

Pontiac Photographic Society Merit Award System



Competition is the lifeblood of all successful enterprise! It naturally follows that the same is true of a well-organized camera club. A photographic competition creates excitement for the contributor and prompts interesting discussion among spectators. Like all contests, the audience is usually divided in its reaction to the final results . . . the winners and their close friends are pleased about the decision, while others conduct a post-mortem examination of the critics' discussions.

Competition fosters many benefits. Usually, competitions are designed to stimulate creative effort by providing an outlet for self-expression. In the right atmosphere, they help club members gain knowledge by comparing techniques, as well as encouraging their best efforts. Competitions also promote fellowship and sociability. Thus, they serve to increase the active membership, which, in turn, means more dues in the treasury. Consequently, competitions are essential!

While competition is the lifeblood, awards provide the force that keeps it flowing. It has been proven that, without awards, there is little or no response to competition. Yet, this does not mean awards must be of great material value. A keen competitive spirit will often times rise to the bait of a blue ribbon embossed simply in gold letters: FIRST PLACE. How fortunate, because few clubs can afford to offer more than citations, medals, or ribbons! (Larger clubs, with unusual financial support, might possibly offer photo supplies, trophies, or cash prizes.) Thus, it is not the intrinsic value of the prize, but the honor and prestige that go with the winning that appeal to one's natural desire to excel – to win.

Competition does not guarantee success. Camera clubs may fail for many reasons, even if competitions are included as part of their program. Under the following conditions, any club could fail.

- ◆ The same individual consistently wins top honors.
- ◆ The beginner becomes discouraged through lack of encouragement.
- ◆ The judging is biased or prejudiced because of inexperience.
- ◆ The club is controlled and run by only the top few who always win all of the awards
- ◆ The activity is solely of a selfish nature and no service is rendered to others—either the community or photography in general.

The real need is for a system of recognition that will benefit all members -- a system which affords everyone an equal opportunity to win awards through either individual effort or service to others. What type of system will fulfill this need? Well, believe it or not, it isn't necessary to impeach the president or, for that matter, shoot the top prize winners! In fact, don't even eliminate any of your present competitions or change the current rules. The present system will carry through fine, but add to it a merit system which recognizes every possible photographic activity of a club member.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this merit award system is to recognize and honor individual skill, efforts, and services rendered at every possible level of attainment. The system is based on merit points earned by participating in a variety of photographic activities. The scope of such a system is actually unlimited, for it recognizes not only the beginner who brings their first print to a competition, but also the top person in the club who may be an international exhibitor of world renown. Thus every member of the camera club can earn merit points and, by virtue of their own ability, win the highest award offered.

MERIT SYSTEM

A table of merit points defines the merit system. This table of point values should not be revised without very careful consideration, as upward or downward revision of the point values may give a premium to or penalize those who have already earned points under the old rules. Any revisions to the chart shall be applied to competitions going forward only.

Merit Points

Merit points can only be earned by members in good standing (dues paid). The point values of Table 1 have been adopted by the Pontiac Photographic Society.

Table 1

<u>Code</u>	<u>Event / Placing</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	PPS Competitions	
	Each Entry*	1
	First Place	8
	Second Place	5
	Third Place	3
	Honorable Mention	2
B	GDCCC Competitions PPS /GDCCC End of Year Finals Local Art Shows (i.e. Troy Daze, Mall Show)	
	Each Entry (other than End of Year)	1
	Each End of Year Entry	3
	Print/Slide of the Year (GDCCC)	15
	First Place--PPS Print/Slide of the Year	12
	Second Place	8
	Third Place	6
	Honorable Mention	3
C	International Salon or Exhibition	
	Each Entry	1
	Each Acceptance	10
D	PSA International Individual Competitions	
	Each Entry	1
	First Place	8
	Second Place	5
	Third Place	3
	Honorable Mention	2
E	PSA International Club Competitions	
	Each Entry selected to represent the PPS	10
	First Place	15
	Second Place	10
	Third Place	5
	Honorable Mention	4
F	Public Displays – of photographs used under the auspices of the PPS, exclusive of letters A through E.	
	Each Print	3

* All Entry points are in addition to place points.

