

Warren Photographic Society 8-14-08 Meeting Minutes

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

Kristina brought in a copy of the new draft of club rules. The suggested changes were reviewed and some were accepted and some were modified. Some, but not all, of the changes include: (1) indicating deadline for when dues are required to be paid and that the member cannot participate if they aren't paid (2) rewording the 1st line of the Elected Officers section (3) changing wording regarding the alternate for Treasurer (4) changing the naming example to something else, since there is no photojournalism category in B&W (5) page 3, delete "per image presentation classification from last bullet item in the Assigned Subject and Gallery Night sections (6) page 3 top bullet item - change "may be rejected" to "will be rejected" (7) page 3 middle of page - change "may not be accepted" to "will not be accepted" (8) under Make up Evaluation - change to indicate there will be two make-ups in the year, delete "however points will not be assigned for make up evaluation", plus indicate that members may also submit up to 6 images for the assignments, for a total of 12 images allowed during the make-up night. There may be other changes, I quit writing them down. Kristina noted all the changes and will make all the modifications and bring a new copy of the draft to the next meeting for final review.

The topic of "creative technique" was discussed. It was felt that we need to be more clear on defining what creative technique is or isn't so that everyone in the club can understand it and there will be less disagreement on where a picture should be categorized. There was a discussion on what types of pictures should be allowed in the individual categories and what should be placed in the creative technique category. The subject of putting digital frames on the pictures and whether or not that should be considered creative technique was also discussed. It was brought up that in the past the only criteria mentioned was that creative technique was something that could not be done in the darkroom. The subject of what can be done in a dark room was then discussed. We discussed minor darkroom techniques of color modification, brightness, contrast, etc. versus sandwiching slides and cutting negatives and combining multiple negatives together. The question was "where does it stop?". It was suggested to see if we can find out how PSA defines creative technique. Kristina will look and see if she can find any PSA guidelines for defining "creative technique".

Kristina proposed having multiple methods of submitting digital prints for competition. She suggested that we have 3 methods - (1) email directly to Tracy (2) upload through the website, and (3) bring to a meeting on cd or jump drive. She also suggested that instead of using Tracy's email address directly, that we set up a new designated email address to use. This permanent email address would then get forwarded to the person who is accepting the digital submissions.

Tracy indicated that he does not want to receive images on cd or jump drives at all, not at the meeting or otherwise. This would take up club time, plus there are other issues with whether or not the person wants the cd back, or if the images on the cd are originals or copies, etc. Also, with emailing, the email will be time stamped, and Tracy can also send back a confirmation email to the sender indicating whether he received the images, how many images he received, if they were named correctly, etc. He said that emails have to clearly indicate they are for the club or they may get deleted if Tracy doesn't recognize the sender's email address. We decided that

all email submissions must have the following subject line in the email to Tracy: WPS digital submission. This will be added to the “how to submit images” instructions.

We discussed whether or not we needed more than one method to submit pictures. We decided that emailing to Tracy was the easiest way to submit the pictures, but we will also have the ability to do it through the website. This will hopefully generate activity to the website. The pictures will be in the “members only” section of the website. An issue brought up with the idea is that the images will not be sent to Tracy when the person uploads them. There will be an additional step required where Kristina will have to check the website and then send them. This was brought up as a possible issue if she happens to forget or be unavailable for some reason, and now the submitter is reliant on someone else to ultimately submit their pictures. Kristina indicated that it would not be a problem, and we will proceed with the idea.

I don't know if we decided to have the designated email address and then forward it to Tracy, or just use Tracy's email address directly. We'll have to clarify this at the next meeting.

Kristina also brought in a rough draft of our schedule for the year with suggested activities she filled in for the remaining 13 meetings. Leslie commented that the model shoot was on the schedule during a winter month and we had discussed having it outdoors at Howland Park, so that may have to be changed. Walt also noted that there was nothing on the schedule about the idea of everyone shooting the statues at the Butler Art Museum in Howland, so that also may need to be added. It was mentioned that the schedule indicated which assignment was due that particular night and that submissions were going to be accepted during the meeting. Kristina will reword that to still indicate the due dates (1 week prior to club evaluation) but will remove that they can submit them at the meeting. The group did not really have time to review or discuss the schedule in any detail, and it will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The topic of our slide projector was brought up. The projector belongs to the club. Bill has been acting as caretaker and still has the projector, so we will need to contact him to have it returned. Tracy said he will give Bill a call. It was mentioned that we can leave the projector here in the closet at Cord Camera. It was discussed that we should maybe look into getting some sort of cabinet that we can lock to keep our things from being stolen or damaged (coffee pot, supplies, projector, etc.) .

Kristina brought up new business of the possibility of purchasing a portable external hard drive for keeping all the club business on. This would free up space on Tracy's personal computer which is currently being used for the club. He said it is currently using about 4GB of space. This includes pictures from the last 2 years. Currently, several members have club business stuff on their own computers. If we had one central storage place, we could keep all club business together for backup and for future reference. This could include things such as digital submissions, website backups, rules, minutes, welcome packet info., etc. It was decided to proceed with purchasing the external hard drive. Since Tracy will still be managing the digital submissions, he would be the caretaker for the drive. Tracy, Joe, and Kristina had already picked one out - a 500 GB drive, with a cost of approx \$235, which includes shipping and tax. Leslie questioned why it was so expensive versus other hard drives the same size which can be bought for under \$100. They indicated it was made more durable for transporting around than one that is

made to sit on a desk. Leslie said that Chuck Marshall told her the current balance of the checking account is \$439.52. Out of this, we have to pay PSA dues, buy a coffee pot and supplies. Tracy also indicated that we should keep a balance in the checking account of around \$300 in case we need to buy a replacement bulb for the digital projector. The idea of purchasing the hard drive was tabled for a while until after we collect dues and pay for expenses and see how much money we have left.

Leslie said she has talked to Chuck and asked him about the PSA membership. He indicated he had received the invoice and that it needs to be paid by Aug 31. Leslie told Chuck to go ahead and pay the bill, which amounts to \$45, and to submit a change to indicate Leslie's name and address for future contact. She also indicated that she has a meeting scheduled with Chuck to go to Huntington Bank on Monday to get things switched over to her name.

Joe and Kristina also brought up the issue of whether the club should pay for a post office box address. Currently club mail goes to several different individuals. It was questioned about whether or not we actually had enough club mail to justify it. Joe thought that if we had a p.o. box that we could publicize and use, then we probably would get more mail. If we had a p.o. box, we could have all mail go to one address and we could also put it on the web site and on our literature, and give people a place to send correspondence. They estimated the cost to be approx \$16 per year, but Joe will check and find out the exact cost. The idea was tabled until Joe gets the information.

Kristina brought up an idea for fundraising. She suggested holding a raffle for a significant value photography product/item throughout the year. This would be something of value that people would be willing to take a chance on such as a memory card, thumb drive, accessory, etc. We could sell tickets within the club and outside of the club. It was suggested that if we do this that we should sell enough tickets to total twice the value of the product before we select a winner. We could still do the 50/50 like we have done in the past. The raffle would be something extra. A final decision on this was not made. She also brought up the idea of whether we could possibly take out an actual ad in the paper to promote the club and also mention the raffle. The group decided against the idea.