Focal Points

The Vienna Photographic Society

P. O. Box 1212, Vienna, Virginia 22183-1212

Volume 4-10 *June 2016*

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VPS is a member of

PSA Photographic Society of America

https://www.psa-photo.org/

VPS meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays, Sept thru June at the Oakton Elementary School. Check website calendar at Vpsva.org for any date changes.

Where do we want to go and how do we get there? How satisfied are you?

By David Heagy

Each March we send a survey to all members to help us decide where we want to go and how we get there. This year only 16 members responded, and we will assume their options are representative of all members. This summer the new and outgoing board will set objectives and align our resources based on the survey. This article summarizes the main points in the results. Since we are a volunteer organization and no paid staff, I encourage you to pick a few areas you care about and volunteer to work on them.

How much experience do our members have?

- Novice 25%
- Advanced 50%
- Expert- got more than 5 awards in competitions in a year or work as a professional 25 %

In one year I would be delighted if the VPS had done these things:

- Continue low-key Lightroom, etc. workshops.
- Maybe have a couple more social events.
- Helped me create better pix.
- Had good judges who critiqued the photos on technical merit rather than personal likes and dislikes.
- Restored black & white category and instigated creative.
- Found a better venue to meet in.
- Better sound system – **Done**
- I think it would be useful to have some sort of online outlet for interaction and feedback. I know there is a Flickr group, but it is not used very much. Perhaps something like a Facebook group where people could ask others for feedback and provide it...as well as promote other photo activities.
- Increased member delight with VPS.

In one year I would be delighted if the VPS is known as an organization that:

- Supports members learning more and achieving more in photography
- Has fun together
- Known for helping photographers grow and learn
- Is the most welcoming and friendly club

Where I want to go with my photography and what I want to learn is:

- Learn manual mode. Improve my basic Lightroom skills. Mainly nature photography.
- Landscape and Nature photo sessions and improve my compositions.
- Improve my creative eye and better learn LR and Nik.
- Learn about all the new filters and apps available to advance my art.
- Continue improving; learn more about video, especially processing with Photoshop or other software.
- Do portfolio project, story project, slideshow with music.
- I want to conquer flash and composition with less post processing. I want to have fun. Take pictures that I am proud to hang on my walls.
- Be Creative.
- Hoping to start a site on SmugMug or similar this year, time permitting.

Ways to help me improve the artistic and creative quality of my photography are:

- More field trips.
- Hopefully eventually a more friendly meeting venue.
- Not sure. Pretty segregated at NV. NV has stopped all happy hours and social lounges etc.
- It is very hard to schedule activities that a lot can attend - the field trips are a great idea, but so often there are scheduling conflicts.
- Small group get togethers.

Ways VPS can help me improve my technical knowledge of photography are:

- Do a "Canon only" class.
- Workshops on the software.
- Continue the excellent forums.
- More discussions on technique and different filters and apps and software. Learn my camera inside out.
- More education and training sessions.
- Recommend source material; mentoring.
- Maybe small groups with question and answer dialogue, with cameras in hand.
- Recommendations with classes and workshops.
- Informal gatherings on topics (Lightroom at Panera Bread with Tom.)
- More direct helping of members from members - the forums are great for that, but there can only be so many in a year.

Ways VPS can provide more opportunities for socializing with other photography enthusiasts are:

- Not sure. Pretty segregated at NV. NV has stopped all happy hours and social lounges etc.

What I like most about the club is:

- Friendly, supportive, close.
- Nice people, not as competitive as NVPS.
- Friendly, great forums.
- It has given me a lot over the years and brought me many good friendships.
- While I do enjoy the theme competitions I believe that the Open category is more important for personal growth of technical and artistic abilities. I feel that Open should be the ONLY category for at least 2 competitions alongside print.
- When we have GREAT judges and presentations. Two I particularly enjoyed are Cristi Dobrescu and David Blecman.
- The speakers and the critiques during the contests.
- I liked the informal critiques in small groups where each person brought a few images on a thumb drive.
- Competition feedback, forums. Learning from the speakers.

What I dislike most about the club

- So small
- Judges who rank photos on personal likes
- When the judges or presenters have little to offer.
- I don't always know all the vocabulary and acronyms that go with photography.
- Maybe the size. Are we trying to duplicate NVPS?
- Would like a better outlet for member/member feedback.
- Hard to get to location during rush hour.

What new activities are most desirable?

- A pre-announced demonstration of equipment or technique for 20 minutes before the start of meetings. 3.3 moderately interested.
- Mentoring 3.5 moderately interested.
- A way to get informal critiques, such as on images I post at the website 3.5 moderately interested.
- Arranging for a class by an instructor and members pay a fee 3.4 moderately interested.
- More social programs fee 2.9 moderately interested.

Competitions and critiques

- I am satisfied with the combination of two themes and an open (no theme) digital competitions.
- It is important to me to have print competitions to help me prepare for exhibits and have an additional opportunity for judge's comments. 3 moderately.
- I am satisfied with how we have the novice and advanced divisions in just the open digital competitions. 3.5 moderately.
- The competitions tend to be too long. I think print competitions should be limited to 4 times a year. Also the judge should be knowledgeable in judging prints.
- The competitions are tough. I have owned my Nikon less than 3 years. Still so much to learn.
- Too many images for judges. 1 theme and open and prints.

What exhibits or organization alliances may provide opportunities for exhibiting our photography that I may be able to help organize?

- Consider Nature Visions paying for a studio stall at the Workhouse so all the clubs could exhibit there. I don't think it would cost much. Maybe $1 per member per club per month?
- Earth Day symposium.
- USGS, Alliance Church on Wiele in Reston, Meadowlark.
- Washington School of Photography, Town of Vienna.

How can we improve the meeting process?

- Print out the announcements on the screen – **Done**
- Improve projector quality.
- Maybe announcements printed and handed out.
- It works just fine.
- Hard to hear sometimes. Better microphone?
- I like the displayed announcements opposed to reading out loud very much, just enlarge print so I can see it, but fantastic idea!
- Do not like the impersonal projected announcements

What specific steps would make the club more useful to me, more enjoyable, and help the club grow?

