CTPPA Image Competition 2021-2022

Both the seasonal and Annual CTPPA Image Competition is digital to encourage more entries and to save members printing fees.

www.printcompetition.com is used to run the competition. You must register with them, but one nice benefit is that they will SEND YOU your scores. It is always best if you can attend and see the judging in person (you learn more that way), but we know that is not always possible.

View the full image competition rules:
http://www.ctppa.com/Image-Competition-Information

Rules: The tl/dr version:
- Files must be sized with 4000 pixels on longest side.
- Seasonal/Quarterly: You can enter up to 3 images/category. Top 4 = "case"
- Annual/Convention: You can enter up to 4 images/category. Top 6 = "case"
- Categories *(Image competition chairs may move images to other categories)*
  1. Portrait -- kids under 16 (posed subjects and/or controlled lighting)
  2. Portrait -- Senior (16-18) (posed subjects and/or controlled lighting)
  3. Portrait -- Animals under controlled/structured lighting
  4. Portrait –General (posed subjects and/or controlled lighting)
  5. Fine Art -- Illustrative -- landscape/nature
  6. Fine Art -- Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial
  7. Reportage (PJ images, "SOOC") Original file must be available upon request
  8. Lifestyle -- Candid images. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives. These images would be "A Day in the life of" or "The art of the everyday" with people in candid situations. No setups, models, or paid/"time for" subjects.
  9. Artistry (purpose = to demonstrate art skills. MUST include guide images. In this category (ONLY) textures, copyright free images are OK
  10. **Wedding**: must be taken in time constraints of an actual wedding
- Images taken in classroom settings/seminars/workshops NOT allowed (except by instructor). No images made under the supervision of an instructor or class assignment. Image and Editing must be self-directed.
- Previous award PPA winners/merited images not eligible (see rules; CTPPA *seasonal image winners* are permitted at the annual competition).

We are trying to follow the PPA IPC Categories as much as possible: (see category details below):

1) Portrait -- kids under 16
2) Portrait -- Senior (16-18)
3) Portrait -- Animals under structured lighting
4) Portrait –General
5) Fine Art -- Illustrative -- landscape/nature
6) Fine Art -- Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial
7) Reportage -- (Photojournalism [PJ] images, "SOOC") Original file SOOC (straight out of the camera) must be available upon request.
8) LifeStyle -- Candid images. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives. These images would be "A day in the life of" or "The art of the everyday" with people in candid situations. No setups, models, or paid/"time for" subjects. *Note this category is NOT a PPA category*
9) Artistry -- guide images required. Purpose = to demonstrate art skills.
10) Wedding -- must be taken during actual event.

1) Portrait -- Kids under 16: The human should be the main subject.
- These images typically involved posed subjects and controlled lighting.

2) Portrait -- Seniors (16-18): The human should be the main subject.
- These images typically involved posed subjects and controlled lighting.

3) Portrait – Animals under structured Lighting: The animal should be the main subject.
- These images typically involve controlled lighting (and sometimes posed subjects).

4) Portrait – General: The human should be the main subject.
- These images typically involve controlled lighting and posed subjects.
- Couples, children, HS seniors Families, Models, Fashion portraits, Groups, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Quinceañera, etc. Wedding portraits outside of the wedding actual event.

5) Fine Art Illustrative -- landscape/nature **(could be thought of more as an open category)**
- Fine Art images are mainly subjects "that can't talk back", inanimate objects including fine art, landscape, flowers, still life, animals (pet portraits go into PORTRAIT)
- Landscape/Nature - This sub-category shares joy and adventures while expressing a sense of place. Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment, zoo animals, flowers, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people can be placed here.

6) Fine Art Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial **(could be thought of more as an open category)**
- Illustrative/Commercial - images created for a commercial client to advertise a product and/or promote a brand or company. This can be architecture (an interior or exterior of a structure or within an industrial environment). Illustrative can also be conceptual images that tell a story.

7) Reportage Photojournalism PJ "SOOC" Images are pretty much SOOC (straight out of the camera)
- The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.
- ONLY basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging/burning are allowed.
- Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that have meaning on the context or record of events, high impact, and/or lasting emotional response. Images that illustrate sporting events are included herein. No paid/"tf" subjects here.
- Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite/ multiple exposure images are accepted.

