

## Briefing Note

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Registration Committee

**DATE:** March 3, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Life Member Status  
APPENDIX A: Stakeholder Survey Results

☒ For Decision

☐ For Discussion

☐ Monitoring Report

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### Purpose:

To recommend that the Board approve the proposed alternative model for recognition of long-serving opticians.

### Background:

The College of Opticians of Ontario (the "College") currently offers "Life Membership" to registered opticians who have permanently retired from the practice of opticianry and who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Article 3.1 of the College's [by-laws](#) and the [Life Member policy](#). There is no fee associated with applying for or maintaining life membership.

Life membership is not its own class of registration under the regulation. Rather, the status is given on an honorary basis to Registered Opticians (RO) who have advised the College that they have permanently retired and who meet the other eligibility criteria identified by the board, including years of practice and nothing in their prior conduct history that would bring the profession into disrepute. From an administrative standpoint, life members are ROs who have been administratively suspended.

The changes brought by the new Registration Regulation have triggered the need for action on the part of the College as ROs holding life membership will now be automatically revoked once a three-year period has elapsed. Life members who have been suspended for over three years may face revocation later this year, once the transition period for the suspended opticians is over.

### *Purpose of Life Member Title*

Life Member is an honorific title granted by the College Board in recognition of the registrant's contribution and dedication to the profession of opticianry. Currently, the purpose of offering life membership is to allow retired opticians to stay connected to the profession by voting in College's elections and continuing to receive communications from the College. The Board has the authority to revoke life membership if the registrant is deceased or no longer meets the Board's criteria to hold it.

The unintended consequence of Life Member status, however, is possible public confusion that life members hold a special registration status with the College that entitles them to practise the profession “for life”. From the public interest standpoint, there does not appear to be a strong rationale for offering life membership, as it appears to primarily benefit the former registrant rather than the public. Based on a recent environmental scan, it has been identified by other regulators that there may not be a compelling public interest rationale for offering life membership, particularly in light of the public confusion that it causes.

These factors were recognized by other regulators, some of whom expressed that recognition of the service to the profession does not fit the regulator’s mandate.

### **For Consideration:**

At its meeting on November 13, 2024, the Registration Committee discussed whether the College should discontinue the Life Member designation or find an alternative mechanism to recognize long-serving opticians.

The Committee noted that there does not appear to be a strong rationale from the public interest standpoint for offering life membership, as it appears to primarily benefit the former registrant rather than the public. The Committee reviewed an environmental scan of other regulators that identified that there may not be a compelling public interest rationale for offering life membership, particularly in light of the public confusion that it causes.

Upon review and discussion of the information presented, the Committee agreed that it was important to seek feedback from registrants and other stakeholders before a recommendation is made to the Board.

### *Proposed Alternative Model*

The Committee proposed the following alternative model for feedback:

1. Replacing “Life Member” with “Honorary Retired Status” to clarify its nature and avoid implications of ongoing registration.
2. Granting the title upon voluntary resignation due to retirement, where certain other criteria are met (e.g. minimum years of service, clean conduct record, etc.)
3. Removing the designation from the public register and instead creating a dedicated webpage listing Honorary Retired Status holders with an explanation of the title’s purpose.
4. Removing the voting rights to align title holders with other non-registrants.

A feedback survey on the proposed model was initially circulated via e-blast to registrants on January 9, 2024. Links to the proposed amendment, background information, and survey were posted on the College’s website. Links to the survey were also posted on the College’s social media channels.

Individuals were invited to answer survey questions and to provide any comments by February 9, 2025 (30 days). The invitation was also extended to retired opticians who no longer hold active

registration with the College, and current Life Members. A separate invitation was sent to the Ontario Opticians Association.

A final e-blast reminder was sent on February 5, 2025.

The survey closed on February 9, 2025, and received 462 responses. A summary of the survey results together with comments received, is attached for the Board's review and consideration as Appendix A.

#### *Stakeholder Feedback*

345 of those who completed the survey identified as a Registered Optician (74.68%). Other respondents included retired opticians (16.67%), Inactive Opticians (6.93%), Intern Opticians (<1%), and those who identified as "other" (<1%).

The majority of respondents (84.42%) indicated that the College should continue offering a way of recognizing long-serving opticians following retirement.

Comments included:

- Our commitment to proper health and wellness of the public is taken very seriously. Yes, we should be recognized.
- There should be a designation for longtime opticians.
- We should take care of our experienced members!
- Yes, I think it is important to recognize years of service to the profession after retirement.
- Long-time opticians have a wealth of experience and have seen many changes in our industry. I believe it is a good thing to recognize their experience on the website in a way that does not confuse the public.
- One way of appreciating their longtime membership and contributions in the field of opticianry.
- There should be recognition for committing to the profession for life.
- Those long-term skills and commitment to the profession should continue to be celebrated. and recognized for anyone who has dedicated most of their career to being an optician in good standing with the college during active time.
- Yes, it's quite an accomplishment and should be publicly recognized!

311 (67.32%) survey respondents were in support of the proposed "Honorary Retired" title. One survey respondent suggested that the new title should be applied to new retirees going forward and that current Life Members should be permitted to retain that title.

Comments included:

- Honorary retired status is a better descriptive title than Life members. Easy to understand that opticians in this category have retired.
- I prefer "honorary member". I believe it implies that the individuals credentials and experience are significant therefore they are an honoured member upon retirement.

- Great choice. The title “Life Member” is very misleading, to the public and us. It does sound like the person is still a practicing Licensed Optician.
- The title could be a slight variation but this works. I agree the current title is confusing and needs to be changed regardless.
- It is a more accurate term and conveys recognition and respect for our career
- I think you are right on to do this change.
- I appreciate that this recognizes that the registrant is retired and not current and active to the public.
- Totally. Hopefully making the general public understand who is still active working as an optician, and who is retired.

A number of respondents identified in their comments that they felt the Life Member title was potentially misleading and/or not in line with the College’s mandate:

- Great choice. The title “Life Member” is very misleading, to the public and us. It does sound like the person is still a practicing Licensed Optician.
- It's the College's duty to protect the patient - while it's, I think, important to recognize those opticians who have forged the path of service, it's also very important to not lose focus (excuse the pun!) on the College's duty.
- I think the change will help clarify any confusion for the public.
- Honorary retired status is a better descriptive title than Life members. Easy to understand that opticians in this category has retired.

18.18% of the survey respondents disagreed with the proposed title, while another 14.5% were unsure about the proposed title. I would like a better title.

- The RETIRED part has to be dropped in the title. An explanation could be done [on the web page] that page stating that "the following members were awarded an Honorary life membership after their retirement from the profession."
- Why change the title. Seems like an unnecessary change since we all know what life member means.
- It does not matter what you decide to call the replacement name. Preserving history is everything.
- Not sure how the wording sounds. Honorary status is usually given to someone not in the field, ex: honorary mayor has never been a mayor.
- I agree with the change but would suggest a different name for the status. Some ideas I have are: Optician Advisor, Honorary Optician, Optician Member Inactive, Accredited Optician, Lifetime Optician.
- Life member has a better connotation.
- Life Member is much more distinguished and accomplished
- Honorary retired status does not sound good. Honorary member may be better.
- The other term you could use is “emeritus “

The majority of survey respondents (59.74 %) supported the idea of creating a dedicated webpage to list the honorary retired status holders.

118 (25.54%) survey respondents disagreed with the idea of creating a designated webpage for honorary retired opticians.

Comments included:

- Someone who is a life member should still be listed under "find an optician". Everyone should be on the same profile page with the different designations attached to their names. No one is going to look for a separate retired members page.
- I don't see the need to separate it. I think it is nice that it is in with the public registry. Would anyone even know to look for that page? It kind of takes away from the designation if you separate them.
- Why can't they just be listed as - not practicing - retired member? Why the need for a separate page?
- Should be with the public register, no need to create a separate website. Why not have all the info in one spot, rather than multiple. Keep it simple!
- Keep the old page and we can look them up as retired.
- Don't make a separate webpage. A separate tab for Honorary Retired Status including an explanation of the title within the current public register would be appropriate.

251 (54.33%) of survey respondents were in favour of removing voting rights for honorary retired opticians.

Comments included:

- I believe it's about recognizing our opticians. I don't believe voting when not practicing is necessary.
- The profession should be shaped by those who are still practicing.
- Yes, I do believe that a retired optician should be stripped of voting rights. I believe that, if they choose to stay connected, they can be part of the discussion leading up to a vote via polls/forums. They should give their viewpoints, as it will be beneficial to current opticians to see the situations from a more experienced perspective. However, they should not have the ultimate deciding factor.
- I would also include them in some process like surveys or a portal they could suggest. They have life experience that younger opticians do not have.
- I believe an optician should be employed and working in the industry to retain voting rights. Some individuals may be a decade or more outside of the work force, and may not have the most up-to-date information and experience as it pertains to the changes within the industry. Further, this could lead to bias that can/may cause unintended consequence to the general public.
- Yes, since they are no longer practicing, they should not have any voting rights concerning the forward movement of the college.

138 (29.87%) of survey respondents did not agree with removing the voting rights for opticians holding the Honorary Retired Status. 73 (15.8%) respondents were unsure about the proposed change. One respondent suggested that retaining the voting rights for the honorary retired opticians might be a way to increase voter turnout.

