

**LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**  
**MONTHLY COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

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# LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## SECTION 1: Purpose or Intent of Competitions

The Louisiana Photographic Society (LPS) sponsors monthly Photographic Competitions for its members. These competitions provide club members an excellent opportunity to show their best and latest efforts.

The intent of LPS monthly competitions is to promote interest in the many facets of photography. To this end, LPS has established categories that allow expression of both classic and new photographic techniques and equipment. Categories and guidelines may change according to the interests of LPS membership.

1. For each monthly competition, themes may be either "Open" or "Assigned". These themes change on a monthly schedule.
2. The purpose of the monthly theme is to challenge LPS members with a photographic assignment. A monthly theme based competition may be in any of the two categories, color and/or monotone inclusive of prints and digital projection media.
3. The purpose of Digital Projection is to promote photography without requiring a physical print. Images for Digital Projection must be suitably sized and in the proper format for the LPS digital projector.

## SECTION 2: Levels of Competition

There are three (3) levels of competition, "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B".

1. "Master" level is for photographers who have taken their photography skills to a level higher than "A" or "B".
2. Level "A" is for photographers who are more experienced than Level "B" photographer or who simply want to compete on a higher level.
3. Level "B" is for beginning or less experienced photographers who honestly conclude that their skill level is not, at present, equal to that of photographers competing at "Master" Level or Level "A".
4. Each level will compete only against others in their respective levels.
5. Initial assignment to a level is voluntary on the part of each member. Each member's selection of a level should be based on that member's honest self-assessment of his or her skill level; nevertheless, any member may initially select "Master" Level or Level "A".

## SECTION 3: Monthly Competition Categories

### 1. Color

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

### 2. Monotone

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

Monotone defined

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image (For example sepia, red, gold, etc)

A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work

## SECTION 4: Preparation and General Guidelines

1. Each LPS member is limited to **TWO** entries each month. Members may submit 2-color images/prints or 2 monotone images/prints or 1-each color or monotone image/print. The exhibiting LPS member does not have to be present to enter the monthly competition, but must be an LPS member in good standing, i.e., a member current in his or her dues. Members who wish to enter the monthly competition, but who will not be present for the meeting, must make their own arrangements for entering and retrieving their entries.

2. All prints must be mounted (matting is an option) such that they are self-supporting for vertical display. **Frames are not allowed.** All photos shall be 5" X 7" or larger and not to exceed 24" in width. These are the outside dimensions and shall include the matting.

3. To qualify for competition, a digital image of the intended print entry, must be entered into the appropriate level of competition via Visual Pursuits, by 8 pm on the Monday prior to Thursday's competition. Prints must be placed, for competition, by 7 pm to qualify for voting. Digital projection image must be entered into the appropriate level of competition via Visual Pursuits, by 8 pm on the Monday prior to Thursday's competition.

## SECTION 5: Voting Procedures

Entries are voted on by the general membership present and, unless announced otherwise, by guests present at the meeting.

### 1. Prints (Color/Monotone)

Voting is accomplished as follows:

#### A. Voting Cards

During the meeting “Voting Cards” will be handed out to the members and guests for their use in ranking the displayed photographs. Each card has space for entering 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place votes for the levels in the Color and Monotone categories. Members and guests will assign a ranking of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, to an image, by its image location number. Failure to do this will disqualify your votes!

After all voting is completed; the voting cards will be collected by the committee members for tallying all the votes.

#### B. Tally Sheets

Tally sheets will be used to record the title of each photograph; the photographer’s name and their ranking.

#### C. Rankings

Rankings will be determined as follows:

All of the votes will be entered into the LPS computer program as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place votes in each level. The program will then assign points to each vote. Points are assigned using the following scoring system:

4 points for a 1<sup>st</sup> place vote

3 points for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place vote

2 points for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place vote

The program calculates “Weighted Scores” i.e., the number of 1<sup>st</sup> place votes X 4 points, the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> place votes X 3 points, and the number of 3<sup>rd</sup> place votes X 2 points. These “Weighted Scores” are added together for each photographer and ranked highest to the lowest score. In the event that there is a tie, the number of first place votes will be counted and used as the tie breaker. If there is still a tie, then the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> places votes will be counted and be used to break the tie. If after using these 2 steps, a tie remains, then 2 ribbons will be awarded.

## 2. Digital Projection

The Digital Projection Coordinator will prepare the slide program for the Thursday night meeting. He/she will then send to the Competition Coordinator a list of the entrance's names, the title of the photographs and their appropriate skill levels "Master", "A" or "B".

At the meeting, the Voting Cards will be given out to members and guests for their use. Voting is accomplished by the same procedure as prints.

The presentation of the digital images will be as follows:

All level digital images will be shown in sequence, first to last with enough time between each one for the members and guests to evaluate each image. At the end of this first showing, the images will be shown a second time as a refresher and for voting purposes.

The order is: color images followed by monotone images within each level.

After all voting is completed; the voting cards will be collected by the committee members for tallying all the votes. The vote counting and assigning of points will be the same as used for the print competition categories. Awards and ribbons will also follow the same procedure used for prints.

## SECTION 6: Awards

The appropriate monthly awards will be given for each of the following:

### 1. Categories

#### A: Prints

- A. Color
- B. Monotone

#### B: Digital Projection

- A. Color
- B. Monotone

### 2. Scoring Procedure

Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup> places and Honorable Mentions will be awarded to the highest weighted scoring images. The number of ribbons awarded is determined by the number of entries.

- 1-2 Entries – 1<sup>st</sup>
- 3-4 Entries – Add 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5-7 Entries – Add 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 8-10 Entries – Add 1 HM
- 11-20 Entries – Add 2<sup>nd</sup> HM
- 21+ Entries – add 3<sup>rd</sup> HM

If an image receives a ribbon, **it shall be retired from further competitions.** At the end of the year, the sum of each person's weighted scores in each category shall be totaled for consideration as the LPS "Photographer of the Year" for each Level

## SECTION 7: Movement from Level to Level

1. A member in Level B may voluntarily move up to any Level at any time.
2. Movement from "Master" Level to Level "A" or Level "A" to Level "B" is discouraged and if requested, may be approved only by action of the Board of Directors
3. Movement from Level B to Level A is required if the photographer accumulates 15 or more points in a calendar year or receives the "Photographer of the Year" award. Movement will occur the following calendar year.
4. Movement from Level "A" to "Master" level is required if the photographer accumulates 15 or more point in a calendar year or receives the "Photographer of the Year" award. Movement will occur the following calendar year.
5. Points are accumulated using the following scoring system:
  - A. 4 points for first place
  - B. 3 points for second place
  - C. 2 points for third place
  - D. 1 point for an honorable mention

## SECTION 8: Photographer of the Year

### 1. Categories

Awards are given at the end of the calendar year to those photographers with the highest weighted score in these categories.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Color Prints</b>                | "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B" |
| <b>Monotone Prints</b>             | "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B" |
| <b>Color Digital Projection</b>    | "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B" |
| <b>Monotone Digital Projection</b> | "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B" |

## 2. Scoring Procedure

The “Photographer of the Year” is awarded, in each Level, based on his or her Total Weighted Scores which is calculated as follows:

Color Print weighted score +  
Color Digital Projection weighted score +  
Monotone Print weighted score +  
Monotone Digital Projection weighted score =  
**Grand Total**