

Doylestown Photo Club

Club Charter Bylaws and Guidelines

Doylestown Photo Club

Inception

The organization was formed in 2008, and shall be known as the Doylestown Photo Club (DPC). It was organized by Mort Metersky and Charles Callaghan and is a registered non-profit entity in the state of Pennsylvania and shall be called such henceforth

Mission

The DPC Mission is to preserve, promote and excite an interest in the art of photography and to support and encourage photographers of all skill levels in an open learning environment. We exchange experience and knowledge with others who share their passions and enthusiasm for the art of photography. We welcome and cultivate friendships, mutual understanding and social interactions toward the formation of quality photographic results. We advocate education and information exchanges, and learn from past photographers and masterworks to inspire a deeper personal exploration and to encourage new creative imagery.

Vision and Values

The Doylestown Photo Club strives for an open learning environment where those with experience can share their knowledge with others who share a passion and enthusiasm for the art of photography. We welcome all skill levels with the hope of building a community where social interactions generate quality photographic results by the promotion of education and the exchange of information. We learn from our past photographer's masterworks to inspire a deeper exploration of the art and to develop new creative imagery. We hope that all those who involve themselves in our group do so with a conscious effort to help develop others and thus help themselves.

The Office of President

The President shall chair the Steering Committee as well as organize and lead all meetings in accordance with the club charter. Each term of the President shall last for one year.

The President's decisions carry the most importance in order to move the club forward quickly without extensive discussions. At times, these may reflect a gathering of many points of view and offer the best compromise for all. The valued advice of the Steering Committee is considered before adopting any strategic plans in spending clubs monies and arranging programs

If the President makes a decision which is against the majority of the Steering Committee members, a special meeting will be called to discuss the issue at hand. In such an event, only Steering Committee chairs present at the meeting may vote, no *in absentia* votes are accepted and majority rule shall prevail.

If the President does not fulfill the duties and obligations of the office as determined by a unanimous representation of the Steering Committee members, a special meeting will be called by the Vice President. If the conflict cannot be resolved, the President may be dismissed from his or her post by a majority vote of the Steering Committee. In such an event, the Vice President will fulfill the duties of President for the remaining months of the club calendar year.

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The Steering Committee

Each Steering Committee Chair serves the functions of their duties as delegated by the President and the Vice President and according to the prescribed charter.

The President appoints members of the Steering Committee, has final authority over this committee and sets forth an agenda for the upcoming year. Steering Committee positions may be added or removed at any time to support the needs of the organization. Changes to staff will be discussed and voted upon by existing Steering Committee members. Descriptions of the current structure and responsibilities can be found in the document entitled: ***Steering Committee, Roles and Responsibilities.***

Each Steering Committee Chair serves the functions of their duties as delegated by the President and the Vice President and according to the prescribed charter. The Steering Committee also forwards candidate recommendations to the membership for elections.

Each Chairperson serves in their position for one year. Acceptance of a Steering Committee Chair is an important obligation and requires a strong commitment to DPC. Each Chairperson is responsible to listen, analyze, and think clearly and creatively. They must work well with individuals and groups to further the reputation of DPC in the public view and advance the mission of the club.

Each Chairperson will prepare for and attend monthly meetings. Each Chairperson will ask questions, offer recommendations and take responsibility for their duties.

Attendance of non-Steering Committee members is at the discretion of the President and Steering Committee members. During discussions at the Steering Committee meetings, each Chairperson's opinions are heard. If necessary, a vote, in which only chairpersons may participate may be requested to resolve issues. Once a consensus has been reached, all members are obligated to support the Steering Committee's final decision.

Steering Committee Communication

Email is the primary means of communication to conduct club business outside of the Steering Committee meetings. Email etiquette and laws will be followed accordingly.

Volunteers

All DPC members are encouraged to volunteer their time in support of club activities and fulfilling the DPC mission. Any club member in good standing may volunteer to help the Steering Committee members carry out their functions or responsibilities.

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Meetings

Club meetings will be held once per month at a time and place communicated by the Steering Committee. Club meetings will generally consist of the following content:

- Welcome announcements
 - General club news
 - Information about recent club events
 - Information about upcoming events
- Presentation: Photo Quest slideshow
- Presentation: Various content
- Break
- Presentation: Main Event

Educational programs, also known as “Focus Rings,” will sometimes be offered before the main meeting begins

Dues

A dues structure is established by the Steering Committee to cover operating costs. Dues provide twelve consecutive months (one year) of membership beginning from the month the membership application and dues are received or from the month that previous membership expired. The current dues structure and terms of membership are posted and available on the club website.

The Steering Committee has the power and authority to amend the dues structure and terms of membership at will.

Elections

Elections for President and Treasurer are held annually. Nominations and selections for candidates are submitted the month before elections and approved by the Steering Committee. Voting will be via anonymous survey with results announced at the next meeting, however in the event there is only a single candidate for either position, members may be asked to accept or reject the candidate(s) by show of hand at a club meeting. Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the President after a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

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Membership Conduct

All members of the Doylestown Photo Club are expected to maintain good moral character and behavior while attending activities and participating in meetings with fellow members. Members who do not adhere to this clause can be asked to leave an event by the President upon the majority support of the Steering Group.

Any member may be expelled from the DPC for cause by a two thirds vote of the Steering Group and the President. Cause shall include but is not limited to immoral and unethical conduct, failure to pay dues or any violation of the Club Charter. Members expelled for cause are eligible for reinstatement in one year based upon the consensus of the Steering Group.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is defined as an activity that results in, or has the appearance of resulting in personal or financial gain. Members may not solicit other members for their personal or professional gain during meetings or on the DPC Forum. Any activity identified as a real or potential conflict of interest must be disclosed to the Steering Committee for consideration and review. Any member found to be in conflict with the Doylestown Photo Club policy shall be asked to cease. Failure to comply and resolve conflicts shall result in expulsion, as defined under **Membership Conduct**.

Charter Amendments

The Doylestown Photo Club Charter may be amended from time to time as based upon the needs of the organization. Motion to amend the Charter should be brought to the attention of the President first. All motions to amend the Charter will be discussed with the Steering Committee during their monthly meeting with a majority vote carrying the motion.

Personal Liability

Officers and Chairpersons shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken unless that Officer or Chairperson has failed to comply with the Club Charter, and that failure to perform constitutes self- dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness. This provision shall not apply to the liability of an Officer or Chairperson pursuant to a criminal statute or for the payment of taxes pursuant to Federal, state or local law.

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Dissolution

In the case of club dissolution, no part of the net earnings of the DPC shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to members, officers, chairpersons or other private persons, except that the DPC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Charter and Bylaws. All remaining assets will be donated to a charity or organization to be determined by the Steering Committee. Any conflicts of interest are resolved by the President.

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Appendix A – Revisions

Version	Date	Author	Reason
1.0	2009		Charter Inception
2.0	June 2014	John Jacobberger	Many revisions to simplify the charter reflect the current function of the club.
3.0	September 2016	John Jacobberger	Remove term limit for President, as agreed upon at the 8/24/2016 Steering Committee Meeting
4.0	September 3, 2017	John Jacobberger	Change club name to Doylestown Photo Club, add Treasurer as an elected position.