Comments included:

- All they can vote for is another optician to be on the Board. What possible reason would there be to take that away.
- Retired opticians best know the shortcomings of the legislative framework they worked within.
- By this their involvement becomes meaningless.
- They have devoted years to the occupation and could offer a wealth of knowledge
- Retaining voting status capitalizes on the cohort with the most insight and experienced knowledge to effect positive change within the industry's direction and governance.
- I believe we retired opticians have a unique perspective with regard to patient protection and risk of harm. I don't think there is a downside to take advantage of our experience and vast knowledge of well-managed opticianry over these many years.
- These lifetime members may not be actively dispensing anymore, but their experience and dedicated time over the years should be used in decision-making.
- I feel we should still have voting rights as a professional with still are looking for the best interests of the public

*Proposed Implementation Plan*

As noted above, the mechanics of the new regulation make it impossible to maintain the status quo for granting life member designations because of the new automatic revocation provision. The Board is therefore asked to consider moving ahead with the proposed alternative model.

If the Board decides to move forward with the Committee's proposal to replace Life Membership with the Legacy Retired Optician Title, the following implementation plan is proposed:

- Amend the by-laws and the Life Member Policy to reflect the board's decision. Final amendments will be brought to the board at its next meeting for approval.
- Advise current life members, and anyone who submitted an application for life membership, that the title will no longer be in use by the College. Current life members will be automatically moved to the Legacy Retired Optician category, but may request to be removed from the list if they choose. Applicants will be given an opportunity to apply for Legacy status.
- Discontinue using "Life Member" on the public register.
- Create a page on the COO website to list Legacy Retired opticians.

**Public Interest Considerations**

The majority of registrants supported continuing to honor retired opticians for their contributions, with some preferring to retain the "Life Member" status. However, the Committee noted as follows:

- As a result of recent regulation changes, it will not be possible to maintain the status quo with respect to the Life Member recognition program.
- There did not appear to be a clear public interest rational articulated by survey respondents to support continuing the recognition program.

- The term “Life Member” has the potential to create public confusion. In addition, the term “Honorary Retired Status” may also cause confusion because the term “honorary” might suggest that the individual was an “honorary optician” (i.e. a non-optician granted honorary status) rather than a qualified optician who has since retired).
- However, with certain changes in place, the Committee was of the view that the College could continue to recognize long-serving opticians in a way that would not contradict its public interest mandate

Accordingly, the Committee proposed moving forward with the alternative proposed model, with the additional change from the term “Honorary Retired Status” to “Legacy Retired Optician”.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations**

In reviewing stakeholder feedback, the Committee noted that registrants did not identify any concerns from a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective on the proposal to move from “Life Members” to “Honorary Retired Status”.

Some registrants expressed the view that opticians with this status should retain voting rights in order to account for their perspectives post-retirement, although the majority of were not in favour of this. One commenter highlighted that some retired opticians may still operate optical businesses. On review, however, the Committee was of the view that the public interest weighed in favour of limiting voting eligibility to current registrants, as they would have the most up to date and relevant knowledge of the profession. The Committee also noted that other non-registrant business owners are not eligible to participate in board elections.

### **Risk Management Considerations**

From a risk management perspective, the Committee identified that the current “Life Member” title could potentially mislead the public and cause confusion, posing a potential risk to the College. The alternative model proposed by the Committee addresses this concern by increasing clarity for the public while also publicly recognizing the achievement of long-serving retired opticians.

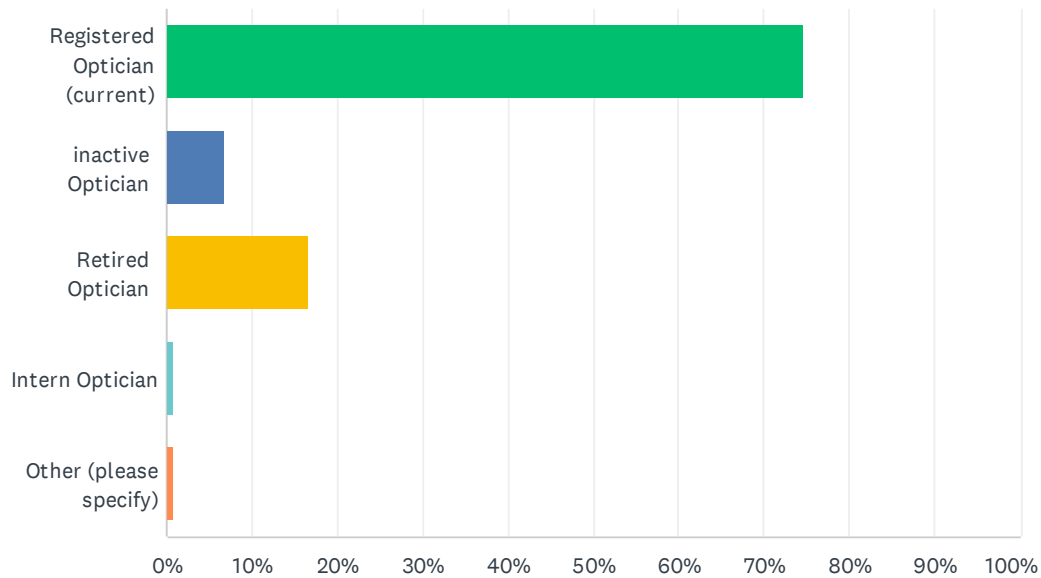
#### **Action Required:**

That the Board approve the following actions:

- Discontinuing the Life Member program
- Creating a Legacy Retired Optician program to recognize long-serving opticians who have permanently retired from the profession

## Q1 Please indicate if you are a :

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



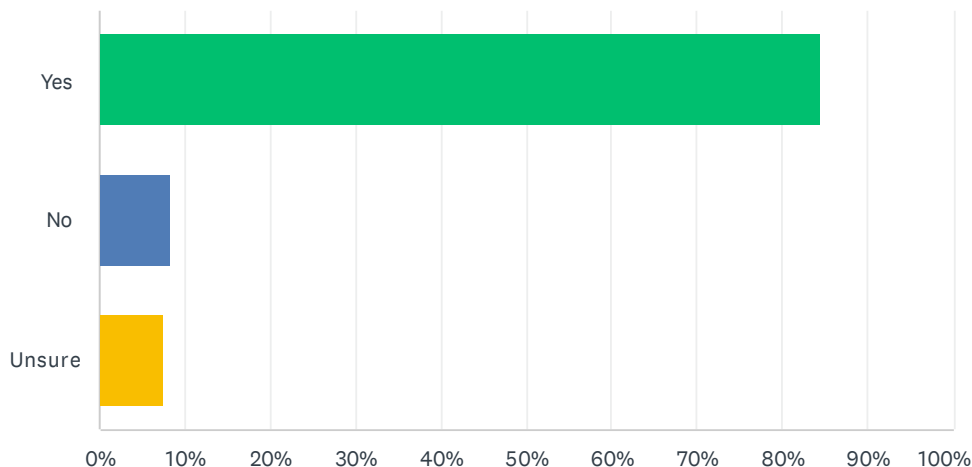
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Registered Optician (current)	74.68%	345
inactive Optician	6.93%	32
Retired Optician	16.67%	77
Intern Optician	0.87%	4
Other (please specify)	0.87%	4
TOTAL		462

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Inactive but retired in March 2022 (fees for inactive class should be cheaper)	2/8/2025 3:38 PM
2	pending reinstatement after illness	1/17/2025 11:25 PM
3	Life Member	1/14/2025 4:21 PM
4	Not registered on 2024	1/10/2025 2:27 PM



## Q2 Do you think that the College should continue offering a way of recognizing long-serving opticians following retirement?

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.42%	390
No	8.23%	38
Unsure	7.36%	34
TOTAL		462

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	There should be a designation for longtime opticians.	2/8/2025 7:43 PM
2	If the optician was in good standing and without disciplinary actions against them.	2/8/2025 3:38 PM
3	Our commitment to proper health and wellness of the public is taken very seriously. Yes we should be recognized.	2/8/2025 7:32 AM
4	Yes, but change the title to honorary instead of Life members. Life member status is too confusing to understand.	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
5	A title of "Retired Optician" in their status is one way of recognizing their long years of service in the field.	2/7/2025 6:05 PM
6	We should take care of our experienced members!	2/7/2025 12:59 PM
7	pledging a life long practice in protecting the public, following guidelines of the college of Opticians, was wasted, thrown away and forgotten.	2/7/2025 11:08 AM
8	I like the idea of still listing retired opticians as a place of honour but it should be very easy for the public to recognize that they are no longer able to practice the profession	2/7/2025 6:39 AM
9	That encourages and will help them to be the field in whatever capacity to keep themselves in the profession .	2/6/2025 11:02 AM
10	The retiring opticians should be given a chance for part time practice with a lower cost of membership fee. Because there might be any retired optician that would want to do part time work!	2/6/2025 9:35 AM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