8) **LifeStyle** -- Candid images. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives. These images would be "A Day in the life of" or "The Art of the Everyday" with people in candid situations. No setups, models, or paid/"time for" subjects. *Note this category is NOT a PPA category.*

9) Artistry The purpose of this competition is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills.
- The judges will place emphasis will be placed on digital, artistic, and technical proficiency.
- You MUST include guide images (images w/o guide images are scored but not eligible for awards).
- For this category (only) you may use elements like textures, stock images. The main subject must be photographed by the maker. *Note this differs from the current PPA rules.*

10) Wedding Photographs of brides and grooms (and bridesmaids & groomsmen), etc.
- **Images must be taken in direct correlation and in the time constraints of a wedding event.**
- Short Category Description (for reading at competition start)
  - All elements in the Wedding category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event.
  - For this category, Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects such as subject matter, environment, and time of day.
  - In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation may be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker.
  - Ultimately, additional consideration may be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level in spite of challenges involved at an actual wedding.
- **Entrants of this category, please read the full Category Description.**

Wedding (Full Category Description)
- **Photographs of brides and grooms (and bridesmaids & groomsmen), etc.**

- **Images must be taken in direct correlation and in the time constraints of a wedding event**

- Images must be taken in direct correlation and in the time constraints of a wedding event.

- The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter images to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. (For more information, go to PPA.com/IPC.).

- In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation may be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker.

- For this category, Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding. For example: subject matter, environment and time of day. Ultimately, additional consideration may be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level in spite of challenges involved at an actual wedding.

- Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event. Images not created during the time constraints of the actual event may be entered in Creative category.

- The entrant or entrants must have captured all elements of the final submission from that wedding. Images in the Wedding competition should reflect the personality or personalities of the subject(s) or the story of the wedding as well as the personality, artistic and technical skills of the image maker.

- Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s).

- **The original captured image (in RAW, jpg or film) must be available if requested by the competition committee.**

- The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter images to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. (For more information, go to PPA.com/IPC.) In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation may be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker.

- For this category, Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding. For example: subject matter, environment and time of day. Ultimately, additional consideration may be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level, despite challenges involved at an actual wedding.

- Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding competition must be created during the time constraints of the actual event. Images not created during the time constraints of the actual event may be entered in Fine Art category.

- The entrant or entrants must have captured all elements of the final submission from that wedding. Images in the Wedding competition should reflect the personality or personalities of the subject(s) or the story of the wedding as well as the personality, artistic and technical skills of the image maker. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s). The original captured image (in RAW, jpg or film) must be available if requested by the Print committee.

CTPPA Image Competition Rules

1) www.printcompetition.com will be used to run the competition.

   1) You must register with www.printcompetition.com, but one nice benefit is that they will SEND YOU your scores. It is always best if you can attend and see the judging in person (you learn more that way), but we know that is not always possible.

   2) Another benefit of using this system is that you can change or swap out images right up until the deadline. Note: No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed.

   3) Payment must be received at the same time or your images will not be accepted. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.

2) Images for seasonal/quarterly competition are prepared the same way for the annual competition.

   1) **Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels.**

   2) **Tip/Suggestion:** Create a 16x20x300 dpi template PPT and then drag your image onto the template to make it easier and then place your keyline (or guide images for Artistry) around your image.

3) Entrants do not need to be CTPPA members to enter.

- Only Active, Life, and Intern members are eligible for the "Photographer of the Year", Court of Honor and special awards in each category.

- Nonmembers are eligible for the Highest Scoring image by a non-member (one per category).

- The "Non-Member Competition" is open to non-CTPPA members.

- All images in the Non-Member category will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.

4) Categories: The Image Competition Categories are (see details of the categories above):

   1)   Portrait -- kids under 16
   2)   Portrait -- Senior (16-18)
   3)   Portrait -- Animals under structured lighting
   4)   Portrait –General
   5)   Fine Art -- Illustrative -- landscape/nature
   6)   Fine Art -- Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial
   7)   Reportage -- (Photojournalism [PJ] images, "SOOC") Original file SOOC (straight out of the camera) must be available upon request.
   8)   LifeStyle -- Candid images. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives. These images would be "A day in the life of" or "The art of the everyday" with people in candid situations. No setups, models, or paid/"time for" subjects. *Note this category is NOT a PPA category*
   9)   Artistry -- guide images required. Purpose = to demonstrate art skills.
   10) Wedding -- must be taken during actual event.

5) The image chair(s) has/have the right to question/reassign the category of any entry.

   1) The judges also have the right to question the category of any entry.

   2) Entries that do not fit the category or abide by the category rules may be disqualified, for example: All Artistry images must include guide images

6) Any entry that has been created from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic or any other artwork produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted or displayed.

7) If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the judges, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.

