

THE OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION OF THE FOCUS PHOTO CLUB

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be **The FOCUS PHOTO CLUB.**

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

The purposes of the organization are:

1. To unite in a common bond, without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin, persons with an interest in photography and the photographic arts.
2. To provide responsible activities through participation in club, educational, civic, recreational, and social interaction.
3. To promote high standards in ethics, workmanship, and social relationships necessary for the betterment of the photographic community.
4. To develop the ability of members to plan together, organize, and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic process.
5. To foster an understanding of the functions of photography as a separate art entity.
6. To develop and strengthen members confidence in themselves and their work.
7. To provide satisfactory social and recreational activities.
8. To foster practical application of photographic skills through competition.
9. To develop better relationships among members, outside professionals, and the business community.
10. To make each individual member more aware of the world around him/her.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The FOCUS PHOTO CLUB membership shall be composed of persons interested in the photographic arts who are above the age of 11 and who have paid the club dues.

Section 2: The administration of this organization shall be vested in an Executive Board which shall be composed of the Co-Founders, President, Administrative Vice President, Competition Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Public Relations/News Officer, Webmaster, Program Officer, and Hospitality Officer. The Club President shall serve as Chairperson of the Club Executive Board. Each officer shall have one vote, the Co-Founders shall each

have two votes, and the Club President shall vote only to make or break a tie.

Section 3: An officer vacancy which happens during the year shall be filled by an appointment made by vote of the Executive Board.

Section 4: Executive Board meetings shall be held once each month.

Section 5: Executive Board members may be affiliated with other associations as long as all the rules and regulations of the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB are met.

Section 6: There shall be various committees set up to meet the needs of the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

Section 7: The club calendar year shall be July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: A person may qualify for membership in the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB provided:

- a. He/she has an active interest in photography;
- b. He/she expresses an interest in joining the club;
- c. He/she pays the current dues at current dues rate at date of membership acceptance and;
- d. He/she follows the policies and ideals of the club.

Section 2: Candidates for membership shall attend at least one meeting as a guest of the club and shall pay membership dues at least one week before being accepted into competition.

Section 3: Membership shall be open to any person over the age of eleven years.

Section 4: Classes of individual membership to be recognized by the club are:

Active Members shall be persons granted membership in the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB. An active member must pay dues as established by the Executive Board of the club. An active member may be eligible to hold club office, may participate in competitive events and awards programs, and may participate in all other club activities.

Professional Members shall be persons or businesses associated with, or participating in, the profession of photography who donate funds to the club in excess of the annual dues as patronage. Professional members, whether being an individual or a company, may be represented by one single individual (and that same individual for the entire club year) with all rights, responsibilities, and privileges of a single active member.

Honorary Members shall be individuals recommended for membership into the club who are approved by the Executive Board of the club. Honorary membership entitles an individual to attend all monthly club meetings and social functions which do not require a fee. Honorary members shall hold an annual membership, renewable at the discretion of the Executive Board, but will not be required to pay annual dues. Honorary members shall not be eligible for competitions.

A **Charter Member** is an original member from the club's conceptual 1989–1990 year. To retain Charter Member privileges, all yearly dues must be paid.

Section 5: Any member may be suspended when sufficient reason exists as determined by the Executive Board. Such transgressions as lewd or inappropriate behavior, misrepresentation of the club and/or its membership, creating disruption among membership, creating a nuisance during a meeting, violation of club policies and regulation, violation of competition rules, or any other transgression as deemed by the Executive Board to be a violation of the privileges of membership.

ARTICLE V: VOTING

Section 1: Each club member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote on issues presented to the club at large for action by vote which are presented by decision of the Executive Board.

Section 2: Only club members in attendance shall vote on issues voted on at Club meetings.

Section 3: In case of a tie in officer elections, the current Executive Board will vote by secret ballot to break the tie.

Section 4: The Vice President shall be in charge of a panel of three members who are not on the ballot to collect and count votes for the election of new club officers.

Section 5: Co-Founders shall have two votes each in all voting procedures. If a Co-Founder also holds an office, the Co-Founder will have a cumulative three votes on motions.