- Self-improvement outings and workshops on software like LR and Nik.
- Get better judges...or explain the guidelines to the judges.
- More opportunities to get to know other members.
- A couple times a year should only be Open and Print competition.
- I do not understand AT ALL the Photographic Society of America contests. I would appreciate a presentation on that.
- Better judges -- educational and inspiring.
- More ways to engage with other members - more informal feedback.
- Location easier to get to from 66 and 495.

May 18, 2016 Competition

Judge: Josh Taylor

Monthly Theme: Images Straight from the Camera - 20 Entries

1st	Clement J. Ammann	Remington and Bosco
2nd	Joseph Morton, Jr	Ball on Bat
3rd	Kathleen Furey	Starting to Bloom
HM	Paige Counts	His First Day
HM	Alana Glaves	Red and White Anemone

Monthly Theme: Working with their Hands - 26 Entries

1st	Bill Mugg	Shoe Shine on Bleeker Street
2nd	Bill Mugg	Making a Living in Peru
3rd	Nicol Hockett	Well in Hand
HM	Patricia Deege	Making Sweet Grass Baskets
HM	Kathleen Furey	Six String
HM	Mary Jane Fish	Street Painter

Open Category: Novice – 15 Entries

1st	Bill Mugg	Frog Buddy
2nd	Barbara Saffir	Frilly Egret
3rd	Lori Saunders	Rust Bucket
HM	Debra Newell	Misty Tulip

Open Category: Advanced – 26 Entries

1st	David Heagy	Point to Point Races
2nd	Gloria Spellman	Spider Mums
3rd	Kathleen Furey	May Fourteenth
HM	Kathrin Swoboda	Tricolored Heron Breeding Plumage
HM	Julie Cochran	Tulip Trio

Prints: Combined Novice and Advanced – 14 Entries

1st	Stuart Bentley	Leaves
2nd	Kathleen Furey	Ballet at Dusk
3rd	Bill Mugg	My I-77 Barn
HM	David Heagy	Tulips Under Glass

Loma Mier, VP Competitions

Be sure to put the End of Year (EOY) Competition/Banquet on your calendar for June 15, 2016 to be held in DeSale Hall at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Vienna, VA. Directions are on the web site http://www.olgcva.org/about-olgc/directions/index.aspx

Announcement to be coming out soon!

NOVICE PROMOTIONS TO ADVANCED CATEGORY – Congratulations to the following VPS members:

Gwen Bowden, Carol Carroll, Bill Mugg, Debbie Newell, Lori Saunders, Caroline Stevens

VPS Board Members

President	David Heagy	dheagy@gmail.com
First VP	Davis Kepley	kepley.david@gmail.com
Secretary	Jean Klaus	jeanklaus@verizon.net
Treasurer	Burgess Levin	burgessblc@aol.com
VP-Speakers	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
VP Speakers	Caroline Stevens	cstevens3@me.com
VP-Judges	Gwen Bowden	sew_gal@cox.net
VP-Comp.	Loma Mier	loma_mier88@hotmail.com
Digital Proj.	Committee	Sharon, Joan, Martin
VP Mem Com	Gloria Spellman	spellg1@aol.com
PSA Rep	Kathy Swoboda	kswoboda2421@gmail.com
Focal Points	Mary Jane Fish	maryjane_fish@yahoo.com
Dir Publicity	Vacant	
Membership	Lou Coglianese	lhcoglianese@gmail.com
Dir Website	Gloria Spellman	spellg@aol.com
VP Forums	Mort Friedman	mhfriedm@gwu.edu
VP Field Trips	Dennis Tarnay	dtarnay@cox.net
VP Field Trips	George Silvas	mytobyjake@aol.com
VP Operations	George Silvas	mytobyjake@aol.com
Social Events	Joan Axilbund	jaxilbund@verizon.net
Gift Cards	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
50/50 Raffle	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
Nat.Vis.Rep.	Martin Fish	fishmp48@yahoo.com

Please Plan on Attending

VPS End-of-Year Competition and Potluck Dinner

Date: **Wednesday, June 15**
Time: **6:30 PM – 'til**
Where: **DeSale Hall**
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
8601 Wolftrap Road
Vienna, Virginia

- See all the winners from this year's competitions – print and digital
- Get to know your club members in a relaxed social setting
- Bring your spouse, significant other, or guest and a dish to share
- $10.00 per adult

Everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish.
VPS will furnish drinks (wine, beer and soft drinks), cups, utensils and paper products.

Sign up **by June 13** using SignupGenius at:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050449a8aa2aa13-vps2016/

June's Speaker - Mark Van Bergh Wildlife Photography

June 1, 2016 7:30 p.m.

I am excited to announce the final speaker for this year will be Mark Van Bergh. Mark is a member of the Smithsonian Zoo photography club. I think we are in for a wonderful night of wildlife pictures.

Washington, D.C. photographer Mark Van Bergh pursues a wide variety of photographic subjects and interests. His event photography includes weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate events and other special events throughout metropolitan Washington D.C. Clients include individuals, corporations, trade associations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and a Washington area entertainment and life-style magazine.

Mark's photographic interests in nature, wildlife, and travel photography have taken him to many destinations throughout the United States and abroad. Within the U.S. Mark has explored many of our National Parks and wildlife refuges.

International destinations include Canada; Antarctica; Europe (east and west); the sub-Sahara African nations of Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia; Japan and China.

Mark's photographs have been exhibited in several galleries in the Washington area. Publication credits include a variety of magazines and the coffee-table book *Focus on Africa: Wildlife, Conservation and Man*.