11	After a prescribed amount of years of service. Not just after they "retire". I could "retire" after 2 yrs and get a lifetime designation? Not clear enough in this.	2/6/2025 9:11 AM
12	Yes Yes And Yes.	2/6/2025 8:10 AM
13	The college should recognize that Opticians with good standing and long careers wanting to contribute after retirement has the potential to bring great value to the public. The current model has a confusing designation and the fact that it is on the public register in the current form is an issue that should be resolved.	2/5/2025 10:18 PM
14	Retired opticians have contributed a lot to the profession	2/5/2025 8:50 PM
15	College should recognizing and supporting the opticians that are still in work place and give recognition to their very hard working!	2/5/2025 8:37 PM
16	Yes, I think it is important to recognize years of service to the profession after retirement. Just about all professions and even service clubs recognize long term members after retirement.	2/5/2025 7:36 PM
17	The term does seem to create confusion in the public arena and can be easily abused. The term "lifetime" can lead to a lot of confusion, even among registered members.	2/5/2025 6:38 PM
18	Opticians passed their qualifications and worked in the industry. They are knowledgeable and experienced.	2/5/2025 3:19 PM
19	A lot ppl still want to keep the opticians status after retirement, they can work again in this generation...	2/5/2025 3:16 PM
20	Long serving opticians should be recognized while they are still working, not just after retirement	2/5/2025 2:10 PM
21	I don't think there is a need for anything more than indicating they are a retired optician and not practicing	2/5/2025 2:07 PM
22	Definitely be recognized	2/5/2025 1:23 PM
23	I loved been an Optician. It seemed that half my life disappeared when I retired	2/5/2025 1:16 PM
24	As they should since licensing renewal fees have been paid for a long duration.	2/5/2025 12:45 PM
25	A certificate that says Honorary retired status . First license 1965 retired 2012. I believe this should be enough to explain license no longer valid . Peter ( Patrick ) Clenighan	2/5/2025 12:07 PM
26	Long-time opticians have a wealth of experience and have seen many changes in our industry. I believe it is a good thing to recognize their experience on the website in a way that does not confuse the public. I do not like the use of the word retired in their title though. Perhaps Optician Advisors or something similar? Adding a separate page to the college site dedicated to these people is good to avoid confusion. At the top of the page their inactive status can be described, and beside their names could be their number of years licensed or the year they were licensed. I agree with code of conduct etc requirements and I also think that opticians of this status should be stipulated to participate in at least one stakeholder feedback request per year to "earn" their free status with the college, (as health capacity permits, of course). Their input from their years of life and work experience would be very valuable to the college and to new opticians.	2/5/2025 12:04 PM
27	Not necessary	2/5/2025 11:43 AM
28	It makes sense to change the designation to remove misunderstandings around whether they are still practicing	2/5/2025 11:38 AM
29	There's no need for the word "honorary" simply retired would be enough. We earned the designation. It's not honorary. We are simply retiring from using the designation. Adding honorary only confuses matters. Especially for the public	2/5/2025 11:24 AM
30	This is a profession he or she have held for many years and the least the college can do is give recognition for their life time career.	1/31/2025 7:34 AM
31	Other life time members usually had 40 or more years in the industry we should honour for their contributions to the industry and to the public that they also served.	1/24/2025 5:11 PM
32	I like the Honorary Designation	1/19/2025 8:03 PM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

33	There should be recognition for committing to the profession for life.	1/17/2025 12:29 PM
34	As honorary member	1/15/2025 10:03 PM
35	These opticians have worked hard and should be rewarded after retirement	1/15/2025 10:35 AM
36	I like the idea of having retired opticians being listed on an honorary page after meeting specified criteria.	1/14/2025 6:18 PM
37	If the College wants to protect the public, the College should maintain a public database that lists all Opticians. By all opticians, I mean currently active, inactive, intern, retired and even those who had their licenses revoked due to misconduct. I don't feel it helps to only recognize "long-serving" opticians, or see the point in have special retired status for only long-serving opticians.	1/14/2025 4:10 PM
38	Spending your life doing a service with upholding Professional degree is something to honor and cherish.	1/14/2025 2:00 PM
39	Consider having optional status: Recognize the long-serving opticians only if they select the option. Those retired members who do not wish to continue affiliation can have the option to disconnect.	1/14/2025 1:58 PM
40	Honorary Life membership makes a lot more sense to me. Honorary retired status sounds like you could revoke the retirement at any time. Honorary Life membership is easily understood by the public just like an honorary doctorate from a university which we all know isn't real. A separate page to list retired members would be nice, those with 25 years service or more could be listed with the number of years achieved. Retaining voting rights would be a nice perk but not necessary.	1/13/2025 9:56 PM
41	Don't understand the point of it. Useless waste of time	1/13/2025 11:46 AM
42	I would argue that if someone wants a current title, then that title should stand for something current, and we have no idea if long-serving opticians are actually keeping current or if they're backseat drivers to new changes. There is no regulation or observation of these title holders, and that means "unregulated" and the college is a "regulating body" so it leaves me wondering what the heck are these people doing (ARE they taking extra courses and updating themselves) so why should they vote on issues?	1/13/2025 11:35 AM
43	If the optician is in good standing, they should be recognized for their services	1/13/2025 1:06 AM
44	We work very hard in our industry and pay a lot of money on a yearly basis. I think it's the least the college can do.	1/12/2025 9:53 AM
45	As a longterm licensed optician at retirement age, I have an enormous skillet that simply doesn't disappear after retirement and sometimes life is just too darn expensive and we need to re enter the work force	1/11/2025 10:54 AM
46	As an optician I'm very proud of my profession and would feel a sense of pride for my years of service to the public after retirement	1/10/2025 8:40 PM
47	Just grant the title of Optician for rewarding their contributions to the public, but limiting their revival of practice.	1/10/2025 5:35 PM
48	Important, because they can still mentor students or new opticians	1/10/2025 4:46 PM
49	They can provide the best idea to opticians.	1/10/2025 3:45 PM
50	We deserve to be kept in the College list as retired opticians after so many years of working as such.	1/10/2025 3:03 PM
51	For long serving optician they contribution their most of life time into optical bussiness and bring back true vision for all the clients, for their retirement we should be respected their professional and selfless dedication.	1/10/2025 2:27 PM
52	I have been an Optician in good standing since 1979. It would be devastating to me not being recognized after my retirement. I have loved my profession and I would be very hurt.	1/10/2025 2:22 PM
53	Perhaps there should be a minimum number of years licensed to qualify for this designation	1/10/2025 2:11 PM
54	Retirement is retirement. There should not be any recognizing process for someone willingly to stop practicing optician duty.	1/10/2025 11:55 AM

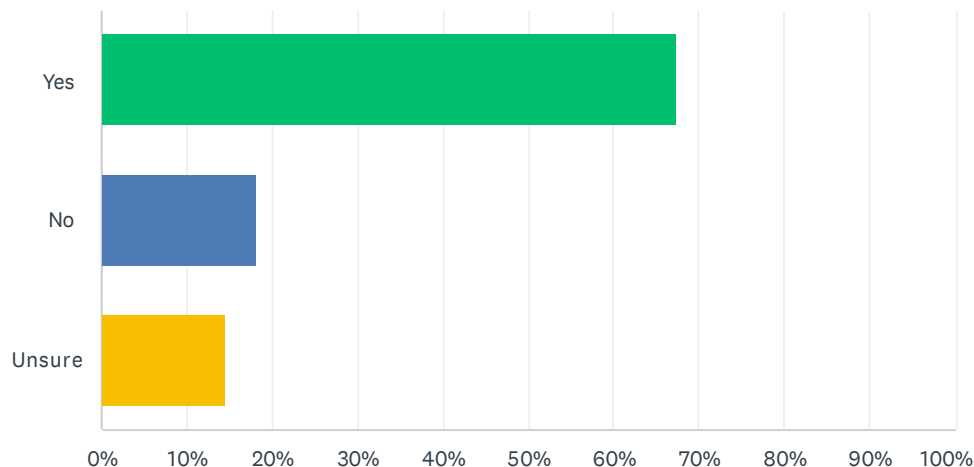
## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

55	I have not seen any recognition	1/10/2025 10:33 AM
56	Those long term skills and commitment to the profession should continue to be celebrated and recognized for anyone whom has dedicated their most of their career to being an option in good standing with the college during active time	1/10/2025 8:08 AM
57	I have a long & clean record and I had always asked and felt there should be recognition.	1/10/2025 1:59 AM
58	I don't know how they do that. Wasn't aware that they do until now. Therefore can't give an informed opinion.	1/10/2025 12:32 AM
59	I would still like to receive and hear about various aspects of our profession. Keeping up to date on changes like this.	1/9/2025 10:49 PM
60	Years of service and in good standing with the College shpuld be recognized.	1/9/2025 9:57 PM
61	Yes, it's quite an accomplishment and should be publicly recognized!	1/9/2025 9:41 PM
62	i don't really feel that there is a need to be recognized after we decide to retire.	1/9/2025 9:13 PM
63	Recognizing service and dedication to the profession may inspire some children / grandchildren to follow their footsteps	1/9/2025 8:24 PM
64	I am a 40 year registered Optician still practicing	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
65	With years of experience comes knowledge and it would be beneficial when making decisions to listen to that knowledge	1/9/2025 8:03 PM
66	It could be their choice to have this option again maybe they need it for a new job!	1/9/2025 7:42 PM
67	Any person who was of good standing and decided to retire should not be listed as not eligible to practice but listed as retired.	1/9/2025 7:16 PM
68	I have been retired for almost three years.	1/9/2025 6:10 PM
69	I have serviced patients for over 10 years as an Optician, it is important for public to know that their optician still valued by the College.	1/9/2025 5:52 PM
70	My late mother and my 82 year old father would be pleased to have this instead of a negative for their many decades of positive service in our industry.	1/9/2025 5:50 PM
71	Does it really matter? This is not where the College's focus should be.	1/9/2025 5:34 PM
72	I don't think an optician stop been an optician because he or she isn't practicing.	1/9/2025 5:07 PM
73	As licensing body, there should be one type of membership only.	1/9/2025 5:04 PM
74	I think it is important for opticians who have contributed to the college or even been members of the association to be recognized for their work.	1/9/2025 4:57 PM
75	privately, not a public title or position	1/9/2025 4:49 PM
76	We have paid our dues with time , education, and work. Doctors never loose their accreditation.	1/9/2025 4:43 PM
77	do not like the term license "suspended" for non payment on the college find an optician website as this gives the impression to the public of wrong doing. When in fact retired etc.	1/9/2025 4:28 PM
78	very nice to be recognized	1/9/2025 4:27 PM
79	This is a respectful thing to do, is it not?	1/9/2025 4:24 PM
80	Even after retirement as an optician, I am interested in the occupation that provided my income for my career.	1/9/2025 4:23 PM
81	As long as it does not cost current active opticians	1/9/2025 4:22 PM
82	Absolutely <del>too</del> opticians put their heart and soul into the practice and build the contributed to the practice they retired from	1/9/2025 4:20 PM
83	If everyone else has to be licensed in a 3 year time frame. Those others cannot be exempted from the rule	1/9/2025 4:19 PM



### Q3 The College is considering replacing the “Life Member” title with “Honorary Retired Status.” Do you agree with this change?

