



NEWSLETTER



Christmas 2018

Hello to all PSA members in Wales. This is my first newsletter to keep you informed of PSA matters and activities in Wales since I was appointed as Country Membership Director for Wales in July.

My remit in this role is to support PSA members in Wales by providing assistance to existing and prospective members and alerting you to changes, opportunities and new benefits that PSA offers.

During the second half of 2018 I am pleased to report that membership in Wales has grown from just 9 to 17. One camera club is also a member. I am also aware that a number of individuals are considering membership. That is great news to keep Wales on the photographic map.

A number of new members have been awarded their first ROPA level – QPSA. Well done Sian Davies, Margaret Jones and Colin Price - hope I have not missed anyone out. Others have started out to collect stars and I look forward to being able to congratulate them soon on their QPSA.

Earlier in this year a longer established member Gary Shinner gained his MPSA and I myself GMPSA - so there is lots for you all to go for.

The following information comes via Roy Killen who is the PSA Membership Director based in Australia and I hope you will find it helpful.

MEMBER WEBINARS STARTING!

PSA has a new benefit for members. The new Learning and Technology Vice President, Shiv Verma has launched the first of what will become regular webinars for members. The topic for the first webinar is “Color Management for Photographers” and it will be broadcast live on November 9 at 12:00PM EST (that’s

US EST). Those members who are unable to participate in the live webinar will be able to access a recording of it at a later date if they register.

All members should have received an email giving them a link to register. Once you register you will be sent information about setting up your computer ready for the webinar. If you have suggestions for webinars please email them to Shiv Verma learntechvp@psa-photo.org

BUY BACK RULES HAVE CHANGED

The Board has approved changes to the Buy Back rules. You can download the full set of new rules here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?stars-and-ropa> - scroll to the bottom of the page to see the link.

The Buy Back rules have been simplified considerably and it is now easier for members to take advantage of the acceptances they gained prior to joining PSA.

2019 and 2020 PSA CONFERENCES

Planning ahead? The 2019 PSA conference will be held in Spokane, Washington State, from September 22-28. The surrounding area is a great location for photography and there will be many photographic tours including to the Palouse (which is a great area for landscape photography). You can see some preliminary information here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?future-conferences> and I will share more information with you as it becomes available - so start planning now!

The 2020 PSA conference will be held in Colorado Springs, from September 29 to October 3.

PSA LOGO

The official PSA logo now contains a © symbol. You can download it from the Members Only section of the PSA website here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-logos> The policy for using the PSA logo is given here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-logo-policy>

INCREASED FEES FOR STAR RATINGS AND ROPA

At the PSA Conference the Finance Committee approved the following changes to fees:

- The fee for each Star, Galaxy and Diamond application will increase from \$12 to \$15.
- For each approved Star, Galaxy and Diamond application an electronic (email) certificate will be provided at no charge (same as current). A printed and mailed/shipped certificate will incur an additional charge of \$15.
- The fee for each ROPA distinction will increase from \$40 to \$50.
- The fee for all ROPA plaques will now be \$100.

The new fees will come into effect on January 1, 2019.

PSA ACCEPTANCES DATABASE

Work on the acceptances databases that Star Ratings Directors use to check Star, Galaxy and Diamond applications has reached the following point:

- ∞ Projected Image Division - Almost completely up to date for both PIDC and PIDM.
- ∞ Nature Division - Approximately 75% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013 and 2014.
- ∞ Photojournalism Division - Approximately 50% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- ∞ Photo Travel Division - Approximately 50% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- ∞ 3D Division - Completely up to date.
- ∞ Pictorial Print Division - Approximately 33% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.

There are now more than 5 million acceptance records in these databases. In general, the latest EDAS reports are uploaded to the databases within 2 days of receipt (but receipt from the salon organisers can take well in excess of 1 month). Additional 2013, 2014 and 2015 EDAS will be uploaded as soon as possible; this work is all being done by volunteers.

A BRIEF COMPARISON OF PSA AND FIAP DISTINCTIONS

This document explains some of the basic differences between the photographic distinctions systems of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the International Federation of Photographic Arts (FIAP). Detailed requirements for these distinctions can be downloaded from the PSA and FIAP websites.

The FIAP distinctions up to EFIAP/p can be obtained by gaining acceptances and awards in exhibitions with FIAP patronage. All the PSA distinctions can be obtained by gaining acceptances in exhibitions with PSA recognition.

The PSA distinctions system is different from the FIAP system in several important ways. The PSA distinctions are called Recognition of Photographic Achievement Awards (ROPA) and they consist of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G and GMPSA/P.

