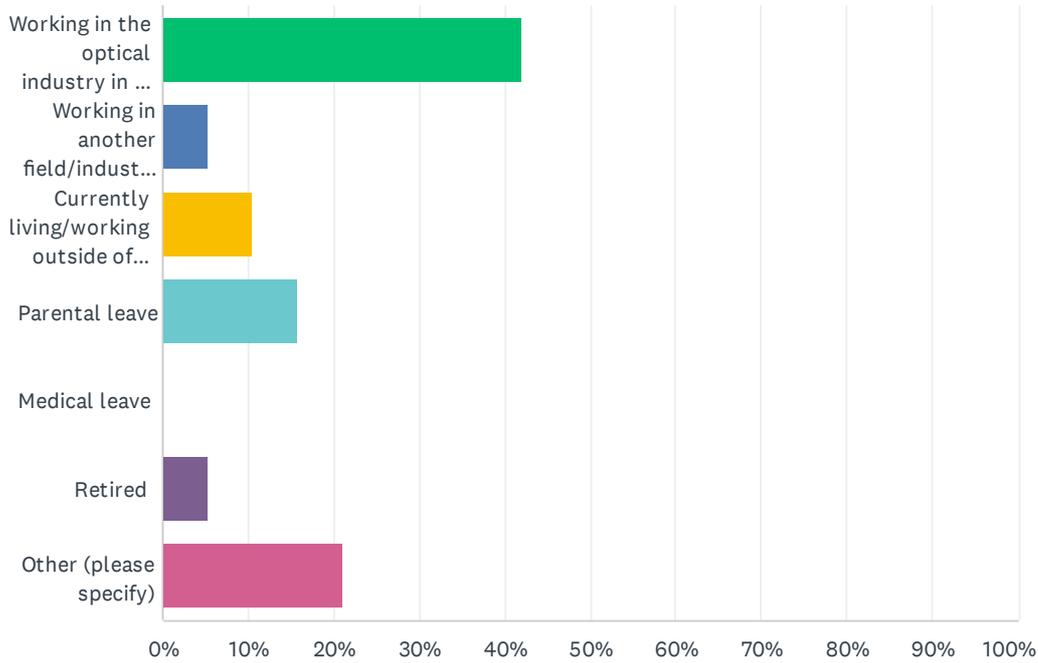
Answered: 165 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Practising	88.48%	146
Non-Practising	11.52%	19
TOTAL		165

Q3 What is the reason you are currently not practising?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 152

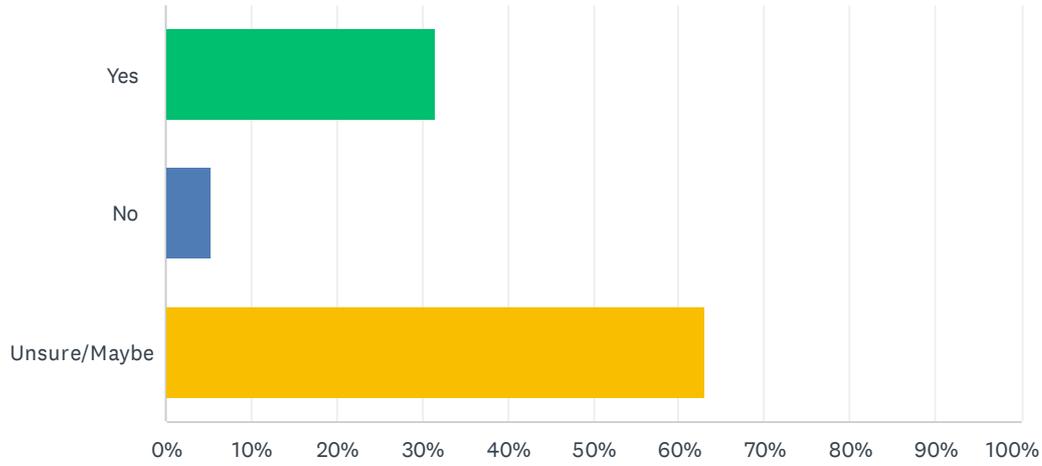


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Working in the optical industry in a non-dispensing role (e.g. sales, academics, etc.)	42.11%	8
Working in another field/industry other than optical	5.26%	1
Currently living/working outside of Ontario	10.53%	2
Parental leave	15.79%	3
Medical leave	0.00%	0
Retired	5.26%	1
Other (please specify)	21.05%	4
TOTAL		19

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Taking care of my mom in India who just passed away few months ago. Applied to reinstate my registration to start practice agsin	8/19/2024 8:08 PM
2	Caregiver	8/17/2024 10:15 AM
3	I was terminated without cause, from my optical employer. Currently in schooling in another field, but I still want to maintain my optician's license. Also seeking part time opticianry employment	8/16/2024 10:20 PM
4	I cannot find a job	8/16/2024 7:50 PM

Q4 Do you anticipate returning to practise in the future?

