

# FOCUS

Volume 81 - No. 1

<http://spsphoto.org>

Summer 2014

## MARK BOWIE to PRESENT AT 2014-2015 KICK-OFF “NIGHT OVER THE NORTHEAST”

***Join us on Wednesday, September 17th  
at our regular meeting location  
(First United Methodist Church)  
for our exciting kick-off presentation!***

Mark Bowie is a professional nature photographer and writer. His work has been published internationally in books and magazines, on calendars, posters, and greeting cards, and in advertising media. He has undertaken an ambitious project to photograph New York State and New England at night. He will share the thought processes and techniques used to produce spectacular nocturnal images of the region's mountains, woods, waters, cities, villages and coasts. He will cover: equipment considerations, determining night-time exposures, focusing in the dark, “painting” with artificial light, photographing fireworks and lightning, long exposures, multiple exposures, timed intervals and time lapse sequences. He will discuss shooting exposures only seconds long to eight hours, with tips on photographing the landscape in relation to the stars, moon, planets, meteors and other celestial objects. He will also cover innovative night image processing techniques. Experience the awe and wonder of the Great Northeast under the Light of Midnight.



©Mark Bowie



©Mark Bowie



©Mark Bowie

*Continued on page 2...*

# Mark Bowie to Present At 2014-2015 Kick-Off

## Continued from page 1

His first two coffee table books, *Adirondack Waters: Spirit of the Mountains* and *In Stoddard's Footsteps: The Adirondacks Then & Now*, have become landmark regional publications. He followed those with *The Adirondacks: In Celebration of the Seasons*. Each won the Adirondack Center for Writing's Photography Book of the Year Award. He has also authored two extensive e-books on night photography: *The Light of Midnight* and



*After Midnight: Night Photography by Example*. Mark is a staff instructor for the Adirondack Photography Institute and leads digital and landscape photography workshops and tours. For information, please visit: [www.markbowie.com](http://www.markbowie.com) and [www.adkpi.org](http://www.adkpi.org).

As we begin the 2014-2015 season, I wish to publicly acknowledge and thank the board of directors for working very hard these last two months to plan the many programs for the club throughout the new year. We are instituting a few changes with the main goal of better communication to you, our members. Last year was difficult. We had several Wednesday night snowstorms and no easy way to communicate to the entire membership. To alleviate this problem we have created an all membership email list. This list is to be used only for Meeting notices such as the upcoming Kick-off, newsletters, meeting cancellations and special programs. It is not a list for social conversation. The existing Google list, that a member has to sign up for, is for that type of interaction.

The annual report has been turned into a PDF and can be read and printed from our web site. However we did this minus the members list. Hard copies will be available to members at the beginning of the year meetings. Please only take one copy per family. We had hoped to mail them to the membership, but this is prohibitively expensive given our limited budget.

Toward the end of August you will be receiving in the mail the quad fold with the entire calendar for the year and a flyer for the kick off and a night shoot. Please pass it around among your friends; or, if you know groups or individuals or places of business where you think they should be posted or distributed, please ask for a few and deliver them. Our membership has been dwindling and we are striving to bring in new people for our programs this year. Bring your friends to Mark Bowie, our kick-off speaker, on September 17th.



I look forward to seeing many of you this year and I hope that you have been having a great summer shooting to your heart's content. We do still have openings on the board. If you would like to be come more involved in the planning and organization for SPS please contact the board members. Bob Gough our webmaster has added a place where members can send messages to the full membership as well as to the board, so please let us know what you would like to see for the year.

I look forward to serving as your president.

*In gratitude,  
Connie Frisbee Houde*

©Schenectady Photographic Society and its contributors. The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted. No material herein may be reproduced in any manner without the written permission of the Editor or the material's specific contributor. The *Focus* is published ten times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. SPS promotes and presents informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Over 100 members, ranging from novice to expert, share the theory, application and fun of photography at Society meetings. We meet Wednesdays at 7:30 pm from October through May at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. (Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one-way street off Nott Terrace.) The Schenectady Photographic Society is a member of the Photographic Society of America. Visitors and guests are always welcomed. For more information on our Club and the current season calendar check out our website: <http://spsphoto.org>.



