



MERIT SYSTEM

Professional Photographers of America

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1. The Merit System shall be under the authority of Council.
2. Changes to the Merit System must be approved by a majority affirmative vote of Council.
3. Administration of Merits
 - 3.1 Merits shall be awarded as approved by Council, and according to the Merit System.
 - 3.2 Merits shall be awarded only to members of this Association. Merits can be applied toward a Degree only if the recipient is a member of this Association.
 - 3.3. Rules for MIR shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
 - 3.4. PPA merits shall be awarded as follows:
 - 3.4.1 One "image merit" shall be awarded to an entry that receives either the Merit or Imaging Excellence designation in the Merit Image Review in any of the image related degree programs, which are currently:
 - 3.4.1.1 Master of Photography
 - 3.4.1.2 Master of Wedding Photography
 - 3.4.1.3 Master Artist
 - 3.4.2 An Individual may receive a maximum of eight image merits in any one calendar year in each degree program.
 - 3.4.3 Speaking Merits are awarded for lectures on approved programs, instructor or lecturer at PPA School of Professional Photography or an approved school sponsored by a Community Network member as stated in the Merit Chart. For having an article published in official publications of this Association, or for service as editor of a Community Network publication, published a minimum of three times per calendar year.
 - 3.4.4 All merits which are neither Image Merits nor Speaking Merits are designated as Service Merits.
4. Degrees
 - 4.1 Exceptional ability in photography and exceptional services to the profession or this Association shall be recognized by the awarding of Degrees to individuals.
 - 4.2 There shall be six (6) attainable degrees, the awarding of which shall be attested to by the presentation of diplomas and insignia. A Degree shall become effective at the time of presentation of the certificate.

- 4.2.1 The Degree of *Honorary Master of Photography* (abbreviated “Hon. M.Photog.”) shall only be awarded to individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the photographic profession or this Association. Recipients of this Degree need not be members of this Association.
 - 4.2.1.1 Rules for proposals for, and award of, the Degree of Honorary Master of Photography shall be set by the Board. A three-fourths vote of the Board shall be required for approval.
 - 4.2.1.2 Upon completion of his or her term of office, the President shall automatically be awarded the degree of Honorary Master of Photography.
- 4.2.2 The Degree of *Master of Photography* (abbreviated “M.Photog.”) shall only be awarded to participating photographers who are PPA members in good standing and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this Degree, the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Image Merits. The other merits of the required twenty-five (25) may be made up any merit types.
- 4.2.3 The Degree of *Master of Wedding Photography* (abbreviated “M.Wed.Photog.”) shall only be awarded to participating photographers who are PPA members in good standing and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this Degree, the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Wedding Merits. The other merits of the required twenty-five (25)-may be made up of any merit types.
- 4.2.4 The degree of *Master Artist* (abbreviated "M.Artist") may only be awarded to individuals who are PPA members in good standing and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this degree the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Artist Merits, or Specialist Merits. The other merits of the required twenty-five (25) may be made up of any merit types.
- 4.2.5 The degree of *Honorary Photographic Craftsman* (abbreviated “Hon.Cr.Photog”) shall be awarded by the Board of Directors. This degree requires a three-fourths vote of the Board.
 - 4.2.5.1 Rules for Proposals for, and awarding of the degree of Honorary Photographic Craftsman shall be set by the Board. A three-fourths vote of the board shall be required for approval.
- 4.2.6 The degree of *Photographic Craftsman* (abbreviated “Cr.Photog.”) shall only be awarded to individuals who are PPA members in good standing and who meet the requirements outlined herein To qualify for this degree, the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) total Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Speaking Merits. The other merits of the required twenty-five (25) total may be made up of any merit types.
- 4.3 An individual holding the degree of Master of Photography, Master of Wedding Photography, Master Artist, Master of Electronic Imaging, or Photographic Craftsman may,

if qualified, be awarded other degrees. Under this provision, the applicant must have been awarded a total of fifty (50) or more appropriate merits for two degrees, and twenty-five (25) or more appropriate merits for each additional degree. Once a Merit is applied toward a degree, the merits used to obtain that degree are considered void for future application, and may not be used again. Holders of multiple degrees must use the following abbreviations in this order followed by any other credentials as appropriate.

