



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

Newsletter Volume 12, May 2025

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

This month I didn't get any submissions for our travel section, so instead I want to talk about the upcoming Texas State Fair.

Texas heritage is strong, and the State Fair embodies all aspects of Lone Star culture. Although much has changed since its humble beginnings, the State Fair of Texas still embraces its roots and preserves the traditions upon which it was built. After serving as the State Fair's home for a whole century, Fair Park was officially designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986 because of its historical significance. With 132 years of shared history, the State Fair has maintained a deep-rooted connection to Fair Park and continues to call it home. Year after year millions of Fair Park visitors come from far and wide to experience the State Fair of Texas and visit its beloved icon, Big Tex. (Taken straight from the website.)

The state fair will run from **September 26 – October 19, 2025**. The guides for the photo competition were just released, and I think it would be wonderful if our club was represented. Every year photo clubs from around the country, and even the world, participate in this fun event. Below I will share the rules with you, please consider entering even one image, the one you are most proud of, and let's see if we can put GNBPC on the map at the state fair!

*Happy clicking
Christiane*



DEPARTMENT K PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

ENTRY FEES (PER ENTRY ITEM)

ADULTS AMATEUR	(18+ YRS. OF AGE)	\$6
TEACHER & PROFESSIONALS	(18+ YRS. OF AGE)	\$6
SENIORS	(70+ YRS. OF AGE)	\$3
JUNIORS	(AGE 13 TO 17)	\$4
CHILD	(AGE 5 TO 12)	\$4

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry allowed per category. The same subject may not be used in more than one (1) entry.

RIBBONS & PRIZES

First, second, third, and honorable mention will be awarded in each category.

Best of Show awarded in the following age divisions: Adult (Color and B&W,) Teacher & Professionals (Color and B&W,) and Junior (Color and B&W.)

SPECIAL PRIZES

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL SPONSOR FOR:



Adult Color K113 - Honey Bees
Junior Color K169 - Honey Bees

\$50.00 to each Category for First Place.

SPECIAL PRIZES

CIRCLE R RANCH WEAR AWARD CATEGORY:

**CIRCLE R
RANCH WEAR**

Adult Color Color K121 – Western Wear

Resistol Straw Hat and Custom Fitting
Must be redeemed during the 2025 Fair.

PHOTOGRAPHY – CONTEST RULES



- All entries in this contest **MUST** adhere to the rules below.
- Any entry in violation will not be accepted for judging.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

This contest includes black & white and color photography featuring a variety of subjects.

ENTRY COMPLETION DATE

All photos must have been taken after January 1, 2023, except for State Fair-themed (any Fair time activity).

SIZE REQUIREMENT

Each photo print must be a **minimum of 8" x 10" to a maximum of 11" x 14"**. Must be mounted on foam core or mat board that is a required size of 11" x 14". It may be glued on.

PROHIBITED ENTRIES

Entries will not be accepted if they are:

- Metal printing.
- Glass, frames, hangers, or brackets.
- Entries with date, timestamp or name on the photo front.
- Photos not on 11" x 14" foam core or mat board.
- Broken or damaged items.

PHOTOGRAPHY – REQUIREMENTS



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For each entry, the contestant must fill out the Photograph Label Form at the back of this section and attach it to the back of the photograph.

- Entries must be appropriate for family viewing.
- The photographic exposure must be made by the contestant.
- All photographs must reflect scenes from Texas or the State Fair of Texas, except in categories named "Other than in Texas."
- Hand-delivered photos need a written request and pre-paid return postage to be mailed back. Mailed-in photos require pre-paid return postage to be sent back.

Entries must be the work of the contestant and must have been completed after January 1, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPHY – CATEGORIES



ADULT AMATEUR DIVISION (18+ YRS. OF AGE)

COLOR

- K100. ANIMALS / WILDLIFE
- K101. ANIMALS / DOMESTIC
- K102. BIRDS
- K103. FISH / REPTILES / MARINE LIFE
- K104. FLORA (CLOSE UP)
- K105. FLORA (VISTA)
- K106. CHILD (PRESCHOOL)
- K107. CHILD (SCHOOL AGE)
- K108. CHILDREN (TWO OR MORE)
- K109. PEOPLE
- K110. RURAL (FARM OR RANCH LIFE)
- K111. ACTION OR MOVEMENT
- K112. INSECTS
-  K113. HONEY BEES
- K114. CITY SCENES
- K115. BLUEBONNETS (CLOSE-UP / FLORA)
- K116. ABSTRACT
- K117. SCENERY (LANDSCAPES / WATERSCAPES)
- K118. SKIES (SUNRISE / SUNSET / WEATHER)
- K119. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES / BUILDINGS / MONUMENTS
- K120. STILL LIFE
-  K121. WESTERN WEAR
- K122. STATE FAIR THEME
- K123. HOLIDAYS
- K124. PATRIOTIC (MILITARY / FLAGS / FIRST RESPONDERS)
- K125. OTHER THAN IN TEXAS (ANIMALS / BIRDS / REPTILES)
- K126. CURRENT EVENTS