Mark Van Bergh Photography
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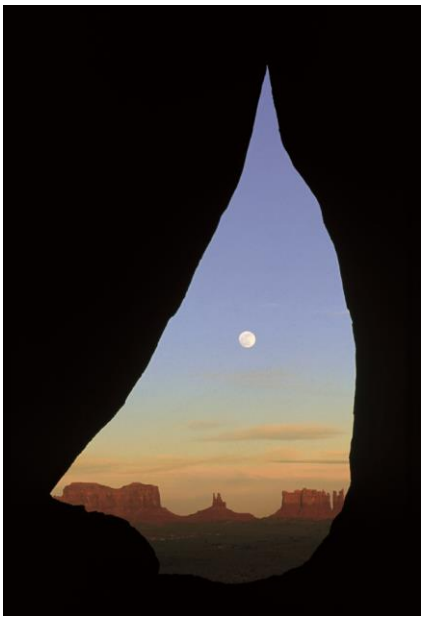
www.markvanbergh.zenfolio.com

June's Judge - CHUCK VEATCH

A former member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society, Chuck Veatch has attended workshops with Freeman Patterson and Rocky Mountain School of Photography. He has won many awards, exhibited throughout the area, and published a book of beautiful images shot in and around Reston, Virginia. Now in its second printing, The Nature of Reston encourages us to look for photographic opportunities in the familiar and often overlooked natural areas all around us.

With regard to his personal artistic statement, Chuck wrote: "Two ideas dominate my image making and judging. First, simple is better. That means that any element in an image that does not add to the message the artist wishes to convey, subtracts from it. Second, images should be created using the rules of visual design. This means that the subject matter is often subordinate to the use of line, shape, color, texture, tone and perspective to capture the essence of the artist's vision. Photography is art and should be judged that way."



Chuck is a photo editor and part owner of Nature's Best Magazine. He is a judge and helps curate all competitions for the magazine and the exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS

Barbara Saffir

It's a must-see spectacle. More than a million horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds stage a massive beach party in Delaware for a few weeks from May to early June. The prehistoric-looking horseshoe crabs come looking for love and to lay their eggs -- which are quickly scarfed up by Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and other famished birds.

But don't grab your camera until you've planned an "attack." You need to know which beaches to hit, when to go, and how moon phases and tides affect the fiesta. A little bit of luck doesn't hurt either. But even if you don't hit the sweet spot -- it's still worth a trip to catch a glimpse of this marvel of nature, which the National Wildlife Federation recently dubbed, "**one of the planet's great natural spectacles." And it's less than 150 miles away.**

Here's a Ruddy Turnstone that is standing on top of a (recently dead?) horseshoe crab eating its eggs. Usually they eat them in the sand!

Typically the migration begins around the second week of May to the first week of June -- but this year I visited on May 19 to find that the birds and the crabs still had not yet arrived in full force so there's still time!

Here's a brief guide:

****DUPONT NATURE CENTER:**

Start your virtual or physical trip at the DuPont Nature Center north of Slaughter Beach. http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Education/Pages/DNC.aspx

****THE BEACHES:**

The birds and the beasts flock to Delaware Bay's beaches for roughly 25 miles starting around the Little Creek Wildlife Area (to the north, near Dover) to the Slaughter Beach area (just northwest of Rehoboth). Based on the Delaware Birding Trail, some online guides, discussions with birders -- always talk to the birders when you visit! -- and my limited personal experience, I recommend trying those two beach areas along with the Ted Harvey Conservation Area, Bowers Beach, Kitts Hummock, and Pickering Beach. Unfortunately Pickering does not offer public parking. Slaughter Beach has public parking and beach access every several hundred feet along the lone beach road. The Dupont Nature Center is just north of the beach in Milford. This nonprofit group also offer scopes to see the birds.

****THE CRABS:**

Delaware Bay hosts the world's largest concentration of breeding horseshoe crabs. These armored creatures have been around for more than 300 million years so they're older than dinosaurs. They only congregate during breeding. They come ashore to lay eggs during high tide. (Some guides say to go at high tide to photograph the crabs and low tides for the birds -- but I have found that mid- to nearly high tide can also be great to photograph birds.) If you find a crab marooned on its back, flip over the harmless critter so it won't die. (Hold it by its shell, not its more delicate tail.) These crabs can live more than 20 years. Females are bigger than males. Horseshoe crabs are threatened, as are the dwindling number of birds that depend on them for survival. First fishermen over-fished the crabs for bait, and now the medical industry, which uses their unusual copper-based, blue blood to test drugs, vaccines, and surgical implants, may be over-harvesting them. https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Invertebrates/Horseshoe-Crab.aspx

****THE BIRDS:**

*RED KNOTS: A medium-sized shorebird (about 9.5 inches long) with a salmon-orange color on its face and belly during breeding season. The NWF says the Delaware Bay beaches are the only stopping point for this unique subspecies of red knot (Calidris canutus rufa) between its winter home in South America's Tierra del Fuego to its summer homes in the Canadian Arctic. They can fly 5,000 miles nonstop for 6 days straight. Don't get too close to frighten these starving birds which need to quickly double their weight to reach the Arctic in time for breeding. Cornell estimates that nearly 90 percent of the entire population of this subspecies can visit the Bay (in Delaware and New Jersey) in a single day.

*RUDDY TURNSTONES: A stocky medium-sized (6 to 8 inches long) shorebird with photogenic orange legs, black and white face, and black and reddish patterned sides during breeding season.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruddy_Turnstone/id

*SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS: A small sandpiper (about 5.5 inches long) with a short neck, moderately long black bill, and black legs. Its back is gray-brown and it has black in the center of its rump and tail.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Semipalmated_Sandpiper/id

****TIDES:** Check out high and low tides for the beaches you plan to visit. http://tides.willyweather.com/de.html

****IDEAL DATES AND THE MOON:** Delaware schedules its crab surveys during new and full moons, which attracts more crabs, so you can follow their lead. Their dates are posted here:

http://horseshoecrabsurvey.com/Survey_Reports/Datasheets/2016%20Survey%20Dates%20and%20Times.pdf

****BIRD IDENTIFICATION:**

Mitch Waite's "iBird" app for Android or iPhone and Cornell's All About Birds web site (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search/)

****DELAWARE AUDUBON:**
http://www.delawareaudubon.org/

****DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY:**
http://www.dosbirds.org

Photographic Society of America (PSA) Report:

Nature Round 3 Results judged at East Troy Viewfinders Camera Club in East Troy, WI:

We continued our strong performance in the final round of PSA Nature where East Troy Viewfinders hosted the judging. Images by Gina Clautice, Bill Mugg, Joseph Morton, Kathy Swoboda, and Wayne Wolfersberger scored 65 points placing Vienna Photographic Society in 7th place (out of 35 clubs).

