

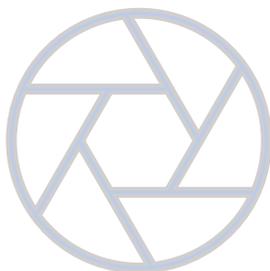


Member Handbook 2025 – 2026

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Mission

The Peoria Camera Club (PCC or the Club) was founded in 1954. The Mission of the Club is to promote, encourage, and share techniques, ideas and friendships that foster the art and science of photography. Club members meet regularly to exchange information and ideas about still photography and to participate in competitions and programs.

Peoria Camera Club is affiliated with the Central Illinois Camera Clubs Association (CICCA). This affiliation offers additional opportunities for our members to compete.

Membership

Membership in the Club is open to any person 16 and older who has an interest in photography. Renewals are due by or at the first meeting of the fiscal year that is from July 1 to June 30. Dues must be paid by October 31 to be a member “in good standing”. If a new member joins in April through June 30, their membership includes the upcoming year.

Membership classes are:

- Individual \$25 – 18+ years old and the benefits are to:
 - Attend meetings and outings, and can invite guests,
 - Compete in Club competitions,
 - Serve on the Board of Directors.
- Student \$10 – 16 to 17 years old.
 - A parent/adult must attend meetings and outings with the student.
 - Student membership is eligible for Club competitions.

Meetings

The heart and soul of the club are the Club meetings. Typically, they are held on the first and third Tuesdays at 7pm from September through May. We show competition results and present programs. We have a picnic in August and banquets in December and May where members can bring guests and enjoy social time. Visitors are welcome at our meetings.

Program topics may include:

- Camera settings
- Composition
- Post-processing
- Mounting and matting prints
- Techniques
- B&W

The schedule is on our website www.peoriacameraclub.com. Look dates up on our Google Calendar or download the schedule. Members receive the club newsletter “PhotoChatter” in their email to keep informed. The president sends informational and reminder emails when needed.

PhotoOutings

Our PhotoOutings may be in Peoria, nearby, or occasionally overnight. Outings are a great way to socialize and improve camera skills.

Competitions

Our photo competitions enable members to participate with both digital and printed images and receive feedback from the judge. Most competition results are shown at our meetings and occasionally on our website. We start the year with a program about what you should know about competitions and what to expect in the year.

Detailed information can be found in our e-booklet “Competition Rules and Guidelines.” Find it in the password protected “Members Only” tab on our website.

Awards

Awards recognize members for their service, participation, and performance within the club. Plaques, certificates, and sometimes recognition in the PhotoChatter newsletter are used as a means of congratulating and honoring these members for their achievements in the Club.

Kisner Award

The Kisner Award was created to honor an excellent photographer, especially in nature photography, whose special quality was sharing. Thurl (Jack) Kisner was always willing to share his knowledge.

The Kisner Award is presented as a certificate to a club member who participates most and performs best overall in club competitions. The Kisner Award Certificate is typically presented at the End of Year Banquet.

Read more in our “Competition Guide”.

Club Year	Kisner Award Recipient	Club Year	Kisner Award Recipient
2009	Tom Ruhland	2013	Tom Romanowski
2010	Pete Anderton	2014	Bill Snyder
2011	Veronica Anderton	2015	Tom Romanowski
2012	Tom Ruhland	2016	Joe Virbickis & Crystal Johnson

Club Year	Kisner Award Recipient	Club Year	Kisner Award Recipient
2017	Tom Romanowski	2026	
2018	Jim Walker	2027	
2019	unknown	2028	
2020	covid shut down	2029	
2021	Jeanette Kosier	2030	
2022	Joe Virbickis	2031	
2023	LaDean Spring	2032	
2024	Joe Virbickis	2033	
2025	Joe Virbickis	2034	

Irv and Esther Slonneger Service Award

Peoria Camera Club charter members, Irv and Esther Slonneger, received an award, December 1976, to appreciate and commemorate their twenty-two years of leadership and contribution to the Club. The Slonneger Service Award has since become an honorary award presented as a plaque for outstanding and unselfish service to the Peoria Camera Club.

This award is not an annual award, and no minimum time of service is required. However, the recipient must possess proficiency in the art of photography with the key factor for selection being the outstanding service provided to the Club.

Any club member may nominate a fellow member by writing a letter to the President, by November 1st, stating the reasons for nomination. The Board of Directors will review all nominations and make a decision at the November board meeting. If no nomination letters are received, the Board of Directors may select a member for the award. A plaque is presented to the recipient at the Christmas Banquet.



