

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. The intent of LPS monthly competitions is to promote interest in the many facets of photography.

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 monochrome inclusive of prints and digital projection media.

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" photographers or who simply want to compete on a higher level.
3. Level "B" is for beginning or less experienced photographers.
4. Each level will compete only against others in their respective levels.

Initial selection of 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: Types of Competition

1. Color

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

2. Monochrome

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

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 monochrome prints or 1-each color or monochrome 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. All entries will be displayed on the easel(s) provided by LPS. Frames are not allowed. Maximum print image size is 16"x 20" with the overall mounted, matted, canvas or metal size being no larger than 20"x 24". There is no minimum size.
3. To qualify for voting each month, a digital image of the intended entry (whether print or digital), 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 at the meeting by 7 pm to qualify for voting.

4. Photojournalism description

Photojournalism entries shall consist 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 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

Sections 5: Voting Procedures

1. Prints (Color/Monochrome)

A. Voting Cards

Mark your card with the number of the image(s) you are voting for. Do not vote for your own image. The number of images that can be voted for is determined by the number of entries. Voting cards will be collected by the committee members for tallying.

2. Digital Projection (Color/Monochrome)

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".

Online voting procedures: See Addendum A attached.

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. Procedure

- A. The number of ribbons awarded is determined by the number of entries.

1-2 Entries – 1st

3-4 Entries – Add 2nd

5-7 Entries – Add 3rd

8-10 Entries – Add 1 HM

11-20 Entries – Add 2nd HM

21+ Entries – add 3rd 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 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 A or B may voluntarily move up to any Level at any time but any accumulated points are non-transferable.
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 20 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 in each Level with the highest accumulated points in these categories.

Color Prints
Monochrome Prints
Color Digital Projection
Monochrome Digital Projection

2. Scoring Procedure

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

Color Print points + Color Digital Projection points + Monochrome Print points +
Monochrome Digital Projection points = **Grand Total**

ADDENDUM A

DIGITAL ONLINE VOTING PROCEDURES:

Beginning January 2019, LPS will be using online voting for digital projection image competitions. Entering your images for the competition will be the same as it has been since we started using Visual Pursuits for our competition entries. When the competition entries end on the Monday before our meeting, all members will be able to login and vote for their favorite images. Voting will remain open until 8:00 pm on our meeting night. This will allow anyone who wishes to wait until the meeting, view the entries on the projection screen, and vote for their favorites on their smart phone. The following check list will lead you through the process of voting.

1. Open any web browser on your computer, tablet, or cell phone.
2. Go to the web login page at <https://lps.photoclubservices.com>
3. Log in to your account
4. Click on the dropdown menu "Competitions" and go to "Vote on Competition Images"
5. There will be two competitions listed when the competition voting is turned on at 8:30 pm on the Monday before our meetings, Color – Projected and Monochrome Projected
6. Select one of the competitions
7. This will open a screen that has a selection box for the level that you will vote for first. It will automatically show Basic
8. Click on "Vote in Full Screen Mode"
9. The images submitted for Level B will display one at a time in full screen
10. You can click Next to go to the next image and Prior to return to the previous image
11. Go back and forth between all of the images and decide which three you will vote for. You cannot specify 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. You cannot vote for your own images.
12. Click the "Check, to vote for this image" on the three that you have chosen
13. Click "Exit" to go back to the thumbnail screen. You can change your votes on this screen if you wish.
14. Click the "Save Votes" button just above the thumbnails to register your votes
15. Select the Advanced level and repeat the process. Remember to save your votes after each level
16. When Level A is completed, select Masters level and vote for those images
17. When finished with this competition, click "Return to Competition List" at the top of the page
18. Select the other competition and repeat the process

If you are voting on your cell phone, you can only vote in full screen mode. The thumbnail option is not available. It is best to view the images before coming to the meeting and voting at that time. The voting

can be done on your phone during the meeting but it is easier on a larger screen of your computer or laptop. We will show the images using our projector at the meeting just like we have done in the past. If you want to change your vote, you can do that on your phone during the meeting. Members who cannot attend the meeting can still vote for their favorites using their computers at home.

This procedure of voting online will reduce the time it currently takes to count the ballots and award ribbons. We will continue to use ballots for our print competitions.