Kathy Swoboda received Honorable Mention for "Big Gulp". We finished in 8th place overall out of 38 clubs including quite a number of international clubs.

Projected Image Division Round 4 Results judged at Contra Costa Camera Club in Pleasant Hill, CA:

"South African Sunrise"	by Gina Clautice	11points
"Open Gridwork"	by Mary Jane Fish	9 points
"Reflections on Autumn"	by David Kepley	8 points
"The Pier"	by Gloria Spellman	11 points
"City Hall Philadlphia PA"	by Kathy Swoboda	11 points
"Fly Me to the Moon"	by Wayne Wolfersberger	9 points

Total 59 points 12th place of 25 clubs.

Final standings are pending.

Thank you to the VPS members who participated this season. Please continue to photograph your favorite subjects this summer, and we will build on our success next season!

Kathy Swoboda, PSA Representative

Nature Visions 2016 Update

Here is the proposed calendar for 2016 Nature Visions competition. Some time to upload, Stats collection, collection and review have been added. We tried to include as many weekends into the schedule so that time would be available.

Upload Opens 8/22
Upload with Review and chance to resubmit ends 9/19
Upload Ends 9/24
Final Review 9/25-26
Judging Begins 9/27
Judging Ends 10/10
Stats Collection 10/11 - 10/17
Announce Selected Images 10/17
Clubs collect images 10/17-11/11 (Clubs define collection dates within this range)
Clubs review mounting/matting thru 11/14
Club reps deliver prints to NV & hang 11/18

Get out there and start shooting those prize winning photos now.

Martin Fish

Slate of Candidates for Vienna Photographic Society Board, 2016-17

Positions	Candidates
Competition	**Janet Gelb**
Digital projection (2) – for competitions and for speaker and forum nights	**Joan Axilbund** and **Sharon Connolly for competitions**, **Bob Bills and Verkat for other nights**
Exhibits	Vacancy
Field trips	**Lori Saunders, Barbara Safir, Martin Fish, and Mary Jane Fish**
Forums	**Mort Friedman**
Judges	**John Padbury**
Membership	**Paige Counts**
Nature Visions	**Martin Fish and Bill Mugg**
Newsletter	**Mary Jane Fish and Barbara Safir**
Operations, set up, "Building and Facility Coordination"	**Joseph Morton**
President	Vacancy
PSA	**Kathrin Swoboda**
Publicity	**David Heagy**
Secretary	Vacancy
Social events	**Carol Carroll**
Speakers	**Julie Cochran**
Treasurer	**Burgess Levin**
First Vice President	**David Kepley**
Website, member communications	**Gloria Spellman**
Greeters	**David Kepley**

Note: Positions shown in yellow highlight are still vacant.

May Field Trip Report - Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, VA

by Julie Cochran.

Due to the seriously inclement weather on May 21, 2016, the trip was postponed 'til the next day. Debbie N. and Marge L. and I all met at 10:00 am in the rain. We three, a.k.a. The Intrepid Trio, or the crazy ladies, you choose. We started shooting. The longer we shot, the heavier it rained.

We all shot purple and white flowers. The names of the now dead flowers because we shot them, I can't recall. After about 30 minutes, Marge L. went solo. Debbie N. and I remained a team for a short while, then we too went solo.

Found Dahlias and pansies to photograph. Debbie N. was smart and went inside where it was drier. Marge L. found her way to gazebo and shot these interesting images. Marge L. and I finally caved to the weather and eventually followed Debbie N. indoors.

Since this was my initial foray into leading a field trip (Dennis T. could not make it that day,) I learned that it is not easy to get images in the rain. Yes we all got more than a little wet, but we had fun.

Quote of the Month

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. "

Dale Carnegie

Joe Miller's Sixth Annual Abstract Exhibit

Lori Saunders -Circles and Squares

John Padbury – Blizzard of Shadows

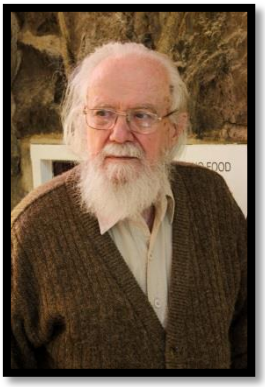
Mary Jane Fish – Reddish Drapes

John Naman – Swirl of Color

Lori Saunders – Curves

Nicol Hockett – Light Ribbons

On Sunday, May 8th, Joe Miller held the Awards Ceremony for his 6th Annual Abstract Exhibit. Many of the photographers in the show as well as their friends and family were in attendance to hear Joe's Pearls of Wisdom.

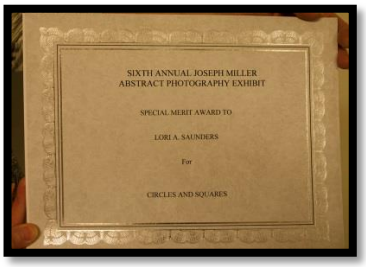


Joe explained that for this year's exhibit 76 photographers from camera clubs in Maryland, Virginia and one in Florida submitted 342 images from which 110 were juried in.

According to Joe, "As in the five previous exhibits, special thanks and great appreciation go to Matt Schmidt and Amie Tannenbaum for their many, many contributions to the success of this and all the previous abstract exhibits. Quite frankly, were it not for Matt and Amie the Annual Abstract Photography Exhibits would not have happened."

Joe then went on to say that there were so many outstanding images submitted to this show that instead of awarding 10 Special Merit Awards he awarded 15 Special Merit Awards. He then proceeded in calling each award winner up to receive their awards.

VPS was lucky to have 2 award winners amongst its members. They were Lori Saunders for her photo "Circles and Squares" and Yewande Freeman for her photo "Soaring Above Myself".



Yewande Freeman – Soaring Above Myself

I apologize to any member I might have missed in this article.

