

Life Membership Guidelines

Life membership is an honour bestowed on individual association members whose exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution has provided measurable benefit to the association over an extended period of time.

Honorary Life Membership is recognised by the Weymouth Progress Association Inc. as the highest recognition awarded to a member or volunteer in acknowledgement of exceptional service and contribution. It should retain its prestige and not be awarded easily.

Life Membership Policy Weymouth Progress Association inc. may confer Life Membership on a person under the WPA Constitution Rule 5(11). The Constitution takes precedence over this Policy in the event of any inconsistency. Life Membership is generally conferred on a person who has rendered distinguished or special service to an organisation. The most frequently used criterion for life membership is length of service. Persons may hold roles of limited tenure and yet perform outstanding meritorious service during their term of membership. Under these circumstances other criteria should be used to determine whether the person is deserving of nomination for Life Membership. Such criteria will relate to the quality of the service performed by the person under consideration.

PROCESSES AND CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

1. Any full or retired member can be nominated by any current full member with the nomination seconded by at least one other full member.
2. Nominations must be made on the approved nomination form (or similar template form), including the details of the nominating Member, and submitted to the President where the nomination will be date received and registered. Nominations shall then be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled Committee meeting for consideration. Details of any candidate recommended for life membership shall be distributed to the voting members of WPA for their information prior to the Annual General Meeting with appropriate comments from the Committee included. Any new Life Member approved by the Committee in a general meeting in a particular year shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting. In the event the Committee believes the nomination is worthy of life membership a two-thirds majority is required to formalise the nomination.
3. Life Membership cannot be nominated by or supported by an immediate family member.
4. In the event the nominee is serving on the general committee at the time of nomination, that person must be removed from any deliberation on the nomination.
5. The general committee will present the nomination to the annual general meeting or special general meeting for the final ratification of the nomination and awarding of life membership.
6. Life Membership must be recorded in the association's official records.
7. The granting of life membership and the recipient's service to the association should be publicised in the association media and any other association communication tool considered appropriate.

CRITERIA

Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter and nominees must be considered individually and on their personal attributes and achievements and not in comparison to others. While it is inevitable comparisons will be made with past recipients, direct comparisons should not be made.

Granting Life Membership is a balancing exercise. Criteria are provided as guidance, but it is the overall contribution of the nominee that must be evaluated. There is necessarily some subjectivity in the granting of life membership, nominee's strengths against the various criteria will vary.

To assist with the nomination, some or all of the following criteria should be considered. While it is not necessary for all the criteria to be satisfied, some at least should be considered.

For any of the relevant criteria the nominee should have demonstrated an exceptional contribution beyond the ordinary for an extended period of time, which has a measurable benefit to the association and membership.

The person under consideration should have continuous outstanding meritorious service and demonstrated some or all of the following:

1. Minimum of ten (10) years of service to the Association in a volunteer capacity that contribute to the benefit of the association. This service need not be continual. These roles may include but not be restricted to – service on the committee, coordinator roles, fund raising activities, promotional and marketing, committee and/or event coordinator roles, committee and/or event support roles.
2. The nominee demonstrates attitude and demeanour that reflects dedication to the values of the association.
3. The nominee provides valued leadership around the association and is considered a role model.
4. Significant volunteer contribution in an official role.
5. Outstanding leadership qualities in all or many areas of the WPA.
6. Holding, in the opinion of the Committee, good standing within WPA and the wider community.
7. Such other criteria as the Committee deems fit, which may include such things as:
 - Enthusiasing others to implement appropriate ideas.
 - Innovative practice: such as reviewing and modifying existing processes and/or introducing new ideas which significantly improve the Association.
 - Advancing the profile of the Association by effective promotion and recruitment which provides observable results.
 - Increasing community participation by engagement/representation/advocacy with key stakeholders and peak bodies.
 - Enhancing communication with the general body of members.

OBJECTIONS AND RETRACTIONS OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In the case of an objection, the objecting member has to provide strong reasons and evidence that counteracts the fundamentals of the Life Membership selection criteria. The committee needs to provide and document evidence the final decision was based on.

Retraction of Life Membership bestowment may occur where the recipient has conducted themselves in a manner that reflects directly and adversely on the image or activities of the association. This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and will require the full support of the committee. As part of the deliberation the 'Honorary Life Member' in question is also to be given an opportunity to present their case for retention of their status.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP – BENEFITS

As a WPA Life Member they shall be entitled to:

1. Full membership for life with no fees.
2. Free individual access to association facilities and functions.
3. Invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting and other scheduled formal events.

Accepted: General Meeting - November 2, 2024