Section 6: Executive Board members shall have one vote in all voting procedures.

Section 7: Only Executive Board members in attendance shall vote in Executive Board meetings.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1: The club officers of the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB shall be elected by a majority vote of the active membership attending the May Club Meeting each year and shall consist of President, Administrative Vice President, Competition Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Public Relations/News Officer, Webmaster, Program Officer, Hospitality Officer, and Liaison Officer.

Section 2: Officers elected shall serve for one calendar year from July through the following June, **excepting** the President who shall serve a term of two consecutive years.

Section 3: To be eligible to run for a club office a candidate must:

- a. Be an active member in good standing;
- b. Have been an active member for six months, except for the President, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer which require one calendar year;
- c. Be able to attend Executive Board meetings;
- d. Display high moral and ethical standards in accordance with the precepts of the club;
- e. Be over the age of 17.

Section 4: Any active member who meets eligibility standards may volunteer to be placed on the ballot or be nominated by another member. Other nominations may be placed on the ballot by the Executive Board with permission of the individual member.

- Section 5: Any officer may hold a post for as long as the club membership votes for that officer to be re-elected.
- Section 6: Each club officer will be required to maintain 75% attendance at all monthly Executive Board meetings and display high moral and ethical standards in accordance with the precepts of the club throughout his/her term of office.
- Section 7: Any vacated or open office shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Board within two months. If, however, no member will accept the appointment, the duties of that office will be distributed among the other Executive Board members until such a time as the office can be filled or the next election, whichever comes first.
- Section 8: All officers will be expected to comply with all policies and regulations of the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB.
- Section 9: If these requirements are not met, the officer shall be given a probationary period in which to re-establish his/her good standing. If the officer has not been able to re-establish his/her good standing, he/she may be asked to resign by a majority vote of the Executive Board in order to maintain the integrity of the club. A request for resignation shall be made in written form.
- Section 10: The general duties of ALL club officers shall be:
- a. Serve on the Executive Board.
 - b. Promote the general welfare of the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB.
 - c. Carry out all reasonable requests made by the Club President and/or Board.
 - d. Acquire a working knowledge of the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

The INDIVIDUAL duties of club officers are as follows:

The **Club President** shall:

- a. Preside over all Club and Executive Board meetings.
- b. Act as spokesperson for the club.
- c. Plan the agenda of all Executive Board meetings with the help of fellow Executive Board members.
- d. Arrange and approve all club correspondence.
- e. Appoint any necessary special committee chairpersons.
- f. Help plan activities throughout the year by working with such chairpersons and committees as are set into motion.
- g. Prepare the nomination forms and officer voting ballots with the help and direction of the Executive Board.
- h. Help supply information for the New Member information packet.
- i. Handle all club correspondence.

The **Administrative Vice President** shall:

- a. Perform the duties of Club President in his/her absence.
- b. Assist the president in coordinating the activities at club meetings.
- c. Obtain three members not on ballot to count votes during elections of new club officers.
- d. Acquire judges for special competitions.
- e. Serve as liaison for all committees to the Executive Board.

The **Competition Vice President** shall:

- a. Coordinate and administer the competition program.
- b. Tabulate and record monthly competition points and give standings to PR/News

- officer.
- c. Maintain members' competition records.
 - d. Appoint assistants to help with competition for the year.
 - e. Obtain three judges for each monthly competition.
 - f. Tally competition points for members' nametag recognition stickers and present to Historian.

The **Club Secretary** shall:

- a. Keep an accurate record of the business transacted during all club, Executive Board, and special meetings.
- b. Keep an accurate list of all members in attendance.
- c. Update nametags and theme cards as needed.
- d. Retain custody of the constitution and by-laws and other reports and records of the club.
- e. Preside over meetings in the absence of the President and Administrative Vice President.
- f. Tabulate and record members' service points.
- g. Send newsletters to absent members who do not have Internet access.
- h. Set up sign-in table.

The **Club Treasurer** shall:

- a. Keep an accurate record of income and expenditures.
- b. Report the financial conditions of the organization upon request of the Club President.
- c. Accept membership dues and update membership list monthly and present copies to Board.
- d. Maintain club funds.
- e. Handle ways and means.