- K127. OTHER THAN IN TEXAS (CULTURAL)
- K128. OTHER THAN IN TEXAS (LANDSCAPES)

BLACK & WHITE

- K129. ANIMALS
- K130. FLORA (CLOSE-UP OR VISTA)
- K131. CHILD / CHILDREN
- K132. PEOPLE
- K133. STILL LIFE
- K134. STATE FAIR THEME
- K135. RURAL / CITY SCENES / ACTIVITIES
- K136. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES / BUILDINGS / MONUMENTS
- K137. SCENERY (LANDSCAPES / WATERSCAPES)
- K138. ACTION / MOVEMENT (SPORTS)
- K139. OTHER THAN IN TEXAS (CULTURAL OR ANIMALS)
- K140. OTHER THAN IN TEXAS (LANDSCAPE)

SPECIAL CATEGORY

Not eligible for Best of Show.

- K141. COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH THAT HAS BEEN ALTERED OR MANIPULATED IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC DIGITAL OR MANUAL PROCESS
- K142. FOOD STYLING

TEACHER & PROFESSIONAL DIVISION (18+ YRS. OF AGE)

COLOR

No AI or altered photos.

- K143. ANIMALS
- K144. PORTRAIT (ADULT)
- K145. PORTRAIT (CHILD)
- K146. LANDSCAPE IN TEXAS / OTHER THAN IN TEXAS
- K147. ANY SUBJECT

BLACK & WHITE

No AI or altered photos.

- K148. ANIMALS
- K149. PORTRAIT (ADULT)
- K150. PORTRAIT (CHILD)
- K151. LANDSCAPE IN TEXAS / OTHER THAN IN TEXAS
- K152. ANY SUBJECT

PHOTOGRAPH LABEL FORM

Fill out the label form & tape or glue to the foam or mat board backing of your photograph.

NAME

DIVISION (CHECK ONE) – JUNIOR OR CHILD MUST INCLUDE AGE

☐ ADULT ☐ JUNIOR ☐ CHILD ☐ PROFESSIONAL

AGE: _____ AGE: _____ AGE: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CATEGORY NUMBER: _____

DATE TAKEN & LOCATION OF PHOTO: _____

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Fill out the label form & tape or glue to the foam or mat board backing of your photograph.

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CATEGORY NUMBER: _____

DATE TAKEN & LOCATION OF PHOTO: _____



Spotlight on our club member Eric Bowden

For his involvement in the
“Portrait of a Veteran” project.
Eric was recently featured in “The Legion Times”,
and we wanted to share this beautiful tribute
with everyone.



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Message from the Commander

It's May and the membership year has come to a close. Congratulations to the 2nd, 7th, 11th, 20th and 21st Districts for achieving 100% membership. I write this article in the middle of the month, so I hope several more Districts have also achieved 100% of their goal. Again, in this writing Texas stands at number 6 in the nation for membership. When you look at those in the top 5, added together they aren't as large as Texas. Please keep up the great work. Recruit as many new members as you can and renew everyone that has been a part of this great organization.



It's Convention season, and I have tried to visit as many conventions as possible. That can be a challenge when 8 conventions are scheduled for the same weekend. Texas is a big state and driving from convention to convention can take hours. I will say for those that I have been able to attend, I'm always welcomed and made to feel at home. I thank each of you for that. Recently, I attended the 16th District Convention in El Paso. Post 58 did a fantastic job. If you have not had the chance to visit that post, let me tell you that they have a culinary trained chef. The food was over the top. The commander told me that the dinner wasn't even his best dish.

While with the 16th, The Military Order of the Purple Heart USA, presented the American Legion, Department of Texas with a Proclamation. It designated the Department of Texas as a Purple Heart, American Legion Department. I would like to thank Commander Robert Garza, Lone Star Chapter and Commander Michael Matthews, Military Order of the Purple Heart USA, Department of Texas for this high honor.

This is also a legislative year here in Texas. For those that are not aware, our state Adjutant is at the state capital several times during this session. He is there to speak either for or against bills that affect veterans across the state. One such bill, SB 498 by Senator Kevin Sparks, deals with Mental Health Counselors for veterans. The adjutant carried the message that the Department of Texas is a strong support for this bill.

The department convention is in July, and I hope to see many of you there. This is a time for us to get together and share the comradery that we speak of in our Preamble. Let us continue to remember all those that have gone to post eternal since our last meeting and enjoy those that are still with us. Until then, be safe and proud that you are a member of the nation's largest veteran's organization.

Tom Marty, Commander
American Legion, Department of Texas

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
**BE
=THE=
ONE**

Portrait of a Veteran Project by Eric Bowden

Submitted by Shirley Platt – Department Historian



There are stories that never get told - conversations that come too late. Eric Bowden knows that weight well. After losing his father, a Veteran, he was left with questions he never got the chance to ask. In that silence, he created Portrait of a Veteran Project - a living archive of those who served, built one photograph at a time. This isn't just a photography project. It's a promise: that we are seen, that our stories matter, and that someone is listening.