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.32%	311
No	18.18%	84
Unsure	14.50%	67
TOTAL		462

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	So there is no confusion for the public. We are still recognized.	2/8/2025 7:32 AM
2	Honorary retired status is a better descriptive title than Life members. Easy to understand that opticians in this category has retired.	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
3	One way of appreciating their long time membership and contributions in the field of opticianry.	2/7/2025 6:05 PM
4	Retired optician would make more sense. Than honorary makes it seem like ..ya thanks for your honorary participation trophy. In the end up to the college.	2/7/2025 12:59 PM
5	it does not matter what you decide to call the replacement name. Preserving the history is everything.	2/7/2025 11:08 AM
6	Why not just retired status?	2/7/2025 6:39 AM
7	I prefer "honorary member" I believe it implies that the Individuals credentials and experience are significant therefore they are an honoured member upon retirement. For many of us retiring our license number simply means we're no longer a member of the College, but we may still Work in the optical industry and are a continued source of expertise for younger generations.	2/6/2025 12:24 PM
8	But they should be allowed to practice in case if they need to. The circumstances with the seniors cannot be the same .	2/6/2025 11:02 AM
9	After how many years?	2/6/2025 9:11 AM
10	all the knowledge of and Optician practising more them 30 years in good conduct can not be under estimated , and a life time Member ship should be granted out of respect .	2/6/2025 8:10 AM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

11	The title could be a slight variation but this works. I agree the current title is confusing and needs to be changed regardless.	2/5/2025 10:18 PM
12	I think that is an appropriate title	2/5/2025 9:25 PM
13	Someone who retires after just a few years could be honorary. However, someone who has served 25 years or similar should be recognized with "Lifetime Member"	2/5/2025 8:21 PM
14	Honorary Retired Status sounds to me like the retirement is honorary . Who ever heard of that? I think anyone with a bit of education knows an " Honorary Life Membership" does not mean they are able to practice the profession. "Honorary" means it isn't real, it's an award.	2/5/2025 7:36 PM
15	It is a more accurate term and conveyes recognition and respect for our career.	2/5/2025 6:38 PM
16	Why change the title. Seems like an unnecessary change since we all know what life member means	2/5/2025 4:33 PM
17	Once an optician always an optician. The skill set is not complicated if we are honest with ourselves and as keeping the public safe from poor quality work if they were never charged with an infraction by the college then let them have a life membership.	2/5/2025 3:19 PM
18	I like life member.	2/5/2025 2:10 PM
19	Could you not just indicate retired member?	2/5/2025 2:07 PM
20	I had to retire do to illnesses. It would have been a nice title	2/5/2025 1:53 PM
21	This is a great idea to recognize long standing members with this new change of Honorary Retired Status	2/5/2025 1:42 PM
22	not sure how the wording sounds. honorary status is usually given to someone not in the field. exe honorary mayor has never been a mayor.	2/5/2025 1:15 PM
23	I believe the now retired should be enough to explain that license is no longer valid	2/5/2025 12:07 PM
24	I agree with the change but would suggest a different name for the status. Some ideas I have are: Optician Advisor, Honorary Optician, Optician Member Inactive, Accredited Optician, Lifetime Optician.	2/5/2025 12:04 PM
25	No such recognition is necessary	2/5/2025 11:43 AM
26	Once an optician, always an optician. Wether retired or not.	2/5/2025 11:29 AM
27	"Life member" keeps more dignity for those that have been in the field for a prolonged period	2/5/2025 11:26 AM
28	As stated above. The use of the word honorary is unnecessary and confusing. Simply state retired.	2/5/2025 11:24 AM
29	I don't think there needs to be any recognition - but if there is, I'm ok with this term. Wouldn't just "retired status" be more appropriate?	2/5/2025 11:20 AM
30	I would like a better title	1/24/2025 5:11 PM
31	How about RO emeritus?	1/23/2025 11:47 AM
32	It's the College's duty to protect the patient-while it's, I think, important to recognize those opticians who have forged the path of service, it's also very important to not lose focus (excuse the pun!) on the College's duty.	1/21/2025 11:24 AM
33	Life member has a better connotation.	1/17/2025 12:29 PM
34	I like that title	1/15/2025 10:35 AM
35	I appreciate that this recognizes that the registrant is retired and not current and active to the public	1/14/2025 6:18 PM
36	The term "Life Member" is definitely misleading. I don't see the significance of using the word "honorary" in front of "retired status."	1/14/2025 4:10 PM
37	This is fine But how about Honorary Life member HRS sounds very limited in its decree Sorry that's my opinion	1/14/2025 2:00 PM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

38	Words and titles hold power. The title "Honorary" refers to an academy award magnanimous performance - which we all know is not true in many cases. The word "Life" member is easily understood in reference to time served and not performance.	1/14/2025 1:58 PM
39	Honorary Life membership makes a lot more sense to me. Honorary retired status sounds like you could revoke the retirement at any time. Honorary Life membership is easily understood by the public just like an honorary doctorate from a university which we all know isn't real. A separate page to list retired members would be nice, those with 25 years service or more could be listed with the number of years achieved. Retaining voting rights would be a nice perk but not necessary.	1/13/2025 9:56 PM
40	What is the minimum amount of years an optician should have served to be a Life Member?	1/13/2025 6:05 PM
41	Who gives a darn! Make work projects so you can justify ripping off active members with exorbitant fees!	1/13/2025 11:46 AM
42	Life Member sounds better	1/13/2025 10:03 AM
43	Need more clarification on what this means distinctively between the 2 in simple terms.	1/11/2025 10:54 AM
44	I think the change will help clarify any confusion for the public	1/10/2025 8:40 PM
45	But retired optician should retain the title of Optician, so that they can use it on their private name card like the retired Medical Doctors who can use the title of "Dr" on their private name card.	1/10/2025 5:35 PM
46	I suppose that would be ok, unfortunately the modern age has a hard time praising the experienced, the old timers can give a great perspective in future problems in opticianry	1/10/2025 4:46 PM
47	They can get the sense of belonging to opticians	1/10/2025 3:45 PM
48	As long as retired opticians can keep their designation if they decide to return to practice, retired status will be much clearer to the public. Will changing the title void this right?	1/10/2025 3:18 PM
49	College and ask them volunteer to serve our community.	1/10/2025 2:27 PM
50	Totally. Hopefully making the general public understand who is still active working as an optician, and who is retired.	1/10/2025 11:55 AM
51	There is a ton of education that goes into this having an honorary title is a good idea.	1/10/2025 9:12 AM
52	I prefer life member - sounds better	1/10/2025 8:08 AM
53	Not sure about the actual designation name.	1/10/2025 7:11 AM
54	Life Member is better.	1/10/2025 6:05 AM
55	"Honorary member" better. It recognizes the life achievement of the Optician	1/10/2025 3:48 AM
56	Life Member is more "classy", I am inactive this year, due to the new legislation and the minimal hours I work a month, I wouldn't be able to meet the required hours. I was a student in 2001, I'm coming up on 25 years since I delved into this field and I feel "retired" sounds old when it's from a profession. Life Member is much more distinguished and accomplished, I feel that is deserved for serving the public as a health care professional.	1/10/2025 1:59 AM
57	It just makes the person sound old rather than devoted.	1/10/2025 12:32 AM
58	Great choice. The title "Life Member" is very misleading, to the public and us. It does sound like the person is still a practicing Licensed Optician.	1/9/2025 10:49 PM
59	Leave it as is.	1/9/2025 9:57 PM
60	Life Member should remain	1/9/2025 9:41 PM
61	Prefer Retired Life Member	1/9/2025 9:24 PM
62	yes, for the reason that we don't want to public to misunderstand.	1/9/2025 9:13 PM
63	Honorary retired status does not sound good. Honorary member may be better.	1/9/2025 8:28 PM
64	Can't complete this question as you didn't provide definition of either title.	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
65	The other term you could use is "emeritus "	1/9/2025 8:03 PM