Carla Steckley – Hearts in our midst

Carla's Patriotic View

David Kepley – Jabba the Hut

Gloria Spellman- Uptown Funk (Above) and It's Organic (Below)

Themes for 2016-2017 Year

With summer upon us it is time to start planning your trips, workshops or just days out shooting images. The themes for the coming year (listed below) will be paired with similar themes as best as possible. Order of Themes could change if needed to coordinate with the Speakers and Judges expertise. Use these in your planning purposes.

1. Black and White
2. Windows
3. Photojournalist
4. Travel
5. **Digital Art** (Nature with Hand of Man)
6. Textures
7. Landscapes
8. Bridges
9. Portraits
10. Town of Vienna
11. **Digital Art** (Patterns in Architecture)
12. Music/Performances/Instruments
13. Autumn
14. **Digital Art** (Gardens – combined w/ Trees/Bushes)
15. Collections (Examples: toys, hats, shoes, spoons, buttons, dolls, teddy bears)
16. Spring

*Please note that we have added three (3) Digital Art/Creative Themes for next year. Many members indicated through the VPS Surveys that they would like to include a Digital Art or Creative Category. We've elected to have a "trial" period next year to judge interest and participation throughout the year. Members may continue to choose to submit their images (manipulated or not) in ALL the categories. Members also voted to continue to have the print category.

What Do You Love About Nature Photography?

Celebrate Nature Photography Day and Spread the Word

Nature Photography Day is again observed nationally on **Wednesday, June 15** for our 11th year. Explore the natural world: you and your camera. See where your photography takes you!

How to celebrate? Even before **June 15**, visit a website, library, or bookstore to learn about the history and influence of nature photography. Get ready to be inspired.

Invite family and friends to enjoy natural scenes that may be close by - maybe a park, garden, or trail.

If you teach, ask your students to read about and discuss the experiences of nature photographers - legends of yesterday and today.

Photo club members: Remind your colleagues about Nature Photography Day and how images have been used to preserve the natural world. If you have a website or blog, spread the news there, too.

For public service announcements, a downloadable sign, and other details, visit
www.naturephotographyday.org

June 15: So much to see. Butterfly, bird, sunrise, tree.

Members: Send me one image that you take on Nature Photography Day and where you took it and I will display it in the Summer Focal Points Newsletter.

Have fun shooting Nature on June 15th.

SoFoBoMo 2016 Starts on 1 July

By Matthew Schmidt

+*"As Jacob flipped through the pages of the latest copy of LensWork, he thought to himself, I could do that! I just don't get to visit those exotic locales."*

How many times have we heard ourselves say that when looking at a photo book or magazine layout? But do we? Do we take the time and effort to pull together a cohesive body of work? To format it into a logical flow? To write some text to bring it all together? The sad answer is that all too often we just don't.

Some of our clubs do a portfolio project (or photo essay) every year, which is a good start. Building that theme-based series of photographs can be daunting. But year after year our club members are able to achieve that goal. This year, why not take it a little farther? Develop a HUGE sense of accomplishment by taking part in Solo Photo Book Month 2016. Shoot your photos, write your text and format a great photo book all in a single month.

Challenge yourself to create that PDF book in 31 days. Have the flexibility of picking the best 31 days in July and August for your 'fuzzy month.'

Your photo book can be on any topic you can dream up. Going on vacation to the beach? Won't you have at least 35 images of the fun you have with your family? Attending a photography workshop like Corey Hilz's Butterflies at Brookside Gardens Workshop? Won't you capture 35 fine images as the Eastern tiger swallowtails alight on lavender? Either is what you need to create your PDF book.

There are only a few rules associated with SoFoBoMo. Check them out at the website http://www.sofobomo.com/rules.

Looking for inspiration? Check out what other participants have created at SoFoBoMo projects. Matthew G. Schmidt made books in 2009, 2010 and 2011. His favorite is still the 2009 book, "How Towels Make Love," available on Blurb. While not 35 images, Matt wrote the text and took the 15 photos in less than 36 hours.

Not sure where to start? Get some great technical tips on making photo books at SoFoBoMo. And read what other SoFoBoMo participants have to say at our blog.

Sound interesting? What are you waiting for? Come join us in the fun at http://www.sofobomo.com/user/register.

Workshop in Death Valley CA

I have always been fascinated and a little afraid of the desert. What if you run out of water? What if your car conks out? Dehydration anyone? But the attraction of a landscape that is at once bleak, forbidding, and otherworldly, and also overwhelmingly beautiful is hard for this photographer to resist! So I signed onto a photo workshop with Jennifer King Photo Workshops. I had taken one of her workshops in the Smokies last fall, so I knew that she would be well prepared for all that Death Valley had to offer.

Death Valley presents an incredible variety of landscapes all in one national park! At one point we stood in a salt encrusted valley that was over 300 feet below sea level looking up at snow-capped peaks that were over 14,000 feet above sea level! Then there was the remains of an old mining town that has long ago been abandoned with some ghost statues to make things a bit spookier. What about the several hundreds of square miles of sand dunes that make you think you are in the middle of the Sahara (did I just see a Bedouin on a camel?).

The remains of a volcano that erupted several thousands of years ago provided a black sand backdrop to whitish sagebrush (B&W anyone?). One of the coolest places was "the racetrack." Imagine a long ago dried up lakebed with cracked earth to the horizon and rocks that have left a path where they have been moved probably by rain and wind or was it aliens? They are still not

sure. And of course if you are that far from civilization, the incredibly clear skies provided us boundless opportunities for star shots.

As for Jennifer King, she was terrific! The workshop lasted from the Tuesday night get-acquainted meeting through a Sunday afternoon critique session. She had us up well before dawn and out again later in the day to catch sunset. The pace was challenging, but doable.

She and her assistants (aka her husband and Mike Walker) provided as much hands on help as you would want or need. They know the best locations and times of day at each and they could not have been friendlier. The workshop had 8 participants and cost $1500, which does not include your lodging, food, or transportation.