Claiming Merit Points

- All merit points must be claimed within the year earned. Paper work must be submitted no later than the second Society club meeting in January. Points unclaimed will be lost. The Record Keeper's files are official.
- All merit points claimed must be supported by documentary evidence in the form of salon catalogues, notification cards showing the result of judges' scores, or any other proof of acceptance. The Honors Committee reserves the right to accept or reject, by majority vote, all merit points claimed by a member but not supported by such evidence.
- No merit points should be given for the following.
 - ◆ Showing of judged prints or transparencies.
 - ◆ Prints or transparencies in invitation exhibitions.
 - ◆ Honor prints or honor slides in international salons or exhibitions.
- Special request in writing, listing all details, may be made to the honors committee for consideration of additional points to be given for special awards, honors, showings, etc. of prints or slides not specifically covered by the above tabulation of merit points.
- Report points earned in respective events on special report sheets. Use a separate sheet for each division for which the award applies.

Advanced Award Points (toward Associate and Fellowship)

G	One-Person Show – (maximum of 50 points)	<u>Points</u>
	Each Print	5
	Each Transparency	5

Special Rules Governing One-Person Shows

1. A One-Person Show shall be made up of prints or transparencies shown other than at the Society.
2. Merit points for a one-person show will be applicable to only the advanced awards of Associate and Fellowship.
3. A one-person show shall be primarily the work of one person, and merit points are allowed for only the work of that person.
4. The show shall be comprised of a reasonable number of photographs and/or transparencies.
5. Subject matter may be pictorial, nature, or travel and of related or unrelated themes.
6. Presentation of the show shall not be related to the photographer's job activity.
7. Any show done for monetary compensation shall be excluded. (This is not intended to exclude the sale of work as a result of a show.)
8. A travel-club preview or other home show is not recognized as a one-person show or travelogue.
9. The honors committee should review and study the quality of one-person shows before allowing points.
10. Each different print or transparency shall earn merit points for only its first showing in a one-person show.
11. The total number of points for each one-person show is limited to 50.
12. The lifetime total of merit points which may be earned with one-person shows is limited to 300.
13. The points for activities pertaining to one-person shows may be claimed according to the above schedule. In presenting claims for points earned in this manner, the candidate must submit the following supportive information.
 - ◆ Place where exhibition was held or travelogue was given.
 - ◆ Date of exhibition or travelogue.
 - ◆ Number and type of photographs involved.
 - ◆ Estimated attendance.
 - ◆ A list of titles or subject descriptions of the photographs shown. (List should not include titles, captions, map copies, or photographs made by others, etc., for which no point credit will be given.)

AWARD SYSTEM

Award	Points Required
Bronze Medal	100
Silver Medal	200
Gold Medal	400
Master's Trophy	1000
Advanced Awards	
Associate	2000
Fellowship	4500

End-of-year Awards

Two (2) trophies will be awarded in each division (provided there is the required minimum number of entrants in a division); Print or Slide of the Year award, a Second, and Third place. Honorable Mentions will be awarded ribbons so at least 25% of the entries receive recognition. A maker may receive only one (1) trophy per division.

Special Note: A motion was passed on 05-05-03 such that “We will ask members which they want if they win – a trophy, a plaque, a medal or nothing”.

Slide Divisions: The following award system shall be instituted for the slide divisions.

Color Slide	2¼ Slide	Nature Slide
Color Slide of the Year	2¼ Slide of the Year	Nature Slide of the Year
2 nd Place	2 nd Place	2 nd Place
3 rd Place	3 rd Place	3 rd Place
Honorable Mentions	Honorable Mentions	Honorable Mentions

Jim Lighton Award: The Jim Lighton Nature Slide of the Year award shall be bestowed upon the **highest scoring** nature slide.

History: Rev 9-17-01

Advanced Awards

Advanced awards attainable in the Pontiac Photographic Society (PPS) are the Associate and Fellowship. The club's philosophy behind these advanced awards is to foster the success of the individual for the ultimate success of the club. Since these titles carry a greater degree of distinction, it is vital for an individual attaining these awards to demonstrate continuous contributions to the club, extended services beyond the club to the council level, and diversity of participation in the field of photography. While superior photographic skill and ability is a prerequisite, service to others in the form of writing, teaching, lecturing, and judging is also of great value. Credit for these accomplishments is recognized in the form of elective requirements. Electives allow the individual to choose the field of activity to a certain extent, but require the individual to be capable of rendering service in several fields. While the electives place emphasis on the candidate's continued contributions to the Pontiac Photographic Society, they also encourage extended services to the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council.

Requirements for an Associate Award

A candidate for the Associate's award must accomplish each of the following.