# MARK BOWIE to HOST NIGHT SHOOT WORKSHOP FOR SPS MEMBERS

**Mark has agreed to do a special Night Shoot for SPS Members  
Thursday - September 18th from 7 –11 pm  
(In event of Rain, will be Rescheduled at a later date)**

Night shooting specialist Mark Bowie will lead a field trip to photograph local nightscapes. He will demonstrate techniques and provide hands-on field instruction for determining nighttime exposures, focusing in the dark, shooting long exposures and “painting” with artificial light. Learn how to capture the mystery, wonder and magic of this little explored facet of the photographic landscape.

**Fee: \$30/person, cash or check made payable to Mark Bowie**

**Deadline: September 1, 2014**

Give/Mail checks to project coordinator: Linda Tommasulo  
(separate flyer will be e-mailed with registration details)

**Time/Place: 7 pm at Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY**

**Participants: 5 minimum, 20 maximum...First Come, First Served!**

## **What To Bring:**

- Tripod
- Digital or film camera. A digital SLR is preferable, as it allows feedback in the field.
- A shutter release, preferably one that locks, for long exposures
- Extra batteries
- Flashlight or headlamp. Capping them with a red plastic filter will help keep excess light out of others' exposures.
- Appropriate outdoor wear for a possibly chilly night

## Letter to the Editor:

I am writing this to help our newer members compete against the so called “experts” who seem to win the monthly competitions. This is not true. We have all paid our dues in SPS and have our share of ‘losses’. I hope to be able to assist all members in future competitions and encourage ‘newbies’ that in order to win you have to compete. Enter as many competitions as you can and reap the rewards. I am always available to answer any and all photo questions at club meetings and by e-mail. Don’t be shy. Anything you question in my images you may ask, regarding techniques, plug-ins, actions and the source of interesting programs. If I don’t know, I will refer you to a member who can help. Cooperation is the name of this club and we encourage all members to question where? when? and how an image was made.

Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA

[Need more encouragement? See Ken's article on page 4.](#)

## Coming Attractions...September 2014

### **September 17th**

Kick-Off Presentation by Mark Bowie

### **September 18th**

Night Photography Workshop with Mark Bowie

**\*\*\* SPECIAL DAY - TUESDAY MEETING - September 23rd\*\*\*  
(due to Rosh Hashanah holiday)**

“Meet and Greet” Meeting (see page 5)

Welcome New Members - Bring a print or two to discuss and help celebrate your LOVE of photography



# HOW to ENTER and WIN PHOTO CONTESTS

by Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA

## **Introduction**

What is a good photograph? While a hard definition to write, it can be any image capture you enjoy to look at.

Theoretically a good image should have four elements: composition, exposure, technique, and presentation. An image should capture the interest of the observer or judge. It may be unique or common: but to be a winner, it should stand out from all the other images.

Competitive photographers should compose images that include some of following features:

Point of Interest, Framing, Background and Foreground, Close view, Cropping, Lines, Simplicity, Contrast, Balance, Viewpoint, Direction of Movement, Diagonals, so-called "Rule of Thirds."

Most importantly, as a competitor you will want to submit a photograph that you like rather than one that you think judges will like. If you want to please judges, you will never have your own style or individuality. Keep taking images of all kinds, building up a portfolio of images that you can use in the future for competitions, contests, and your own use. I suggest that you try not to limit yourself to one type of image or you will be "type cast."

Many judges are subconsciously or overtly biased. We have seen this in competitions: for example, a judge may not like "cats" or "digital" images. Bias should not occur in judging, but it does.

Do not "play" to the judge's interests: if a judge is an expert in flower photography, he or she will be super-critical of your flower images or may not prefer flowers at all in his or her judging.

Remember that judges are human, fallible, make mistakes, etc., but are not the last word. An image may lose in one competition but come in first in another.

Photograph what you like but try something different. Break the so-called "rules," as that can make for a fine picture!

File photographs so that you know where your images are, in order that they may be easily retrieved. A great image that is lost is an image never taken. Remember, too, an image is a capture in time that cannot be repeated.

## **Why Enter**

For the photographer who is confident in his or her abilities and is knowledgeable of the techniques available, entering contests can enable the photographer to compare his or her works with a vast number of competitive photographers.

Winning is a "high" or "ego trip" that increases self-confidence, but rejections are the path to winning. Be prepared to lose more than win. Don't get discouraged! The awards are secondary to the universal recognition and satisfaction of seeing your photo in print.

## **Where to Start**

There are a limited number of competitions available to the amateur and part-time professional photographer. Several photo magazines, such as *Petersen's Photographic* and *Popular Photography*, have monthly competitions. The total submissions are huge, so don't be discouraged--keep submitting. My best advice to the aspiring contestant is to look at past winning photos in these magazines.