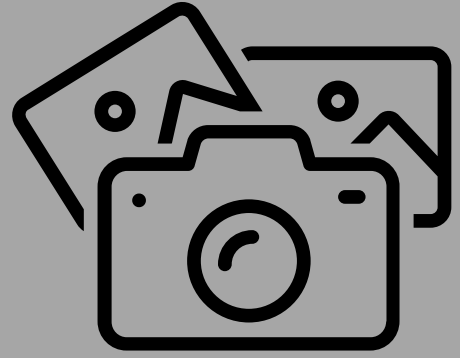
Eric came out to the 2025 ALR Rolling Run at Post 593, Converse, TX. While visiting, he didn't just document the day - he became a part of it and officially joined the Post 593 Sons of the American Legion, standing alongside those he honors through his work.

Each Veteran who sits for a portrait receives a framed copy, along with digital versions to keep and share. Eric is giving Veterans something lasting at NO COST!! Eric is still looking to connect with more American Legion Posts and Veteran organizations. If you're part of one, you need to reach out and invite him to support your programs. It's worth it. Take a moment to follow his Facebook page, or Instagram, support the mission, and help share his project. It speaks not just for the people in it - but for all who served quietly, and with purpose.

Contact info: eric@portraitofaveteran.org



*Department Historian Shirley Platt and husband Clayton Wallers.
Portrait by Eric Bowden*



Are you interested in being a Displaying Artist at the New Braunfels Art League gallery?

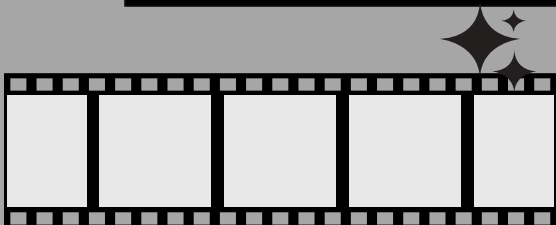
Jury day is June 7. Bring in your work between 10 am and Noon, and pick it up between 4 and 5.

Note: you must be a member to participate in Jury Day. The annual cost is \$40.

If the jury likes your work, you're in!

Check their website thenewbraunfelsartleague.com for more details.

Frank



RECOGNITIONS



The monthly competition winner for the Photojournalism category is Suzanne "Suki" Daunt for her winning entry called "Marching for a Brighter Future".



Congratulations

*Congratulations to Victor
Watson for his image "Keeper of
Tradition" which received an
honorable mention!*



**Photojournalism Interclub Competition
2024-2025**

Round Three, Group B, Human Interest

**"Keeper of Tradition"
Victor Watson**

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club



**Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA
PSA Interclub Director**

**Donna McFarland
PJ Interclub Director**



Honorable Mention

Congratulations!

Upcoming events for photographers:

- **May 15th - Honky Tonk Thursdays @ Gruene Hall**
- **May 15th - Bat Flight & Cave Tour @ Natural Bridge Caverns**
- **May 16th - Firefly Watch, Wimberley**
- **May 17-18th - Mermaid Capital of Texas Fest, San Marcos**
- **May 17-18th - Gruene Market Days**
- **June 6-8th - Blanco Lavender Festival**



Fotoseptiembre

- Install on September 3rd
- Meet the Artist September 4th
- Exhibition closes October 6th

The Deadline to enter is May 31st. If you plan to display images, please email [ez1024@hotmail](mailto:ez1024@hotmail.com) (Edward Zukowski). He needs your name, number of images to be displayed, and one sample image.

One of the sample images will be selected by the Fotoseptiembre sponsors for it's advertisement, so make sure the image you submit is one you will display.

Images that are displayed should not be physically bigger than 16x20. That includes frame and/or mat.

The frame should be as minimal as possible and preferably with no glass, making it as light as possible.

The images can be matted with no frame or be printed on metal.

The Board of Directors has decided to increase annual dues

Effective July 1, 2025

Individual Membership	\$40
Family	\$60
Student	\$20
Student Family	\$30
After July 1	50% off for the current year
After Oct 1	Included with following year's dues



**The Interclub results have been recorded by
Victor Watson and can be viewed at the
following email:**

<https://schertzphoto.com/psa-news>



Volunteer opportunity:

If you are a dog lover, and would like to volunteer your talent once or twice a month, please reach out to me at 281-658-5565
The Wimberley Adoption Group (WAG) is looking for a few more photographers to take pictures of incoming rescues. The goal is to take some adorable pictures, (close-ups and actions shots) to help get these pups adopted!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SOCIAL AFTER THE MONTHLY CLUB MEETING.
WE MEET AT LA COSECHA MEXICAN TABLE IN NEW BRAUNFELS.
THE ADDRESS IS: 505 BUSINESS IH 35 N, NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130**