- ◆ Attain a Master's award in at least one division.
- ◆ Achieve at least 2000 merit points across all divisions.
- ◆ Earn at least half (1000) of the 2000 merit points in Society club competitions.
- ◆ Become a holder of three (3) silver medals, in a combination of print and slide divisions.
- ◆ Judge during at least 10 regular club competitions.
- ◆ Serve one term of service as a Society Officer, Director, or Editor of the *In-Focus* newsletter.
- ◆ Complete any five elective requirements from the list of *Electives for Associate and Fellow*.

Requirements for a Fellowship

The candidate must satisfy the conditions for Associate and accomplish the following.

- ◆ Attain a Master's award in at least three (3) divisions.
- ◆ Achieve at least 4500 merit points across all divisions.
- ◆ Earn at least 2000 of the 4500 merit points in Society competitions.
- ◆ Become a holder of three (3) gold medals, in a combination of print and slide divisions.
- ◆ Judge at least 25 Society club competitions.
- ◆ Serve at least two terms of service as a Society Officer, Director, or Editor of the *In-Focus* newsletter.
- ◆ Complete any ten elective requirements from the list of *Electives for Associate and Fellow*.

Electives for Associate and Fellow

Request for consideration of these electives should be made in writing to the Honors Committee, giving all details and particulars to support the claim for credit.

Note: Photographs and activities used to fulfill one elective may not be used to fulfill another elective or as points in categories f-g. (No double dipping! 😊)

1. Two terms of active service as a volunteer on a working committee of the Society or a term of service as a committee chairperson of a regular Society committee.
2. One additional term of service as a Society Officer, Director, or Editor.
3. One illustrated lecture or demonstration before this or any other camera club at a regularly scheduled meeting of the club. (Slides or prints used may not, at any time, be given the added credit for a one-person show.)
4. One first place award or any combination of two (2) second or third place awards in PPS End of Year competitions.
5. Service on a jury at an international salon or exhibition.
6. One placing above HM in an international salon.
7. An individual display, by invitation, of twenty (20) or more prints and/or transparencies at this or any other camera club or public institution.
8. The submission and acceptance of eight (8) or more prints and/or transparencies in noncommercial photographic traveling exhibitions.
9. Two (2) or more different photographic reproductions in international salon or exhibition catalogs, or in any photographic publication acceptable to the honors committee.
10. The publication of any article on a photographic subject in a photographic publication acceptable to the honors committee. (Illustrations in such an article may not be credited as elective #9. If the article is presented before a meeting, the candidate should not receive additional credit.)
11. Five (5) honor prints and/or transparencies in international salons or exhibitions (an honor being defined as an acceptance or higher).
12. Additional special services rendered to the social or educational programs of the Society and approved by the honors committee.
13. Additional special services to the promotion of photography and camera club activities.
14. Unusual exhibition recognition which, in the judgement of the Honors Committee, is worthy of merit.
15. An accomplishment which adds to the prestige of the Society.

Procedures to Follow

An Honors Committee shall determine the eligibility of a member as candidate for the honors of Associate or

Fellowship of the Society. The President of the club, in January, shall appoint the Honors Committee consisting of four members of the club (the majority of which shall have at least four years of membership in the Society). The committee will review the specific requirements to determine the eligibility of members as candidates. The committee shall, by the second meeting in March, ask eligible candidates to submit in detail, by a date determined by the committee, the fulfillment of each of the elective requirements. If deemed necessary, the Honors Committee could interview candidates about contributions they have made to the Society. It is the candidate's responsibility to compile and provide all necessary evidence and records. Total points earned must already be on record. The titles of prints and transparencies and a listing of club competitions or other activities in which points have been earned must be provided. The candidate may get this information (if not on hand) by checking through records filed with the Society's Record Keeper.

The Honors Committee shall meet, review, and approve or reject each candidate's submissions by majority vote of its members. The Honors Committee shall notify each candidate in writing of the committee's decision. In case of rejection, candidates may appeal to the Honors Committee for reconsideration.

Advanced Awards shall be bestowed at the Annual Awards Banquet. Suitable recognition shall be given to those receiving Associate and Fellowship honors. This may be a certificate and a plaque or other object of value as determined by the Honors Committee. To designate an advanced degree of membership, anyone receiving the title of Associate or Fellow may use the letter A or F, respectively, followed by the club initials after their name (e.g., Chris Doe, APPS).

These rules were revised and submitted by Joyce Carmichael, Mary Costello, Mort Henick, Bob Scott, and Paula D. Serra (chairperson) - February 2, 1998.
Approved March 2, 1998.

Revised December 7, 2002
Revised December 1, 2003

