

June, 2017

Hello all!

A new year of competitions is soon to start at CPS, and I want to welcome all and encourage everyone to participate this year. There are a few changes this year of which I would like to make people aware.

First, members of the competition committee have decided to move the deadline for entry into projection competitions up a bit. In the past, the deadline has been the Monday before the actual competition. This year the deadline will be moved back to the Wednesday 10 days prior to the competition.

This was done to alleviate a little pressure on the volunteers who have to check photos in advance and build the web link for submission to the competition, and to give the judges a little extra time to thoughtfully judge photos. Under the old deadline system, judges only had two or three days – during the week – to complete judging before arriving on Friday to offer their critique. This will give the judges more time and weekend days to complete the judging.

The competition committee is also pleased to announce a new award for the coming year: recognition of the photographer who accumulates the most points **in total** through the competition year. In each category there have been awards given for accumulated points. This year a plaque will be given to the person who has the most points in all categories combined in recognition of the person's work and all-around skill as a photographer. To be eligible for this award a photographer will have to accumulate points in three of the five competition categories...people, black and white, creative, nature, and/or pictorial.

And speaking of plaques..... We stress throughout the year what an honor it is to have a photograph chosen for display on our back wall. A photo chosen to hang a year on the Gathering Room wall is an honor for the photographer and, in a sense, represents the best of the Cleveland Photographic Society. The competition committee has decided to further recognize that honor by presenting each winner with a small plaque that will describe the award and be engraved with the winner's name and title of his/her photograph.

We all love photographing our pets!! They're not just "pets," to most of us they are family members. But, when it comes time to choosing photos for competition, we often realize those pet photos - as dear as they are - don't have the "wow" factor to score well. To encourage people to enter pet photos - and to increase the number of eligible photos from which to choose the Bert Klein Award - two nights this year, one print and one projection, are going to be designated "Bert" nights.

On a "Bert" night people may enter one to three images of their pets - designated a "Bert" print on the back - and those will be judged separately from other pictorial images submitted. Places will be awarded and points given in the pictorial category for the winners. This is **in addition** to the regular category and pictorial entries for the night. If you do not have photos that qualify for the Bert Klein Award, participate on these nights as you would any other competition night.

To further increase the pool of photos at the end of the year from which to choose the Bert Klein Award winner, people who enter photos of their pets in the "B" competitions will also be eligible for the award.

The January 5th projection competition will be a "Bert" night, as will be the March 16th print competition.

There are a few minor changes to some of the competitions of which to make a note.

In the creative category, the first of the three creative nights on July 7th will be an open competition for all creative images. The second competition on Nov. 17th will be restricted to creative photographs through digital processing, and the last creative competition, March 16th, will be restricted to creative photographs "through the lens."

In the nature category I have heard some people comment they do not have the ability to travel to distant lands or national parks to bring back nature photographs. Well, this night is for you! The last nature competition of the year, Jan. 26, will be restricted to nature photos shot in Ohio. Looking forward to seeing Ohio wildlife, waterfalls and Lake Erie sunsets!!

So, [brush up on the rules](#) and read the instructions on [how to compete](#).

Print out this year's [competition schedule](#) and tape it to your refrigerator or bathroom mirror!! And as long as you are planning, keep in mind opportunities that arise to shoot photographs for one of the several "special" [end-of-year awards!!!](#)

I want to take a moment to stress the opportunities provided by competing in CPS competitions.

Making the decision to compete regularly makes you think about photography more and often makes you get out with the camera more.

Making the decision to compete forces you to look at your work with a critical eye, and gives you the opportunity to hear unbiased critiques of your work.

Competition nights are an opportunity to socialize with fellow photographers and friends, and exchange ideas.

All these things will help make you a better photographer and provide an opportunity to have a lot of fun while improving your skills – hope YOU'LL choose to compete this coming year!!!

Bill Keaton
CPS Competition Chair
2017-18