Monmouth Camera Club

BY-LAWS

October 29, 2015

Revision 12, Revised 6/30/2025

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Monmouth Camera Club, hereafter referred to as MCC or Club.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

A. The purpose of the Club shall be:

1. To provide rewarding experiences for photographers wanting to improve their technical and artistic image–making skills.

2. To provide opportunities for members to have hands-on experiences in increasing their image-making abilities.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in the club is open to anyone. They need not reside in Monmouth County, each of whom shall:

1. Attend meetings regularly except when temporarily residing at another location

2. Pay annual dues

3. Be entitled to participate in all Club functions, serve on committees, accept office and/or perform any other duties required

B. Expulsion from membership for cause shall be by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee. Any member may appeal the expulsion vote to the Club as a whole, at the next regular meeting, and the vote of the majority of the members shall be final.

C. The Executive Committee may remove a member from the Club, prior to the expiration of the member's term, for any of the following reasons: conflict of interest, activities that undermine the functioning of the Club, disruptive behavior or not adhering to the Club's by laws. The member shall be given a written warning regarding the potential for their removal including the reasons for same. If the same or any other of the above listed reasons for removal is repeated or occurs, then the member may be removed from the Club.

ARTICLE IV GUESTS

A. Guests may attend up to two meetings a year.

B. A photographer guest may not participate in any Club or Nikon or Canon User Group outings.

ARTICLE V VOTING

A. The immediate Past President shall act as Chair of a Nominating Committee to select candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. Nominations shall be announced during the second meeting in April.

C. Elections shall take place during the second meeting in May.

D. All officers of the Club shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the time of voting.

E. Each paid up Club member shall be entitled to one vote.

F. If there is only one Club member who is nominated for an office, that person shall be elected by acclamation.

ARTICLE VI - DUES

A. The annual dues shall be determined by the Club's membership upon advice of the Executive Committee at the year end planning meeting, payable at the first meeting in September.

B. The Treasurer shall notify members who are two (2) months in arrears of payment of dues. Unless payment is made within one (1) month of notification, said member shall be removed from the Club.

C. Persons joining the Club after January 31 shall be charged one half of the annual dues.

D. New members joining the club after April shall pay the current annual dues applicable to the remainder of the year and all of the following club year.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of a President/Co-President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall hold office for two years beginning with the year-end planning meeting.

A. The President/Co-President shall be responsible for:

1. Responsible for overall functioning of the Club
2. Oversee all activities, moderate any disputes
3. Conduct and chair meetings of general membership
4. Appoint Chairs to lead the Club's activities and committees
5. Appoint ad hoc committees as needed
6. Face of the club to all external groups and organizations
7. Review reports from all committee chairs
8. Act as initial contact point for member questions
9. Alternate signature for checks if Treasurer is unavailable
10. Shall act as chair of the Executive Committee
11. Appoint officers to fill remaining terms when offices are vacated.
12. Make non-budgeted expenditures of up to $200 per occurrence.

B. The Vice-President shall be responsible for:

1. Interim President when president unavailable
2. Prepares and conducts essay night
3. Act as an adviser to the President
4. Fill in for Chairs as needed
5. Act as secondary liaison to general membership if President is unavailable
6. Alternate signature for checks if Treasurer and President are unavailable

C. The Secretary shall be responsible for:

1. Safeguarding and updating the historical archives of the Club
2. Maintain updated and current membership list in cooperation with the Treasurer
3. Record decisions made at meetings
4. Provide info to Webmaster and Newsletter
5. Prepare and present ballot for voting/approval
6. Solicit items of interest from membership for distribution-contests, shows, awards, etc
7. Publish and advise membership, in a timely manner, of all club functions, including but not limited to field trips, spring event

D. The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

1. Maintain updated and current membership list in cooperation with the Secretary
2. Collect dues and pay all expenses
3. Keep record of incoming funds and disbursements
4. Provide monthly financial report to President indicating income and expenses vs. budget.
5. Provide quarterly financial report to members.
6. Provide year end financial report and next year's proposed budget at the end of the year planning meeting

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and the immediate Past President/Co-President

B. The duties of the Executive Committee are:

1. To act as an advisory board to the President/Co-President of the Club.
2. To recommend dues
3. To select a Nominating Committee of no more than three (3) members.
4. To transact such business of the Club as is deemed advisable.
5. To approve non-budgeted expenses in excess of $200
6. Voting shall be by majority approval.
7. Each position (not Executive Committee member) shall have one vote.
8. Determine the percentiles to be applied for advancement in level.

A**RTICLE IX COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS**

A. The following is a list of current Chair positions. Such positions may be adjusted, added to or deleted without the need to amend the by-laws.

1. Program Coordinator
2. Digital Projection
3. Webmaster
4. Meet Up
5. Photoshop Users Group
6. Print Users Group
7. Trips
8. Print
9. NJFCC Delegate
10. NJFCC Print
11. NJFCC Projected
12. Judges
13. PSA
14. Hospitality
15. Welcoming Committee

B. The Users Groups shall be provided funding for expenses in an amount as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X - FINANCES

A. The Club's fiscal year shall be from July 1 thru June 30.

ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS

A. Meetings shall take place twice a month from September thru June on dates determined by the Executive Committee. The meetings will consist of presentations, judging and updates on matters pertaining to the Club.

