

## **Warren Photographic Society 6-12-08 Meeting Minutes**

In attendance - Debbie Bice, Leslie Chishko, Joe Costarella, Tracy Steele, Kristina Truhan,

Walt Unks

Kristina provided Leslie, Treasurer, with the receipt for the awards given out at the banquet. Total cost was \$166.14. Kristina has already received reimbursement.

Tracy indicated that he has also received reimbursement for \$50 which was given to Cord Camera Manager, Ted, in appreciation for allowing the club to use the facility throughout the year. He indicated that Ted was very surprised and thankful.

Tracy discussed a project being spearheaded by Sue Jacobs. She intends to make a 16' x 20' mural mosaic art image which will be created by combining 16" x 20" individual images together. The overall image is divided into small square sections, and then individual artists will be selected to design each 16" x 20" square section. The individual squares will have certain line patterns, shapes, or colors which will have to be followed when they are created, in order to make the overall big picture appear when all the small pictures are put together. Tracy said that in order to see the "big picture" of the mural, a person would probably have to stand back about 40' away (2 times the longest length of the item being looked at). Sue plans on displaying the image at TAG initially, then it would travel around the country to different locations. Tracy has put together several images from the club which have been submitted over the past few years which could be potentially used for the overall mural image (not for the individual sections). Tracy said only a thumbnail size picture will be submitted, so there would not be an issue of anyone making prints or using the picture for something else. He will send out a request to all individuals affected to see if anyone has any objections to submitting their image for consideration.

The roster of members was discussed. There are several members who are on the roster that have been inactive for awhile, and it was brought up about whether or not the roster should be updated and the names removed or separated. Leslie mentioned that the list would be more beneficial to new members to be able to determine who was active so that if they wanted to call someone for help, they would know who was available. Walt mentioned that for some of the long time members, it was respectful to keep their names listed, and also that someone also may want to contact one of them for something. It was decided not to remove the inactive members from the list, but to separate them somehow. Leslie suggested that inactive versus active be determined by whether or not dues have been paid. Two ideas were discussed - 1) have two separate pages of members - one for active members and one for inactive members 2) keep the list as one, and mark the inactive members with an asterisk. A decision was not made.

The topic of "rules not being followed" was discussed - for example, TAG show entries by non-paid members, too many entries per category for judging, and allowing too many entries at one time. It was discussed that the club rules indicate that members cannot participate in club activities unless their dues are paid (for example, TAG show, photo judging, etc.) We need to enforce this rule.

The topic of dues was discussed. How many meetings is someone allowed to attend before they decide to join or not? Should partial dues be allowed? The group decided that a person should be allowed to attend 3 meetings and then would have to pay their dues in order to continue attending. It was decided to allow partial dues to accommodate those people who begin attending the meetings after the year is half way over. Full dues will be due from all members on the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year and will be \$25. For people who join anytime after the half-way mark, the dues will be due no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting they attend, and will be \$13. Leslie will be responsible for follow-up. It was also suggested that members of the club should be able to see which members have paid their dues and which have not.

The topic of name tags was brought up. The group decided name tags are a good idea and several ideas of what type of name tags to use was discussed. It was decided that we will use the peel-n-stick name tags. Leslie will buy the name tags and then get reimbursed from the club.

To coordinate the above items, Leslie will act as a door monitor at each meeting. There will be a pre-printed sign-in chart, with members' names down the side and the date of the meetings across the top. Leslie will mark the box for the appropriate date as members check-in to the meeting and hand out pre-printed name tags. She will write in names for visitors/potential new members and mark the date they attended. Blank name tags will be available for visitors. A column for whether or not dues have been paid will be beside each person's name. Leslie will be responsible for following-up with those people who have not paid their dues. This information will be available so that other members will be able to see it.

It was suggested that we have a very brief social time at the beginning of the meetings to meet & greet new people - to give us an opportunity to welcome them and give members a chance to ask them to sit with them so they are more comfortable. It was suggested that maybe the meetings should start earlier if we are going to do that. Kristina suggested that for our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year we take the first half of the meeting to be a social time with finger food.

It was brought up that we will need to get a coffee maker for next year. Joe will purchase one and the club will reimburse him. Leslie also suggested that we should remind members that they should be contributing to the coffee fund when they drink the coffee at the meetings, that the club should not be funding the whole cost. Joe volunteered to donate the first can of coffee, and Walt volunteered the second can.