Do not enter any competition in which originals are requested and will not be returned. Competitions in which statements "all entries become property of ... and will not be returned or acknowledged" should not be entered. When sending your photos, pack carefully. Slides should be in transparency protectors and reinforced with heavy cardboard. Slides should be clean and spotted to show proper orientation.

Prints should be shipped between two sheets of heavy mat board. I suggest all submissions should be sent by certified first class mail, return receipt requested. This will enable you to trace your photos if lost and will show who accepted your work when delivered.

Many competitions do not cost money to enter. Many foreign competitions request International Reply Coupons to cover return postage. These are obtained through your post office. PSA requires a small fee to cover processing your submission and for its safe return by mail.

Many of the digital competitions can be entered by sending a CD or submitting the images via e-mail. This is very convenient and you do not

*Continued...*



send your original material. One caveat is that you should put a copyright label on all submitted digital images.

### **What to Enter**

Many if not all competitions state the explicit categories requested. Select at least two to three times the number of images that you will be entering. Go over slides with an 8X loupe on a light box. Fuzzy, out-of-focus slides with scratches or slides which are over- or under-exposed, even slightly, should be rejected.

Nature should be just that--with no evidence of the "hand of man," meaning no telephone wires, cars, fences, man-made props, houses, etc.

Competitions are judged by an international panel of well-known professional photographers. Look at what was previously selected, but do not imitate the photos of prior years' winners. Most competitions want variety.

Rules I have used over the past 40 years are:

1. Don't submit similar images--if the judge doesn't like them you lose twice.
2. Submit images that will catch the judges' eyes and interests. If the image is too busy or complicated, the person judging will get confused and pass over your image.
3. Watch for large areas of highlights that take the viewer's eyes away from the main subject.
4. Do not submit images that are not clean or have a "flat" appearance. When viewed under the judges' lighting conditions, the image may lack snap.

Finally, don't get discouraged but keep trying. The photos we see at our club competitions are great, and many could win international awards. The only way to win is to submit your photos. You will accomplish nothing when all you do is read the periodicals and say to yourself, "I could have done that." Action speaks louder than words. Get moving! Start entering competitions!

Good luck.

## MEET and GREET New Members and Share Your Work Tuesday, September 23rd

Traditionally our second meeting (after kick-off) has been an Introduction for New Members. This year we are taking it a step further...

Yes, we would like to welcome new members to the Club and review some of the intricacies of competition, etc. As in the past, there will be presentations regarding both Print and Projected Image competitions, as well as a review of the Rules of Competition. But there's more!

We are asking our current/older members to **bring in a print or two** that they wish to share and discuss. Perhaps it is an image that won you an award...or perhaps not. It could be a new technique with which you are experimenting. Maybe you're trying your hand at black & white for the first time, or digital manipulation. Whatever it is, we would like to see it!

Let's use this pre-competition meeting to encourage new members (and perhaps those who have been a bit shy regarding competition). Let's share our work and foster some interesting discussions on photography, techniques and what it is that motivates *you* to click that shutter!



### Speaking of competitions...

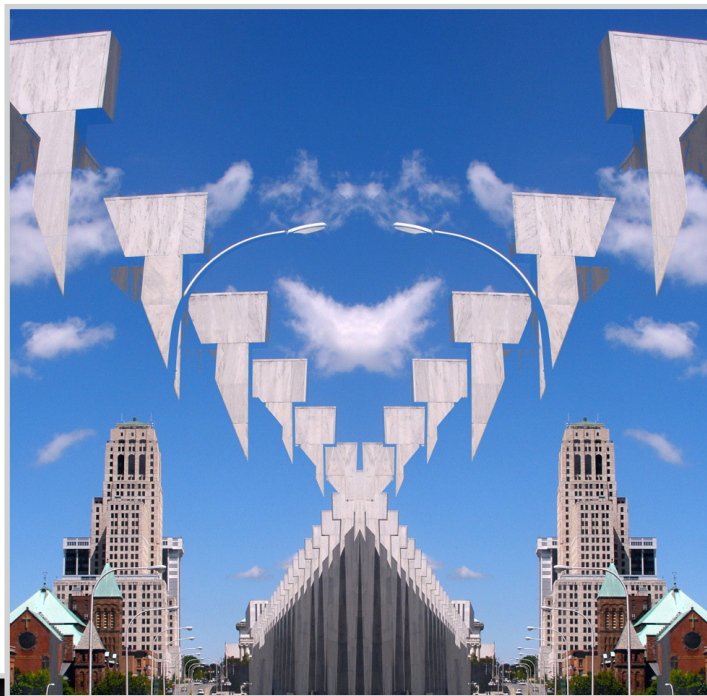
SPS is a member of the Photographic Society of America, and we regularly compete in inter-club competitions. It's a great opportunity to see how your work fares against photographers from other clubs and locales.

