

Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Clubs



AM-CENTER CAMERA CLUB, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY
BATAVIA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, BATAVIA, NY
CANYON CAMERA CLUB, PERRY, NY
NIAGARA FALLS CAMERA CLUB, NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.
ROCHESTER CAMERA CLUB, ROCHESTER NEW YORK
ST. CATHARINES CAMERA CLUB, ST. CATHARINES, ONT.

SCIENCE CENTER, CAMERA CLUB, BUFFALO, NY
SOUTH TOWNS CAMERA CLUB, HAMBURG, NY
TWIN CITIES CAMERA CLUB, N. TONAWANDA, NY
TWIN TIER CAMERA CLUB OLEAN, NY
WELLAND CAMERA CLUB, WELLAND, ONT.

Minutes of the Board of Directors April 19, 2009 Holiday Inn, Grand Island, New York

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 1:45 PM.

In attendance were Executive Board Members:

President	Larry Stevenson
Vice President	Randy Zack
Secretary	Raymond Kaczmarek
US Treasurer	Chuck Vallone
Canadian Treasurer	Leslie Khan
Past President	Jim Dusen/absent

Clubs were represented as follows:

AM CENTER	Moragh Stroud
BATAVIA	Tim Dusen
CANYON	Joan Schumaker
NIAGARA FALLS	Terry Babij
ROCHESTER	Lois Trieb
ST. CATHARINES	Glen Holden
SCIENCE MUSEUM	Mary Lou Frost
SOUTH TOWNS	Ray Kaczmarek
TWIN CITIES	Anne K.C. McCooley
TWIN TIER	Alex M Grimes
WELLAND	Tom Linton

I Review and approval of March 08 2009 minutes

The minutes were sent out in advance of the meeting and were also distributed among the members. One correction was noted as to the correct spelling of Madolyn Tait. After a brief review, the minutes were accepted as read.

- Mary Lou Frost inquired about a recognition award to Jay Milhouse, from the Canadian Counsel for his generous donation to the NFRCC. It was noted that such an award was given at the Convention.

II-Review of Canadian & US Treasurer Report

The Chair recognized Les Khan, Canadian Treasurers.

Les gave his report showing a balance of \$23,912. Most deposits are included from the Convention and Pay Pal. Expenses from speakers' fees were noted. The ending balance at the end of the year was \$10,049.00. He noted that we have an additional amount of \$23,000. in the GIC account.

Les mentioned that he received a bill for tax on the amount of \$478.00 A further inquiry will be made into the ruling of our organization status as it applies to the tax.

The chair recognizes Chuck Vallone , US Treasurer.

Chuck gave a balance of \$18,444.81, in the checking and an ending balance of \$20,561.69 as of 3/31/09.

He also noted that statement rendered by Art Theobald, reflected that all of the checks and balances reviewed in his possession of the Financial Reports of both US and Canadian Treasury were all in order.

II-Old business

IV-Final Convention Report

In the absence of the Convention registrar, an attempt was made to compile some results from the box of information sent along from Rochester Camera Club. Larry Stevenson admitted his negligence in inviting Michelle Turner to the meeting. Chuck Vallone said he would review the paper work to affirm the proper registration amount. He needed to compare the fact and figures to determine actual number of attendees. This information would help in the process of establishing a budget for the upcoming Convention in 2010.

An inquiry could also be made into insurance costs for cancellation of the event if it came to be. Questions as to what amount of liability is put on the NFRCC if the programs had to be cancelled prior to the actual day in terms of room rentals and other cost.

- President Larry Stevenson suggested that Chuck Vallone forward an exact amount to the recording secretary, so it can be noted in the minutes.

He suggested that the clubs as separate entities could take the initiative to do it one time. (That is to run the Convention). With the financial support of the NFRCC, it would be possible to put on the entire event. He also suggested going back to the membership and discuss these initiatives.

- Ann McCooey went over the evaluation forms received after the Convention. Of the 27 replies returned, the comments were too lengthy to mention but she would send out e-mails to anyone who wanted to review a copy. She suggested a change of format for the evaluation forms so they could be made in an e-mail post Convention survey.