I highly recommend Jennifer King to you. Her website is http://www.jenniferkingphoto.com/#!/index

David Kepley

Earth Day Photo Exhibition

On April 2, several of our VPS members displayed their nature photography at the annual Earth Day Symposium of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS). FACS is an interfaith organization devoted to encouraging Fairfax County to manage the energy consumption of its properties in the most energy efficient way possible. This can both reduce the county's carbon footprint and save taxpayer dollars. The featured speakers were Pat Hynes, Chairman of the Fairfax County Public Schools, Supervisor John Fouts, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Brian Moran, Virginia state Secretary of Homeland Security and Public Safety. The exhibition was held at the Unity Church of Fairfax.

FACS asked VPS if we could display images to remind participants at the conference why they are working so hard to preserve and nurture the environment. Our members' photos were very well received. Those who participated in the exhibition include, Bob Bills, Patricia Deege, David Kepley, Annett Shinafelt, Gloria Spellman, Kathrin Swoboda, and Wayne Wolfensberger. Well done VPS!!

David Kepley

Dear Members,

As you go on vacation, photo workshops, or just shooting images in your back yard, please document it.

Write a brief article about that trip, workshop or day of shooting and send to me along with several images to go in the Summer newsletter.

The summer issue will be coming out around the end of July so send what you can by the 25th of July.

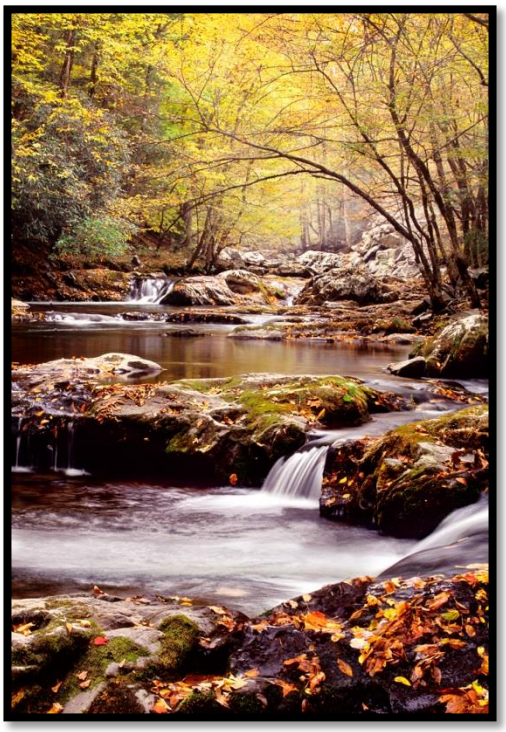
Thanks, Mary Jane

MEMBERS NEWS

The League of Reston Artists is sponsoring an exhibit in the Jo Anne Rose Gallery at Lake Anne in Reston to honor the special anniversary year of the National Parks.
Participation in this exhibit was open to all and several VPS members have images hanging in this show.

Patricia Deege won the "Theme" award (National Parks),

and Carla Steckley won an honorable mention.



A reception is planned for Sunday, June 5th from 2-4 p.m.
The show will remain until the end of June.

BITS AND PIECES

This column is for things of interest to photographers. It can include contests, exhibitions, and general information on cameras and software.
I am asking members to send me notices that they are aware of any items that fit into these categories.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Gardens Open at **6:00** a.m. on:

Saturday, June 11, Sunday, July 10 and

Sunday, August 13

Photographers, birders, strollers, and anyone who enjoys a peaceful morning walk are invited to visit during special hours starting at 6:00 a.m.

(The Gardens normally open at 10:00 a.m.) Regular Garden admission applies ($2.50-$5.00).

LOOK3
CHARLOTTESVILLE | VIRGINIA

June 13-19, 2016

MISSION Our mission is to celebrate the vision of extraordinary photographers, ignite conversations about critical issues, and foster the next generation of artists.

VISION As a nonprofit organization, LOOK3 challenges assumptions about photography by presenting diverse work by a variety of artists, developing innovative educational initiatives, and offering immersive community events.

The Festival features exhibitions and talks with legendary photographers as well as outdoor projections, events, and workshops. All events at LOOK3 are located along Charlottesville's historic pedestrian corridor known as the Downtown Mall as well as in the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center.

The Jamestown (NY) Audubon Society

2016 Nature Photography Contest

Cash Prizes!

Adult and Youth Divisions
Landscapes, Plants, Wildlife Categories
4th Category added: Photos taken at Nature Center

Submission deadline: June 30
www.jasphotocontest.com
info@jamestownaudubon.org
(716) 569-2345
All submissions must be made online.
$10/photo to enter contest.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

2016 JUDGED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

ON THE STREET

August 2 – September 3

Sponsored by the

Vienna Arts Society Art Center

115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna, VA 22180
(703) 319-3971

JUDGE: **Denise Silva**

Denise says photography is an extension of who she is. She finds every aspect of photography rewarding. From in-camera composition to post processing, photography is meditative, creative, and challenging. Denise's passion is to capture everything she sees, from landscapes to urban decay and to share her experiences and knowledge with fellow photographers. Traveling, shooting, and comparing images with friends excites and motivates Denise. She says these experiences are opportunities to learn new things.

Denise and partner Don Rosenberger operate a photography tour business, Road Runner Photography Tours http://roadrunnerphotographytours.com. To see Denise's work, check out her website http://denisesilvaphotography.com.

OPEN TO ALL: Cash Awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners

PRE-REGISTRATION: $5 per piece for VAS Members, $7 per piece for Non-members.

DEADLINE: submissions must be postmarked by Monday, July 25. Send registration form along with a check payable to: **Vienna Arts Society**, c/o Kelly Rankin at 11610 Foxclove Rd, Reston, VA 20191, Ph: 571-471-3374, kellyinvirginia@gmail.com.

DELIVERY: Saturday, July 30, between 10am-12pm at the VAS Art Center. The show will be hung in the Vienna Arts Society Art Center during the month of August, closing Saturday September 3. The Center will be open to the public for viewing during normal business hours Tuesday- Saturday, 10am-4pm.

AWARD RECEPTION: **Saturday, August 6 from 4pm-6pm** at the VAS Art Center

SHOW CLOSING: All unsold artwork must be picked up **Tuesday September 6; between the hours of 10am to 12pm**. Any piece not picked up will incur a $10/piece/day handling fee.