- 4.3.1 Master of Photography M.Photog.
- 4.3.2 Master of Wedding Photography M.Wed.Photog.
- 4.3.3 Honorary Master of Photography Hon.M.Photog.
- 4.3.4 Master Artist M.Artist.
- 4.3.5 Master of Electronic Imaging MEI. (*this degree has been retired)
- 4.3.6 Photographic Craftsman Cr.
- 4.3.7 Honorary Photographic Craftsman Hon.Cr.Photog.

4.4 The Insignia for the degrees shall be hung on ribbons to be worn around the neck.

4.4.1 Ribbons for combined degrees will be a combination of colors. The colors will appear in the order shown above, with the uppermost degree appearing on the outside of the ribbon.

4.4.2 The ribbon Colors are as follows:

- 4.4.2.1 Honorary Master of Photography (maroon and gold)
- 4.4.2.2 Master of Photography (gold)
- 4.4.2.3 Master of Wedding Photography (black)
- 4.4.2.4 Master Artist (red)
- 4.4.2.5 Honorary Photographic Craftsman (maroon and blue)
- 4.4.2.6 Photographic Craftsman (blue)
- 4.4.2.7 Master Artist (red)
- 4.4.2.8 Master of Electronic Imaging (white - retired January 2011)

4.5 A bar to be worn on the ribbons shall be awarded for each additional twenty-five (25) Merits earned beyond a degree. A silver star shall be placed midway on the right hand ribbon as the insignia of a Past President. A small "25" may be worn midway on the left hand ribbon as the insignia of members of the Twenty-Five year Club. A national Award pin or other PPA earned award may also be worn on the ribbon. No other insignia shall be worn on or attached to the ribbons.

4.6 The Board, upon recommendation of the Bylaws, Rules and Ethics Committee, may deprive individuals of Merits and Degrees for improper conduct.

[MERIT CHART BEGINS NEXT PAGE]

PPA MERIT SYSTEM CHART

	Merits Awarded
Platform Speaker	5 Speaking
Moderator, Member of program panel	3 Speaking
Special Program Speaker (non-platform)	2 Speaking
Convention Committee Chair	5 Service
Assistant Convention Committee Chair	3 Service
Props Manager	5 Service
Assistant Props Manager	3 Service
Student Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service
PPA Member Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service
Assistant PPA Member Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service
Convention Volunteer Worker	2 Service
Attendee (Full registration)	1 Service
Convention Volunteer (One-Day)	1 Service
Affiliate Leaders Training Attendee	1 Service
PPA Pre-Convention Attendee (per day)	1 Service
PPA Pre-Convention Speaker (Full day)	5 Speaking
PPA Pre-Convention Speaker (Half day)	3 Speaking
Pre-Convention Volunteer Worker (per day)	1 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum of five Merits per person, per year. 2. Pre-Convention Volunteers can receive a maximum of 2 pre-convention volunteer service merits per convention. 	

CONFERENCE – NON ANNUAL:	
	Merits Awarded
Moderator of program panel	3 Speaking
Speaker	5 Speaking
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimum of TWO full days programming. Minimum 6 ½ hours per day. 2. Maximum of five merits per person, per conference. 	

PPAEDU:	
	Merits Awarded
Video Speaker/Instructor	5 Speaking

PPA PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS:	
	Merits Awarded
Speaker	2 Speaking
Attendee	1 Service

SEMINAR (6 ½ hours or more education): Maximum of two merits per person, per seminar	
	Merits Awarded
Chair	2 Service
Speaker	2 Speaking

SEMINAR (less than 6 ½ hours education): Maximum of one merit per person, per seminar	
	Merits Awarded
Chair	1 Service
Speaker	1 Speaking

JURORS:	
	Merits Awarded
IPC Juror	2 Service
MIR Juror	2 Service

1. Merits in this category may be awarded for in-person or virtual events.

PPA SERVICE:	
	Merits Awarded
Each year service as President	10 Service
Each year service as member of Board	3 Service
Each year service - PPA Committee Chair	3 Service
Each year service - Nominating Committee Chair	3 Service
Each year of service - PPA Committee Member	2 Service

Nominating Committee member	2 Service
Action Team Leader	2 Service
Action team Member	1 Service
Non-Elected Councilor	2 Service
Elected Councilor (<i>each year</i>)	2 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action team leaders and members receive merits for the term of Action Team, even if the team carries over into another year. 2. Those Action Team members currently serving on the Board of Directors are NOT eligible for merits. 3. Non-elected councilors must attend all Council Sessions. 	

