

## What is the value of competitions to the members?

1. Education for membership
  1. increase productivity and improve our craft
  2. the quality of the critiquing is paramount—therefore the judge's ability to verbalize the “problem:” including the what and why it's a problem and how to possibly correct it has to be considered when hiring. Critiquing and scoring go hand in hand.
  3. PWCC includes a “ringer” image that is shown at each competition. Members see that different judges will critique/score it differently—which becomes educational for the members. If the image wins a second or more time, the judge is told it has to be “disqualified” because it “won in a previous year.”
2. The logistics of holding the competitions
  1. Groupings vs no groupings
    1. separate categories: prints/digital/BW, creative (altered reality), color
    2. one group vs levels: clubs may have levels for one group/category (color) but not in others (BW, creative)
  2. Scoring procedures of the clubs presented:
    1. grouping of scores at end—all images scoring above a certain number are reviewed for the awards
    2. allowing for ties to be broken amongst top scorers
    3. allowing for awards to be given to each image receiving top awards (i.e. two for first, one for second, two for third, three for honorable mention or however the club designates it's awards)
3. Hired printer vs printing one's own images
  1. We questioned whether a printer can alter an image “under the direction of the maker” or just print the print as presented by the maker.
  2. Many amateur clubs require the maker to do his/her own processing.
  3. PPA rules preclude a class system. Many amateur clubs do not follow PPA rules.
4. The judging process:
  1. Are there run throughs before the competition--Many judges prefer them.
  2. Judging guidelines
    1. Well trained judges do not compare images during the competition.
    2. Images are compared at the end in the clubs that assign awards from the top scorers.
    3. PPA and other entities train judges.
  3. Number of judges per competition: one per competition and 3 for End of Year vs 2 or 3 per competition.
  4. Judges will be a topic at a later time so we did not pursue this topic further at this meeting.
5. Number of competitions per year:
  1. monthly-8 per year plus End of Year. Monthly competitions include color, BW and creative
  2. 4 per year
  3. either 6 or 8 plus “themed” competitions, either one or two per year
6. Titles:
  1. We polled the 6 clubs represented: 2 show titles with images, 4 do not.

2. Rationals:
  1. No titles: the images should stand on their own.
  2. Titles: the title is part of the message from the photographer to the viewer.
  
7. Time element: especially when there are three judges, the evening is very long. Clubs either limit the number of images allowed per member, others so the same but also have divided their competitions to evenings. Part A (i.e. digital color and digital creative) and Part B (digital BW and all prints.) Parts A and B use different judges.

The discussion gave us all much food for thought.