December of Year	Slonneger Award Recipient	December of Year	Slonneger Award Recipient
1976	Irv & Esther Slonneger	2017	Jeanette Kosier
1999	Scott Dunham	2018	Tom Ruhland
2000	Don Webster	2019	Vicki Padesky
2001	Vicki Padesky	2020	Ray Keithley
2003	Carl Close	2021	Tom Ruhland
2004	Vicki Padesky	2022	Dave Clark
2005	Pete Anderton	2023	LaDean Spring
2006	Rich Seeman	2024	Ray Keithley
2007	Tom Ruhland	2025	
2008	Bill Goad	2026	
2009	Steve Herrick	2027	
2010	Tom Romanowski	2028	
2011	Jack Weidman	2029	
2012	Sam Black	2030	
2013	Sue Marx	2031	
2014	Carl Close	2032	
2015	Ray Keithley	2033	
2016	Joe Virbickis	2034	



Presidents Honor Roll

Recognizing the members who have committed themselves to the highest leadership role in our Club.

Year ending	Past Presidents		Year ending	Past Presidents
1998	Scott Dunham		2016	Joe Virbickis
1999	Vicki Padesky		2017	Dave Bowers
2000	Carl Close		2018	Crystal Johnson
2001	Rick Ellis		2019	Dave Bowers
2002	Jan Gresham		2020	Steve Herrick
2003	Pete Anderton		2021	Ray Keithley
2004	Pete Anderton		2022	Ray Keithley
2005	Carl Close		2023	Joe Virbickis
2006	Richard Seeman		2024	Joe Virbickis
2007	Steve Herrick		2025	Joe Virbickis
2008	Steve Herrick		2026	
2009	Jim Helwig		2027	
2010	Tom Romanowski		2028	
2011	Tom Romanowski		2029	
2012	Sam Black		2030	
2013	Scott Dunham		2031	
2014	Julie Dodge		2032	
2015	Ray Keithley		2033	



Club History

The year listed represents the ending year of a Club year.

First meeting September 1954

Fifty-five Peoria area photographers meet in the Blackhawk room of the Jefferson Hotel and form the Peoria Color Camera Club. Dwight Miller is their elected President and the first and third Tuesdays of the month are established as their meeting dates.

1955 • The Constitution of the Peoria Color Camera Club is adopted on May 17th. The Peoria Color Camera Club became affiliated with Photographic Society of America (PSA) and Central Illinois Camera Clubs Association (CICCA).

1959 • Slide competition “clubs” (Regular, Bronze, Silver, and Gold) are created to allow members to compete against similarly proficient photographers and to advance as their skills develop.

1964 • Separate Nature and Pictorial slide divisions are created so photographers can compete in multiple areas. The pictorial slide division is for more general photography, while the nature slide division is a specialized subject matter.

1975 • The Print Division is formed to offer members more opportunities to develop photography techniques and skills, including how to print photographs and/or compete in the printed format.

1976 • Charter members, Irv and Esther Slonneger are presented with a special award in appreciation for their twenty-two years of contribution, leadership, and service to the Peoria Color Camera Club.

1978 • The Techniques Division is established as a development program to provide hands-on training for developing and using a range of photographic skills.

1980 • The Photojournalism slide division is created as another specialized subject area of competition for members to enhance and sharpen their storytelling capabilities. The Constitution of the Peoria Color Camera Club is amended to include many changes, which have occurred within the club over the years.

1983 • The Kisner Award was created to honor Thule (Jack) Kisner for his strong desire to share his photographic knowledge and wisdom with club members.

1998 • A Contemporary slide competition is established to provide members with more opportunities to learn and develop new photography skills and techniques. The Contemporary competition is another special photography area that allows photographers a forum to be more creative and innovative in their approach to image making. As a special competition, all club

members compete on a single level rather than in “clubs” as established in the other slide divisions.

2000 • The Contemporary slide competition is increased from one competition to two competitions, with a ribbon award for anyone achieving more than 10 acceptances.

2001 • The Techniques division becomes the Digital/Techniques Division. The Contemporary slide competition is changed to the Creative Division.

2002 • The Peoria Color Camera Club purchases a digital camera and digital slide projector to develop digital photography training programs and opportunities. In addition, the Peoria Color Camera Club amends the constitution, adjusting the available term limits of the President and other board members.

2003 • The Peoria Color Camera Club purchases a laptop computer and holds its first electronic competition (E-comp).

2006 • Club meeting structure and competitions were reorganized to facilitate the fast growth of digital image technology. The Creative division incorporates head-to-head digital and slide competition. The club moved its meeting location from Lakeview Museum to Proctor Hospital Professional Building

2007 • The Club changed its name from Peoria Color Camera Club to Peoria Camera Club to match its objectives more accurately. The name of the Pictorial slide competition was changed to Open slide to clarify the type of images acceptable in that competition. The Photojournalism competitions incorporate head-to-head slide and digital competitions.

2008 • The Club merged the competitions for Slides and Digital Images into ‘Nature’ and ‘Open’. Members can enter these competitions as slides or digital images.

