

Officers 2018

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September 6, 2017

To The Photography Industry,

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1920, the Southwest Professional Photographers Association was established as an affiliate of the Professional Photographers of America, as it is known today. It was formed as an association of southwest states working together for the betterment of photographers and to elevate the standards of photographic quality. During SWPPA's 98 year history, the association has been witness to many changes in the photographic industry and has adapted well, despite those challenges.

Some recent changes have occurred that are beyond our control. After extensive analysis and evaluation of the association's future purpose, the SWPPA Board of Directors has voted to discontinue operations as a PPA affiliate, effective January 1, 2018. A major factor impacting this decision was predicated by the decision of PPA and IPCC to move all District Image Competitions to PPA headquarters in Atlanta, beginning in 2018. This factor, along with a change in the cohesive working relationship of the member states, has brought this decision to fruition.

The SWPPA Executive Committee met via teleconference on August 14th and again on September 5th to thoroughly discuss all aspects of its proposal to the Board of Directors and the manner in which assets of equipment and cash will be disbursed. The SWPPA Board of Directors have agreed that upon conclusion of operations, the remaining cash assets will be donated to the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Louis, MO, who has agreed to accept and accession our historical files and artifacts to become part of the museum's permanent collection.

On behalf of the SWPPA Board of Directors, I wish to thank PPA, IPCC and all of our vendors for their many years of support. We also wish to acknowledge and thank the Southwest District states, comprised of the original five; Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the welcomed addition, a few years ago, of Arizona, Colorado and Utah.

Sincerely yours,

Wade Ponthier
SWPPA President 2018