You have to be a member of PSA to apply for PSA distinctions. When applying for distinctions you can use acceptances gained while you are a member and in the year before you joined PSA. If you have acceptances from more than a year before you joined PSA you can take advantage of a Buy Back scheme that allows you to use acceptances from any time in the past by paying a fee for each buy back year.

Only acceptances achieved in PSA recognised International exhibitions can be used for PSA distinctions. However, you can also get 'acceptance credits' for judging or chairing PSA recognised exhibitions. In the Photojournalism Division of PSA you can also get acceptance credits for published images if they meet certain criteria.

For FIAP distinctions the processes of having your acceptances verified and your distinction application processed are combined into a single application. You cannot submit a distinction application until you have proof that you have obtained the required number of exhibition acceptances for the relevant distinction. These applications can be submitted only once per year.

In the PSA system, the verification process and the application for a distinction are separated. Verification takes place through what PSA calls the Star Ratings system. Each Star application requires a specific number of acceptances from a specified minimum number of different images (titles). For example, you can apply for Star 1 with just 18 acceptances from 6 titles. You then need a total of 36 acceptances from 12 titles to qualify for Star 2, and so on up to 288 acceptances from 96 titles for Star 5. If you continue to accumulate acceptances beyond those required for Star 5, your acceptances are verified through the Galaxy Rating system. Once you have

accumulated sufficient verified acceptances (through Star or Galaxy ratings) you can apply online for the appropriate ROPA award.

The acceptances and titles required for each Star are summarised here:

Star Rating Titles Acceptances

1 6 18

Additional Titles Cumulative Titles Cumulative Acceptances

2 6 12 36

3 12 24 72

4 24 48 144

5 48 96 288

A second, important, difference is that in the FIAP system there is no distinction between acceptances gained in different sections of an exhibition (for example, Colour and Nature sections or Print and Digital sections). However, in the PSA system the verification process through the Star/Galaxy Ratings system is done through different Divisions of PSA (Colour Projected Images, Monochrome Projected Images, Nature, Photojournalism, Photo Travel, Pictorial Prints and 3D). You cannot mix acceptances across Divisions for Star or Galaxy applications. For example, when applying for Star 1 in the Nature Division all your acceptances must have been obtained in PSA recognised Nature sections of exhibitions. However, once acceptances are verified through Star or Galaxy Ratings they can be combined to give the required number of acceptances for ROPA applications. For example, Star 4 in Nature plus Star 4 in Photojournalism would give the required 288 acceptances for the PPSA distinction (refer to later table).

A third important difference is in the timing of distinction applications. FIAP distinction applications have to be submitted by a specific date each year. You can apply for only one distinction each year and you have to achieve each distinction before applying for the next one - AFIAP, then EFIAP, then EFIAP/b, etc. For PSA, Star Ratings applications can be made at any time. When sufficient acceptances have been achieved the relevant ROPA application can be made online at any time. There is no mandated waiting period between achieving one ROPA distinction and the next. In fact, if you have sufficient acceptances you can 'skip' lower level distinctions and

apply for higher level distinctions. You could, for example, apply for EPSA without having been granted QPSA or PPSA.

A fourth difference is that each FIAP distinction requires acceptances to have been obtained from a minimum number of salons in a minimum number of countries (with a circuit being considered as a single salon). For EFIAP and above a specified number of awards must have been obtained. This aspect of the PSA ROPA system is much simpler. There are no special requirements on the number exhibitions or countries in which acceptances must be obtained and there are no requirements for achieving awards.

Some of the FIAP distinctions require a specified number of acceptances for prints to be included in the application. There is no special requirement for prints in the PSA system unless you are applying for Stars or Galaxies in the Print Division. In the Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel divisions, print and digital image acceptances can be combined on Star applications.

A fifth difference is that that all acceptances within "circuits" can be used on PSA Star applications. There is no limit to the number of acceptances that can be used from an exhibition, a circuit or a country. The number of acceptances required for distinctions in the FIAP and PSA systems are summarised in the table at the end of this article. You will note that for all the PSA distinctions the total number of acceptances is cumulative. However, new images are required for all Galaxy applications.

Each of the systems (FIAP and PSA) has different rules about how many acceptances can be claimed for each image. In the FIAP system images do not have to be retired at any point. However, FIAP does have rules about needing new acceptances and new awards for distinctions above EFIAP. In the PSA Star Ratings system there is no limit to how many acceptances can be claimed for each image. However, once Star 5 is achieved in a Division (Nature for example) the images that were used up to that point have to be retired and acceptances that are claimed for Galaxy ratings have to be from images (titles) that were not used on Star applications in that Division. On Galaxy applications the number of acceptances that can be claimed for each image is limited to three. Beyond the Galaxy system there are Diamond ratings that require new images that have each received six acceptances.