The **Club Historian** shall:

- a. Accumulate information and materials which are of value in recording the history of the club.
- b. Prepare and maintain a club scrapbook for display at club meetings.
- c. Update members' nametags monthly with recognition stickers as directed by the Competition Vice President.
- d. Assist the PR/News Officer and Webmaster in preparing promotional materials.

The **Club Public Relations/News Officer** shall:

- a. Prepare news releases and other publicity as approved by the Executive Board.
- b. Prepare a monthly newsletter for distribution to the membership and club Webmaster.
- c. Oversee all printed material needs of the club.
- d. Provide Webmaster with newsletter and PR material for website.

The **Club Webmaster** shall:

- a. Maintain club website and update as necessary.
- b. Work in conjunction with PR officer.

The **Club Program Officer** shall:

- a. Arrange programs for monthly club meetings.
- b. Coordinate additional activities for the club membership such as workshops, shootouts, and exhibits.

The **Club Hospitality Officer** shall:

- a. Arrange for and set up refreshments for monthly club meetings.
- b. Arrange Annual Awards Night held in June.
- c. Welcome all visitors, speakers, and new members.

Section 11: It shall be the duty of the Executive Board members to have pride in the leadership qualities of being a Club Officer for the FOCUS PHOTO CLUB and to project the highest levels of professionalism, attitudes, and characteristics of the honor of being an officer for the club membership.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Club meetings shall take place on the first Thursday of each calendar month beginning at 7:00 p.m. and concluding by 9:45 p.m. Each regular club meeting shall include the following:

- a. President conducts the meeting
- b. Speaker/Program
- c. Competition
- d. Competition awards

Section 2: All competition entries must be checked in with the Competition Vice President before 7:10 p. m. on competition night.

Section 3: Executive Board meetings shall take place on the Wednesday following the regular monthly club meeting beginning at 6:30 p. m. or at the discretion of the Board. The Executive Board shall meet no less than once a month to decide policy and activities of the club.

Section 4: With the approval of three of the Executive Board members, the Club President shall be empowered to call a special meeting of the Executive Board when the need arises.

Section 5: With the approval of three of the Executive Board members, the Club President shall be empowered to cancel a regular monthly club meeting due to inclement weather.

Section 6: Any Executive Board member may approach the Club President to request a special meeting of the Executive Board.

Section 7: Any active member may attend an Executive Board meeting and participate in discussion, but only the Executive members shall have voting rights at the Executive Board meetings.

Section 8: All Executive Board members must be informed of an Executive Board meeting at least three (3) days prior to the meeting in order for actions taken at that meeting to be valid.

Section 9: Policies and actions may be taken by vote of those Executive Board members present at the Executive Board meeting no matter the number.

Section 10: Any action of the Executive Board may be challenged in writing by an active member. If such a challenge occurs, the Executive Board must review the matter and revote on it.

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCES

Section 1: Membership dues shall be established yearly by the Executive Board.

- Section 2: Charter Members shall pay 80% of the annual dues.
- Section 3: Immediate family members of FOCUS PHOTO CLUB members shall receive a 20% discount on membership dues.
- Section 4: Dues are non-refundable.
- Section 5: Club operating funds shall be obtained through dues, fund-raising, patronage, and club projects.
- Section 6: Payment of operating expenses shall be approved by vote of the Executive Board.
- Section 7: An Executive Board member may spend up to \$10.00 (ten dollars) in the best interest of the club without prior approval. However, the member does so at his/her own risk and reimbursement will be made to the member only upon agreement and confirmation by the Executive Board.
- Section 8: All expenditures over \$10.00 (ten dollars) must be pre-approved in order to guarantee reimbursement to the Executive Board member.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM AND COLORS

