

OVCC-WV
President's Statement
2016
Staying Motivated and Creative

Welcome to 2016! This is my third term as president of the Ohio Valley Camera Club in Huntington, West Virginia. I have two major responsibilities. As president one of my responsibilities is to make sure the by-laws and rules of competition are being followed and administered the way they should be. The other responsibility is to make sure our members stay motivated to participate in the competitions and to challenge their creativeness.

Challenge, to me, is a word that sparks motivation. Motivation and creativity go hand-in-hand. As long as your mind is formulating images then you are being creative; the motivation takes over when you take action. The taking "action" is usually the most difficult step to take when you want to create something.

You have to ask yourself, "What motivates me to be creative?" Is it winning club competitions, or something more? Do you want to move into the larger art show arena and compete with others or do you want to produce beautiful images to display in your or your family's home? All of these require a different type of motivation. Creativity has to be exercised and not kept under wraps. The more you exercise your creativity the better your images will become.

You are all excellent photographers and can compete in the larger competitions. Our first meeting of the year was a wonderful display of talent! The more you are using your creative minds the more motivated you will become. It's the thrill of the chase! The images you create will become stronger.

My challenge to you this year is to carry your camera with you everywhere you go; or if you have a smartphone or phone with a camera, use it. Take at least one photograph every day; at minimum once per week. Exercise your creative eye. The first thing you will find is that it will be difficult to take that first photograph. Once you take your first photograph, you will find it easier to take additional photographs.

The next thing you will notice is that you will begin "seeing" things around you in a different way, the cup of coffee on your desk might look nice in black and white, the hat hanging on the rack might look nice highly saturated, or you will find yourself laying on your stomach photographing your pets. Once you take action, the motivation will kick in! Your images will be more thought out and that will show in your end result.

I have one more challenge for you, PARTICIPATE! The best way to fine tune your creativity is to participate in club competitions. Study the works of other club members and other photographers whom you admire. Try the techniques they use, step outside of your comfort zone. For example if you do not like still life photography, put together a scene and light it with a lamp or next to a window and photograph it from different angles. If you do not like to photograph people, ask one of the club members to be your model or a close friend or relative. Try different lighting techniques and poses. Sometimes if you tell someone to be silly it is a real ice breaker and they will relax.

Thank you for allowing me to oversee the club in the upcoming year! I look forward to motivating you and providing you with ways to enhance your creativity!