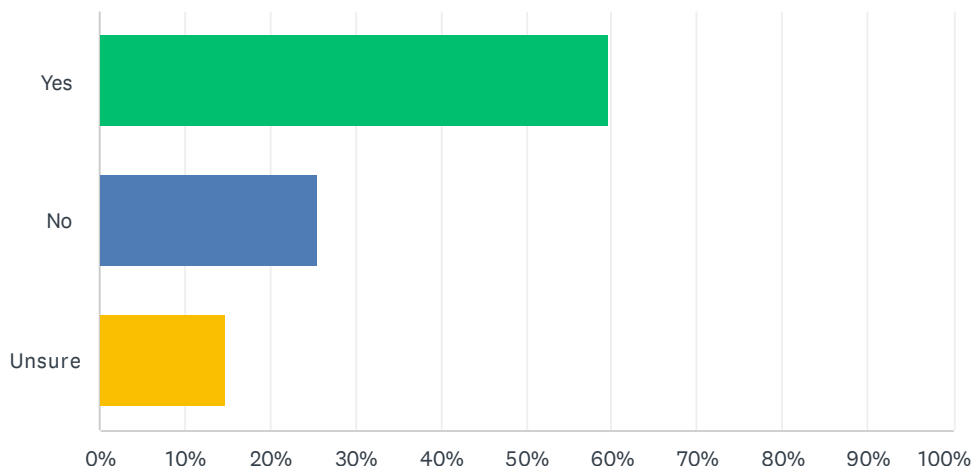


## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

66	I like Life Member better	1/9/2025 7:48 PM
67	If a retired optician gets no benefit of the title, "honorary retired status", why bother changing their title.	1/9/2025 7:17 PM
68	Will the name make a difference to any entitlement?	1/9/2025 6:50 PM
69	Perhaps it should be called Retired Life Member	1/9/2025 6:21 PM
70	I still think it's a great idea.	1/9/2025 5:55 PM
71	Life member does explain the retirement too.	1/9/2025 5:52 PM
72	Life members please	1/9/2025 5:50 PM
73	Who cares? This is not where the College's focus should be.	1/9/2025 5:34 PM
74	The college is a different association than the pharmacy or nurses associations and should follow their own rules. Life member has a better look to it than an honorary retired status.	1/9/2025 4:57 PM
75	Something like "Prestige member" might be better if practice history is to be considered.	1/9/2025 4:49 PM
76	Absolutely. Shows respect to the member.	1/9/2025 4:43 PM
77	Requires a definition of Honorary that might be challenged.	1/9/2025 4:41 PM
78	I think that the title is not as important as the recognition.	1/9/2025 4:39 PM
79	this provides the public with a more detailed status.	1/9/2025 4:28 PM
80	What does this mean?	1/9/2025 4:24 PM
81	As you say it's far less confusing. I think you are right on to do this change.	1/9/2025 4:23 PM
82	Depending on the requirements	1/9/2025 4:19 PM
83	Though, I feel that 'honorary' is not required.	1/9/2025 4:18 PM

## Q4 The College is considering removing the Life Member designation from the public register and instead creating a webpage that lists Honorary Retired Status holders, with an explanation of the title. Do you agree with this change?

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.74%	276
No	25.54%	118
Unsure	14.72%	68
TOTAL		462

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	Don't make a separate webpage. A separate tab for Honorary Retired Status including an explanation of the title within the current public register would be appropriate	2/8/2025 3:38 PM
2	I'd prefer if you'd keep the Life Member status	2/7/2025 10:18 PM
3	Yes because they are no longer part of the working professionals. They should have their own category.	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
4	Separate webpage will depict the purpose of seeing the names of all the opticians whether they are active, retirees , etc., in the public registry. Status can be: - Active - Retired	2/7/2025 6:05 PM
5	Keep the old page and we can look them up as retired.	2/7/2025 12:59 PM
6	Is a separate webpage necessary? But agree with changing life member title	2/7/2025 6:39 AM
7	Does it need to be a separate website or can there be a section on the current site that recognizes those that have retired?	2/6/2025 8:30 AM
8	Life Member designation MUST be removed from the public register as the title is too unclear. Making a new website seems unnecessary if a new designation is selected as this would resolve the issue altogether.	2/5/2025 10:18 PM
9	I think that is a great way to honour retired opticians	2/5/2025 9:25 PM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

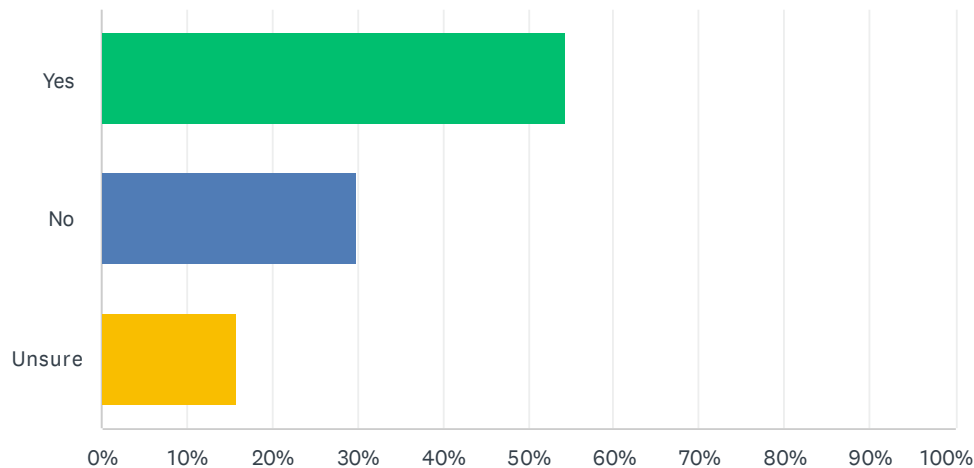
10	Someone who is a life member should still be listed under "find an optician". Everyone should be on the same profile page with the different designations attached to their names. No one is going to look for a separate retired members page.	2/5/2025 8:21 PM
11	Yes, a separate page for life members is a good idea. But the RETIRED part has to be dropped in the title. An explanation could be done on that page stating that "the following members were awarded an Honorary life membership after their retirement from the profession."	2/5/2025 7:36 PM
12	The public is better served by being able to identify those Opticians still in practice from those retired, with all due respect.	2/5/2025 6:38 PM
13	What does this change for the person who is retired?	2/5/2025 5:03 PM
14	Why take away their status at all	2/5/2025 3:19 PM
15	I feel that it should not be a whole different website but a different sub category makes sense	2/5/2025 3:08 PM
16	Removing the life member designation is most likely a good idea. Having said that, if the public is searching the "public register" for a specific Optician, I would think it would be easier to have all the information in one place. The new designation of "Honorary Retired Status Holder" would indicate to the public that this optician is retired. Is there a need for a secondary webpage?	2/5/2025 2:49 PM
17	I like life member. It recognizes an optician who still wants to work part time, not just retiree's	2/5/2025 2:10 PM
18	Why can't they just be listed as - not practicing - retired member? Why the need for a separate page?	2/5/2025 2:07 PM
19	Provided the college mentions it on the website where to look for retired members	2/5/2025 1:46 PM
20	what's the point of making a separate has been page that no-one will probably view	2/5/2025 1:15 PM
21	We are not an association	2/5/2025 1:03 PM
22	This is not necessary	2/5/2025 11:43 AM
23	Retired opticians do not need a separate website no one will ever look at. We still earned the RO. Designation and should be included in the regular list of opticians. With a status of retired.	2/5/2025 11:24 AM
24	I don't think there needs to be a page at all - but if there is, this is acceptable.	2/5/2025 11:20 AM
25	I think it would create more confusion or not give the life time members a direct link with their profession	1/24/2025 5:11 PM
26	The public register helps also those within the profession to seek out mentors and advisors.	1/17/2025 12:29 PM
27	I do think that this list should not be on the College's website that the public can access as it could cause confusion.	1/15/2025 10:01 AM
28	Yes I think this provides a balance of honouring long serving opticians while protecting the public	1/14/2025 6:18 PM
29	As a Life Member I feel I and any other current Life Members should be allowed to retain that designation until death. Going forward, you could start the Honorary Retired Status for new retirees.	1/14/2025 4:21 PM
30	I do believe in removing the Life Member designation. However, I don't see how a "Honorary Retired Status" with an explanation helps the public. I feel like it is just more confusion for the public.	1/14/2025 4:10 PM
31	Yes, but not "retired status holders", that sounds terrible.	1/13/2025 9:56 PM
32	Does this serve anyone except the egos of those with the title? if they care enough to stay on and help the profession, do they really need a separate website (with all the fees for updates and security required) just to post their names? I say no. If you want an honorary title, then act with honour and don't do it for the publicly displayed title.	1/13/2025 11:35 AM
33	not sure many people will look at it	1/12/2025 2:26 PM
34	Need clear distinction between the 2	1/11/2025 10:54 AM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