- Randy Zack noted that a similar questionnaire was offered at the Fall Seminar. A prize was offered to a person whose name was drawn from the entries of filled out questionnaires
- Mary Lou Frost mentioned the disappointment of print competitors whose images were not being displayed for “Peoples Choice Awards”. It was noted that any print that did not score above a certain amount would not be considered due to lack of space. As it turned out, the print chairmen commented that there was only a small pile of no more than thirty photos eliminated. Mary Lou also suggested going back to submitting a lesser number of entries. However, after much discussion, it was decided that a solution would be to add a table or rack to display the additional prints. If the table rental fee required by the hotel would be prohibitive, we would have to negotiate a new fee if required as equipment rental.
- If there is a way to give an award for Peoples Choice in the slide salon group, a method could be worked prior to next year’s convention. Tim Dusen and his panel will discuss the possibility.
- President Larry Stevenson discussed the need for a state of the art digital projector to be purchased by the NFRCC to be used only at NFRCC functions approved by the Board. With approval of a **voice vote**, a motion was made and seconded, to look into and purchasing a proper digital slide projector for the region to be used specifically for presenting Seminars and Convention activities.

Larry Stevenson said he would do all research necessary to come up with a suitable purchase with the latest technology for the upcoming year depending upon the budget.

- President **Larry Stevenson will Chair the 2011 Convention along with Ann McCooey** as co-chair for the anniversary event. She will advise Larry on a budget proposal for this event which will be larger than previous years. A possibility of a package deal might be under consideration to appeal to a larger base. A proposal was made for a panel to look toward the 2011 Convention to assess future needs to accommodate more attendees.
- Ann McCooey would like to spearhead a strategic planning committee to answer the needs to plan for future questions, which will arise. Subjects to included advertising and demographics.
- Chuck Vallone gave an update on the Convention totals. So far a profit \$3000.00 from the raffles were realized. He also looked at the results graphically, but needed most definitive statistics as to dollar amounts taken in as receipts, donations and raffles. In response to due diligence in reporting sponsors activity. Randy Zack outlining all the names and dollar amounts for future reference must supply a proper spreadsheet. It must also include the advertising in the Speakers Notes for accountability purposes.

V-St. Catharines Photographic Club

The Chair recognizes Glen Holden, President of St. Catharines Camera Club. The following pre-printed document was submitted and read by Glen Holden.

Statement to the Niagara Frontier Camera Clubs

Re: questionable image submission

A special executive meeting of the St. Catharines Photographic Club was held on Monday, April 13 to review the issue of the image of questionable origin provided by one of the members and subsequently submitted to the NFRCC as a club entry in interclub competitions.

Upon examination of the maker’s image and the comparison image taken from the internet, and discussion held with the image maker, it is the executive’s opinion that the image is questionable in origin

and it cannot be established without reasonable doubt that the image submitted resulted directly from an original image taken by the image maker.

Consequently, as a quorum of the executive was present at the meeting, the following recommendations were proposed and accepted by the St. Catharines Photographic Club executive.

Resolution 1- Apology to the NFRCC

Resolved that the present president attend the next NFRCC meeting and on behalf of the St. Catharines Photographic Club, present a formal apology for the submission of an image that cannot be verified as the sole work of the image maker.

Resolution 2- Withdrawal from NFRCC Competition

Resolved that the present president offer, on behalf of the club, to voluntarily withdraw all club submissions to the NFRCC for the competition year 2008-2009. The present president to discuss with the NFRCC executive what penalties that may be subsequently decided by the NFRCC and advise the St. CPC executive.

Resolution 3- Guidelines for Submission of Images

Resolved that the St. Catharines Photographic Club rules, regulations, constitution, bylaws and other documents be modified to incorporate the following resolutions substantially as follows:

- images submitted to the St. Catharines Photographic Club for consideration in competitions, clinics, judging and other rating purposes shall be, in all aspects, the sole works of the submitter.
- The submitter shall be required to provide proof of such upon request. Proof shall be considered to be one or more of the following:
 - o Provision of the original slide or negative from which the image was taken (in the case of scanned images)
 - o Provision of a copy of the original RAW or JPEG image complete with the attached Metafile or similar embedded documentation providing at least: the make and model of the camera used to take the image, and the date and time the image was taken.
 - o In the case of composite images including Photomontages, HDR images and panoramas, provision of at least 2/3's of the original source(s) as stated above.
- By submission of images to the St. Catharines Photographic Club for consideration in competitions, clinics, judging and other rating purposes, internal or external to the club, the image maker shall be deemed to have agreed to the above conditions.

