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## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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In The Catholic Women's League of Canada, life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on the national council, the same voting privileges as accredited delegates at an annual meeting or convention [C&B, Part XIV, Section 2 (c)], a voice in its affairs and eligibility for a national appointment. A life member receives notice of the annual national convention and, at her request, a copy of the minutes, plus copies of all relevant mailings from national office.

Life membership is not intended to be a reward for years of service or a retirement gift. There are appropriate ways of honouring members for their dedication to the League, such as the Bellelles Guerin award, certificates of merit and maple leaf service pins. Privilege entails responsibility. National council requires support and active service from its life members.

Only diocesan and provincial executives are entitled to submit nominations for life membership in accordance with the established criteria. The notice of nomination must be approved by the diocesan/provincial executive by motion at an executive meeting indicating support for the nomination. The responsibility for making the application is with the submitting diocesan/provincial executive as it knows the individual's record of service. The national executive verifies that the criteria have been met and approves the application for life membership. Provincial and diocesan executives should consider whether they wish to add requirements in their own policy and procedures manuals, provided these additions do not contravene the national criteria.

### **Criteria for Life Membership**

- A. The nominee must have been a member of the League in good standing for at least 10 years.
- B. The nominee must have demonstrated her love of the League, her encouragement of others and her ability to participate in study, research, presentations, workshops, etc. She must be prepared to submit a detailed summary of past research, presentations and workshops she has initiated or led.
- C. The nominee must be available and willing to continue to serve the League at all levels on committees, preparing briefs, researching reports and resolutions, facilitating workshops and attending conferences at the request of the national president.
- D. League experience requirements:
  - i. In provinces with diocesan councils, except Ontario, the nominee must have held executive positions at diocesan level for a minimum of four years and at provincial level for a minimum of four years, for a combination of eight years, not to include term served as diocesan president at the time she is presented with her life membership
  - ii. In Ontario, with 13 diocesan councils, the nominee must have served in executive positions at diocesan level for a minimum of eight years. In this situation, years served at diocesan level must include two years as diocesan past president at the time of the anticipated date of presentation. The nominee must also have proven her willingness to serve on provincial level by letting her name stand for a previous provincial election.
  - iii. In provinces with no diocesan councils, Military Ordinariate, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island, the nominee must have served in executive positions at provincial level for a minimum of eight years. In this situation, years served at

provincial level must include two years as provincial past president at the time of the anticipated date of presentation.

The nomination process may begin if the nominee has met the criteria by the date of planned presentation.

### **Life Membership Nomination and Approval Procedure**

The Notice of Nomination for Life Membership form is completed to confirm the nominee meets all criteria and is a worthy candidate for life membership. This notice of nomination is approved by motion at the diocesan/provincial executive at an executive meeting and is signed by the nominating council's secretary and president, and mailed to the executive director, c/o CWL National Office, C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

1. Nomination forms are available for download from the national website.
2. The Nomination for Life Membership form is completed by the submitting nominating diocesan/provincial executive and must be approved by the provincial executive **by secret ballot at an executive meeting.**
3. It is signed by the nominating council secretary (who verifies this executive action) and by both the diocesan and provincial presidents pending final approval upon completion of all other documentation (i.e. Life Member Nominee Questionnaire and final Life Member Checklist for the Provincial Council and signature of the provincial president). This form is mailed to the executive director, c/o CWL National Office, C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5. (Deadline Date: December 15<sup>th</sup>.)
4. The nominating council provides the contact names and addresses on the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire form and forwards the forms as indicated on the top of each form.
5. The Life Member Nominee Questionnaire is completed by the nominee, indicating her availability and willingness to continue actively serving the League, and forwards a copy to the nominating president, provincial president and executive director c/o CWL National Office, C-23 702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. National office verifies that the nominee meets criteria A and D and the executive director confirms this fact to the submitting nominating provincial or diocesan/provincial executives.
7. A Life Membership Checklist for the Provincial Council is completed by the provincial president who verifies completion of the Nomination Form for Life Membership and Life Member Nominee Questionnaire.
8. Upon majority vote of approval by the provincial executive (as noted by signature of the secretary and the date of motion), the Nomination Form for Life Membership and Life Member Checklist for the Provincial Council must be submitted for final acceptance to national office by December 15<sup>th</sup> and mailed to the executive director, c/o CWL National Office, C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5.
9. The Life Member Checklist for the Provincial Council along with a cheque for \$300.00 from the submitting nominating council and the specific date on which the life membership will be presented must be returned to national office by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. National office will forward the completed Nomination Form for Life Membership and Life Member Nominee Questionnaire forms to the national chairperson of organization for confirmation that the nominee meets all the requirements.

11. Upon confirmation that all criteria have been met, the list of nominees is presented to the national executive at its winter meeting for approval by secret ballot. Late submissions may reapply.
12. Following approval by majority vote of the national executive, the submitting provincial and diocesan executives and the nominee's parish council will be notified and a life membership pin and scroll will be sent to the nominating diocesan or provincial council prior to the anticipated date of presentation.