8) Images taken in classroom settings, seminars, and workshops are not allowed by any photographer other than the instructor.

   1)   No entry will be eligible if it has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment. All images submitted must be self-directed.
   2) Images created in an educational environment, in a class, or under direct supervision of an instructor are ineligible.
   3) Image can receive feedback from judges, mentors, etc. including our own Image Competition Mentor Program

9) The following images are <u>not</u> eligible:

    1) CTPPA blue ribbon winners* *(*The exception being that a print scoring 80 or above during the during any season/quarterly competitions at the local level may be re-submitted for judging on the CTPPA state level at the annual convention.)*

    2) Images that have merited and been previously submitted under one category may not be subsequently submitted under a different category.

    3) Reuben Schaller Award, Hallmark Award, Century Award, Kodak Gallery and Fuji Masterpiece winners.

    4) PPA IPC entries that have earned an 80 or above prior to the competition deadline are not eligible for entry in the seasonal or annual image competition.

    5) Entries previously merited at any PPA International Competition are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.

10) Only one entry per subject is allowed. You may not enter the same subject in different files in the same case.
    1) *Note that this is different than the 2019 IPC rules "Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts."*

11) **NOTE: If you are entering IPC or other PPA competitions, please review your image and image settings according to each competition's standards and rules.**

12) Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.

13) All processing, manipulation, etc. were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.

14) The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold CTPPA harmless against all claims & liabilities arising out of CTPPA's display, publication, & promotion or other use of each submitted image.

15) The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.

16) Entries Allowed:
    1) Seasonal:
        1. No more than 3 in each category
        2. The top 4 will count towards the makers case (Blue Case Award)
    2) Convention:
        1. No more than4 in each category.
        2. The top 6 will count towards the makers case (Blue Case Award)

17) DIGITAL Case Fee: The fee for each image for members and non-members for seasonal and annual competitions will be listed on www.printcompetition.com

18) Point System

   1) Scoring shall be based upon the following standards:

      1. Exceptional 100-95
      2. Superior 94-90
      3. Excellent 89-85
      4. Deserving of a Merit 84-80
      5. Above Average 79-75
      6. Average 74-70
      7. Below Exhibition Standards 69-65

   2) Images scoring 76-100 will earn a virtual ribbon.

      1. White 75-76 – Award of Accomplishment

      2. Red 77-79 -- Award of Excellence

      3. Blue 80+ -- Award of Expert

   3) Images scoring 80+ will be considered for Best in Show, First, Second, Third – Seasonal

   4) Images scoring 80-100 will be judged for ribbons and awards at convention.

   5) The highest scoring print will automatically receive "Best in Show", the next highest will receive "First Place" followed by "Second Place" and then "Third Place".

   6) The tops scoring images in each category are considered for Best in Show. The Convention Best in Show image is moved out of the Court of Honor and next images move up.

   7) When there are multiple images with the same score that are up for ribbons they will be reviewed by the judges to break the tie.

19) **Competition Awards**

   1) Seasonal Competition Awards

      1. **Blue Case Award**

        a. Awarded to everyone whose cases (4 images) each earn above 80. Also called the "Club320 Award" awarded for those whose 4 case images earns 80+

      2. **Best of Show, First, Second Place and Third Place within each category**

        a. Images scoring 80-100 will be judged for Best, 1st, 2nd , 3rd

      3. **Highest Scoring image by a non-member (one per category)**

        a. The "Non-Member Competition" is open to anyone who is not a member of CTPPA. All images in the Non-Member category will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.

2) End of Year Awards

1. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category – Masters and Non-Masters**

   i. Points will be tallied from the seasonal/quarterly image competitions

   a. Best in Show 6 pts

   b. 1st Place 5 points

   c. 2nd Place 4 points

   d. 3rd Place 3 points

   e. 80+ non-award images 2 points

   f. 78-79 1 point

2. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category (non-master):** Points are accumulated in the seasonal competition in each category. The photographer with the highest point score in each category will win "Photographer of the Year" for that category. The photographer in this competition may or may not be PPA Certified but they cannot be a Master.

3. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category (Master):** Points will be accumulated for all categories entered. The individual with the highest point score in all categories is "Master Photographer of the Year". The photographer in this competition must be a PPA Master. The photographer in this competition may or may not be PPA Certified.

4. **Certified Photographer of the Year (non-master):** Points will be accumulated for each category entered and the individual with the highest cumulative points will be awarded "Certified Photographer of the Year".

5. **Neophyte Photographer of the Year:** Points will be accumulated for all categories entered and the individual entering for the first time with the highest point score in all categories will win "Neophyte Photographer of the Year".

