

Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc.
Guidelines for nomination of honorary life membership
September 2007

Principle

Honorary life memberships recognise exceptional service to the Society and the editing profession in Australia over an extended period.

Constitutional provisions

At present the Society's constitution reads as follows:

'3.10 Any person who has given substantial service to editing in Australia or in promoting the aims of the Society may be granted honorary life membership of the Society, subject to the following procedures:

- a. candidates shall be nominated and seconded by two financial full members of the Society, such nominations to be in writing and to include a statement on the eligibility of the nominee for this honour;
- b. nominations are to be submitted to the Committee at least thirty days before the Annual General Meeting, and the granting of honorary life membership shall be entirely at the discretion of the Committee;
- c. the names of new honorary life members shall be announced by the outgoing President at the Annual General Meeting, and their citations shall be read, and these names and citations shall be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

3.11 An honorary life member shall be entitled to all the privileges of a full member, but without the payment of membership fees, but in all other respects shall be subject to the rules of the Society.'

Considerations to guide the committee's decision

The committee should take these points into consideration when deciding whether to grant an honorary life membership:

- Honorary life memberships should be reserved for exceptional service; they should not be regarded as an automatic reward for, e.g., serving on the committee of the Society or longevity in the profession.
- The number of honorary life members should not overwhelm the number of ordinary members of the Society; this is a general guideline and no ratio or percentage can be suggested because (a) membership numbers fluctuate over time and (b) recognition of service should not be denied because of numerical factors.
- An honorary life member should be a full member of the Society for some years prior to the award.
- Exceptional service to the Society might include a lengthy term on the committee, which includes unusual efforts to promote the Society's aims.
- Exceptional service to the profession might include an outstanding record in teaching, publishing or promotion, or on the Institute of Professional Editors (on behalf of the Society).

Guidelines for members wishing to propose a nominee

- Contact the Society (via the President) at least 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, to convey an expression of interest in proposing a nominee for honorary life membership.
- The complete, fully documented nomination must be received by the Committee at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting; it would be helpful to receive this in time for discussion at the committee meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting (contact the President for details).