CERTIFICATION: Maximum 5 merits per class, per person	
	Merits Awarded
Re-certification	2 Service
CPP Prep Class Instructor (per day)	2 Speaking
CPP Prep Class Attendee	3 Service

PUBLICATION – PP MAGAZINE:	
	Merits Awarded
Unpaid Illustrated Article	2 Speaking
Unpaid, illustration (not accompanied by an article)	1 Service
Unpaid, Non-illustrated Article	1 Speaking

Photograph used on cover of PP magazine	1 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum 8 merits per year, per person. 2. Articles must consist of a minimum 600 published words. Eligible for merits for first publication only. 	

PUBLICATION – NON PP MAGAZINE:	
	Merits Awarded
Unpaid original article (published in PPA publication other than magazine)	1 Speaking
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 8 merits per year, per person. Articles must consist of a minimum 600 published words. Eligible for merits for first publication only. 	

PUBLICATION – PPA WEB SITE:	
	Merits Awarded
Unpaid original article with graphics - Minimum 300 words	2 Speaking
Unpaid original article without graphics - Minimum 300 words	1 Speaking
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot have been previously published in any other PPA publication placed with any necessary graphics or illustrations on the PPA website. Maximum 8 merits per person, per year. 	

COMMUNITY NETWORK MERIT CHART

NOTES:

- Each network may hold one annual event and/or one annual photographic competition per year with unlimited merits.
- Each network will receive a non-annual merit allotment of 40 merits per calendar year. This is in addition to the annual event and/or annual photographic competition.
- All attendee merits are \$10 per merit. Attendee service merits are unlimited and do not count against a member's merit maximum (see #4).
- Networks may award each PPA member a maximum of 4 merits total per year, 2 of which may be speaking merits. This does not apply to PPA Merit Program merits.
- Members are eligible to receive merits for speaking, service, and judging within their own network.
- Merits will not be issued to courses that compete against Imaging USA or other PPA events.

ANNUAL MEETING AND/OR ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION (unlimited merits as requested by applicant network for their one annual event and/or annual photographic competition):	
	Merits Awarded
Speaker	2 Speaking
Program Panel Participants (<i>Maximum of one merit per meeting</i>)	1 Speaking
Convention Chair	2 Service
Convention Co-Chair	1 Service
Photographic Competition Chair	2 Service
Jury Chair	2 Service
Juror	2 Service
Each year service as President (issued at end of term)	2 Service
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the case of Co-chair for annual meeting, meeting or seminar, chair(s) may take one merit each for total of two merits. 2. Merits for Photographic Competition Chair, Jury Chair and Jurors may be awarded for in-person or virtual events. All other participation types must be in-person to be merited. 	

PROGRAM – NON ANNUAL	
	Merits Awarded
Chair (6.5 hours or longer)	2 Service
Chair (less than 6.5 hours)	1 Service
Speaker (6.5 hours or longer)	2 Speaking
Speaker (less than 6.5 hours)	1 Speaking
Photographic Competition Chair	2 Service
Juror	1 Service
Attendees (only available for events 6.5 hours or longer)	1 Service

PPA MERIT PROGRAM:	
	Merits Awarded
Student	1 Service
Speaker	2 Speaking
Instructor Assistant	1 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class. 2. Merits awarded for approved PPA Merit Programs do not count towards a member's maximum within a network and are awarded in addition to the hosting network's merit allotment. 	

COMMUNITY NETWORK SCHOOL MERIT CHART

	Merits Awarded
Primary Instructor	5 Speaking
Guest Instructor (Per day)	1 Speaking
Student (Full-time enrollment)	2 Service
Instructor Assistant (Per day)	1 Service
Director of Community Network School per calendar year	5 Service
Trustee (1 per day / 3 maximum)	1 Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructor assistants may receive merits for a maximum of three days. 2. Sessions must be held for Directors or Trustees to receive merits. 3. All Community Network schools must be approved by the PPA Board of Directors. 	