The following criteria is considered when evaluating Senior Member requests:

- Technical contributions and achievements relevant to the optics and photonics field
- Active involvement with Optica
- Service to the general optics and photonics community
- Awards and/or honors within the field
- Publications and patents

To be eligible for application or nomination, candidates must possess significant professional experience and/or service performance to include, but is not restricted to:

- Publication of research paper/s as lead author in projects
- Patents resulting from the research of the applicant
- Books (co) authored by the applicant
- Books (co) edited by the applicant
- Awards and honors the applicant has won in recognition for technical contributions to optics related discipline
- Teaching and education-related awards including optics
- Development of new products/technology
- Technical editing, patent prosecution or patent law, provided these contributions serve to advance progress substantially in Optics related fields

Some examples of service performance include:

- Leading a project in optics/optics related field/technology in your business
- Supervision of research team(s) or doctoral students
- Science outreach and/or developing and delivering teaching modules in optics and related fields in university and/or community college/high school/K-12
- Knowledge transfer to business

Some examples of active involvement within Optica include:

- Reviewing articles for Optica journals and conference
- Participation in Optica conferences and technical meetings
- Participation in Optica technical groups
- Active engagement with Optica local sections and student chapters
- Volunteering at Optica meetings and on Optica committees/council
- Education outreach efforts with Optics Suitcase and other Optica provided materials