

Warren Photographic Society 7-10-08 Meeting Minutes

In attendance - Leslie Chishko, Joe Costarella, Tracy Steele, Harold Stein, Kristina Truhan, Walt Unks

Leslie reviewed the progress with having the checking account signers switched over to take Chuck Marshall off and put herself on. There are some issues which need to be resolved first. She talked to Huntington Bank (where the current account is) as well as her own bank, Chase. Both banks said we would have to sign up for an EIN number in order for the state to recognize the club as a valid organization and to change/open an account, and there may be a charge to do that. Since the Patriot Act was passed, the banks are required to practice much more due diligence when opening accounts. They might need a letter of purpose or resolution from the club as well. We can either order new checks with Leslie's address or continue to use the old checks and manually change the address on the check. New checks will probably cost \$22.95. Leslie recommended just using the checks and she would change the address. As long as the address on the actual bank records is changed, monthly statements will still be sent to her address. Chase also offered a business classic account - non-interest bearing, 200/transactions per month, free debit card, and no monthly fee if the club applies for a visa card, but need an EIN number. Chase did give the option to have a second checking account linked to Leslie's other accounts so that there would be free checking and no monthly fees. But with this option, it would be opened under Leslie's social security number and name. With this option, people writing checks would write them to her name, versus the club name, and Leslie indicated she would rather not have the club's money under her id. Chase could also do it the same way and link to her accounts, and have it as a "doing business as" but there is a \$50 fee associated with that. Leslie is waiting for Kristina Cope from Huntington to research whether or not we will have a fee to switch the accounts over and whether or not for sure if we need the EIN. The group decided that if we need the EIN to get an account set up, that we should go ahead and do that and not put the account under any one person's id. Leslie will also follow up with Chuck to see whose number/id the account is currently set up under.

Tracy will talk to contact person at Seven Seventeen to see what he can find out there, as far as the EIN number is concerned and what they might have to offer for a business checking account.

There was also a discussion about whether or not we should look into getting tax-exempt status for the club so we could avoid taxes on club purchases. Joe pointed out that it is easier just to have people buy things for the club and then reimburse them. Tracy also mentioned that there are accounting / filing issues when you start to use tax exemption. He said you have to file returns to indicate the purchases, and you still have to file even if you didn't have any

activity. The group as a whole leaned toward not moving toward the tax exempt status and staying the way we are.

The minutes from the last meeting to see what issues were unresolved.

As for the issue of whether a member is inactive versus active, it was decided to add a column to the printed copy of club members to indicate the status of active or inactive. Active will be based on whether or not dues have been paid. Everyone on the list, regardless of being inactive or active will still continue to receive club emails, unless they specifically request to be removed from the email distribution.

The issue of a snack list was not resolved in the last meeting. We decided to have one, but not who was going to organize and maintain it. Leslie suggested Debbie Bice, but we will have to wait until she is present to ask her.

Walt brought up the subject of the "3 visit" rule and pointed out that we need to make sure we tell the new person this rule up front at the first visit. Walt also told the group about his recent experience at another camera club. Walt and John Fillian recently attended a meeting of the North Chagrin Nature Center Camera Club. It is held at a facility at the Cleveland Metro Parks and is a very nice room with equipment provided. He said they received no greeting or welcome at all from anyone in the club, and no one talked to them throughout the meeting. They were just asked to sign in on the attendance sheet when the meeting was over. Eventually they did speak to someone, but it was only after the meeting was over and kind of by chance. He said it made him more aware of how a new person to our club might feel when they aren't greeted and made to feel welcome. The group discussed the fact that we need to greet visitors, make a special effort to talk to them, and ask them to return. As a newer member to the group, Harold said that he felt very comfortable and welcome at our meetings, and that by the 3rd meeting someone in the group had invited him to sit with them. He said he didn't get any information on how to get involved and how to submit photos for competition.

The group decided that we need to have a "Welcome Committee", which Joe and Kristina will co-chair. They will come up with a welcome kit, which will include at least the following items, and will be given to people on their first visit to the club.

- a page indicating what the dues are (year and 1/2 year) and when dues are required to be paid (1st meeting of year or by the 3rd meeting if joining late)
- membership roster
- club rules

- program schedule
- information on how to size, name, and submit photos
- paper on 12 points of what to look for in a photo
- paper on how to critique with kindness
- new person questionnaire
- anything else Joe & Kristina come up with

We decided that we need to always have a stack of rules, our roster, and our schedule available at the meeting where people can see them and take one.

