

**President's Statement  
OVCC - WV  
2015**

***"I am sure the next step will be the electronic image, and I hope I shall live to see it. I trust that the creative eye will continue to function, whatever technological innovations may develop." – Ansel Adams***

I appreciate everyone putting their trust in me to be President of The Ohio Valley Camera Club for a second year. The first year was definitely a year of learning, listening, and observing.

I smiled when I read Ansel's quote about the electronic image. Just think what he could do with Photoshop! There was another quote where he said, "Dodging and burning are steps to take care of mistakes God made in tonal relationships." What he is saying is, not every photograph taken is going to be perfect and it is not always the photographer who is at fault.; however, there are ways the photographer can correct the image.

It's been very rewarding to see the development and progress of the individuals who are producing images for the club to see. It is important to have your work viewed by others. There are times we all feel inadequate with our "art" and then there are times we gain great confidence when we produce an image that makes us pause when we are editing.

As photographers, I believe, we all have a desire to perfect our craft. With each image we produce we observe lighting, shadows, motion, stillness, composition, texture, sounds...all of our senses are being stimulated. We climb mountains, crawl into close quarters, bend, stoop, stretch, grunt, and groan just to capture an image. Photography should be considered an Olympic sport!

All kidding aside, photographers take their craft seriously; we want THE shot and we go to great lengths to try to get it. I do know some of us are more willing to take more risks than others, but there is no shame in being safe and facing your limitations. The only limitation to photography is not "seeing" what is around you. There is always something to shoot, whether you are standing waste deep in rushing water or laying in the soft grass. Angles, lines, fluffy clouds, birds, trees, rocks, even a junk yard has its artistic merits.

This coming year I would like to see more of your work, either in the club meetings or on the Facebook page. The sheer talent our group has is amazing! All of you are unique and have your own way of viewing the world.

Take opportunities to step out of your comfort zone; if you shoot flowers, go out and try for the bigger landscapes; if you like animals, try people. Challenge yourself by trying out new equipment. If you can't purchase, try renting or borrowing. I know most of us are usually willing to go out together and share our equipment with each other.

One of the goals for the upcoming year is to have the opportunity for more hands on sessions like our still life shoot. Another goal is to have more meet-up opportunities, both planned and impromptu. In addition to the two aforementioned goals, there will be opportunities to get to know your camera functions better. Our cameras are amazing tools and are capable of capturing images in different ways. We tend to develop a comfort level with certain settings. Again challenge yourself to try new settings. Get out your camera manual and read about what it can do. Shoot the same scene different ways. Play with your lenses and depth of field. Try long exposure. This is how you learn to see with your camera. Carry a notebook or use your

metadata to see what your exposure settings were, then apply that knowledge the next time you go out.

I know, for me, shooting film for the first time in over 10 years has been a great experience! I have to stop and slow down. I am limited one ISO; everything is manual (focus, aperture, shutter speed) and I have to think about how I want to compose my shot. If you have an old film camera, I encourage you to knock the dust off of it and take it out for a walk. This year is all about challenging yourself; push past what you are comfortable with and try new things!

The members of the club are always willing to share their knowledge and experience with each other. Never, ever be afraid to ask questions of the members. Let's have a great 2015! Happy shooting!

***“Photography is more than a medium for factual communication of ideas. It is a creative art.” – Ansel Adams***