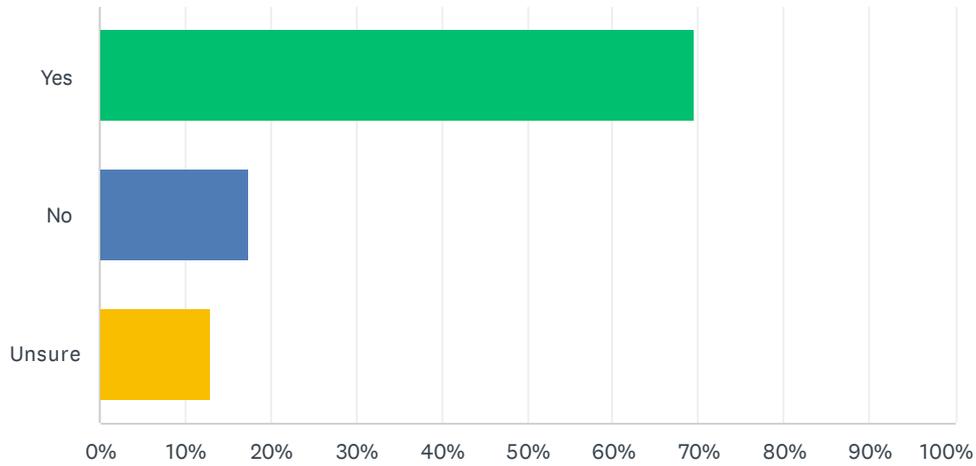
Answered: 19 Skipped: 152



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.58%	6
No	5.26%	1
Unsure/Maybe	63.16%	12
TOTAL		19

Q5 Should registrants in the Inactive Class be eligible to run for election as a member of the COO Board of Directors?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 148



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.57%	16
No	17.39%	4
Unsure	13.04%	3
TOTAL		23

Q6 Why?