- Section 1: The colors of the organization shall be black, white, and red. The black shall represent the sound foundation upon which this organization is based. The white shall represent the light which we as photographers use as our art form. The red shall represent the vitality of life which our members try to capture with their cameras.
- Section 2: The official emblem shall be a white lens opening surrounded by a black lens mount with black crosshairs which represents the focus of the aims and objectives of the organization.
- Section 3: All items with the club emblem and/or club name and/or representing the club must be pre-approved by and distributed by decision of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X: COMPETITION

- Section 1: There shall be a monthly competition at the regular monthly club meeting from July through May of each year.
- Section 2: Each Regular Monthly competition categories shall be:
 - a. Small Print - Open and Theme
 - b. Black & White Print - Open and Theme
 - c. Color Print - Open and Theme
 - d. Extended Photography - Open and Theme
 - e. Projected - Open and Theme
- Section 3: Regular Monthly Competition Rules:
 - a. Entries in all categories, except the Extended Photography category, must be of 35mm or less or digital media and on photographic, ink jet or laser paper. Digital images may be altered or enhanced if they do not depart from realism. The following rules shall apply to digital images being entered in all categories except Extended and Projected:
 - (1) Cropping and sharpening of the image are allowed.

- (2) Tools such as levels, curves, dodge, burn, brightness and contrast may be used as long as the image does not depart from realism.
 - (3) Color enhancements such as color balance, hue, and saturation may be used as long as the image does not depart from realism.
 - (4) Additions and deletions of subject matter are prohibited.
 - (5) The use of the clone tool or other similar tools will be limited to removing dust and scratches. Additions and deletions of subject matter are prohibited.
- b. Entries in the Extended Photography category may be of any photographic process and taken by any size format camera. These entries may include special effects, computer enhanced images, hand-coloring, multi-images in darkroom, sandwiching, collages, more than one image on a print, darkroom alterations, solarization, medium and large-format camera images, and any other photographic techniques beyond a basic 35mm product. Maximum dimension of entries may not exceed 22" high by 28" wide in order to fit in the light box. Entries in this category may be mounted and/or framed in any fashion, however, the frame cannot be the sole reason for entering a print into the Extended category.
 - c. All entries must be solely the creativity and work of the exhibitor with regard to inspiration, composition, technical setup, and shooting.
 - d. Entries may be either processed and printed by the photographer or commercially processed and printed.
 - e. Small Prints must not exceed 5"x 7" in size and must be matted or mounted.
 - f. All print entries must have the name of exhibitor and a title placed on the back in the bottom left-hand corner
 - g. Black & white print and color print entries must be at least 8"x 10" and not more than 13" x 19" in size. These prints must be mounted or matted (not framed), but total size should not exceed 22" high x 24" wide.
 - h. Black & White entries shall include all monochromatic images on photographic, inkjet or laser paper.
 - i. Projected images must be in JPEG format, sized to 1000 pixels on longest side, and submitted to Focus Photo Club website by 11:59 PM on Monday prior to the monthly meeting. Any manipulation is permitted. Entrants must sign in and follow other regular rules of competition.
 - j. No nude or suggestive materials will be accepted for display or competition. Judgement of acceptability is completely up to the Competition Vice President and, although he/she should confirm his/her decision with another club officer and/or a judge, his/her decision is final.
 - k. Once a work has placed First, Second, or Third, it shall not be resubmitted for future monthly competitions.
 - l. A work which has not placed First, Second, or Third, may be put into competition up to a maximum of three times. Such work may be submitted for competition only once in any one club-calendar year.
 - m. Each entry should be unique and in-camera dupes or other reproductions in different formats of the same image are not eligible for competition.
 - n. Each club member in good standing may enter up to three (3) entries per competition night with no more than two (2) in any one category.
 - o. Members shall receive the following points for competition:

For entering	1 point
First Place	4 points
Second Place	3 points
Third Place	2 points
Honorable Mention	1 point

- p. Points will be accumulated throughout the year for awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Night in June.
- q. All entries shall be judged on composition, technical merit and impact.
- r. Each competition evening shall have three judges from among the membership and/or invited guest judges who are highly qualified to judge the photographic work of others. Any active member may be asked to judge if he/she has been a member for six continuing months and did not judge in the previous month.
- s. Judges shall not evaluate their own or members of their family's work. They will enter a 0, and an average of the two other scores will be taken and added to the total of the other two judges.
- t. No ties shall be broken.
- u. Two Honorable Mentions shall be given in each category. Ties for Honorable Mention need not be broken. If there are more than two entries tied for Honorable Mention, additional ribbons may be awarded.
- v. If number of entries in any one category exceeds 16 entries, additional Honorable Mentions shall be awarded as one additional Honorable Mention for every additional four entries.
- w. All competitors must be present to enter their own work and must be present to receive their awards. If competitor is not present when awards are given, the award will be forfeited and the next highest entry will receive the award.