6. **Most Improved Photographer of the Year:** Points will be accumulated for all categories entered and the individual entering for two consecutive years with the highest point difference between the two years in all categories will win "Most Improved Photographer of the Year". Anyone is eligible for this award.

19). Convention Awards

    A. **A Court of Honor**: the highest scoring image in each category at the annual competition

       i.   **Non-masters**

            1)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- kids under 16

            2)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- Senior (16-18)

            3)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- Animals

            4)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -General

            5)   **Court of Honor** Fine Art -- Illustrative -- landscape/nature

            6)   **Court of Honor** Fine Art -- Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial

            7)   **Court of Honor** Reportage

            8)   **Court of Honor** Lifestyle

            9)   **Court of Honor Artistry**

            10)   **Court of Honor** Wedding

       ii.   **Mmasters**

            1)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- kids under 16

            2)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- Senior (16-18)

            3)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -- Animals

            4)   **Court of Honor** Portrait -General

            5)   **Court of Honor** Fine Art -- Illustrative -- landscape/nature

            6)   **Court of Honor** Fine Art -- Illustrative -- illustrative/commercial

            7)   **Court of Honor** Reportage

            8)   **Court of Honor** Lifestyle

            9)   **Court of Honor Artistry**

            10)   **Court of Honor** Wedding

    B. **The Treskunoff Award** is awarded to the photographer with the highest case total (highest 6)

        a.   The maker that earns the Treskunoff Award (convention) may or may not also earn a Blue case award only one plaque will be awarded. The plaque will state "This case earned a Blue Case Award (all 6 images earned 80+) and the Treskunoff Award (the highest scoring case)"

C. **The Rookie Award** is awarded to first time (convention) entrant with the highest case total (highest 6)

    a. The maker that earns the Rookie Award (convention) may or may not also earn a Blue case award only one plaque will be awarded. The plaque will state "This case earned a Blue Case Award (all 6 images earned 80+) and the Rookie Award (the highest scoring case)"

D. **Blue Case Award** A "Club480 Award" will be awarded for those whose convention case (all six case images earns 80+) at the annual convention competition.

E. Other annual awards include the: Gerri Karamesinis Award for Best Prop(s), the Reuben Schaller Award for the best portrait of a child under 16,, Roland Laramie CPP Award, and the Best B&W

F. **Highest Scoring image by a non-member (one per category)** The "Non-Member Competition" is open to non CTPPA members. All images in the Non-Member category will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.

19). Judging Procedures: Images are judged utilizing the twelve elements of a merit image:

1) **Impact --** Viewing an image for the first time always evokes some kind of feeling. Sometimes they can make us sad, happy or angry. Sometimes they force us to look inward at ourselves. That's called an impact, and the more powerful the image, the more powerful the emotional response of the viewer.

2. **Technical Excellence** -- This is the print quality of the actual image itself as it's presented for viewing. There are a lot of aspects that speak to the qualities of the physical print. These can include: Retouching, Manipulation, Sharpness, Exposure, Color correction

3. **Creativity** -- Your point of view is exactly that– yours. And it's unlike anyone else's. This element speaks directly to that perspective. It shows your imagination and how you used the medium to convey an idea, a message or a thought to the viewer. This is how you differentiate yourself from others.

4. **Style** -- There are many, many ways to apply this element to your work. Maybe you use light in a specific way on a subject, or maybe you make a technical decision for the express purpose of underscoring desired impact. When subject matter and style come together in an appropriate manner, the effects on an image can be spectacular. But remember, when subject matter and style don't work together, the results can be, well, less-than-spectacular.

5. **Composition** -- When all the visual elements of an image come together to express intent, that's when the magic of composition happens. Good composition captures a viewer's attention and directs it where you, the artist, want it to be. Depending on your intent, you can make something that pleases the viewer– or disturbs them.

6. **Presentation** -- How you showcase an image is just as important as how you compose it. Everything in the presentation should work to enhance your image and not distract from it.

Keep this in mind when choosing mats, borders and everything in between.

7. **Color Balance** -- Proper color balance can bring a sense of harmony to an image. When the tones all work together to support an image, the emotional appeal is that much greater. But color balance doesn't have to be used to bring harmony to an image. You can use color balance to evoke any number of feelings from a viewer. The choice in how to take advantage is entirely up to you, but no matter what, be sure your choice enhances rather than distracts.

8. **Center of Interest** -- This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. Sometimes there can be a primary and a secondary center of interest. Sometimes everything in an image will work together to create that center of interest.