2009 • After several years meeting in the Proctor Professional Building the Club moved its meeting place on January 2009 to the Christian Center as a temporary location. In September 09 the new location will be in the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

2010 • Peoria Camera Club made a historic change in its competition rules. The format of slides will no longer be accepted for any competition on the Club’s program. Members using slides must have them digitized to enter competitions.

2012 • Major changes to the Club program involved the creation of a Competition evening each month where two showings of member’s images would be made. Organization changes were made with retitling of positions and clearer assignment of tasks. Over 50 procedures were written to define who, what, when and how club activities would be run. The club handbook was redesigned to clarify and be more user friendly. New members would be given a more structured entry to the Club activities. A mentor program was introduced to provide a helpful

hand pertaining to members' questions. The Board would be increased by one adding a Competition Director and the Constitution updated to reflect the above changes.

2013 • PCC had the first competition that required the image be captured with a Smart Phone or Tablet camera. The meeting time was changed to begin at 7pm.

2014 • A member who judges a PCC competition will now receive three Kisner points for each competition they judge. Members competing in the Smart Phone competition will now receive Kisner points for that competition.

2015 • In September 2015 our Club moved to a new location in the First United Methodist Church in Peoria IL.

The Club logo was redesigned as shown here.



2016 • During the 2016-2017 club year the club Constitution was updated.

2018 • Two Theme competitions were added. These competitions count toward a member's Kisner Points. Our annual seminar that began in 1970 had the final one in 2018.

2020 • The year ended abruptly in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. No groups were allowed to meet in-person.

2021 • With in-person meetings not allowed as the Pandemic continued, we began meeting online using Zoom video conference calling and continued through the end of our Club year. We have decreased our member meetings from three to two a month.

2022 • We kept our member meetings to two a month and are now back to typically in-person. We occasionally have video conference call meetings to have a distant presenter.

2023 • We revised our Bylaws (formerly referred to as our Constitution) from the 2016 version. We now have a student membership for 16–17-year-olds that is an add-on to an Individual membership.

2024 • PCC had a print show "Colorful Visions" in the Foster Gallery at the Methodist Church. Our overriding topic for programs was "Light".

2025 • PCC celebrated 70 years. We began meeting at the Life Together Center at First Federated Church. We hosted our last PSA National Insect Salon. Our PSA membership was not renewed. Regrettably, our long participation with the Heart of Illinois Fair print competition ended.

Volunteers

Board of Directors in 2025-26		
President	Joe Virbickis	309-635-3554 jvirbickis@gmail.com
Vice-President	Paul Bierma	309-264-5791 pbierma@comcast.net
Past President	Ray Keithley	309-685-1301 rayk25@yahoo.com
Treasurer	LaDean Spring	309-241-3807 pcctreasurer2022@gmail.com
Secretary	Dan Ricks	309-645-8915 dricks56@hotmail.com
Program Director	Stephen MacLeod	309-532-5735 macleod_stephen@hotmail.com
Membership Director	Dave Clark	309-645-4489 membership@peoriacameraclub.com
Competition Director	Tom Ruhland	309-208-6609 tomr@peoriacameraclub.com
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PhotoChatter Editor	Vicki Padesky	309-696-0677 photochatter@peoriacameraclub.com
Web Manager	Tom Ruhland	309-208-6609 tomr@peoriacameraclub.com
Club Records Retention Manager	Vicki Padesky	309-696-0677 vickipadesky@comcast.net
Document Manager	Vicki Padesky	309-696-0677 vickipadesky@comcast.net

Social Chair & Snacks Coordinator	Vicki Padesky	309-696-0677 vickipadesky@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator	Lori Townzen Jill Attaway	309-349-2242 RubyZenVisions@gmail.com 309-241-3563 jsattaw@gmail.com
CICCA Representative	Tom Ruhland	309-208-6609 tomr@peoriacameraclub.com

Competition Personnel in 2025-26		
Competition Director	Tom Ruhland	309-208-6609 tomr@peoriacameraclub.com
Open Digital Handler	Tom Ruhland	309-208-6609 tomr@peoriacameraclub.com
Nature Digital Handler	Aaron James	580-504-8798 aaronbrockjames@gmail.com
Creative & Theme 2 Handler	Lori Townzen	309-349-2242 RubyZenVisions@gmail.com
Photojournalism & Theme 1 Handler	Paul Bierma	309-264-5791 pbierma@comcast.net
Print Handler	Joe Virbickis	309-635-3554 jvirbickis@gmail.com
City Landscape Handler	Andrea Monninger	309-828-1798 andreamonninger75@gmail.com
Smartphone/ Tablet Handler	Tom Ruhland	Online submission to PCC Website
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Our directory information is for PCC
and for our members to connect.
Please do not share to third parties.

Our membership on July 1, 2025.