35	In the public register, the College ca specific the life member optician is a retired optician with no right of practice	1/10/2025 5:35 PM
36	It would be ok as long as the board respects them as professionals.	1/10/2025 4:46 PM
37	Unless Honorary optician can anytime to help and serve the community.	1/10/2025 2:27 PM
38	I think it is good to keep separate	1/10/2025 2:11 PM
39	Again, it is imperative for the public to know they are dealing with an active professional than some not practising for a few years.	1/10/2025 11:55 AM
40	If the change takes place	1/10/2025 8:08 AM
41	Depends on what this designation allows opticians to particiapate in. Eg: Run for Council, participate in committees.	1/10/2025 7:11 AM
42	Good idea, as Life Member is very misleading. It is nice to be remembered for excellence, long service.	1/9/2025 10:49 PM
43	It requires more effort to maintain another site and its unnecessary	1/9/2025 10:09 PM
44	Leave the current status as is.	1/9/2025 9:57 PM
45	Should be kept the way it is	1/9/2025 9:41 PM
46	Don't care	1/9/2025 9:31 PM
47	Retired members deserve to be sloted next to current members	1/9/2025 9:24 PM
48	i am not sure why we need to do this to begin with. do you really think someone will be checking on a person once we retire. i am sure, most of us will think that we are retired when we reach a certain age.	1/9/2025 9:13 PM
49	Already shows not eligible to practice on site	1/9/2025 8:28 PM
50	I don't think anybody in Ontario would be going to a webpage to look up who an honorary retired optician is.	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
51	Explanation of both titles should be explained in this survey. Is a life member 10 years or 40? What is retired status holder?	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
52	I don't see the need to separate it. I think it is nice that it is in with the public registry. Would anyone even know to look for that page? It kind of takes away from the designation if you separate them	1/9/2025 7:48 PM
53	I think the list should still be accessible on the College's website	1/9/2025 7:44 PM
54	I don't think they need to be listed	1/9/2025 7:35 PM
55	But pls don't set a fee. They are retired with no income.	1/9/2025 6:35 PM
56	Put both.	1/9/2025 5:50 PM
57	Doesn't need to be a separate webpage, just a new section under the members portal would work.	1/9/2025 4:49 PM
58	Another database will make things confusing. They should be searchable in the same place as current members but just state a the retired designation.	1/9/2025 4:48 PM
59	Should be with the public register, no need to create a seperate website. Why not have all the info in one spot, rather than multiple. Keep it simple!	1/9/2025 4:28 PM
60	What does this mean, please explain what this means?	1/9/2025 4:24 PM
61	There must be a place of recognition as long as we continue this I think it will be received well	1/9/2025 4:20 PM

## Q5 The proposed changes also include removing voting rights for those with Honorary Retired Status, aligning them with other non-registrants. Do you agree with this change?

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.33%	251
No	29.87%	138
Unsure	15.80%	73
TOTAL		462

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	They have devoted years to the occupation and could offer a wealth of knowledge	2/8/2025 3:38 PM
2	Active members will continue to vote. Retired members are not in the same position to vote	2/8/2025 7:32 AM
3	Yes since they are no longer practicing, they should not have any voting rights concerning the forward movement of the college.	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
4	If they have been a long standing member with a clean record they should be allowed to vote	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
5	Retirees are silent members. If they intend to contribute valued suggestions and recommendations, they can freely do that by sending an email to the concerned member of the body for consideration as and when applicable.	2/7/2025 6:05 PM
6	I would also include them in some process like surveys or a portal they could suggest. They have life experience that younger opticians do not have.	2/7/2025 12:59 PM
7	By this their involvement becomes meaningless.	2/6/2025 11:02 AM
8	No I do not agree	2/6/2025 8:10 AM
9	The members who qualify for this title and status who care to do so should have these voting rights. Their experience and perspective of the profession serve the public's best interests. There of course should be some standards for the members who qualify for this status.	2/5/2025 10:18 PM
10	I would prefer that voting rights be retained but it's not a deal breaker.	2/5/2025 7:36 PM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

11	With the Opticianry profession changing and transforming every day;as such,it is getting harder for those not directly involved in current practice to pass judgement on merituos and relevant professional activities,and cast a vote that makes a significant difference.	2/5/2025 6:38 PM
12	Why do you want to punish retired opticians that have a great deal of experience from helping to improve the profession	2/5/2025 3:19 PM
13	I agree with this voting rights should be for current, paying members. The "Honorary Retired Optician" has access to the College's website for any information they may need, or can contact the College directly if they have questions or concerns with regards to their retired profession.	2/5/2025 2:49 PM
14	All they can vote for is another optician to be on the Board. What possible reason would there be to take that away.	2/5/2025 2:07 PM
15	If they are still active and paying registration fees to keep license active they should have voting rights	2/5/2025 2:00 PM
16	i don't think there is much impact from the segment already. i don't see any meaningful impact	2/5/2025 1:15 PM
17	If they are not current, they should not be allowed to vote	2/5/2025 1:03 PM
18	If it pertains to active status day-to-day issues, I agree. If it pertains to college standards regarding practise updates, the knowledge of the retirees may be helpful to the college. It depends on the reason for the vote.	2/5/2025 12:04 PM
19	There is no need for this recognition, they have retired and so no rights should exist.	2/5/2025 11:43 AM
20	The profession should be shaped by those who are still practicing	2/5/2025 11:38 AM
21	Their experience in the field should be considered.	2/5/2025 11:26 AM
22	Again if we have earned the RO designation. Paid our fees to the college for any number of years. There is no reason to remove the voting rights due to retirement. If a person is still interested inviting on issues that affect the profession they worked hard in they should retain those voting rights. Retirement shouldn't remove anything from the person other than actively working in the profession.	2/5/2025 11:24 AM
23	Sometimes experience counts in guidance.	1/23/2025 11:47 AM
24	They deserve to be included especially if they've been an optician for many many years	1/21/2025 9:04 AM
25	I feel a lot of retired optician would have great impact on optical issues and rule etc there for giving great feedback back for voting!	1/15/2025 10:35 AM
26	I like the idea of aligning with the trends of other regulatory bodies	1/14/2025 6:18 PM
27	Once an optician has retired there should be no need to retain voting rights.	1/14/2025 4:21 PM
28	Yes, I do believe that a retired optician should be stripped of voting rights. I believe that, if they choose to stay connected, they can be part of the discussion leading up to a vote via polls/forums. They should give their viewpoints, as it will be beneficial to current opticians to see the situations from a more experienced perspective. However, they should not have the ultimate deciding factor.	1/14/2025 4:10 PM
29	Voting should be for Opticians practicing	1/14/2025 2:00 PM
30	There's a lot of knowledge in these honorary retirees that could provide as useful	1/13/2025 1:13 PM
31	Voting rights for those out of the context (be it a country or a profession) brings pros and cons. Pros if the person uses their downtime to explore applications of slow-paced wisdom in a quickly-changing world, however, I no longer have such faith in my colleagues and feel that what REALLY happens is people like to throw their weight around and vote on things that they'll never have to deal with and instead will be dealt with the actual people working in the field. What we are trying to do here is have ADVISORS and MENTORS and SAGES which is important, but if we don't ELEVATE these retirees to those levels (with due education and courses) then really they're just cromudgeons who got to a retiring age and now get to blow off steam with their votes. In short, I agree that these people have LOTS to offer, I'm just not sure	1/13/2025 11:35 AM

## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

if giving them the right to vote is the key. Instead, why not have them gather and organize and give lectures?

32	Honorary Retired Satus does not negate their training or expertise. If they can offer insight, even doing surveys like this for registrants it is important information for the college	1/13/2025 11:02 AM
33	If we are continuing to keep them listed as retired opticians then what is the point of that if they can't vote etc. so why list them at all	1/12/2025 2:26 PM
34	They no longer pay to practice so I don't think they have the right to decide or vote on changes.	1/12/2025 9:53 AM
35	i personally think that only current active registered members should have voting rights	1/11/2025 6:03 PM
36	Voting rights should be upheld It's just an opinion	1/10/2025 8:40 PM
37	Even the Life Member is retained, the College can remove his or her right of voting	1/10/2025 5:35 PM
38	They should be able to guide the youth forward	1/10/2025 4:46 PM
39	That make me think I am vary retired	1/10/2025 3:45 PM
40	No comments	1/10/2025 2:27 PM
41	The retired Opticians have many years of experience that could be useful in different aspects ex. Voting rights..	1/10/2025 2:22 PM
42	I feel maybe the majority once retired aren't going to keep current on the goings on of the college, the title is a " name " only	1/10/2025 2:11 PM
43	If anyone has not been involving in this industry and the college, there is no reason for the right to vote.	1/10/2025 11:55 AM
44	Being proudly retired is different than choosing g to take a break - a retirees voice should still count	1/10/2025 8:08 AM
45	Retired opticians may bring valuable experience when considering Regs, Policies and Standards	1/10/2025 7:11 AM
46	You're stripping any right and thus making the members second class	1/10/2025 3:48 AM
47	Senior, retired Opticians have many years of knowledge and they could still share it.	1/9/2025 10:49 PM
48	I think if they still in the industry, they should have the rights	1/9/2025 9:58 PM
49	Years of service and seeing the trends in the Optical Industry should count for something. Experience cannot be taken from an individual.	1/9/2025 9:57 PM
50	Life members should continue to have these rights	1/9/2025 9:41 PM
51	Voter turnout is low, let's get as many voters as possible	1/9/2025 8:25 PM
52	We should be allowed to vote as I've had years of experience. If I didn't want to coke I would simply pull my email status to receive a opportunity to vote or contact the college saying remove me from receiving mail.	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
53	I think there is benefit to having those who are retired being able to weigh in on changes, but they are not active and therefore should not vote.	1/9/2025 8:03 PM
54	Retired opticians best know the shortcomings of the legislative framework they worked within. Retaining voting status capitalizes on the cohort with the most insight and experienced knowledge to effect positive change within the industrie's direction and governance.	1/9/2025 6:48 PM
55	I believe we retired opticians have a unique perspective with regard to patient protection and risk of harm. I don't think there is a downside to take advantage of our experience and vast knowledge of well managed opticianry over these many years.	1/9/2025 6:08 PM
56	These life time members may not be actively dispensing anymore, but their experience and dedicated time over the years should be used in decision making.	1/9/2025 5:17 PM
57	I think that an optician even if retired should have his voice hears.	1/9/2025 5:07 PM
58	I feel we should still have voting rights as a professional with still are looking for the best	1/9/2025 4:56 PM