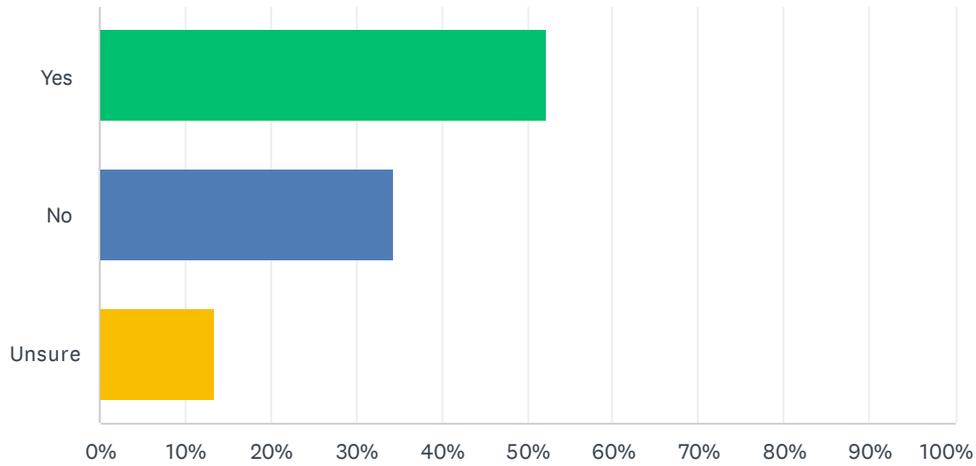
Answered: 19 Skipped: 152

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not in tuned with the system	8/20/2024 10:38 AM
2	These members could possess knowledge of the industry despite not working on a steady in office basis.	8/19/2024 8:49 PM
3	Not yet decided	8/19/2024 8:08 PM
4	Still opticians, just not practicing shouldn't disqualify	8/19/2024 3:55 PM
5	Retired opticians have vast knowledge and history in the industry.	8/19/2024 3:45 PM
6	We feel that this should be looked at on a case by case basis rather than a full exclusion based on practicing status. There are many factors that should be taken into consideration when deciding who should be eligible to become a COO Director. One should consider how long the person practiced prior to becoming Inactive, whether or not they are still practicing in a non dispensing role (i.e. frame rep, educator, store owner, lens fabricator, etc.), how long they have been inactive, and what they are participating in to stay connected to the industry (i.e. attending conferences, completing self directed/accredited online content, etc.) If someone has chosen to become Inactive and pay reduced fees rather than forfeiting their license altogether it would indicate that they are not stepping away from the profession indefinitely.	8/19/2024 11:20 AM
7	Because inactive in actual practicing does not negate their knowledge & experience, nor their ability to stay informed	8/18/2024 5:03 AM
8	A great opportunity to still stay updated and connected to the industry.	8/17/2024 10:17 AM
9	I feel just because a licensed optician is not currently dispensing, their participation , knowledge and experience should still matter and count. They should still have the opportunity to be elected	8/16/2024 10:23 PM
10	Valuable knowledge and resources that these individuals possess should not be a cause for disqualification in these positions.	8/16/2024 8:49 PM
11	If inactive class is able to show some participation in the opticianary field then it would be possible. Inactive class + supplemental qualifications	8/16/2024 7:06 PM
12	Regardless of whether they're physically dispensing or not, the judgement & skills of an optician is not solely based in a dispensary. This knowledge comes from those that are working with their minds and having larger engagement in the optical field that are pushing the optical industry to new frontier of technology. Your shortsightedness of removing the "registered" optician has been taken too far in my opinion & I'm disappointed that we, the non-dispensing Opticians must be designated and held to a lower standard than those that do dispense.	8/16/2024 5:23 PM
13	Yes, If they are in good standing. They have knowledge of the Optical field so doesn't make sense to exclude them. They are educated & knowledgeable, being labeled 'inactive' shouldn't matter in this instance	8/16/2024 4:24 PM
14	Their interest, experience and expertise will contribute to the discussion of operational issues and will enhance the quality of policies and procedures.	8/16/2024 3:43 PM
15	While I am not currently dispensing, I am still very involved in the industry and should be excluded from running for election. Non dispensing opticians will still be able to add value. This is true for any optician who is working in the field but not actively dispensing.	8/15/2024 11:25 PM
16	To run for election as a member of COO board one should be practicing, and be fully involved in the field. This way they would be better equipped to fully understand, and deal with the issues at hand.	8/1/2024 4:55 PM
17	They are still licensed opticians	7/23/2024 2:07 PM
18	Only those who are working in the field	7/8/2024 12:22 PM
19	If they are not dispensing but otherwise active in the field, such as teaching, managing	6/21/2024 2:40 PM

multiple practices etc, they should not be excluded.

Q7 Should registrants in the Inactive Class be eligible to vote in the COO Board elections?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		52.15%	85
No		34.36%	56
Unsure		13.50%	22
TOTAL			163

Q8 Why?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 67

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Should be able to analyze who is a good candidate	8/20/2024 10:40 AM
2	Excluding Inactive registrants could be a missed opportunity for the College as they may have a lot to contribute and could bring a different perspective to the board and/or committees.	8/20/2024 4:31 AM
3	To keep them involved and connected with college.	8/19/2024 9:08 PM
4	they are nor really a member as they don't pay for a membership	8/19/2024 8:56 PM
5	These members still possess experience that could contribute to a Board environment.	8/19/2024 8:50 PM
6	Why not as a member of the body.	8/19/2024 6:03 PM
7	They have no active interest in the profession	8/19/2024 5:17 PM
8	Still qualified to vote	8/19/2024 3:55 PM
9	Same as 3.	8/19/2024 3:47 PM
10	You need to be able to relate & have experiences as fellow members are experiencing currently & in the past. Can't do that if not an active participant.	8/19/2024 3:44 PM
11	They maybe qualify to provide useful information	8/19/2024 3:37 PM
12	I believe all registered classes should be eligible. A mix on the board would give various prospective and a balanced approach.	8/19/2024 3:37 PM
13	They might be on a leave or retired but still have an interest in the field	8/19/2024 1:40 PM
14	Depending on how long they have been inactive, they may or may not be up to date with events affecting the profession	8/19/2024 1:03 PM
15	Registrants who have decided to become Inactive are still engaging with the COO at least once a year regardless as they must renew their Inactive status as they would their Active status. We would assume that they would still be recieving updates and reminders from the College via email and allowing them to stay current on any changes to scope of practice, fee structures, regulatory changes and who is running for the COO Board elections. Those who have practiced opticianry should have a working knowledge of what qualities a board member should have to sucessfully represent other opticians and the public's best interest. Someone who is Inactive will have an interesting perspective when it comes to voting as they will have working knowledge of the profession coupled with the limitations that would restrict the general public from dispensing eyewear.	8/19/2024 11:40 AM
16	What say should they have if they are not practicing. That's not ethical	8/19/2024 11:38 AM
17	They are still registered but not practicing at that moment.	8/19/2024 10:23 AM
18	Inactive members may have reasons for not dispensing but may have the time to sit on a committee as less commitment to everyday work.	8/19/2024 8:22 AM
19	Being registered, shows there is still a level of commitment and interest in the association. Giving them that opportunity could create an opportunity for a full return back to the profession. As long as they are willing to contribute to the growth of the profession, that will make a big difference	8/19/2024 8:11 AM
20	They don't have bcoz they are not member currently.	8/19/2024 1:06 AM
21	If not currently active in the industry/licensed, I do not see how they should be eligible to have a say in elections as it does not affect them.	8/18/2024 8:16 PM
22	In my opinion, only the licensed optician have idea about current trend about the market.	8/18/2024 7:21 PM
23	Should not have a say if not taking part in anything to do with opticianry if that's a word! lol!	8/18/2024 1:24 PM
24	They are still opticians and should have a say.	8/18/2024 9:07 AM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