Debbie brought up the need for a snack list and that we didn't have one this past year. The group decided that we should have a snack list with 2 people assigned to each meeting. It was not decided who was going to get the list started and maintain it.

Debbie suggested that the club have a "teaching night" once a month. It would be a separate night from our regular club meetings, would be open to other clubs and the public, and you would have to pay to attend. It could be on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday maybe. We could bring in outside speakers or have one of our members do a presentation on something like Photoshop or Lightroom. She said Bob Kulon has a semi-basic training class on photography that would be good. Then from the money people paid to attend, we would pay the presenter. It was also

discussed that when we decide to pay a presenter a certain amount, that we should stick to the amount agreed upon, and not pay them more.

Tracy volunteered to continue to collect the digital submissions again this year. He said we have to have rules on naming, sizing, and due dates. If the submission doesn't follow the naming and sizing rules, they'll be returned to the sender to correct the problem. If they are submitted past the deadline, they will not be accepted. Deadline is currently 1 week prior to judging. All submissions must be a copy of the original. The club won't be responsible for keeping someone's original image. If the submission is given on cd, the cd won't be returned. It was made clear that even though all submissions are available for general club use, that they are only used for club business and are not used for any personal reason or for profit. Tracy has an archive of digital images from the last 2 years.

It was brought up that it appeared several images were initially submitted for competition, and then they were modified and resubmitted prior to the end of year judging. This should not be allowed. No image will be allowed to be altered in any manner after it has been submitted for competition.

The topics of age of photos or repetitious entries were discussed. Do we need a time limit on how long ago a picture was taken before it is too old to be entered into competition? Do we need to limit how many times a non-winning picture can be re-entered? The group decided no to both questions.

The length of term of officers as it is worded in the rules was questioned. We need to reword it if we are not going to have a President and Vice President to indicate an Executive Committee, and also to indicate that it will be year round to include the summer. Suggested rewording of the "Elected Officers" paragraph from the rules is as follows:

#### Elected Officers

\* Election of 5 people to an Executive Committee will fulfill the combined duties of:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

PSA

\* The Executive Committee may appoint other committees for duties as necessary.

\* The election of the Executive Committee will be held in May during the last regular meeting.

\* Term of officers will commence immediately following the banquet dinner and conclude at the banquet dinner the following year.

\* The Executive Committee will begin preparation for succeeding year immediately following completion of the last regular meeting.

Open competitions and make-up opportunities were discussed. This past year, it seemed like many people waited until the make-up at the end to submit all their entries. It was decided that there will be a total of 4 open nights and 2 make-ups, which will be split into 2 opens and 1 make-up for each half of the year. The number of entries allowed for any one open night or any one make-up night will also be limited. On either an open night, or a make-up night, members will only be permitted to enter a total of 6 images for the all PSA categories combined (plants, animals, people, pictorial, photojournalism, creative technique, and still life) and a total of 6 images for all the assignment themes combined. For the year, that means that each member may only submit up to a total of 24 images per year divided however they want among the PSA categories. There is no limit per PSA category. All 24 images may be in one category, or they may be divided among the categories however the person chooses. For the assignment themes, there is a limit of 6 images per assignment, making the total for the year a maximum of 42 entries. (note as I was typing this, I realized that this is a change from the current rules. If this is what we decide, then the rules on bottom of page 3 need to be changed)

Members will not be able to enter a photograph for one of the themed competitions during a make-up night if they were not a paid-member when the deadline for that theme occurred. This would also apply to new members. A new member would not be permitted to enter an image for an assignment if the deadline for that assignment occurred prior to their joining the club.

Members are still encouraged to put together slide shows to showcase their work to the group, but unless it is the scheduled presentation for the night, the slide show should be limited to 10 - 15 minutes.

Debbie pointed out that she thought we needed more specific critique time. The group discussed the topic of constructive criticism and how we can encourage it. During the reviewing/judging process, we need to ask if there are comments and also get the image creator to say what they like or dislike about it. It was also pointed out that some people may not want their work critiqued. Tracy mentioned the idea that although everyone has their own tastes and reasons for why or how a picture was taken, that there is still value in other people's opinions. He made the comment that if 10 people keep telling you the same thing, then there may be something to what they are saying. You should be open to it and then make your own decision, but at least consider what they are saying.