

LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY — MONTHLY COMPETITIONS VOTING PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

Voting Procedure

1. Competition entries are judged by the vote of the general membership present and, unless otherwise announced, by guests present at the meeting. Voting is accomplished as follows:
2. Each voter shall select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place from among the entries in each category. Round, colored plastic tokens are used for voting — blue for 1st place, red for 2nd place, and white for 3rd place, for each category. The voter will thus use 3 tokens for each category of competition.
3. Each entry in each category of competition is assigned a number. Small cardboard receptacles, also numbered, will be displayed for each entry in each category.
4. For each photo selected, the voter will insert the appropriate token into the receptacle displaying the number corresponding to the entry number of the photo being voted for.
5. Final vote totals and winners will be determined by the ballot and competition committee and announced before the conclusion of the membership meeting.

Guidelines for Judging

The evaluation and judging of photographs can understandably be very subjective. In an attempt to provide some degree of consistency, LPS has developed the following guidelines to be applied to judging the monthly competitions. The guidelines are just that — guidelines — to assist you in making informed decisions in your voting. These guidelines are the same for all LPS competitions.

Entries to LPS competitions are judged according to: **Aesthetics, Originality and Technical Aspects.**

- **Aesthetics** is a measure of the degree of attraction. Up to 60% of your score for a photo could be given for aesthetics. Does the image grab your attention? Does it convey an idea? Does the image illuminate the LPS theme (if any) for that month? Is the composition interesting? For portraits, is the personality of the subject communicated to the viewer? If photojournalistic in nature, does the image tell a story; does it convey the drama, humor or truth of a situation? For sports, does the image portray action, excitement, skill or athletic ability? (A high score in aesthetics does not necessarily mean that you like the image or would purchase it.)

- **Originality** is a measure of the degree of the uniqueness and creativity of the image. Up to 20% of your score could be given for originality. Considering the billions of photographs that have been made, truly original photographs will be rare, but competition entries should not be obvious copies of another work. Originality may be subtle, especially with regard to abstraction, expression, lighting and the situation. (Don't discount an image just because you have seen something like it; however, if you have seen many similar images, then giving less credit for originality may be warranted.)
- **Technical Aspects** are a measure of the degree of the skills of the photographer with regard to selected use of lighting, contrast, color, focus, sharpness, exposure, camera held steady, etc. Technical aspects could be worth up to approximately 20% of your score. (This is not meant to be a measure of any particular rules of composition. Technical excellence may be a part of the aesthetic appeal of the image; for example, blurring to demonstrate movement, out-of-focus areas to emphasize the subject, graininess for effect, etc.)

How closely one adheres to the weight given for each category described above is up to the voter, but it is suggested that you use a 10-point system for scoring the entries in each category. When you have finished your scoring, award 1st, 2nd and 3rd places according to your top scores among the entries in each category.