25	They are individuals who still know the rules and regulations	8/18/2024 8:18 AM
26	As long as they are paying fees to the board as a member, they have the right to vote	8/18/2024 5:06 AM
27	If they're on parental or medical leave, then I would say yes, if they are working in a different profession, then perhaps not as they are likely not keeping up to date on everything in the optical profession.	8/17/2024 11:54 PM
28	Everyone who is active deserves to vote.	8/17/2024 11:34 PM
29	Inactive but they will be active members soon shain	8/17/2024 11:18 PM
30	Need to be aware of current trends/laws/products not just coasting.	8/17/2024 7:59 PM
31	Their inactivity may be short lived	8/17/2024 1:26 PM
32	not dispensing not active in field	8/17/2024 12:44 PM
33	I feel they should be in touch with public demands that are reactive to the changing market, impacted by current trends in technology, economy and world issues.	8/17/2024 12:09 PM
34	they are not practicing for various reasons and are not up to date on current issues and concerns. they may have interest some where else and do not represent active members	8/17/2024 11:31 AM
35	They are out for whatever reasons and should not be in a position of influence in our college	8/17/2024 11:22 AM
36	As the most of the inactive registrants could be retired and expert they could have some good insights	8/17/2024 11:10 AM
37	Unless the inactive class completes their portfolio every year to stay up to date.	8/17/2024 10:54 AM
38	the industry is consistently evolving, they might be too disconnected to appreciate and take the best decisions according to the need of the opticians	8/17/2024 10:52 AM
39	Because they are inactive. They are not practicing and should not have any say in opticians that are. Maybe they can be advisors	8/17/2024 10:42 AM
40	Being inactive may not know what issues and opinions of active members	8/17/2024 10:20 AM
41	The individual has experience in the field and should be allowed to contribute	8/17/2024 10:18 AM
42	Because they are not an active member so they maybe not know about current issues	8/17/2024 9:39 AM
43	They have many years of input in some cases, they've had the education, they've done the job so sure.	8/17/2024 12:24 AM
44	They are no longer in the field to make executive decisions with a realistic approach/ expectations	8/16/2024 10:44 PM
45	feel just because a licensed optician is not currently dispensing, their opinions should still matter and count.	8/16/2024 10:24 PM
46	I beleive they still have the right to vote inactive may not be permanent.	8/16/2024 9:57 PM
47	They're still members of college., paying registration fees	8/16/2024 8:58 PM
48	These individuals still retain the knowledge necessary to hold an elected position.	8/16/2024 8:51 PM
49	Their vote affects people currently dispensing while they are not.	8/16/2024 8:35 PM
50	Still optician	8/16/2024 8:04 PM
51	I don't have enough information	8/16/2024 7:51 PM
52	A person seeking to temporarily have their status changed from registered to inactive has the intention to return to full registration. Otherwise, why would that person want to incur any charges at all? Based on the definition of the registration statuses the inactive class still requires their members to participate fully in quality assurance. As a result, these members are fully capable and possibly possess more time to allocate for board membership or board appointment.	8/16/2024 6:56 PM
53	They are still opticians with valid opinions.	8/16/2024 6:29 PM
54	They are not actively practicing and as such do not have a stake in the decisions moving the profession forward	8/16/2024 6:25 PM
55	They are inactive	8/16/2024 6:04 PM
56	Not practising	8/16/2024 5:42 PM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

