



Ohio Valley Camera Club of West Virginia

PRESIDENT'S END OF YEAR MESSAGE **November 2010**

As 2010 starts to wrap up I am reflecting a bit on the past year of the Club. It has been my distinct honor and pleasure serving as your Club president. We have seen a lot of changes in the Club and most I think are for the better. One of my goals was to see the Club grow to 100 members. Though we did not make that goal we did see the Club grow by quite a few members. This was not a result of my efforts alone. It was a result of members getting the word out. We are better than half the way there. I think the more members we have the more dynamic the Club gets and the greater the challenges to the competitions.

Another goal was to see more outings and more focus on education. Those goals were successful. We are now having regular programs and the outings that were held this year were a great deal of fun as well as educational. These activities were not possible without other members sharing the same vision. I want to thank Joe Browning and Mike Hensley for all the work they did to put together some very successful photo outings. Many of the members really enjoyed the dragonfly outings, the trip to Pt. Pleasant and the light painting outings. The outing to Canaan Valley was not as successful as I would have liked to have seen it but those who went braved the wind, rain, fog, snow and even hot weather to get some great shots and some wonderful memories. The trip was successful in introducing a member of the Orlando Camera Club to our state and I am sure he took back great stories of hospitality and the wonderful time with our members that we will have a large group next year.

I want to thank our board members for all the hard work and dedication they have done for the past year. Without their attention to details and sound guidance most of the success stories for the Club this year would not have been possible. I want to make a special thanks to Kathy Smith for her consistency in keeping the Club web site up-to-date. I also want to thank her for her attention to details, dedication to the Club and the Club's mission.

Though the traveling show has been slow to kick off it is still progressing. I expected a few bumps in a new project and I am working through them. The problem now is how to overcome the presentation of the show. Most places will not want nails in their walls to

hang the pictures on or have free wall space. The cost of 32 easels was out of the question. I have come up with a workable solution and moving forward on a free standing backdrop design that will present the prints in a professional manor in just about any location. I have also found very positive response from the community in support of our show and should be able to start scheduling the show very soon. I want to make the first location and opening of the show a media event. I also hope to see a good showing of membership at the opening once it has been announced.

I am always concerned about Club membership retention. There will always be members that come and go so we should always be on the lookout for new membership possibilities. But we should also consider ways to help members find reasons to come to the meetings and become involved in the Club. They joined because they have an interest or passion for photography. We should do all we can as members of the Club to assure that the Club is part of that passion.

So what about the upcoming year? I have agreed to continue as president for one more year unless a member would like to take the leadership role. (Hint, Hint). So what are my goals for the upcoming year? First I would really like to make the hundred member mark. This is a four year goal that I think is possible. With so much interest in photography and the ease of digital there is no good reason why we cannot find 35 more people in the tri-state area that would like to be part our camera Club. But I will not be able to accomplish this alone. It will take a mind-set of the members to do what they can to promote the Club.

Next I want the Traveling Show to be a hit and become an on-going part of our Club. The show will help get our Club name in the public and generate more interest in photography as a hobby and an art. I am sure there will be glitches and problems but nothing worthwhile is any different. The show will require work and I will be looking for volunteers to help break down and set up the show throughout the year.

Finally, this year I am looking for ways to get the membership more involved with the Club. We all struggle for time; home, children, work, sports, vacations, church and the list goes on. But if everyone says "how can I help in some small way" it makes a big difference.

So I look forward to more great photography, fellowship and the wonderful things our Club has to offer.

Take care and good shooting.

Michael Adkins
President