



Constitution And Bylaws

Article One– Name And Purpose

The name of this organization shall be the University Photographers' Association of America, which may be identified by its initials of UPAA. It shall be the purpose of the UPAA to:

1. Further and develop the potential of the Photographic Arts for improving Instruction and Communication.
2. Foster and further photographic techniques as a result of exchange of thoughts and opinions among its members.
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4. Cooperate with other organizations which may be striving to accomplish similar purposes.
5. Acquaint Educational Institutions of this Association in an effort to establish confidence in, and to provide good will and support for member institutions and association members.

Article Two– Membership

Section One – Eligibility

Membership shall be open to all individuals regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, education, national origin, or any distinguishing characteristic or trait.

1. Full Membership shall be open to employees of an institution of higher learning whose core responsibilities include photography and/or video production subject to membership approval as stated in Article Two Section Two. This membership shall be subject to full dues and accorded all voting rights and privileges as provided for in the UPAA Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Associate Membership shall be open to anyone who is a 'friend of the profession', and who is not eligible for any other membership categories. These members are subject to

lower dues than Full membership and are accorded all privileges as provided for in the UPAA Constitution and By-Laws, except the right to vote in UPAA governance issues and holding elected office. Participation in image competitions is subject to restrictions established for those contests by the Board of Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, petitions by Associate classified members may be reviewed, and status changed to Full Membership in limited circumstances.

3. Life Membership shall be awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Life members shall be accorded all rights and privileges of full membership, except competing in image competitions is subject to restrictions established by the Board of Directors. Life members are not required to pay dues.
4. Charter Membership shall consist of the original nine founders of the Association.
5. Student Membership shall be open to individuals currently enrolled as full-time students at an institution of higher learning who participate as a photographer and/or videographer for their campus news source, yearbook, social media team(s), or marketing and communications department and/or aspire to be a professional photographer or video producer.
6. Corporate Partner Membership is open to any person representing a manufacturer, a vendor, or producer of products related to the mission of UPAA. They are not entitled to vote on UPAA business.

Section Two– Membership Approval

An individual, upon acceptance by the membership chair, shall be certified for membership, subject to review by the Board of Directors, by meeting the eligibility requirements and upon payment of the annual dues.

Section Three– Voting

Each Full member and Life member in attendance at the annual business meeting or voting via electronic ballot approved by the Board of Directors shall be entitled to one ballot.

Section Four– Dues

1. Annual dues shall become due July 1st, of each year. Memberships run on a July 1st to June 30th of the following year basis. Members failing to pay by July 31st, of the same year, will be considered delinquent and dropped from the membership.
2. Members dropped for non-payment of dues will be reinstated by paying dues at or by that year's annual Symposium. Those seeking reinstatement after one or more years will be reinstated by meeting the eligibility requirements and paying the current dues.

Article Three– Board of Directors

Section One– Elected Positions

The UPAA shall be governed by an eight (8) member Board of Directors whose terms shall last for four years. Two members of this board will be selected each year. Elections shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at the annual business meeting (which can be by written or electronic ballot at the discretion of the Board of Directors), tallied in addition to electronic ballots submitted in a designated time frame and through a system approved by the Board of Directors. Each member in good standing voting in person or electronically during the designated time frame of the election is eligible to cast their ballot.

Section Two– Officers Of The Board

This Board shall annually elect the following officers from their own members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or the combined position of Secretary/Treasurer as circumstances dictate.

Section Three– Duties Of The President

It shall be the duty of the President to:

1. Recommend and approve the agenda and preside at all meetings.
2. Call special meetings as deemed necessary, or when requested to do so upon written request of at least one half of the membership.
3. Appoint all Chairpersons and such committees as deemed advisable.

Section Four– Duties Of The Vice-President

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

1. In the absences of the President, the Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President.
2. Shall be an Ex-Officio member of all committees.

Section Five– Duties Of The Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

1. Record all proceedings of the business meetings of the Association.
2. Conduct correspondence of the Association as directed by the Board.

Section Six– Duties Of The Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

1. Be responsible for receipt and disbursement of all monies of the Association.
2. Report the condition of the Treasury at each meeting of the Association.
3. Make available to the Board of Directors the financial records for an annual audit.

Section Seven - Removal Of A Board Member And Filling Of A Vacancy

The Board of Directors may remove a member of the Board from office by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Board. Reasons for removal may be for, but not limited to:

1. Failure to perform the duties and responsibilities of Board Membership.
2. No longer eligible for full membership in the UPAA.
3. Filling of the board vacancy for the remainder of the term shall be done by the appointment of the President with the majority approval of the UPAA board.

Section Eight– Annual Symposium

1. The Annual Symposium and business meeting shall be held at the time and place decided by the Board of Directors.
2. The Symposium Host will coordinate the annual technical program.

Article Four– Awards

Section One– Fellowship

The Board of Directors may elect any member of the Association who they feel has shown distinguished ability, service to the Association, and contributions to the advancement of the profession, as a UPAA Fellow.

Section Two– Chris Hughes Distinguished Service Award

The Board of Directors may from time to time select any member of the Association who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors has rendered exceptional service to the Association to receive the Chris Hughes Distinguished Service Award.

Section Three– Honor Award

On an annual basis, UPAA Honor Awards will be presented for individual photographs judged as outstanding.

Section Four– The Mark Philbrick University Photographer of The Year Award

A University Photographer of the Year Award may be presented to a UPAA member by the Association. The award was renamed 2017 in honor of Mark Philbrick, Brigham Young University photographer, who has won the award a record 8 times.

Section Five– Rollin H. Barrett Award

Established in 1965, this award is given at the discretion of the Board at the annual symposium to a member who makes significant literary contributions to The Contact Sheet in the preceding year.

Article Five– Amendments and By-Laws

Section One– Amendments

Amendments to or changes in the Constitution or By-Laws of this Association shall be made by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at the annual business meeting, or any other meeting specifically called for by the President. Said meeting and vote can be transacted electronically, subject to authorized third party vote tally.

Section Two – Matters Of Corporate Governance

Matters of the corporation and matters not specifically addressed in the UPAA Constitution will be addressed by the board directors in order to comply with state and federal requirements.

By-Laws

Section One– Fiscal Year

The UPAA shall run on a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, for the purpose of dues and to accommodate typical fiscal schedules of most institutions of higher learning. Accounting and terms of office will continue to align with the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Section Two– Dues Amount

Dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors, subject to approval of any change in dues by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the annual business meeting, or any other meeting specifically called for by the President. Special assessments may be levied as needed, by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the annual business meeting, or any other meeting specifically called for by the President, said meetings and vote can be transacted electronically, subject to authorized third-party tally.

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Section Three– Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors at any scheduled meeting shall be authorized to transact the business of the Association, along with proper notification of such meeting to the membership, three days prior to the assembly.

Section Four– Robert's Rules

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the Parliamentary Authority for all matters of procedure during business meetings when not specifically covered by the Constitution and By-Laws.

Last revised: June 26, 2025