Resolution 4- Procedure and Penalties Assessed

Resolved that, if the image maker cannot establish the above proof of sole works by the submitter the following penalties shall be assessed:

- if the image maker is aware that proof cannot be established, and the image in question is withdrawn before any judging or evaluation is conducted, penalties to be assessed will be decided by the St. CPC executive. Withdrawal shall consist of immediate notification to the appropriate clinic or competitions chairperson by verbal communication immediately followed by notification of such in writing. For further clarification, e-mail communications shall be considered as notification by writing.

- If the image has been judged or evaluated and upon request, the above proof cannot be provided, the member shall be penalized as follows:
 - o All points and awards resulting from the member's submissions of images in the current competition year shall be considered null and void.
 - o The member cannot submit images in subsequent club completions, judging or evaluation and cannot submit images to external competitions, judging or evaluations while representing themselves as a member of or on behalf of the St. CPC.
 - o The member cannot hold executive office in the St. CPC.
 - o The image maker's club membership may be revoked as decided by the St. CPC executive for a period as determined by the St. CPC executive.

Resolution 5: Publication

Resolved that the above rules be provided in writing to the St CPC club members prior to the start of the 2009-2010 competition season by printed amendment. Such rules to be incorporated into the next revision of the club constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations.

Resolution 6: Discussion with the NFRCC

President to discuss with the NFRCC executive, the possibility of establishing a uniform policy relating to submission of images by all the clubs within the NFRCC. Recommendations of the NFRCC executive will be considered at the next St. CPC executive meeting and may modify the above resolutions.

Resolution 7: Limited Disclosure

Based upon discussions with the image maker, the executive of the St. CPC believe that the image was entered without intent to deceive and represents an honest mistake on the marker's part, and further, in consideration of the maker's previous contribution to the St. Catharines Photographic Club, the NFRCC and the art of photography in general, that the name of the maker be provided only to the executive of the St. Catharines Photographic Club and the executive of the NFRCC on a need to know basis.

Submitted, on behalf of the St. Catharines Photographic Club

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Glenn D. Holden, President.

- President Larry Stevenson heard a reading of the letter and after a brief discussion with the Board members accepted an apology from the club and noted that there will be no penal action taken at this time. It was decided that there was no intent on behalf of the person's entry to be counterfeit or plagiaristic.
- A motion made by Ann McCooley to not take any further punitive action against St. Catharines Camera Club or its members and accept the apology at this time and to withdraw the said image from the competition. Second by Joan Shumaker.
- A resolution submitted by Mary Lou Frost to include in the Program Book and on the websites an outline of the rules and regulations with the penalty in the event of an image deemed questionable for submission into the Slide Salon competition if the proper proof of authenticity

backed up by the actual slide or digital file including file information and copyright information is not provided by the image maker. The consequences of such falsifying entry will be applied.

- Glen Holden said he would submit a letter to Mary Lou Frost outlying these penalties and rules pertaining to Resolution 3.
- Karl Miller asked for a clarification of Resolution #3 pertaining to the actual content of the image if it was a totally composite montage all or in part. At least two-thirds of the image should be the photographer's work.

In other related topics, it was mentioned because of some discrepancies in the Print salon Entries. A typical submission of a model shoot, or workshop set up, may not be considered an image valid in the competitions if it is not the entire work of the photographer. Because of lighting adjustment and posing of the subject, it cannot be considered a valid work as such. Some discretion in the field must be taken under consideration.

- Joan Shumaker mentioned the "Dream Day" event where birds of prey are photographed and there is little control over the actions of the animals.

VI-Change of Article Six-Fiscal Year

At a past meeting, Randy Zack inquired about a resolution to change the fiscal date in the NFRCC Constitution.

As it reads,

"The fiscal year shall be from September 1st of one calendar year to August 31st of the following calendar year"

- President Larry Stevenson would like to see a date to coincide with the new Board takeover so there can be no conflict when decisions about upcoming events come into play. It was suggested that a May 1, of the calendar year be the start of the new Board, which would make April 30th of the following year the last day of the existing board.
- Mary Lou would like the fiscal year to be June 1st of the calendar year and that would conclude on May 30th of the following year. This would give time for the executive board to finalize the business of that year.