STANDARDS: This is a judged show. All pieces submitted and meeting the following standards will be displayed. Some photographs will receive awards by the judge.

- All forms of photography of size and weight easily handled by one person are acceptable.
- Work depicting nudes, weapons, or drugs and drug-related items will not be accepted.
- Works must be suitably framed. **Frames must be secure and mats must be clean and well cut**. Framed artwork must have **framing wire attached**. **NO SAW TOOTH HANGERS.**
- Works printed on canvas must be framed or covered in museum wrap canvas, meaning no staples on the sides of the canvas frame. Framing wire must be attached.
- Size limit 18" x 24" (OR 432 square inches) finished size. Diptychs and/or pieces over the limit will be considered multiple pieces.
- **Limit: three (3) artworks per participant** will be accepted. In addition, each participant is **welcome to submit THREE (3) bin pieces** with label attached to the back listing: artist, title, and price. Please include a 3x5 card listing the artist, title, and price for our records. **Bin pieces must not include copies of works entered/hanging in the show.**
- All photography is welcome. Please label works as **Traditional** (i.e., minor color correction, sharpening and cropping is permitted), **Digitally Manipulated** (i.e., rearranging picture components, combining two or more images, or extreme color changes), or **Silver-Gelatin print**.

(Registration Form found on page 17)

Exhibits

Canon USA partners with Eyes on Main Street

Eyes on Main Street and Columbia College Chicago announce Canon U.S.A., Inc., as the newest sponsor for the Outdoor Photo Festival in Wilson, NC April 9 - July 10, 2016.

Nash Street, the main street of Wilson, NC, will be transformed into a vibrant gallery of large-scale photographs. For 100 days, 100 photographs will be displayed on storefront windows, spanning six city blocks and taking visitors across the railroad tracks with the exhibition linking east and west Wilson into one shared community.

As part of the sponsorship, Canon U.S.A., Inc. will provide the cameras and printers for the student workshops hosted by Columbia College Chicago for local at-risk students during Wilson's Eyes on Main Street photography festival. Canon will introduce various new cameras and lenses during the youth workshop.

www.eyesonmainstreetwilson.com
or www.facebook.com/eyesonmainstreet

WONDER

Nine leading contemporary artists—**Jennifer Angus, Chakaia Booker, Gabriel Dawe, Tara Donovan, Patrick Dougherty, Janet Echelman, John Grade, Maya Lin, and Leo Villareal**—each took over different galleries in the building, creating site-specific installations inspired by the Renwick. Together, these installations turned the building into a larger-than-life work of art.

Grand Salon, Renwick Gallery (Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.)

Installations by Tara Donovan, Gabriel Dawe, and Patrick Dougherty are on view through July 10, 2016.

Photographers are welcome to shoot the installations.

Celebrate our 20-Year Anniversary!

Best of the Best Exhibition

Windland Smith Rice International Awards
National Museum of Natural History, 2nd Floor
Open now through late August 2016

NBP presents the "Best of the Best" exhibition, a collection of 113 large-format prints with the stories behind the shots, an HD video, vintage cameras, and a brief history of nature photography. Winning images from the past to the present will take you on the journey from the wild to the walls of the Smithsonian.

In partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, the Winners of each photographic category and a selection of the Highly Honored images from the Windland Smith Rice International Awards are displayed FREE to millions of visitors. The print exhibition is accompanied by HD video on a large-screen TV. View some of the awards videos from past exhibitions (see http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/competition_overview.php).

Joe Miller holds court during the Sixth Annual Abstract Exhibit.

2016 JUDGED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

ON THE STREET

Sponsored by the

Vienna Arts Society Art Center

115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna, VA 22180

(703) 319-3971

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL: **PH:**

VAS Member? _____Y ____N

If not a VAS Member, and would like to be, did you enclose $40 Membership fee?__Y_____N_____

PRE-REGISTERED- $5 per piece for VAS Members, $7 for Non-members, for each piece submitted. Up to three (3) pieces may be entered. # pieces entered ____ total $_____

	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	ENTRY 3
TITLE			
MEDIUM			
PRICE			
SIZE			

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & BIN PIECES: Attach a label to the back of each photograph listing: artist, title, medium, and price. Additionally, up to THREE (3) bin pieces may be submitted. Please include a 3X5 card listing artist, title, medium, and price of the bin pieces for our records. **Bin pieces must not include copies of works entered/hanging in the show.**

By signing this agreement, I understand that Vienna Arts Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage, **VAS will take a 25% commission for any artwork sold.** In addition, I agree that art pieces will not be removed earlier than Saturday, September 3 at 4pm. I further agree that as a VAS member, I will sit at least one three (3) hour shift during the course of the show at the Art Center as it appears in the rules for displaying work.

Submissions must be postmarked by Monday, July 25. Send registration form along with a check payable to: **Vienna Arts Society**, c/o Kelly Rankin at **11610 Foxclove Rd, Reston, VA 20191**, Ph: 571-471-3374 kellyinvirginia@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact: Kelly Rankin, or the Art Center at 703-319-3971.

SIGNATURE **DATE**

PLEASE PRINT NAME **method of payment**: credit [Amex, Mastercard,Visa]/cash /check

Resource Center

This is a space to look for workshops, classes and other tips for the photographer in you. Please send in any resources that you have tried and would like recommend to your fellow VPS members.

Instruction and workshops:

With Nikhil Bahl: www.NikhilBahl.com

With Capital Photography Center: http://www.capitalphotographycenter.com/

With Corey Hilz: http://coreyhilz.com

With Tony Sweet: http://tonysweet.com/

With Josh Taylor: http://joshuataylorphotography.com http://joshuataylorphotography.com/blog

With Bill and Linda Lane: http://www.lanephotoworkshops.com/

For Photoworks Classes: www.glenechophotoworks.org

For Infrared workshops with The New Life Photos Workshop: http://www.newlifephotos.com

Freeman Patterson/Andre Gallant: www.freemanpatterson.com.

Speakers We Have Heard:

Eliot Cohen, – Landscape and Lightroom
www.eliotcohen.com
www.facebook.com/eliotcohenphotography

Don Rosenberger, – Landscape and Night
www.donrosenberger.com and www.roadrunnerphotographytours.com.
www.Facebook.com/DonRosenbergerPhotography.

