CWRT LIFE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
SURVEY ANALYSIS

One of the interesting features of CWRTs is that they have different views on membership. Most like more members to walk through their doors and some do their best to celebrate the contributions and longevity of some members. This survey was focused on the views of life memberships, how they are recognized and what they mean to the CWRT.

This survey had a total of 17 questions and received an N = 112. There were 17 who didn’t know if their CWRT has a life member category, so they were eliminated. Another 4 failed to complete the survey. Three (3) answered the survey twice...although with the same answers. There were 8 repeated responses from the same CWRT. We kept the most comprehensive answers for a final total response for analysis of 79.

SUMMARY
This survey contributed to the following BEST PRACTICES:

1. CWRTs would do well to have clear and published policies regarding the requirements for ALL different membership categories. Members quickly recognize when there are no standardized ways of treating one another.
2. Granting life memberships, either if they are paid or unpaid, should be the province of the board of directors or a membership committee.
3. CWRTs should seriously consider whether or not to establish an unpaid life membership classification for the many benefits it can have.
4. Paid life memberships do have their place in some CWRTs. The policy authority should consider the annual dues amount and not make it so high that it discourages participation.
5. Member recognition is one of the most underrated aspects of CWRT membership. Leadership should be challenged to recognize life members on a continuing basis in any number of innovative ways.
6. Membership recognition should be tied closely with membership recruitment strategies. Leaders are remiss in making that connection.
Thirty five percent advised that they have an “honorary” life membership category, while the majority, 66% do not.
For those that have an honorary life membership, 71% stated that the requirements were to have contributed significantly in a non-financial way to gain this honor. Thirty-five percent said that that category was aligned with contributing significantly to Civil War history. Thirty-two percent stated that it was reserved for long standing members in their declining years. Another 32% said it was for celebrated speakers and/or historians. Fourteen percent said it was for contributing financially in a significant way. And, another 7% said it was for local celebrities who helped to promote the CWRT.
Three stated that honorary life membership was reserved for the following:
- All non-member speakers, plus founders of the CWRT
- Founding members (4 of them)
- Long-standing members who has done a lot for the CWRT

When asked how many honorary life members their CWRT has the response was varied. Forty-six responded 1 to 3, 21% said more than six, 18% said 4 to 6, 11% didn’t know and 4% said their CWRT has none.
Most CWRTs, 64%, do not have a written policy covering honorary life membership. Twenty-five percent do have a policy. 11% don’t know if a policy exists.
The overwhelming number of respondents (94%) advised that their CWRT DOES NOT have a Paid Life Membership category. Only 5% have one. 1% didn’t know.

Q6 What is the PAID LIFE MEMBER fee for your CWRT?

- None
- $400
- $150
- $500, I think

Q7 What is the ANNUAL DUES for your CWRT?

- $20
- $25
- $25
- $30
Q8 What is the name of your CWRT (SPELL IT OUT, PLEASE)

- Mahoning Valley CWRT
- CWRT of the Ozarks
- Colonel Henry Ryerson CWRT
- Hamilton County (Indiana) CWRT

Q9 If someone makes a "donation" equal to or more than the PAID LIFE MEMBER fee, will that donor be considered a PAID LIFE MEMBER?

Two-thirds of respondents said that if someone donates an equal or greater amount to the CWRT than the Paid Life Member category, they will not consider that donation to qualify. Another one-third didn’t know.
Of those CWRTs with a Paid Life Member, none of them said the fee varies with the age of the individual or any other factor.

Q11 If yes to Q9, please explain the factors and how the fee is calculated.

No responses
In terms of Paid Life members, 50% said more than six, 25% said 1 to 3 and another 25% didn’t know.
Of the factors that benefit it CWRT for having Paid Life Members, all said it celebrates committed members. The other responses included member retention, increased revenue stream and that the CWRT can afford more and better speakers.
Three of the four CWRTs with Paid Life Memberships said they recognized them in some way. One does not.

Q15 In what way are they recognized?

- Mentioned in the membership reports
- Mentioned at next meeting & listed on website
- Listed in membership
Q16 Is your PAID LIFE MEMBER category standardized in policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only one-half of the CWRTs with a Paid Life Membership category have a standardized policy to cover that category.