BASIC ACCEPTANCE AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTINCTIONS

(Note: Additional requirements apply in some cases and the rules change from time to time – refer to the FIAP and PSA websites)

PSA

QPSA (Qualify) 54 acceptances No awards needed

PPSA (Proficiency) 288 acceptances No awards needed

EPSA (Excellence) 700 acceptances No awards needed

MPSA (Master) 1500 acceptances No awards needed

MPSA2 (Master 2) 2250 acceptances No awards needed

GMPSA (Grand Master) 3000 acceptances No awards needed

GMPSA/B (GM Bronze) 5000 acceptances No awards needed

GMPSA/S (GM Silver) 7000 acceptances No awards needed

GMPSA/G(GM Gold) 9000 acceptances No awards needed

GMPSA/P (GM Platinum) 11000 acceptances No awards needed

All acceptances must be verified through the Star Ratings system – see the previous table for requirements on the minimum number of titles for each Star. Providing you have sufficient acceptances verified through the Star Ratings system you can apply directly for any distinction without having been granted the lower level distinctions. There is no waiting period between distinction applications.

Note: PSA has a separate system of portfolio distinctions.

FIAP

AFIAP (Artist) 40 acceptances 4 prints, no awards

EFIAP (Excellence) 250 acceptances 12 prints, 2 awards

EFIAP/b (Ex. Bronze) 200 new acceptances (450 total) 4 new awards

EFIAP/s (Ex. Silver) 100 new acceptances (550 total) 5 new awards

EFIAP/g (Ex. Gold) 200 new acceptances (750 total) 6 new awards

EFIAP/p (Ex. Platinum) 200 new acceptances (950 total) 7 new awards

EFIAP/d1 (Ex. Diamond 1) 50 awards after EFIAP/p

EFIAP/d2 (Ex. Diamond 2) 100 awards after EFIAP/p

EFIAP/d3 (Ex. Diamond 3) 200 awards after EFIAP/p

MFIAP Requires a print portfolio submission after achieving EFIAP

Up to EFIAP/d3, you must achieve each FIAP distinction before progressing to the next distinction. There is a one-year waiting period between each application.

For more information about the PSA distinctions system send an email to the address below or visit

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?stars-and-ropa>

IMAGE TITLES

Image titles are very important. Once an image has been accepted in a PSA recognised exhibition you cannot change its title, even if you enter it in a different category. For example, if you have an image that meets the Nature definition, you could enter it in all of the following sections (but not in the same exhibition):

- α A Nature digital section as a colour image.
- α A Nature digital section as a monochrome image.
- α A Nature print section as a colour image.
- α A Nature print section as a monochrome image.
- α A PIDC section.
- α A PIDM section.

For ALL of these entries you must use the SAME title for the image. If you accidentally use slightly different titles when entering an image on multiple occasions the acceptances will be recorded in the PSA database as different titles. This may cause issues when you apply for Star Ratings. If you find that you have made an error with a title, you can signal this on your Star application in the following way: Show both titles in the 'Titles' column of your application and write "Equivalent titles" in the 'Notes' column.

Some common errors in titles are illustrated by the following examples:

- α Colour simphony = Colour Symphony (spelling error)
- α Red car = The red car
- α Fisherman at work = Fishermen at work
- α Heron with crab = Heron and crab
- α Girlfriends = Girl friends
- α Dreams in black and white = Dreams in BW

DON'T WASTE YOUR ACCEPTANCES

If you are planning to achieve any PSA distinction (such as PPSA or EPSA) you have to get your acceptances verified through the Star Ratings system. It is important to keep in mind that each Star Rating requires a specified number of acceptances that were achieved with a minimum number of titles. For example, Star 3 requires 72 acceptances from at least 24 different titles. If you have some images that gain a lot of acceptances you will have to 'balance' those with other images that have received just a few acceptances because on average you need just 3 acceptances per title. If you do not plan ahead you might find that you have gained some acceptances that you cannot use on Star Ratings applications. You also need to remember that once you reach Star 5 in a Division all the titles that you used up to that point have to be retired, you cannot use them on Galaxy applications in that Division or Class.

GDPR REGULATIONS

Your contact details are only stored to enable me to send information to you from time to time. If, however, you do not want to be contacted by the Country Membership Director Wales please let me know and I will endeavour to stop the emailings.

Finally I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a photographically productive New Year

Ian.