

# LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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# LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## Monthly Competition Guidelines

### **Sections 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 and to get constructive critique and feedback from their fellow members.

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 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.

### **Sections 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.

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".

### **Sections 3: Levels of Competition**

#### **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

## Sections 4: Preparation and General Guidelines

1. Each LPS member is limited to **TWO** entries each month. The months that are print competition, each member may submit 2-color prints or 2 monotone prints or 1-each color or monotone 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 or matted. Prints for competition will be displayed only on the easel(s) provided by LPS. Frames are not allowed. Prints must be no larger than 16"x 20" and the overall mounted, matted, canvas or metal size may be no larger than 20"x 24". There is no minimum size. Prints may be printed commercially or self-printed.
3. To qualify for voting, 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.

### 4. Photojournalism

Photojournalism entries shall consist of images or sequences of images with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the image, without changing the photojournalism content, are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome.

### 5. Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing

the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome. Infrared images are not allowed.

## **6. Black & White/Monochrome**

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

7. The LPS Exhibit and Competition Policy is “**Hang or display at your own risk**”. LPS, along with our exhibit locations, makes every reasonable effort to ensure the safety of all images.

## **Sections 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 are requested to assign a “Space Location Number” and a ranking of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

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

4 points for 1st place

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

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

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 (Color/Monotone)**

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. 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**

1. Color
2. Monotone

**B. Digital Projection**

1. Color
2. Monotone

**2. Scoring Procedure**

- A.** 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

- B.** 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 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**