

Focus

PSA Camera Clubs and Community Service

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, which features a member or member-club, turns to a group of civic-minded camera clubs, which are making a difference in their communities.

Each year, the Town of Vienna puts on an exhibit of photography at the Town Recreation Center and The **Vienna Photographic Society (VPS)** provides volunteers to help set up the display space and to man the information tables during the operating hours of the exhibit. Every second year, the Society provides the images used for the Town of Vienna calendar that is produced by the town government and distributed to businesses, organizations and citizens in the area. VPS also is proactive about volunteering to provide photographic coverage of local events, the most recent being the *Y-ME Walk To Empower*, a 5K walk/run and event in Washington, DC, where VPS photographers captured over 2000 images of people and organizations who gathered to support the Breast Cancer Network of Strength.

The Ocean Camera Club (OCC) of NJ does several things to provide community service: Previously, the club has given a \$500 scholarship each year to a student interested in photography.

But recently \$750 worth of photographic equipment was donated to the school. OCC provides speakers to groups, such as the Federal Employees Union, where the audience received information on digital cameras; members have worked with an Alzheimer group to photograph Alzheimer patients; OCC has worked with the Lakewood Historical Society to document historical buildings; images are hung at the local hospital and the hospital guild receives 20% of all sales; the club provided a photo-gallery of members images to the Wall Library; and for the past three years, OCC has held a student photo contest involving 24 high schools and has sent over 300 prints to the PSA Youth Showcase.

Elena McTighe

Judges look for the "Best In Show" which will be sent to the PSA Youth Showcase. Photo © Tom Garvey



OCC Members judge the Photographer's Choice category. Photo © Tom Garvey



Berks Talkline Miniature Golf Bowl Fundraiser. Photo © Donn Shires

Berks Photographic Society of Pennsylvania has a community service committee. The members of the Society who are part of this committee, and it is open to all members, take digital photographs for non-profit organizational events in and around Berks County, Pennsylvania. For no charge, members take images and provide the organizations with a CD or DVD of the images to do with as they please. The only thing asked in return is to acknowledge that Berks Photographic Society provided the images. Many community service events have been covered: a fundraiser for Red Cross Legends of Tennis; Red Cross Heroes Breakfast; Groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies for Habitat For Humanity; Opportunity House, which is a homeless shelter; Fundraiser for Souper Bowl and Golf Tournament; Fundraiser for Berks Talkline indoor miniature golf tournament; Mary's Shelter, a shelter for unwed mothers; Fundraiser for a bowling tournament and Special Olympics competitions.

Arlington Camera Club (ACC) of Illinois provides photographers for any community event held in the Village of Arlington Heights. The club has provided photographs for season brochures and many of the local events such as parades, special functions and dinners. Members provide photography for the Park District and have covered numerous events and provided photos for Park brochures.

ACC covers special events for the Arlington Historical Museum: Irish Fest, annual dinner and award ceremonies and has donated well over 2,000 photos of the Village of Arlington Heights for the Museum's archives. Members have given a presentation to a local Boy Scouts group in conjunction with the cub's work to earn merit badges. A class was provided on basic photography to the local 4H club. ACC has also donated photos to be auctioned off for various local charity events. Judges have been provided for the senior center's photo contest. The club is very involved with the community and works in conjunction with the Historical Society, Park District and Arts Council on a regular basis.

Grand Photos (GP) of Arizona is located in a senior community of 10,000 homes. In addition to offering members well over 100 workshops a year along with photo shoots, Special Interest Groups and mentoring, GP provides very important services to the Sun City Grand (SCG) community as a whole. Members are largely responsible for all the photography that goes into the monthly SCG community magazine (*Grand Times*), including the covers. In addition, club work is seen throughout the SCG website <www.grandinfo.com> in the form of slideshows and event shots. A more recent undertaking is a formalized approach to offering photographic services to various clubs to cover special events. A full set-up for studio lighting exists and the club offers portrait services as well. All of these special shoots are either free or nominal in cost and are used to teach the members and the entire community how to shoot sporting events, animals, dances, and portraits. ProShow Gold® slide shows were created for various community events and organized along requested themes. Grand Photos is an exciting club very strongly dedicated to educating and sharing the joys of digital photography with the members and the entire community!



Red Cross Golf Outing. Photo © Kevin Brett from BPS