B. The next to the last meeting of the year shall be devoted to judging for photographs of the year.

C. The last meeting of the year shall be the annual business meeting the purpose of which shall be:

1. Selection of special topics
2. Amendments to the by laws
3. Changes to procedures
4. Yearend financial review and approval of next year's budget

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

A Amendments proposed and approved by a majority of members in attendance at the yearend planning meeting shall be adopted without further voting by the members.

B. At other times, a proposed amendment shall be in writing and shall have been read at one meeting and voted upon after all members have had a month's notice in writing of the contemplated amendment.

C. These articles may be amended at any meeting of the Club by a majority vote of the paid-up members present at that meeting.

ARTICLE XIII- QUORUM

A. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of three members.

B. There are no other quorum requirements for the conduct of the Club's business.

ARTICLE XIV – SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR COMPETITIONS

A. There will be open and themed competitions. The number of such sessions will be determined at the year end planning meeting.

B. There shall be no limit or quota on the number of submissions that are awarded a particular score.

C. Competitions, including those for special topics will be divided into the following categories for Beginner, Advanced, Salon and Master members:

- Print monochrome
- Print color
- Digital monochrome
- Digital color

D. In each of the following categories for Beginner, Advanced, Salon and Master members, from among images that received a score of 9, a judge shall select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place image.

- Print monochrome
- Print color
- Digital monochrome
- Digital color

E. All photographs must be submitted by the announced deadline to be included in the judging session.

F. Photographs of nudes are not allowed.

G. For each judging session a member may submit a number of print and digital images as determined by the Board

H. Theme images will be reviewed prior to the competition to ensure it meets the criteria. A judge may not disqualify an accepted themed image.

I. Scoring shall be consistent with the guidelines provided by the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs.

J. A photograph receiving a score of 5 or 6 may be resubmitted.

K. A photograph may be submitted for only one category; projected, print, color or monochrome.

L. For one designated open competition images from prior years shall be allowed to be resubmitted as long as they were not 1st, 2nd or 3rd place winners. These images may be altered based on the judge' comments.

M. Each first place winner shall be awarded an additional 1pt. etc. 9 + 1 =10.

N. All components of an image must be based on photographs taken by the maker: including but not limited to sky replacements, background elements and textures.

ARTICLE XV - END OF YEAR COMPETITION

A. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place images will automatically be entered into the end of year competition. In addition, each member may enter two other images that received a 7, 8 or 9 in the current year's competition competitions. One into color and One into Mono

B. Members having 5 or more images entered via 1st,2nd or 3rd place will not be allowed to enter additional images. Those with 4 will be allowed 1 additional image.

C. The year end judging will be conducted by either a panel of three judges or by one judge. None of the judges shall be members of the Club.

D. Awards

1. The judge(s) shall select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place images in each of the following categories for Beginner, Advanced, Salon and Master members:

    - Print monochrome
    - Print color
    - Digital monochrome
    - Digital color

2. The judge(s) shall select the Dankwart Koehler print of the year award from all the above 1st place monochrome and color print images. If no print competitions are held, this award will be given in the Digital categories.
3. The judge(s) shall select the projected image of the year award from the all above 1st place digital monochrome and color images

E. The scores do not count towards a member's average score

F. The makers of the best print and digital image shall receive a plaque.

G. The makers of each 1st place category image shall receive a ribbon.

ARTICLE XVI – SPECIAL AWARD

A. There will be a plaque awarded to the member who achieves the highest average score for the year that meets the minimal number of entries criteria. The minimum number of images that need to be submitted to qualify for this award is the same requirement as that for advancement in level.

B. At the first meeting in September, an announcement shall be made recognizing the members that achieved the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place highest average for their level. The minimum number of images that need to be submitted to qualify is the same requirement as that for advancement in level.

C. ARTICLE XVII – GROUPS, CATEGORIES & ADVANCEMENT

A. There shall be four groups (levels): Beginner, Advanced, Salon and Master.

B. Advancement will take place at the end of the club year based on achieving a score average that meets or exceeds the specific criterion per items C and E below.

C. The average score criteria will be set each year by the Executive Committee without reference to member names. The average score for advancement may be different for each level.

D. Once a member has attained a level they cannot be reduced in level.

E. The minimum number of submissions to qualify for advancement will be:

- 67% of the maximum number of possible judged digital submissions during the year

OR

- 25 images submitted over a two year consecutive period

F. Scores for monochrome and color for both print and projected shall be accumulated together for the purposes of advancement in level.

G. All new members will be requested to submit a portfolio of images and a brief bio of their photography experience. A committee of Salon and/or Master Members will determine the appropriate level to place the new member into.

ARTICLE XVIII – ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEETINGS

A. Meet and greet

B. Call to order

C. Reports of Committees and Chairs

D. Program

E. Adjournment