Motion made to replace the wording in the Constitution to reflect the dates as mentioned above.

Second by Ann McCooey.

VII- Anne McCooey-Judging

In order to meet the demands of qualifying judges in inter club competitions, it was suggested that qualifying and quantifying measures be undertaken to train perspective judges. In order to accomplish this end, a set of guidelines and criteria should be available to anyone who wants to be on the "list" for future competitions .A master list could be created to form a pool of judges to rotate within the clubs. There are classes given by CAPA, regarding this training.

The question brought before the board members and NFRCC- is there a need to pursue this type of education, which might also be available in the states as a prerequisite for qualifying judges?

All the members were asked to respond to the question of Qualifying Judges for the inner club competitions.

- In the end, Chuck Vallone asked to form a panel of at least four people who meet the requirements and their abilities could be discussed and do some group sharing of ideas on the question at hand.
- President Larry Stevenson recommended choosing a couple of prospects to attend the class.
- Ann McCooley thought it would be better to leave it up to the individual clubs to train their own judges.
- President Stevenson agreed education is paramount but keeping an open mind when judging weighs heavy in determining fairness in scoring.
- Ann McCooley made the motion that Twin Cities take the leadership role on investigating options for training potential judges through the NFRCC clubs and come back with the recommendations so that Board could make the decision as to what steps to take to this end.

Second by Mary Lou Frost.

VIII-Leslie Khan-Club Funding

The chair recognizes Les Khan from Niagara Falls Camera Club.

The following proposal was entered in the minutes.

“A total grant of \$1000.00 (US for the US Clubs and CDN for Canadian Clubs) be made available to each of the existing members clubs of the NFRCC (as of April 2009) subject to the following restrictions.”

The grant can be used by the clubs for:

- Purchase of an approved digital projector
- Purchase of a laptop computer
- Purchase of associated software/hardware for use with the computer/projector
- Payment for program/workshop that would normally be too expensive
- Educational programs

This grant can be applied for anytime during the next three years.

To receive remunerations, the club must submit to the board on the Grant Application Form.

- Brand name, model ,model number of the computers/projector and price
- List of software and price
- List of any other hardware and prices
- In case of programs/workshop, the name of the presenter, topic and cost

The discussion went around the room and it was concluded that the clubs could apply for the grants in line with an application to the board under the guidelines suggested. This would give the opportunity to fulfill the mission set out by the NFRCC.

- Randy Zack wasn’t sure that the balance between club participation and money granted would justify the amount suggested.
- President Stevenson warned that we must protect the funds acquired through the years and that all legal responsibilities could be met by the US and Canadian Clubs. The clubs status as a non for profit organization should be maintained.

- A motion made by Les Khan to adopt the measure with the input from the executive board members voting with the exception where a majority of the committee is from one club. In order to make use of the funds this year an application form produced by Joan Shumaker could be sent to the executive committee. The changes will be included in the new form.
 - The motion stands as follows; The grant application go to the business committee for action and implementation by next September, so it can be put into place for the upcoming year with the understanding that it is being reviewed and approved by the committee meaning the Executive Board as it stands today.
- Second by Mary Lou Frost.
- The question was called on to amend the motion just made to add Erie Camera club to the list. Being that it is a standing rule, there is no need to go beyond this decision.

IX-Terry Babij Niagara Falls –Change in Standing Rule #2

The chair recognizes Terry Babij from Niagara Falls Camera Club.

Motion to amend Standing Rule #2 of the Constitution:

“This is a motion to amend Standing Rule #2 of the Constitution in order to reflect the changes of the filenames as they will be submitted to the slide chairman for the interclub competitions.”

“Propose to change the section titled McKellar Competition to the following.”

For (4) per NFRCC year each club submits (6) images from (6) six different makers. The club with the highest total score at the end of the four (4) individual competitions is awarded the McKellar Trophy for that year. Each entry must be labelled in accordance with the following format:

##_XX_Maker_Name_Image Title.jpg

Where ## is the two digit image number from 01-06 followed by an underscore (_) followed by the two digit club code followed by an (_) underscore followed by the image title.