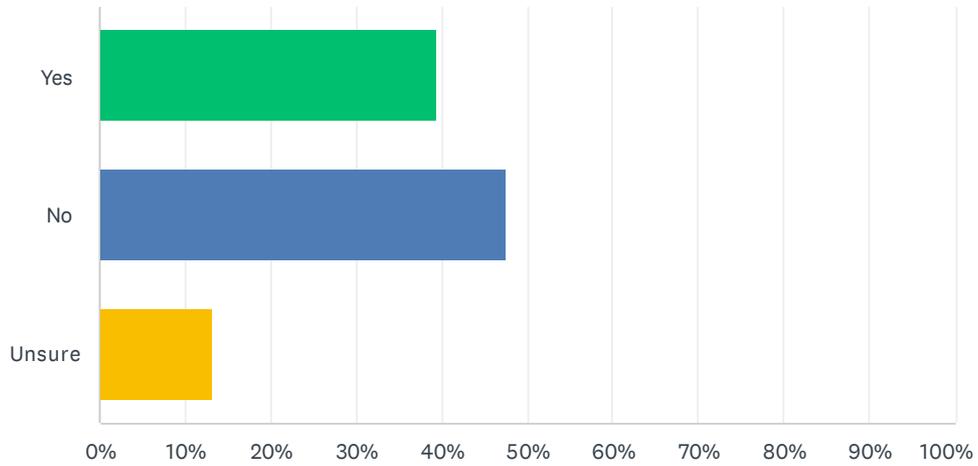
57	They would have more time to do the job efficiently.	8/16/2024 5:39 PM
58	If they're truly not active meaning that they're not working in the optical field then no they shouldn't be able to vote however if someone like myself that works in an optical company then yes we should have the right to vote and be respected to have our voice (or votes) heard and counted	8/16/2024 5:25 PM
59	I don,t have that information	8/16/2024 5:23 PM
60	I believe that only current active registered should vote.	8/16/2024 5:03 PM
61	They still understand the industry, and the association also needs to hear external voices	8/16/2024 4:55 PM
62	Because they aren't active in the profession	8/16/2024 4:53 PM
63	Because if they are required to pay any fees than they are part of the College of Opticians and should therefore be allowed to vote.	8/16/2024 4:44 PM
64	They are still optician	8/16/2024 4:42 PM
65	Being inactive means somewhat is a possibility they will return to practice.	8/16/2024 4:36 PM
66	They are inactive	8/16/2024 4:35 PM
67	Yes	8/16/2024 4:25 PM
68	They can be treated as astakeholders because they have the intention to rejoin the profession at a later stage by paying their membership fee to the College, so they have the similar rights as members of the College which include the eligibility to run for office.	8/16/2024 4:18 PM
69	because they're not actively practicing	8/16/2024 4:14 PM
70	If they are not working why should they have a say in how working Opticians are governed	8/16/2024 3:52 PM
71	May not be practicing but have a lot of important knowledge and experience.	8/16/2024 3:50 PM
72	Although inactive, these individuals have experience and expertise that can be considered for operational and policy development.	8/16/2024 3:45 PM
73	They are stakeholders	8/16/2024 3:41 PM
74	Should be active members only	8/16/2024 3:39 PM
75	What would be the rationale for excluding those of us who are not actively dispensing but still working in the field. This would be considered unfair and inequitable by many.	8/15/2024 11:27 PM
76	I think it is important to allow those who were previously in the profession and may wish to return at a later date to be able to have some input in voting on the Board elections.	8/13/2024 7:38 PM
77	yes, they should still have a right to participate in picking who will be on the board, to guide the profession.	8/1/2024 4:55 PM
78	Just because they are no longer practicing that does not mean they are no longer passionate about the profession or intending to return to the profession...we will always be a professional	7/26/2024 7:49 PM
79	There is an abundance of knowledge of the industry that inactive members of the College possess. If those individuals are not currently dispensing, require a certain number of years of dispensing as a condition to run.	7/24/2024 5:59 PM
80	Especially If they have served in the Opticianry for many years or some even decades this people are well equipped with knowledge and expertise. If they wanted to the suggestion is keep themselves updated with trends or be a member of the association so then they could still learn from modules etc. but this inactive opticians are probably going through tough life or situations you never know so let's support each other. Bottom line this inactive opticians might have to stop because of May leave etc and there's enough reason for that but It doesn't mean their passion and knowledge are gone. They for sure can bring a lot to the table.	7/24/2024 2:11 PM
81	I can positive and negatives to this. Being in sick leave you should be able to vote, as it would affect you when you go back to work. If you are retired and do no plan to work again, I don't believe you should be able to vote, as it doesn't affect you.	7/24/2024 1:44 PM
82	They have chosen to be inactive for reason and still pay a fee to be a member indicating they are engaged. They also could have lots of knowledge to share. ex , those retired, on leave, not in more admin roles.	7/23/2024 9:16 PM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