Harold brought up an item of confusion in the rules. The section on page 2 under "Digital Slide Naming Convention" was confusing with having the word "John Doe" in the title. John Doe is actually the title of the work, but with it being a name as well, it was easy to confuse it with the name of the creator. It was decided that

Kristina will change the words representing the title of work from "John Doe" to some other title which is not a person's name.

Leslie brought up the subject that we need to use a "Big Brother/Sister" approach and assign mentors to new people. The big brother/sister would be responsible for calling the new person and keeping in touch with them, making sure they understand things, and basically making sure they stay informed and involved and making them feel like they have someone in particular who they can call for any questions they have. The person who is assigned as the big brother/sister would be selected on several criteria based on the information they fill out on the new person questionnaire that Joe has - type of camera, types of photography they are interested in, male vs. female, maybe location of residence, etc. Joe & Kristina could make the first recommendation of who the big brother/sister should be. Then if that person feels it should change, they could recommend someone else. Kristina pointed out that we are going to have to survey the current members and see who is willing to participate as a big brother/sister. Leslie said she is already acting as big sister to Liz Sylvester and that she thinks it is going well. She has been teaching Liz Photoshop every Monday.

Harold gave his input on what types of things he would like to see the group do this year. Harold asked about group outings and scheduled photo shoots. He said that would be a very good way to get new people involved and to help them feel more comfortable. He said it would be very interesting to see the "before" and "after" images of pictures that were substantially edited in

Photoshop. It would be nice to have the person do a quick walk through of the editing that was done to achieve the end result. He also said it would be good to have an actual walk thru explaining the rules and how to get an image submitted.

The group decided that we needed to set aside time in the schedule very early on, probably in the first meeting, to go over club expectations, and to have a renaming / resizing clinic for digital submissions.

We discussed other ideas for filling the second half of the meetings. Walt passed out information on PSA programs and discussed their cost. There were programs on composition, and other technical topics, as well as PSA showcases. PSA showcases are one cd that costs \$10 and has three 20-minute programs on it. Tracy said we still have a few PSA programs left from previous years which we could still use. It was also brought up that we could show other types of tutorial programs, such as from Radiant Vista, or any tutorials or videos which individual members might have bought. It was decided that we could show the Radiant Vista programs during the break instead of taking up actual club time, and that something in the tutorial might spark interest in something that someone might want to know more about. That way the tutorial is available to anyone who wants to watch it during the break, and those who don't want to watch it don't have to watch it during club time. We did not decide on any programs for Walt to order and this still needs to be addressed.

We discussed the subject of whether the break should remain in the middle of the meeting or whether we should not have a break and save the snacks and social time until the end of the meeting like it used to be. Tracy pointed out that at the previous church location we didn't have the time restriction like we do at Cord Camera and staying late didn't use to be an issue, and now it is. Leslie felt the break wasted time because everyone dragged it out too long. After discussion by all, it was decided to leave the break in the middle of the meeting, but to make it a very short break of 10 minutes. Whoever is in charge needs to flash the lights or just start the meeting back up after 10 minutes and keep us on schedule. Also it was pointed out that we need to begin starting the meeting on time. Often we don't start until 7:10 or 7:15, and people come to the meetings late, etc. We need to start promptly at 7:00 and people need to be there before 7:00.

Several members will be going to SWMCC on July 24, so the next meeting will be held on Wed July 23 if meeting room is available. Tracy will send out an email when he confirms the date for the next meeting.

The group started to outline a tentative schedule for next year:

	1 st half	break	2 nd half
Sept 11	Welcome / social / finger food		resize/rename clinic
Sept 25	shapes/patterns competition		
Oct 9	open competition		
Oct 23	steeples competition		
Nov 13	open competition		
Nov 27	no meeting		
Dec 11	old buildings competition		
Dec 25	no meeting		
Jan 8	make-up competition		
Jan 22	containers competition		
Feb 12	open competition		
Feb 26	wheels competition		
Mar 12	open competition		
Mar 26	Route 62 competition		
Apr 9	make-up competition		
Apr 23	special light competition		
May 14	year end judging		
May 28	organizational meeting		