9. **Lighting** -- The use and control of light has an effect on every aspect of an image. It informs dimensions and shape, it sets tone and mood, and, like every other technique, proper lighting can be used to enhance your image while improper lighting can detract from it.

10. **Subject Matter** -- Even though it lacks words, your image is still telling a story, and your subject matter is central to that. So make sure that your subject matter is right for the story that you're trying to tell.

11. **Technique** -- How you choose to execute your image is key. It's also a holistic decision. Technique informs everything in the creation of your image. From lighting and posing to printing and presentation, it all works to show off the techniques that you've mastered and applied to your craft.

12. **Story Telling** -- What does your image evoke in a viewer's imagination? What do you want your image to evoke in a viewer's imagination? Keep in mind: You are creating art. And while the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Your image is a story, and the one it tells your viewer may be one you never knew you were telling.
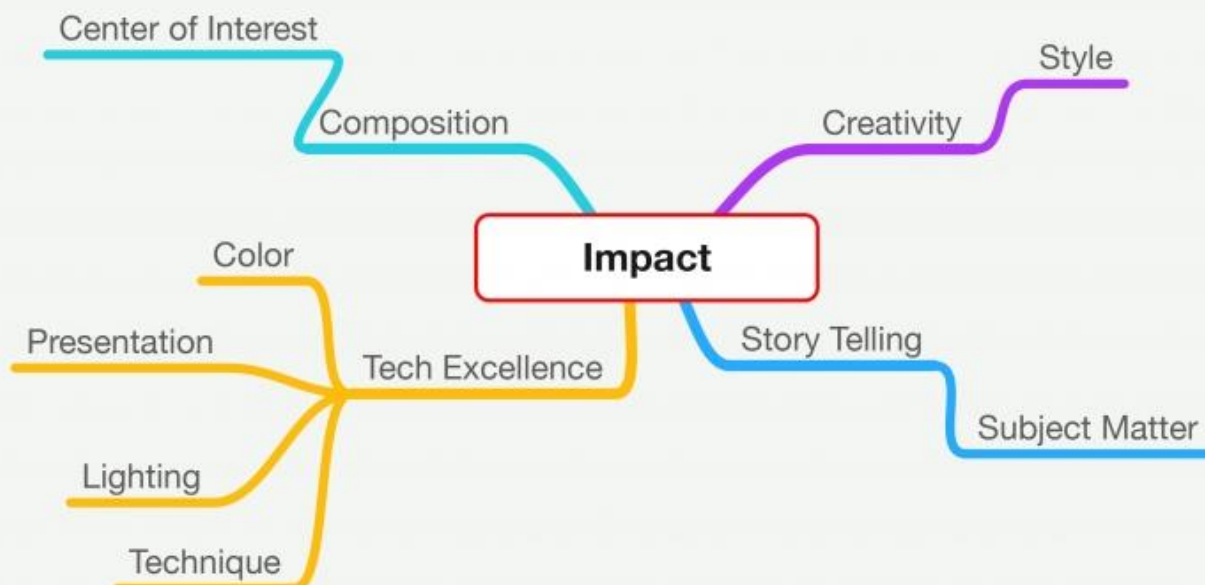
Image Competition Mentor Program

Entering image competition? Here is a free service that can help you critically evaluate and improve your competition images.

For those of you who are sitting on the fence, not sure if you should enter, or even if you want to enter image competitions, this could help you to take that first step. This service can also help you determine *which images* to enter.

Joan Genest, M. Photog., Cr. ASP. has volunteered her services to help us as photographers in selecting the right images for print competitions.

Critiques will address numerous issues such as basic composition, impact, color, cropping, matting (should there be a mat or will it detract from the image), clothing choices, and props (are you using too many?).

Perhaps you are having trouble deciding which image to select from a recent session? Select 3 or 4 from that session and the Master will help you to figure out which one to submit to the print competition.

Review the 12 Elements of a Merit Image, select the images you would like the Master to critique and then send an email to Joan jmgenest@aol.com. Please type CTPPA Critique in the subject heading. Send your images for critique as attachments. Expect a truly honest opinion of your submitted work(s). Although emailed submissions initially go to Joan, she may elect to ask another Master Photographer to review/critique the images. Please note that this service is currently being offered for free, however, that may change down the road, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this now!

"The Master's Critique Forum" is a mentoring program that was first created by Nancy Holowitz, Master/Craftsmen, Honorary Educational Degree ASP. With Nancy's passing we at CTPPA are very pleased that this service will continue. Thank you Joan!