Irene Sacilotto, – Wildlife Photography
www.ospreyphoto.com
www.facebook.com/IreneSacilotto.

Corey Hilz, – Travel Photography
Website and blog: http://coreyhilz.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CoreyHilzPhoto

Matthew Schmidt, – Close Up Photography
Website: www.loreleistudios.com
Contact: mgs@loreleistudios.com

Frank Van Riper, – Travel Photography
www.GVRphoto.com
www.talkingphotography.com

Denise Silva, – Composition
Road Runner Photography Tours (http://www.roadrunnerphotographytours.com/).
Also see http://denisesilvaphotography.com/

Brian Zwit – Flash Photography
School of Creative Photography www.SchoolofCreativePhotography.com
brian@creative-pix.com

Robin Kent – Night Photography
www.photographybykent.com.

Josh Taylor – Flowers and Garden Photography
http://www.joshuataylorphotography.com/

VPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: JULY 2015 through JUNE 2016

Mail this Application and your check (Payable to: "**VPS**") or cash to:

VPS, P.O. Box 1212, Vienna, VA 22183-1212

or hand the payment and application form during any VPS meeting to:

Lou Coglianese, Membership Director or Burgess Levin, Treasurer

I am **( ) a New Member** OR **( ) Renewing** I have been a VPS member since the year (_____)

First Name*_____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name*_____

Street Address _____ City-State-Zip _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ Work Phone _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____

Email* _____ *=required

NOTE: To receive the VPS Newsletter *FOCAL POINTS* and other membership messages, you must provide a unique and valid email address. *FOCAL POINTS* is distributed by email and on the club website as a PDF file. You will need an installed copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer to open it.

PRIVACY

Membership records are maintained by the Membership Director. Periodically, the records are distributed to members to manage VPS's business. Membership records may also be shared with the Nature Visions Photo Expo as part of VPS's participation in that event. Membership records are also available on the VPS website to club members only. VPS will not provide member information to persons or to organizations outside the club, other than specified above. Members may opt to restrict the display of their membership records to other members as follows. **Please check one of the two options below**. This will govern how your records may be displayed to other members on the VPS website:

INCLUDE ___ my name, phone number, home and email addresses. (This is the default option)

DO NOT INCLUDE ___ my phone number, home and email addresses. Please, include only my name.

DUES PAYMENT

I have enclosed ( ) my check or ( ) cash for:

( ) $40 for a **Single** Membership **( ) $20** for non-renewing members joining after January 31.

( ) $60 for a **Family Membership** **( ) $30** for non-renewing Family Members* joining after January 31

( ) $15 for a **Student** Membership (age 18 or under)

*Family members, please make **Separate Application** and use **Unique Email Address** for each member

VPS Liability & Publicity Release

In consideration of being given the opportunity to participate in a Vienna Photographic Society (VPS) field trip or other event, I acknowledge, agree and represent that I understand the nature of field trips and other VPS activities, and that I am qualified, in good health and in proper physical condition to participate in such field trips and activities. I fully understand that field trips and other VPS activities are conducted in different environments, and that, accordingly, my photography equipment and I may be exposed to dangers and hazards both natural and man-made. I fully accept and assume all risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages I incur as a result of my participation in VPS field trips or other activities. I hereby release, discharge, and covenant not to sue VPS, its officers, directors, agents, independent contractors, volunteers, members and sponsors.

ADDITIONALLY, I authorize the use of any images submitted to VPS for use by VPS solely for publicity activities such as websites or brochures.

Acceptance of terms of VPS Liability Release (If under 18, parent or guardian must sign):

PRINTED NAME_____ Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT NAME _____ Signature _____ Date _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT VPS?

( ) **A Friend** ( ) **VPSVA.ORG** ( ) **Meetup.com** ( ) **Web Search** ( ) **VPS Card/Brochure**

( ) **Photo Expo or Exhibit** _____ ( ) **Photo Class or Store** _____

( ) **Newspaper** _____ ( ) **Other**_____ _____

PARTICIPATION IN VPS SUPPORT NETWORK

VPS has established a **Support Network** of members who wish to contribute **a few hours each month** to assist in VPS program activities, including providing assistance to VPS officers. The Support Network is mentored by the First Vice President of the Vienna Photographic Society.

Are you interested in being listed as a member of the VPS Support Network? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please indicate in what areas you might volunteer to help us (a VPS officer will follow up by email):

( ) **WILLING TO HELP WHERE NEEDED**

( ) **PUBLICITY**: Providing publicity and information to the community about VPS

( ) **INSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT**: Development of ideas for hands-on instructional programs like Forums

( ) **FIELD TRIPS**: Planning and arranging field trips

( ) **AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT**: ( ) Helping set up projection equipment at meetings.
( ) Learn to operate the projection program for competitions.

( ) **SPEAKER PROGRAM**: Help with planning guest speaker visits

( ) **GREETING**: Greeting new members and guests

( ) **HISTORIAN**: Assist in preparing historical documents about VPS activities

( ) **TABLE SETUP**: Help with setup for monthly photographic competitions

( ) **COMPETITION JUDGING**: Help with selection and planning of judges activity in monthly competitions

( ) **PRINT HANDLING**: Assist in passing prints during monthly competitions

( ) **NATURE VISIONS EXPO**: Help VPS Rep with the annual regional Nature Visions Photo Expo, Nov 11th-13th

( ) **EDITORIAL HELP**: Help by assisting Editor with editing/production of monthly newsletter

( ) **ARTICLE DEVELOPMENT**: Writing, soliciting or editing articles for monthly newsletter working with the Editor

( ) **PHOTO DISPLAY**: Help with planning and arranging member photo displays and external Exhibitions

( ) **WEBMASTER ASSISTANCE**: Help with assistance to VPS Webmaster

( ) **PARTY ASSISTANCE**: Help setting up parties and social events

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR USE BY THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

(Please print)

NAME: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Questions?: Contact David Kepley, kepley.david@gmail.com or 703-978-2961