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Nassau County Camera Club

Zoom Teleconference - Board Meeting Minutes for Wednesday October 1, 2024

Board Members in attendance: Helen Albano, Jane Allegretti, Julie Allegretti, Bill Brown, Vince Como, Dave Curtin, Ellen Gallagher, Steven Kessler, Stu Schneider

Also in attendance: Alan Borko

Absent: None

Treasurer Report: Helen reported

- As of 9/30/24 check book balance is \$3,082.
- Budget draft sent out. Helen asked for feedback.
- Potential savings in programming costs need to be confirmed.
- Upcoming website expenses need to be confirmed. According to Dave, SSL fees will come due April 7 for \$200.
- Collected \$1,640 out of \$1,850 in dues. 7 members' dues are outstanding. Stu will share with Steve the names of outstanding members' dues.
- Savings by eliminating plaques was raised again. Members at picnic expressed interest in receiving plaques in recognition of their successful competitions. The subject will be raised again at an in-person meeting or at an upcoming competition zoom.
- Cost for zoom membership will be required after Dave leaves club. Cost for yearly Zoom Pro membership is \$159.84 per year if paid yearly based on price of 13.32/mo. Dave offered to make his membership available to the club through the end of the 24/25 season. We can even use his for summer, if needed. Helen will incorporate this new expense for the 25/26 budget. Club will need to purchase subscription effective Sept 1.

The Programs / Workshops Report: Vinnie reported

- In the interest of learning and of sharing knowledge, some members were asked and are willing to share areas of expertise that they excel in or have particular experience in and present to the membership at a meeting. Examples would be certain software products, camera configuration settings and programming functions, shooting styles, shooting techniques and practices, etc.
- Membership indicated they like the critique nights where member images are provided and presented for critique and feedback by our experienced members as well as our other members. Member can submit their images, hear critiques, make additional edits and share them again at the next critique meeting. This would help the club's programming budget.
- Vinnie shared information on a new competition program "Photo Contest Pro" that is used by Syosset Club and several others. He presented a brief demo for the board.
 - Club cost is \$144 for first year and \$44 for support for each year after
 - PFLI and many other clubs are uses of the system.
 - Setup is much easier than the current system. Digital chair would administer the system to prepare it for the club use and scheduled meetings.
 - Board will have to decide if committee would still be best way to choose club images for submission to PFLI or if member should choose their PFLI submission. Board is leaning towards keeping the selection committee for choosing PFLI selections. Selection committee

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will discuss and decide. Bill commented on keeping the selection committee noting the high level of quality and integrity of our work over the years.

- o The entire competition year is preset for the club with members, competitions dates and categories used for the club.
- o The user submits images for competitions on their own. System automatically knows the member submitting images and their skill category level. User can change or edit image up to the cutoff date. The digital chair running the competition is presented with a scoring keypad to enter the judges' scores. The tool tallies it all up.
- o Not sure how many administrators does the tool allow.
- o Dave says the tool takes most of the hard work and time-consuming work away from the digital chair and simplifies things immensely.
- o The idea for the club adopting this program was well received by the board. Dave will initiate the process of bringing the tool in and will work with Alan Borko on bringing the tool into the club. Alan will ultimately take on the responsibility.
- o The program will be tried for a couple of our internal critique nights before finally deciding to transition to live competitions. An instructional meeting on the use of the tool would be needed for the membership.

Membership Report: Stu reported

- Club currently has 40 members and 5 prospective members.
- Currently there are 7 outstanding dues paying members. Letters will be sent to them next week.
- An analysis shows the breakdown of membership competition levels as:

A	10	25%
B	18	45%
Salon	12	30%
	40	

- Question was raised as to whether paying by check is the only way to pay dues. PayPal or Zelle was suggested. Helen will look into setting up Zelle for next season. Julie noted that for an organization or a business to use Zelle there will be transaction fees. The board was not interested in dealing with transaction fees. Possibly as a non-profit we would not be liable for these fees. Helen will investigate further.

Webmaster Report: Jane and Julie reported

- The was no news to report.

Digital Chair: Dave reported

- Alan Borko offered to take on the Digital Chair role if the new program is implemented, due to its improvements in the processes necessary to run it. Dave will be working with Alan on transitioning.
- Discussion regarding using "Photo Contest Pro" was introduced by Vinnie, above.

Selection Report: Dave reported

- Nothing to report. Selection team meeting will begin after this meeting ends.

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Judges Chair: Bill reported

- The judging for the September 18th competition was disappointing by all participants. Grades were extraordinarily low and it was felt that the judge did not understand some of the images that were presented. Steve notes that the club never experienced scores this low to his recollection. He asked if there could be an exception to the resubmission rule for this and only this instance allowing resubmissions for scores lower than 7.5. The current rule is that a member can resubmit an image for competition in a subsequent season if the score is lower than a 6.5. After much discussion it was agreed that it would be a bad precedent to set. It is reasonable to expect that at some point another low scoring judge may be used again.
- Stu offered to attempt analysis of scoring. Dae could share the data with Stu.

Library Chair: Steve reported

- Some meeting dates will not have rooms available in the library. Those dates will be confirmed.

Unfinished and New Business:

- none

Next Board Meeting:

- The next Board Meeting will be held in-person and held prior to the scheduled in-person regular club meeting on Wednesday December 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm (time to be confirmed).
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Stu Schneider, Secretary