Check out the details and deadlines on our website under: Competitions / PSA Inter-club. Images can be uploaded directly on the website.

Phil Olivo is the Inter-club Coordinator. Seek him out if you have any questions.

## LUBA RICKET'S PHOTOGRAPHS CHOSEN FOR "FENCE SELECT"

The "Fence Show" is hosted every summer by The Arts Center of Troy. It got its name 47 years ago, when members' artwork was exhibited on the iron fence surrounding Troy's Washington Park. Today the exhibition fills The Arts Center gallery with paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography and other media. Exhibitors must be members of The Arts Center. From the exhibit, approximately 50 pieces are chosen for a special exhibition...The "Fence Select." The creative images by our own Luba Ricket, printed on metal, were two of the chosen few! This year's show was juried by Robert R. Shane, Ph.D., Art History and Criticism.



Here's some insight as to how Luba created these unique images...

"These two images are the same composition. The only difference is the blend mode that was selected...giving me two different renditions.

"The original image was taken from my car front window (while stopped at a red light!) with my old point & shoot. It was then duplicated and flipped over onto itself. The blend modes used were darken & lighten."

### Some Notes of Interest:

Of the more than 330 pieces submitted to the Fence Show, 42 were chosen for the Fence Select show.

Of the 30 artists selected, eight were photographers with 11 prints.

Of the chosen photographers, three had both images selected (Chris DeMarco, Luba and George Gruel).

Congratulations, Luba!



## SPS MEMBERS ATTEND NECCC 2014

MEMBER  
NEWS

This year SPS had a large group attending the New England Camera Club Council's Annual Conference at UMass/Amherst. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with other photographers; gain insight through top-quality presentations by seasoned professionals; shoot set-ups, the campus, supplied models - or just Have Fun! For more info on the Conference, check out their website: [www.neccc.org](http://www.neccc.org).



*Front Row (L-R): Dave Bennett, Trisha Johnson, Luba Ricket, Rebekah Sokol, Judy Breslau  
Middle Row (L-R): Linda Buckman, Colleen Magai, Jane Riley, Dale Winsor, Barbara Lawton  
Back Row (L-R): John Ogden, MJ Adelman, Connie Frisbee Houde, Ronald Ginsburg, Anna Rubarsky, Jack Hurley, Linda Tommasulo*

---

## Digital Images Garner "HM" at NECCC

Linda Tommasulo's digital entries were both awarded "Honorable Mentions" at this year's NECCC Conference:

"Looking Back" in Digital/Nature  
"Shy Tulip" in Digital Open





## MEMBER NEWS

### MODEL SHOOTS at NECCC by Dave Bennett

Every year the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) Conference in Amherst, Mass. provides the opportunity to photograph several local models. The outdoor photo of Elena Rich was done in a concrete stairwell. Trying to create something different from all the other shooters, I placed a wireless flash at the top of the stairs. This added some depth to the images and a nice rim light to her hair and shoulders. The portrait of Kayla was also taken outdoors, with a remote Canon 600X-RT flash camera left, and a medium Rogue Flashbender softbox to add catch lights in the eyes and fill the shadows. The silhouette of Christy Ai is an indoor setup by the club, with a purple gel to add some color.

Also, the major camera and lens manufactures let you try out your wish list. I had the chance to shoot with a Cannon 85mm f1.2L, 300mm f/2.8L and compared the Canon Extender EX1.4 III on my 70-200mm f/2.8. I am truly looking forward to next years event.



