

President's Statement: September 2022

First let me thank you for being a member of the Villages Camera Club. I've always felt that photographers see the world differently than anyone else. We constantly look for the art in our everyday lives, exploring light and shadow and then capturing the story to share with others. That shared experience makes us a community unlike any other. We are photographers.

As we embark on the '22-23 camera club year let's remember what we're here for: Our bylaws state "The purpose of our Club is to promote an interest in photography, develop friendships, and to help one another improve our photographic skills." What a fabulous goal. So, let's talk about how we do this.

"Promote the interest in photography": Presently our program committee is assembling a wide-ranging set of programs to help all of us understand the art better. Since we have monthly competitions (which are open to all club members from novice to pro) we'll have a session that will focus on the "how to" of entering your images into competition. In October, we will focus on the popularity of the smartphone camera and how to shoot fine art black and white photos right from that thing you facetime your grandkids on. And in November we'll turn our attention to the basics of cameras – a refresher on the tools we use to make our art. Other programs will focus on landscape, wildlife, macro and more smartphone techniques.

"Develop friendships": The past few years have indeed made this goal difficult. Hard to develop friendships when nobody is seeing each other. It's my sincere hope that we can begin to remedy this over the next year with in-person meetings, outings and maybe a party or two. Stay tuned to our website, I hope to be able to announce a fun – in person – activity soon.

"Help one another improve our photographic skills": Traditionally we do this through competition and workshops, but each one of us can learn more from one another. New to photography? Find a mentor. Some of our members have won awards at the regional and national level and they love to teach what they know. Ask questions, attend workshops and put some of your prized images into our club competition. Believe me – you will become a better photographer.

Our leadership board is working hard to make this a meaningful and fun club and I truly look forward to this year as your club president.

Rich James, President
The Villages Camera Club