Club codes are the following:

- AC Am-Center Camera Club
- BA Batavia Photography Club
- CA Canyon Camera Club
- CR Camera Rochester
- NF Niagara Falls Camera Club
- SC St. Catharines Photographic Club

SM Science Museum Camera Club

ST South Towns Camera Club

TC Twin Cities Camera Club

TT Twin Tier Camera Club

WE Welland Camera Club

Propose to change point four of the selection titled Golden Horseshoe Competition to the following:

4. Images entered in the Golden Horseshoe must be named in the same way as the McKellar Competition using the image numbers 01-020.

X-For the good of the organization

The following was a letter written by Chris Empey from Niagara Falls Camera Club to the NFRCC President, Larry Stevenson.

Dear Larry,

It is with great disappointment that I write to you today. Whether it was due to an oversight, or because of a personality conflict, Niagara Fall was overlooked in being asked to host a speaker at this year's convention. This in itself is not an issue, what is at issue however is that while you have failed to recognize Niagara Falls, the founding club of the NFRCC, as a host club, you have asked the Erie Photography Club to host a speaker. We feel this to another divisive action on the part of our current executive and shows poor leadership in striving to continue to uphold a cooperative venture between the clubs of the NFRCC and the NFRCC itself.

While I was unable to host a speaker at this year's convention, there were other willing and capable members of the Niagara Falls Camera Club who would be honoured to host one of our valued speakers, including our Vice President, Terry Babij and our Program/Newsletter Chair, and Canadian Treasurer of the NFRCC, Leslie Khan.

I would also like to take this time express my displeasure with a telephone call I had wit Randy Zack on February 24, 2009. During this call Randy asked me to ensure that next year when I would like to bring forward a motion to an executive meeting that I contact him first to see if we cannot resolve the issue before going to the meeting as he did not wish to have any "controversial or trivial matters"

brought up at future meetings. I am extremely disappointed in this phrasing as it leads me to believe that the matters I have brought up before the Board of Directors have been considered either controversial or trivial. I feel very strongly that the matters I have brought before the Board of Directors have been done so in the best interest of the Niagara Regional Camera Clubs and in no way should they be considered trivial. I cannot apologize if they have stirred controversy among our members though, and view them lively and sometimes heated debates as a testament to the validity that those motions had, whether received favourable support or not.

The NFRCC Board of Directors is compromised of 17 people who have volunteered their time to represent the clubs from which they come and to make the NFRCC a better organization while striving to work toward meeting our stated objectives. It is only with decorum and respect to each other and every member that we can make this happen.

- President Larry Stevenson's response to the letter was that he wasn't aware that all clubs need be represented. Randy thought that it was a total oversight and will take some responsibility. Ann McCooey said there is some accountability necessary and will make sure that next year this will be addressed.

XI-New Business. -Erie Camera Club

- During this discussion a motion was made by Mary Lou Frost, nominating **Ann McCooey** as Convention Chair for the 2010 NFRCC Convention. Second by Tim Dusen.
- President Larry Stevenson read a request for application by the Erie Pa. Camera Club President, Patty Raydo to be admitted as a Club affiliated with the NFRCC. Although proper procedure was not abided by, **refer to Article 3 of the NFRCC, Constitution**: no negative responses were received.

Some considerations for attending meetings and inability to attend because of inclement weather were their concerns. Ann McCooey said there was a possibility of video conferencing of such meetings at a nominal cost through the hosting facility.

(Note; There must be provisions made in the by Laws to make this possible).

In response, a motion made by **Secretary Ray Kaczmarek**, to approve the acceptance of Erie Camera Club provided that all of the prescribed fees be paid in full before the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Dusen. All members voice voted and approved at this time.

- President Larry Stevenson complied and will send out e-mail to the Club President approving the acceptance.
- Rochester Camera Club thought they were overlooked at previous meetings at some point; however, President Stevenson assured them they were given a gracious acceptance at the very first meeting.
- Mary Lou passed out an information sheet to the officers asking that each club submit the proper information for the Program Book by July 31st 2009 so that she can get the Books printed in time for the first meeting in September. She requested that the information be sent in MS Word so any editing could be made. A proof copy will be sent back to all clubs in a PDF file for approval.

The next scheduled meetings will take place as follows;

9-13-09 11-1-09 1-17-10 4-4-10 5-16-10.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Raymond Kaczmarek, NFRCC Secretary