Elena Rich - Canon 5D MIII,  
Canon 70-200mm f/2.8 L @ f/3.2  
1/80 sec ISO-50  
2- Canon Speedlite 600  
ex-RT flashes



Christy Ai - Canon 5D MIII  
Canon 85mm f/1.2 L @ f/5.6  
1/80 sec. ISO-50



Kayla  
Canon 5D MIII 70-200mm f/2.8  
@ 125mm, f/5 120 sec.  
ISO 100, edits in LR5

## "Dirt Track Racing at Fonda Speedway" Exhibit



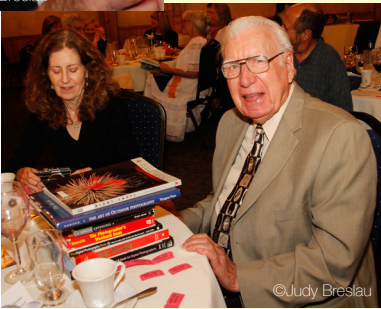
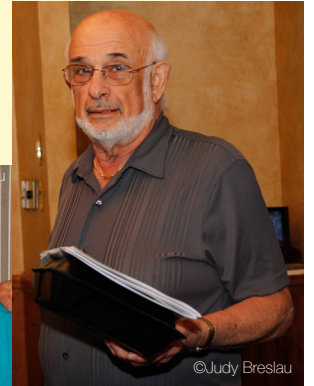
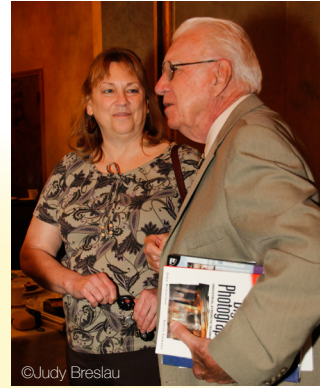
Bob Riccardo and Carol Donato's exciting photographic exhibit will be hanging at the Burnt Hills Library for the month of August. Check it out!





# PARTY TIME!

A good time was had by all at our End-of-Season Banquet and Awards Dinner at Treviso in Albany.





## COMING IN OCTOBER...

**October 1st**

Creativity Panel Discussion  
Print Group Competition  
(Assigned Topic: The Backyard)

**October 8th**

Deyva Arthur  
"Outside Looking In"  
Projected Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Minimal)

**October 15th**

Speaker: Jim Craner  
"Exploring Digital  
Work flow"

**October 22nd**

"Photo Essay" - What and How  
by Connie Frisbee Houde

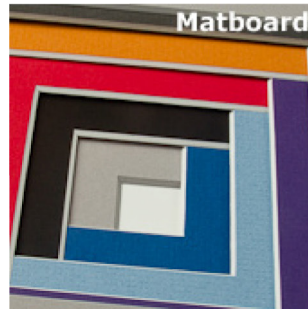
**October 29th**

Mentoring Night:  
Portrait Lighting and Posing  
by John Bolletin and  
Dave Bennett

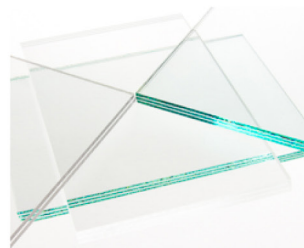
Watch for the September Focus  
for details!

**www.FrameDestination.com**

972-479-1188



- Wood & Metal Frames
- Mat Board
- Mount Board
- Acrylic & Glass
- Clear Bags for Matted Prints
- Tape/Tissue
- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
- Photo Corners



***Your Source For Fine-Art Photo Frames!***

## Photo Biographies Wanted!

We would like to feature "photo biographies" in future editions of the *Focus*...one of an "older" club member and another of a "newer" club member. You could include a bit of your background, years with the club, a small head shot of yourself (i.e. your Facebook photo or similar), your "photographic background" (i.e. what you enjoy shooting, equipment, etc.) and two or three of your favorite photos (with captions/explanations).

It will be a great way for us to get to know each other... "old" and "new." **How about you?** Send your photos, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768 at 300 ), and text to:

***FocusEditor@icloud.com***



Please support our advertisers and sponsors...

## Innerwood Gallery

Picture Framing  
by  
Gayle Bennett

*"Where your treasured art is  
creatively enhanced and  
carefully protected for your  
enjoyment for years to come."*

**399-8504**

1021 Saratoga Rd./ Rte. 50  
Ballston Lake, NY 12019  
innerframer@yahoo.com  
www.innerwoodgallery.com

## Digital Imaging Services by Jim Craner

- Large Format Archival Inkjet Printing
- High Resolution Scanning
- Photoshop and Lightroom Tutoring
- Color Management Consulting
- Print Mounting, Matting and Framing