83	They are still licensed opticians	7/23/2024 2:07 PM
84	Just because I'm on mat leave is a ridiculous reason why I can't participate from participating in my profession.	7/23/2024 11:46 AM
85	Not practicing in the profession, wouldn't know who is the best candidate.	7/12/2024 12:49 PM
86	It may depend on how long one can sit as an inactive member. The inactive class is mostly comprised of those who choose not to practice opticianry. Maternity leave or illness may be 1 year not practicing, but coming out of retirement for something to do? how many years did they last practice? Election should be for active members	7/10/2024 12:10 PM
87	Only those working in the field	7/8/2024 12:22 PM
88	Because they still have years of service in Opticianry and have been to an accredited college to gain knowledge. It is an opportunity for them to stay active in our field and perhaps in the future they will return to practicing.	7/4/2024 12:27 PM
89	As an optician, everyone has his/her own opinion to expressed	6/27/2024 6:36 PM
90	Not active in job, should not be able to make choices for us.	6/27/2024 6:00 PM
91	if they are not practicing and paying full fees they should not have say as it doesn't affect them	6/26/2024 11:56 PM
92	They have been Optician for a number of years and have the knowledge need to give advise and time if required. It is good to keep them involved should they feel the need.	6/24/2024 10:32 AM
93	They should be eligible as long as they are in the field	6/23/2024 9:12 PM
94	An Optician is still an Optician. Everyone's opinions count.	6/23/2024 7:24 PM
95	Because many of them have lots of valuable experience	6/23/2024 2:42 PM
96	They have a lot of knowledge.	6/22/2024 11:49 AM
97	Inactive means not fully involving in everyday practicing opticianry.	6/22/2024 9:43 AM
98	They're not working in the field	6/22/2024 8:23 AM
99	If an inactive registrant still some what in the industry and involving them selves as sales representatives, seminar holders or participating constantly in other optical related environments and they are up to date with the knowledge they should be able to run in election.	6/21/2024 4:51 PM
100	Because they are not really working in the field now	6/21/2024 3:22 PM
101	they are INACTIVE!!! If they want to be active they can pay the full fee for the license and go to work.	6/21/2024 2:58 PM
102	Those who are not dispensing but working in the field should be allowed to vote	6/21/2024 2:40 PM
103	An inactive Optician is still a skilled, valuable Optician.	6/21/2024 2:28 PM
104	if they are not practicing they should not be worried about what is being happening in profession.	6/21/2024 2:11 PM

Q9 Should registrants in the Inactive Class be eligible for appointment as an appointed committee member?

Answered: 160 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	39.38%	63
No	47.50%	76
Unsure	13.13%	21
TOTAL		160

Q10 Why?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 71

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	They're inactive	8/20/2024 10:41 AM
2	Excluding Inactive registrants could be a missed opportunity for the College as they may have a lot to contribute and could bring a different perspective to the board and/or committees.	8/20/2024 4:31 AM
3	Because they can give more time to the college due to their retirement.	8/19/2024 9:09 PM
4	Based on the reasons as to why they would be an inactive registrant, they most likely will not be able take on the role of being appointed at that time. Example: maternity leave/sick leave.	8/19/2024 9:00 PM
5	inactive to me means they have nothing to do with the profession; for whatever reason.	8/19/2024 8:57 PM
6	Same reasons these registrants should be able to run for elections.	8/19/2024 8:51 PM
7	They are interested and want to be play an active roll.	8/19/2024 6:05 PM
8	The are not actively practicing, and they don't have a vested interest in the elections	8/19/2024 5:18 PM
9	Still qualified	8/19/2024 3:56 PM
10	Same as 3.	8/19/2024 3:48 PM
11	Need to pay the fees like everyone else!	8/19/2024 3:44 PM
12	If they are not in practice , they should let ither members who are active participate in committee	8/19/2024 3:38 PM
13	Same	8/19/2024 3:38 PM
14	They should be involved on a consistent basis	8/19/2024 1:40 PM
15	I think committee members should be fully licensed. Being licensed carries the requirement of continuing education and this helps ensure the members are up to date.	8/19/2024 1:05 PM
16	If an Inactive Optician is currently working in the industry but not actively dispensing they should be considered for a role within the COO as an appointed committee member. The current roster of appointed members is comprised of some actively dispensing and some who are not but have paid their fees to maintain the RO designation. If those who could reduce their fees by being Inactive decide to exercise that option, you would lose valuable insight and experienced optical professionals as appointed members automatically if they were deemed to be ineligible based on their inactive status.	8/19/2024 11:58 AM
17	Let's be real. Activate memberships and then be a part of the team. How does this make any sense. If they are not ot cannot practise they should not be eligible for anything. They can have their say but not as a member.	8/19/2024 11:40 AM
18	Since they are not practicing at the moment then sitting in committee does not make sense to me.	8/19/2024 10:24 AM
19	Experience doesn't disappear	8/19/2024 10:16 AM
20	Any opportunities for anyone to contribute to the growth of the profession regardless of status, is a plus to the profession. I accept the idea of participation, whether directly or indirectly.	8/19/2024 8:28 AM
21	The College can decide what position can be appointed to the inactive member.	8/19/2024 8:24 AM
22	Again, if they are not actively in the industry or paying for a license, then they should not be able to run for election. It should only be an option for those that are currently practicing/carrying an active license.	8/18/2024 8:18 PM
23	In my opinion, only the licensed optician have idea about current trend about the market.	8/18/2024 7:21 PM
24	Because although inactive, are still paying fees as should be allowed to participate if they wish	8/18/2024 5:25 PM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