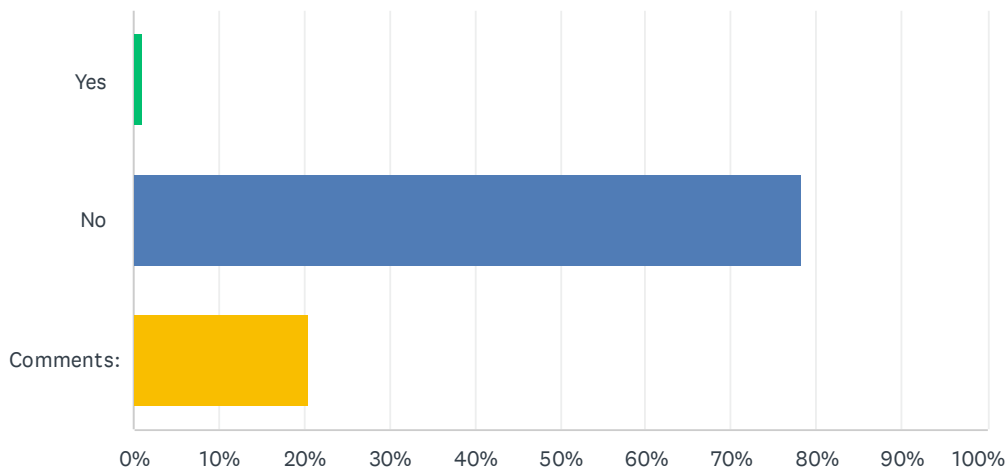
## Registrant and Stakeholder Consultation: Life Member Designation

	interests of the public	
59	non-active retired Opticians may not know the reason for a change or bylaw as well as active ones and therefore skew the vote.	1/9/2025 4:41 PM
60	I believe if opticians spent enough time in the industry, their opinions or knowledge can be valuable and should be worth consideration.	1/9/2025 4:28 PM
61	I believe it's about recognizing our opticians I don't believe voting when not practicing is necessary	1/9/2025 4:20 PM
62	I believe an optician should be employed and working in the industry to retain voting rights. Some individuals may be a decade or more outside of the work force, and may not have the most up-to-date information and experience as it pertains to the changes within the industry. Further, this could lead to bias that can/may cause unintended consequence to the general public.	1/9/2025 4:18 PM



## Q6 Do you have any additional comments or concerns regarding the Life Member designation or the proposed changes?

Answered: 462 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	1.08%	5
No	78.35%	362
Comments:	20.56%	95
TOTAL		462

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	After a long term position as an optician it would be great to retain a title.	2/8/2025 7:43 PM
2	Less confusion and more transparent to the public is a plus	2/8/2025 7:32 AM
3	I think it is a good idea to still honor these opticians for their dedication to the profession by giving them their own category but they should be passive onlookers and have no voting rights in the college.	2/7/2025 6:32 PM
4	In my view, the designation of Life Member is confusing. "Retired" is more appropriate. I am not in favour of a separate webpage. I think maintaining all the members in public registry whether they are active, retired, etc., is more acceptable.	2/7/2025 6:05 PM
5	I have no idea what my status is at this stage. I would love to be considered as retired or a lifetime member.	2/7/2025 4:48 PM
6	I think that retired options should keep designations without paying any fees	2/7/2025 10:57 AM
7	I think the renaming to retired is clearer for the public, and also still recognizes opticians that have served!	2/6/2025 4:28 PM
8	Perhaps this overhaul can be an opportunity to recognize the contributions of senior opticians that have not yet retired. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 year stickers that can be added to our badges might be a great option	2/6/2025 12:24 PM
9	I feel that the proposed change just seem to mean that you are finished in our industry. For example what if someone still wants to have voting rights why cant they do that given there experience.	2/6/2025 12:00 PM

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10	Your explanation of "life member" doesn't even mention how many years of service is required. It is too vague.	2/6/2025 9:11 AM
11	I think it makes sense to remove voting rights since they are personally no longer benefiting or effected by the results.	2/6/2025 8:30 AM
12	Opticians who served for a long period know other opticians, they should not loose voting rights their experience and expertise is needed as long as they are alive	2/6/2025 6:41 AM
13	Pretty clear cut to me. Cut the confusing title that would confuse any normal person trying to use the website for its main intended purpose. Adding a different site for retired opticians is not necessary and would be impractical if voting rights were maintained. Changing the title on the public register is sufficient for the short term. I would argue there is no one better to serve the public than a retired healthcare professional who wants to contribute and continue to be involved in the politics of their profession after they have retired.	2/5/2025 10:18 PM
14	I'm	2/5/2025 9:12 PM
15	After retirement, it is hard for the retirees to be on par with the current profession changes	2/5/2025 8:56 PM
16	They deserve to have voting rights. After all we wouldn't exist if it weren't for their years of supporting the profession.	2/5/2025 8:13 PM
17	I think I have already covered it. "Honorary Life membership" with members listed with the years they were licensed and an explanation at the top of the page stating those members are retired and no longer practicing in the profession is the way to go. If they decide to come out of retirement, their name is removed from that list until they retire again. Honorary Retirement Status just doesn't sound right. The board isn't awarding me an honorary retirement. Please don't go that route.	2/5/2025 7:36 PM
18	Extremely disappointed	2/5/2025 6:37 PM
19	If the member has retired and no longer contributes to the college and opticianry in general the they should no longer have anything to do with the college.	2/5/2025 4:53 PM
20	"Life" member says exactly what it means. "Honorary" could be a title that is given to someone even though they may not have earned it by working in the field - ie honorary doctorate	2/5/2025 3:43 PM
21	I believe recognition after service should still be allotted to individuals, In our world of negativity it may provide some with importance of their past	2/5/2025 3:08 PM
22	The current designation is one of respect for the years of service given. The new "designation" takes away any decision making from the individual, thereby negating respect. Instead is infers a "no longer useful" status	2/5/2025 3:06 PM
23	Years ago while I was volunteering as an appointed member for the college an older Optician came into the dispensary I was working in, and was so pleased that his College, that he was part of for many, many, years had recognized him as a "life member". He told me he felt honoured that he was still recognized by the College Of Opticians but now as a retired Optician. As an Optician that is nearing retirement myself, I can appreciate his feelings of still be recognized, and wanting the public to know that you are now retired. I can however understand the College's need to change the designation as the public can easily confuse the meaning of "Life Member". The new designation of "Honorary Retired Status" is a good idea, and makes it very clear to the public that this Optician is retired and not working, while at the same time recognizing that the Optician had been an active member of the College. I do believe that leaving the Optician's name on the public register page and not creating a seperate web page would be clearer to the public. An explanation of all the designations could be placed on the public register.	2/5/2025 2:49 PM
24	I myself never liked if you retired they said you were suspended. It made us look like we did something unprofessional especially when you practiced close to 45 years with out any incidents occurring. It's nice just to say we retired because we earned it after many years of hard work.	2/5/2025 2:17 PM
25	I don't believe life member really reflects anything. Anyone who has retired could be listed as retired on the register.	2/5/2025 2:07 PM
26	I'll be retiring in 7 yrs capping a 40 yr career & would love to be recognized for my years as RO	2/5/2025 1:23 PM

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27	I belong to the musicians union and recently received my lifetime award at a ceremony. They believe in honouring their knowledge and expertise. It doesn't disappear when you retire	2/5/2025 1:16 PM
28	Give a title that reflects being from a proud line of caregivers. Honorary Retired seems to strip away pride and downplay the years of meaningful service	2/5/2025 1:15 PM
29	I think it important to recognize those who committed years of service and voluntarily retire. You should not charge someone who paid fees for many years to be a member.	2/5/2025 12:25 PM
30	Adding, now retired should explain that license has now expired	2/5/2025 12:07 PM
31	I am pleased that the college is acknowledging opticians and their many years of work and experience. I like the lifetime member idea very much. I also hope that opticians in this category can still contribute in a small way to the professional goals of the next generation of opticians.	2/5/2025 12:04 PM
32	To protect the public and to further protect and show the importance of Opticians, Optical dispensaries should not be allowed to hire just any person off the street to work in the dispensary and calling the Frame Stylists (or another title). Dispensaries if not hiring Opticians, should be restricted to hiring only people which have completed a recognized Optician Assistant Course. These graduates should then also be regulated as is the way for Pharmacists / Pharmacies.	2/5/2025 11:43 AM
33	At the 74year mark I still love my job and enjoy dealing with the public.	2/5/2025 11:42 AM
34	After paying substantially for education and maintaining license, opticians deserve to be life time members. Opticians won't do anything to harm public especially if they hold this title.	2/5/2025 11:38 AM
35	I think, the years spent practicing as an optician, should be the consideration in determining life time achievement.	2/5/2025 11:29 AM
36	Don't use any other words beyond "retired" no honorary or any other unnecessary and confusing extra words. The public needs to be aware the person is no longer active in the profession. Using the word honorary implies they were never actually in the profession and have been granted retired status based on some other situation. For example and honorary doctorate does NOT mean the person has any qualifications of being a Dr of anything. They were given the designation for other reasons. They did not earn it by doing the required schooling and testing. There is absolutely no reason to use the word honorary in this situation. We have earned our designation by achieving success in the schooling and testing process and should be recognized for that accomplishment. Not have it taken away with an unnecessary word.	2/5/2025 11:24 AM
37	A retired member should still have voting rights	1/31/2025 7:34 AM
38	We should honour our members that have made the optical industry part of the life	1/24/2025 5:11 PM
39	Cost? If any then who cares	1/24/2025 11:33 AM
40	What would be the renewal process should a person wish say after 5 or more yrs? CE courses minimum + \$\$\$ ?	1/16/2025 10:29 AM
41	If possible keep to send out the up-dated newsletter of the College for the life member	1/15/2025 9:39 AM
42	I strongly feel anyone with the current Life Member designation should retain that status. The proposed changes can be made to apply to opticians who retire in the future.	1/14/2025 4:21 PM
43	Although I don't agree with having either "Life Member" or "Honorary Retired Status", If "Honorary Retired Status" Optician becomes a designation, then I believe the retired optician would still need to be an active, responsible part of the College and Optician Community. As an active participant the retired optician would need to maintain continuing education in order to be given any voting rights. For a retiree to have voting rights without any assurance that they are up-to-date with current trends/technology/cultural/political aspect of the optical industry would be tragic.	1/14/2025 4:10 PM
44	To the general public: " Life Member" is a STRAIGHTFORWARD description without ambiguity. "Honorary" can produce overtones of misunderstanding in a world where language is not precise. Our designation should be as precise as a perfectly fabricated lens which is perfect PD, perfect Axis, and perfect POWER.	1/14/2025 1:58 PM
45	There voice is just as valuable if not more when it comes to the college and profession. They	1/14/2025 12:40 AM

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may want to locum they odd day and should be allowed to.