Section 4: Other competitions may be established by decision of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI: SERVICE

Section 1: Service points shall be awarded to members for services performed in connection with the club, club activities, and other photographic endeavors which promote the clubs ideals and photography as an art form.

Section 2: Service points shall be accumulated throughout the life of an active member.

Section 3: In order to receive points, members must make entries in the Service Points binder. The Club Secretary will approve entries and maintain a point total.

Section 4: Members can only claim activities which took place after their acceptance as club members.

Section 5: Requests for service points shall be made within three months of completion of the activity to be considered.

Section 6: Service points shall be earned for:

<u>Competition</u>	
Recorder	20 points/year
Scoring Attendant	15 points/year
Print Passer	15 points/year
Projection Attendant	15 points/year
Runner	15 points/year
Judge	5 points/month
Temporary Competition Helper	1 point/month
Taking Competition Winners for Display	5 points/year

Miscellaneous

Chairperson of a Committee (temp.project)	10 points
Committee Member (temporary)	5 points
Program Presentation (club meeting or extra)	10 points
Program Participation (other than club meeting)	2 points
Shoot-out Organization	5 points
Shoot-out Participation (sponsored by Focus Photo)	2 points
Shoot-out (sponsor a model)	5 points
Club Exhibit Participation	5 points
"Outside Exhibit"	3 points
"Outside Competition"	3 points
Published (per publication)	3 points
Sponsoring a new member	5 points
Photographing Events for Cox Arboretum	5 points

Executive Board

President	50 points/year
Administrative VP	35 points/year
Competition VP	35 points/year
Secretary	35 points/year
Treasurer	35 points/year
Historian	35 points/year
Public Relations	35 points/year
Program Chair	35 points/year
Hospitality	35 points/year
Webmaster	35 points/year
Unelected Officer Candidate	3 points/year
Non-Board Member attending a Board Meeting	2 points/year
OTHER - as decided by the Executive Board	

ARTICLE XII: AWARDS

Section 1: Awards shall be given at the regular monthly competition for First, Second, and Third places in each category. At least two Honorable Mentions shall be given in each category.

Section 2: Awards shall be given at the Annual Awards Night for the top point competitor in each category for the club-calendar year. This determination shall be made by adding the total of points earned in competition and the total of points earned for entering. Awards shall be given for First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and two Honorable Mentions in each category.

Section 3: An award shall be given at the Annual Awards Night for **Photographer of the Year**. This shall be determined by an overall total of all points earned for entering and competition in all categories throughout the club calendar competition year.

Section 4: Service Awards shall be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet to any and all members who have shown outstanding service to the club. These awards shall be the following:

Appreciation Certificate and one year free club dues	100 points
Plaque and one year free club dues	250 points
Trophy and one year free club dues.	500 points
Award to be determined by the Executive Board	750 points

Bronze level – upgraded badge	1000 points
Silver level – upgraded badge	1500 points
Gold level – upgraded badge	2000 points

Section 5: Other awards may be given for other club activities and services as decided by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: To amend this constitution, the proposed amendment must be presented in writing by the member proposing the amendment to the Executive Board.

Section 2: An amendment must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 3: The Board approved amendment shall be presented to the membership for discussion at the October or April club meeting and shall be voted on at the November or May (respectively) club meeting.

Section 4: The club approved amendment would then take effect immediately (or within two months as decided by the board).

Section 5: Only such amendments shall be made as are in keeping with the spirit and purpose of this organization as stated in **ARTICLE II** of this constitution.