25	They should be currently practicing.	8/18/2024 3:15 PM
26	Because ppl are still eligible I believe even if they are not opticians	8/18/2024 1:25 PM
27	They may have reasons that did not allow them to continue physically on the field but still want to make a difference and be heard. Again, they could be people who have lots of previous experience and their opinion could others could benefit from that information.	8/18/2024 8:20 AM
28	Depending on the reasons for their inactive mode does not negate their knowledge & experience & they can still remain current & involved	8/18/2024 5:10 AM
29	Since they are not working in the profession I don't feel they should have any say in what happens in the optical arena.	8/17/2024 11:55 PM
30	They used to be an active member and soon to be active again.	8/17/2024 11:19 PM
31	Same	8/17/2024 8:00 PM
32	Need to be in the game at all times	8/17/2024 1:27 PM
33	not active	8/17/2024 12:45 PM
34	For the same previously stated issues. They should be in touch with the demands of consumers in the context of ever changing technology, economic conditions and world issues that impact the retail world and working conditions.	8/17/2024 12:12 PM
35	Inactive means not current and up to date on current issues and concerns. They are inactive because they have interest somewhere else other than opticianry	8/17/2024 11:33 AM
36	same as previous	8/17/2024 11:22 AM
37	In depends how much they follow up the college activities	8/17/2024 11:14 AM
38	Same answer as question 4	8/17/2024 11:14 AM
39	Same reason as stated in answer 4	8/17/2024 10:54 AM
40	same as previous question, members should be connected and practice in the industry	8/17/2024 10:53 AM
41	Shouldnt be a problem to carry out delegated duties	8/17/2024 10:21 AM
42	As long as the individual is maintaining his Quality Assurance Credits	8/17/2024 10:20 AM
43	They are non active so may be missing out on important things	8/17/2024 9:39 AM
44	Are no longer practicing they would devote more time to the college position	8/17/2024 12:25 AM
45	Still a member	8/17/2024 12:05 AM
46	Same as number 5's number .. not in the field to make the best decision , that way they can make an executive decision that's practical to the field	8/16/2024 10:47 PM
47	Should they choose to become a appointed member then they should active their license	8/16/2024 10:00 PM
48	Because they're not active	8/16/2024 9:01 PM
49	Same reason they should be allowed to run for elected positions.	8/16/2024 8:52 PM
50	Members not actively dispensing should not be part in any decision making affecting the members actively dispensing	8/16/2024 8:37 PM
51	They know the way opticians role play in society	8/16/2024 8:05 PM
52	Only if they're able to show up to date knowledge	8/16/2024 7:07 PM
53	They are fully capable.	8/16/2024 6:58 PM
54	Individuals active and practicing should have a say on changes/decisions, not those who are inactive within the profession as it does not directly affect their practice of the prifession	8/16/2024 6:32 PM
55	It depends on the cAse.	8/16/2024 6:29 PM
56	Not practising	8/16/2024 5:43 PM
57	Refer to point 8	8/16/2024 5:25 PM
58	Don,t know	8/16/2024 5:23 PM
59	I don't agree that an inactive registrants should be appointed. They can always email as an	8/16/2024 5:08 PM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

inactive member if they have something to suggest that can be beneficial and the committee can take that info into consideration.