46	I'm sorry this is submitted late, I was in hospital for several days and missed the deadline.	1/13/2025 9:56 PM
47	Deregulate to protect members from its College!	1/13/2025 11:46 AM
48	Trim the fat and reduce costs by getting rid of this designation ... OR... do something proper with it and have them form an actual "counsel of concerned retired opticians" but on their own (separate church and state). I don't agree with giving free voting rights for a REGULATED profession to those who are not themselves regulated in said profession. It just doesn't make sense, neither philosophically nor with respect to protecting the public.	1/13/2025 11:35 AM
49	And have the option at anytime if one had to, to be able to un retire if one had to return to work	1/13/2025 11:10 AM
50	The proposed changes seems unnecessary since the Honorary Retired Status seems like a downgrade of your status. It makes it seem like you are an old person who does not have any say regarding the future of the opticians because you are already retired.	1/13/2025 1:06 AM
51	The title of Life Member is well deserved.	1/12/2025 9:27 PM
52	Recognizing opticians of long service that are now retired would be nice but not sure if maybe recognizing them as a college individually with a certificate or plaque instead of in the public register might be better.	1/12/2025 2:26 PM
53	With the way the economy is going, some of us myth have to return to practice.	1/11/2025 9:00 AM
54	1. Retain the title of Optician for the Life Member like the Medical Doctors who can retain their title of "Dr" after their retirement. 2. Remove their right of practice and revival of their licence once they are retired. 3. Remove their right of voting.	1/10/2025 5:35 PM
55	I just want to clarify that this age thinks it can replace an old part with a new one and it will work just as well but this is not the case. New opticians don't have the same skill set as us old timers and there should be more recognition of this in the work place. Many times we see wrong approaches to problems and if the young want to become better then they have to be guided there.	1/10/2025 4:46 PM
56	Certain requirements need to add-on life member designation.	1/10/2025 3:45 PM
57	Retired Opticians should have their opportunities to return if they decide to after their retirements.	1/10/2025 3:18 PM
58	No matter Life member or Honorary status, the opticians are always can serve and help people to retain their vision to see the new world.	1/10/2025 2:27 PM
59	I feel again there should be a minimum number of years licensed" in good standing " to qualify for the title	1/10/2025 2:11 PM
60	how does one get a "Life Member" designation in the first place? I retired my license at the end of 2022 so I have been retired for 2 years after having been licensed since 1979 - did I automatically become a Life Member or do I have to apply for that designation?	1/10/2025 9:59 AM
61	The College should honour Opticians that serviced the public over the years. As an independent Optician for over 40 years of service, I, personally feel that I'm part of the local community and feel respected by the service that we have provided.	1/10/2025 9:07 AM
62	Being retired should not be looked upon as a sentence to not have a voice or to not be recognized after years and years of proudly and effectively serving your community as a professional in the industry . Let's not loose sight of that !	1/10/2025 8:08 AM
63	If the COO wants to acknowledge the many years of practice of a retired optician, it should take advantage of this experience and allow for participation on Council and committees. If not, a valuable voice will not be heard.	1/10/2025 7:11 AM
64	Continue Life Member	1/10/2025 3:03 AM
65	Is there a specific number of years the member needs to have practiced opticianry to qualify? Regarding the voting rights, two things should be considered. The first is that retired opticians might still own practices, therefore having the need to participate in choices that would affect the future of their businesses. Also, there should be a way to take advantage of decades of experience of some members, especially in private practices, that might help to balance the needs, or pretences, of big corporations to charter the future of opticianry towards their best	1/9/2025 11:54 PM

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interests. The sheer number of chains and stores under their umbrella can give them unfair advantages, not excluding the push for deregulation. Older opticians would definitely oppose to that.

66	I like the idea, that disgraced Opticians, are not honoured. But when I retire I would still like to hear about what is going on with the College and such.	1/9/2025 10:49 PM
67	I agree with the desire to change the naming to avoid confusion.	1/9/2025 10:01 PM
68	Always recognize a Registered Optician in good standing. Experience and dedication to the Optical Industry should never be forgotten.	1/9/2025 9:57 PM
69	I believe this is and honourable accomplishment and should be fully recognized as such	1/9/2025 9:41 PM
70	I think it should be clear about the retired opticians' information, such as how many years in this profession, clear records etc	1/9/2025 9:18 PM
71	i have no concerns about this in general, if this is what most of us wants, it is fine. i honestly don't mind if i am not in the list when i am ready to retire. worked in the profession over 25 years now.. when it is time to retire, i will retire with or without the life Member designation.	1/9/2025 9:13 PM
72	You guys are greedy , first everyone voted for no charge for inactive members cause you go to school to get a degree for a reason , then you make us pay a fee for literally doing nothing like the useless college you are , now you want another way to revoke the possibility to go back to work if they ever have to go back ? You guys should at this point write we are ripping you guys off , all of you should shove it . Greedy .	1/9/2025 8:53 PM
73	Should not change the Life Member designation	1/9/2025 8:50 PM
74	I have been an optician for 20 years now. I don't think we should have voting rights in a profession we no longer practice. Nor do I think it necessary or even anything that the college should be wasting or worrying extra time on. Nobody is looking up a retired optician on the colleges website.	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
75	You need to outline each category so I could decide on voting privileges.... You have not done this so this is a waste of time.	1/9/2025 8:17 PM
76	A retired optician should get a reduced fee to renew their licence to practice, and be required to have less continuing education. I love working 2 days a week; but find it very stressful to do the continuing education and pay high fees to practice.	1/9/2025 7:17 PM
77	Should keep some type of designation.	1/9/2025 6:55 PM
78	The governance of our body has suffered in the past with poor decisions that in part, lead to the departure from the profession, some opticians with a strong view of their career direction. Having the input from optician cohort back in the day could have lead to more positive change within the governance of the profession.	1/9/2025 6:48 PM
79	In my mind it's paying respect to the trail blazers. This is a hard career and there should be something after retirement.	1/9/2025 5:55 PM
80	We should honor all life members and retired long service opticians with respect. They are the originals who have paved the way for the current generation. I still have my late mother's original optics exam where Susan Haber was her instructor. She scored 100%. We should have a section dedicated to the history of our profession. Where we all came from. We are all in this together, in the best interest of the patient.	1/9/2025 5:50 PM
81	This is not where the College's focus should be. Look after present membership.	1/9/2025 5:34 PM
82	They should be able to vote , and continue with status of optician . They put in many years and to dismiss their options would be disrespectful	1/9/2025 5:26 PM
83	I don't know how many years of services is necessary for the new designation?	1/9/2025 5:07 PM
84	My father, Balbir Dhillon was on the council of the college of opticians. and I would like to nominate him for designation as a Life Member. He passed away last month and I would like to keep his legacy going as he has tags on his Opticians certificate dating back 30 years and I would like to continue that. Any feedback would be appreciated. Thank you.	1/9/2025 4:57 PM
85	see what the college of optometrists are doing as well	1/9/2025 4:50 PM

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86	Seems like opticians would care most about this title, Does it even need to be publically visible? It's also a title I think that should recognise merit or longevity of being an optician.	1/9/2025 4:49 PM
87	This is a great way to acknowledge our retired opticians. It's better than a revoked status and the implications associated with the term "revoked"	1/9/2025 4:46 PM
88	Restrictions should be lightened for "retired" opticians. Allowing for option of working casually without having to pay exorbitant fees. In other words, should not have to work to pay for their license status.	1/9/2025 4:28 PM
89	So how much will this cost to just change wording , it seems a waste time and resources	1/9/2025 4:27 PM
90	Keep up the great work.	1/9/2025 4:23 PM
91	As a former member of another Professional Regulatory agency, PEO, their view of retired engineers was very callous and without regard to services rendered to the profession. The changes this College proposes are much more welcoming. Bruce Calhoun, C-1206	1/9/2025 4:23 PM
92	I think honouring the service we put into the industry is beautiful! Well done	1/9/2025 4:20 PM
93	Life memeber of active member if active needs a 3 year active status so will life member so that everyone is treated equally.	1/9/2025 4:19 PM
94	Life member sounds better than retired honorary member	1/9/2025 4:13 PM
95	I think leaving them alone is ok. The cohort is getting older Honorary Member has more distinction.	1/9/2025 4:11 PM