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POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS

POLICY TITLE: **OAO ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) has a long-established program to recognize the meritorious contributions of members toward the advancement of the profession of optometry and the Association. Members are invited to submit nominations of colleagues for each of the OAO's four highest awards for service to the Association and optometry and our public service award.

1. H. JAMES COBEAN, O. D. MEMORIAL AWARD

The ultimate accolade, the Cobean Award recognizes a lifetime of service to the profession. The award is presented only when a meritorious candidate is identified and then approved by the Board. Most of the previous recipients have made contributions to at least two, if not all three, of the traditional venues for service to the profession: Education, College, and Association.

2. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The DSA recognizes distinguished long-term service at a level which approaches that of the Cobean Award and which is specific to service to the Association only. The DSA may be awarded at any time in the career service of a member.

3. MILLENNIUM AWARD

The Millennium Award recognizes a member of the Association who has performed extraordinary public service, in either a professional or non-professional capacity. The emphasis is on volunteer service. Nominations should provide substantial detail about the public service rendered. Non-optometrists are also invited to submit nominations for this award.

4. OAO PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

The Ontario Association of Optometrists' Public Education Award honours an OAO member (or group of members) who has been outstanding in public education and awareness campaigns and activities. Raising positive public awareness of the profession of optometry and the services provided by OAO members will be recognized by this award. Self-nominations and nominations by other members will be accepted for this award. Nominations must include a description of the activities and services to be recognized in sufficient detail for the judging committee to assess fairly and reasonably the member(s) suggested as worthy of the award.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Call for nominations for these four awards will go out to the membership via email and posted on the members only portion of the website no later than November 30th of each year. A second call for nominations will go out to members no later than December 15th of each year and a final call for nominations will go out no later than January 15th of each year.
A nomination form will be made available for members to nominate a fellow OAO member for one or more of the four highest awards for service to the Association. Nomination forms must

be received by OAO no later than January 31st of each year. This will allow time for staff to include all nominations in the February board meeting package for board consideration.

Upon Board approval, successful nominees will be informed by the President or CEO and their presence requested at the Annual AGM of the Members for the award presentation.
All awards will be presented during the OAO Annual Symposium.

In addition to OAO's four highest awards for service to the Association, the following two categories recognize individual and/or group contribution to the profession.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President of the day, upon the advice of the Board and staff, may present a maximum of two President's Awards in any year.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The President of the day, upon advice of the Board and staff, may present Certificates of Appreciation to individuals and stakeholder groups who contribute to the advancement of the Association's programs and agenda as champions, advocates and/or supporters.