60	Feeling out of place	8/16/2024 4:56 PM
61	Because they are inactive in the profession	8/16/2024 4:53 PM
62	There are so many reasons as to why someone is inactive. By excluding this class of registrants, we are missing out on what this class of registrants could offer.	8/16/2024 4:46 PM
63	They know the industry	8/16/2024 4:42 PM
64	In order to be on a board, committee etc I believe you should be currently practicing so you are current on news,trends, happenings, etc.	8/16/2024 4:37 PM
65	They are inactive	8/16/2024 4:35 PM
66	As explained before in 5	8/16/2024 4:19 PM
67	They are not actively involved in the profession	8/16/2024 3:52 PM
68	Non practicing still knowledgeable and may want to maintain a role	8/16/2024 3:51 PM
69	Again, their interest and experience can contribute to operational and policy development.	8/16/2024 3:46 PM
70	They would have time to give valuable insight	8/16/2024 3:41 PM
71	Should be active to run	8/16/2024 3:40 PM
72	For all the same reasons I've already stated. Any optician who is working in the field should have the same opportunities offered to them	8/15/2024 11:28 PM
73	I feel it is important for committee members to be actively participating in the profession. It allows the committee to stay relevant and up to date.	8/13/2024 7:39 PM
74	one should be practicing and fully involved with the profession, so they are better capable to deal with related issues.	8/1/2024 5:21 PM
75	Working a full time job and maintaining a balanced family life can be challenging, a retired professional would be perfect for the job	7/26/2024 7:50 PM
76	Again experienced Opticians presently dispensing or not will add value to the committees. Again require a certain number of dispensing years as a qualification.	7/24/2024 6:02 PM
77	Most Inactive Opticians are not caught up with the most recent industry practices as it isn't their main focus/every day interest.	7/24/2024 5:00 PM
78	Inactive to me also means that you are not up to date on what's happening in the industry. You may be, but from a distance and we need current in your face members.	7/24/2024 1:46 PM
79	Same as previous. They are still engaged by choosing to be inactive.	7/23/2024 9:17 PM
80	They are still licensed opticians	7/23/2024 2:07 PM
81	Since not practicing, not a good candidate as a committee member.	7/12/2024 12:51 PM
82	Not standing for election may make appointment ok, but not having practiced for x amount of years may not make the optician out of date.	7/10/2024 12:11 PM
83	Those working in the field can be a great resource regardless of dispensing or not	7/8/2024 12:24 PM
84	Overall they are part of college of optician	7/4/2024 8:46 PM
85	If they are not practicing they are not actively participating in the current job scene and and they do not have first hand knowledge on the ground about where our field is heading on a daily basis.	7/4/2024 12:28 PM
86	An appointed committee member should be a full time position	6/27/2024 6:37 PM
87	Not active, should not be able to make choices for us.	6/27/2024 6:00 PM
88	only practising opticians should	6/26/2024 11:58 PM
89	Knowledge again	6/24/2024 10:33 AM
90	As long as they are in the field	6/23/2024 9:13 PM
91	Experience, especially a Retired Optician.	6/23/2024 7:25 PM

Eligibility of inactive registrants to run for election, vote or be appointed to a committee

92	Many of them have valuable experience	6/23/2024 2:42 PM
93	They have a lot of experience and knowledge.	6/22/2024 11:50 AM
94	Same as #4	6/22/2024 9:44 AM
95	They are not working in the field	6/22/2024 8:25 AM
96	It depends how well they are integrated in the optical industry.	6/21/2024 4:52 PM
97	Same issue...They are INACTIVE If they pay the full fee and go to work they become active and can be involved in whatever they want	6/21/2024 2:58 PM
98	Those who are not actively dispensing but otherwise working in the field will bring just as much to the committees	6/21/2024 2:41 PM
99	This may be the only time in their career when they have time to contribute.	6/21/2024 2:29 PM
100	they are not in profession.	6/21/2024 2:11 PM

APPENDIX C

6.6 Eligibility to Vote

- a) A Registrant is eligible to vote in an election for Directors if, on the close of the business day preceding the day on which the election will take place, the Registrant:
- i. holds a certificate of registration as a registered optician [or as an inactive optician](#);
 - ii. resides or practices opticianry in Ontario;
 - iii. is not in default of any fees or other amounts owed to the College; and
 - iv. is not in default of returning any required form or information to the College.
- b) Each Registrant who is eligible to vote shall be eligible to vote in:
- i. electoral district 6; and
 - ii. the electoral district in which, on the close of the business day preceding the day on which the election will take place, the Registrant principally resides or, if the Registrant does not reside in Ontario, the electoral district in which the Registrant principally practices opticianry.
- c) Not less than 30 days before the day of the election, the Registrar shall send to every Registrant eligible to vote in the electoral district in which an election is to be held, a list of the candidates, including their biographical statements, if submitted, photographs, a ballot, or in the case of an electronic election, instructions for accessing the electronic election system, and an explanation of the procedure for voting.
- d) At the Registrar's request, an ad hoc committee struck by the Board, or the Executive Committee shall determine a Registrant's eligibility to vote in an election.