65 Bentley Drive • Troy, New York 12182  
518 235-2754 or 518 526-2253  
E-mail: renarc@aol.com

# PHOTO & VIDEO Hunt's

EST. 1889



Call  
**800-924-8682**  
**Ext. 2332**  
**ask for**  
**Gary Farber**

**FOR OUR VERY LATEST**

## HOT SPECIALS

Visit our website at

**huntsphotoandvideo.com**

and sign-up to receive Hunt's eMail Specials

## 5 REASONS TO BUY FROM HUNT'S

1. COMPETITIVE PRICING
2. PERSONALIZED SERVICE
3. FAST SHIPPING
4. WE SHIP TO YOUR DESTINATION
5. SAME DAY SHIPPING UNTIL 3PM ET

## Vitamins, Minerals & Herbal Medications

Best quality for your health  
with DaVinci Labs through  
Dr. Jeff Perkins

**www.albanypreventdoc.com**

**2014-2015**  
**Print Assigned Topics**



<b>2014</b>	
<b>October</b>	<b>The Backyard</b> <i>Show us what's in your backyard (or your neighbor's).</i>
<b>November</b>	<b>Technology Rules</b> <i>Show us how technology is important in our lives.</i>
<b>December</b>	<b>Trick or Treat</b> <i>Show us how you celebrate Halloween</i>
<b>2015</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>People Taking Photos</b> <i>Unique images of those "other" photographers.</i>
<b>February</b>	<b>Hip to be Square</b> <i>Show us some squares, but don't get boxed in.</i>
<b>March</b>	<b>Doors</b> <i>I'll take door #3. What door do you take?</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>Shadows</b> <i>Don't be afraid of the noon-time sun.</i>
<b>May</b>	<b>Print of the Year</b>



**2014-2015**  
**Projected Image Assigned Topics**

<b>2014</b>	
<b>October</b>	<b>Minimal</b> <i>Images with simple or primary forms.</i>
<b>November</b>	<b>Coffee, Tea or...</b> <i>Show us your favorite beverage.</i>
<b>December</b>	<b>Monochrome</b> <i>Varying tones of only one color.</i>
<b>2015</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>Take Five</b> <i>Idiom's figurative meaning, or literal interpretation.</i>
<b>February</b>	<b>On the Fence</b> <i>Undecided or literal meaning.</i>
<b>March</b>	<b>"X" Marks the Spot</b> <i>Need some form of an "X" in the image.</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>Out of the Blue</b> <i>Sudden, unexpected occurrence; or something blue.</i>
<b>May</b>	<b>Projected Image of the Year</b>

**Have Something to Contribute?**

Been somewhere special, taken some great images, or just want to share some photo knowledge with club members?  
Please contact me (Linda Tommasulo) with articles, comments or suggestions:  
**FocusEditor@icloud.com**  
Thank you!



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015**

President and Photo Essay	
Group Chair .....	Connie Frisbee Houde <i>globalphotographer@me.com</i>
Vice President.....	TBA
Treasurer.....	Pat McCormick <i>patrickmccormick_59@verizon.net</i>
Corresponding Secretary .....	Bob Riccardo <i>bobric10@verizon.net</i>
Recording Secretary.....	Colleen Magai <i>csm_pa@yahoo.com</i>
Co-Director at Large and Webmaster .....	Bob Gough <i>rcgough@gmail.com</i>
Co-Director at Large.....	Kim Koza <i>kkoza@silhouetteimages.com</i>
Newsletter Editor.....	Linda Tommasulo <i>focuseditor@icloud.com</i>
Annual Report Editor and Print Group Co-Chair .....	Sean Sullivan <i>sullise@gmail.com</i>
Print Group Co-Chair .....	Rebekah Sokol <i>rebekah.b.sokol@gmail.com</i>
Projected Image Co-Chairs.....	David Avigdor <i>davigdor@me.com</i> and ..... Jeff Plant
Mentoring Group Chair.....	Dave Bennett <i>studio_50@ymail.com</i>
Membership Chair.....	Cynthia Placek <i>cynthiaplacek@gmail.com</i>
Judge Coordinator Chair.....	Ron Ginsburg <i>lginsbu1@nycap.rr.com</i>
Inter-Club Coordinator Chair .....	Phil Olivo <i>polivo@nycap.rr.com</i>

**COORDINATORS**

Refreshment Coordinators .....	Judy Breslau <i>jbreslau@verizon.net</i> and ..... John Ogden <i>johnogden@verizon.net</i>
Smart Phone Competition.....	Jeff Perkins <i>Perkster46@yahoo.com</i>
Traveling Exhibit Coordinator .....	Dow Smith <i>dowsmith323@gmail.com</i>