

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA) News

The national photography organization for the USA



By Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP

President, Photographic Alliance of America • FIAP Liaison Officer for the United States of America

PAA Institutes Honors Program

Beginning in 2023, PAA is recognizing the PAA and FIAP service of its members to those organizations and to the advancement of USA photography around the world. The first PAA Honors were presented at the 2023 PAA Annual General Meeting during the PSA Photo Festival in Williamsburg, VA. There is no fee to apply for or receive a PAA Honor.

No written Proposal or Endorsement is required, rather the PAA Honors application lists service activities that the candidate may have performed and the point value for each service. There are also areas where a service may be added and the points for that service will be determined by the PAA Executive Committee or, in time, a PAA Honors Committee. Any new service submitted by a PAA Honors candidate may be added to the application list of possible service.

Any PAA member meeting the minimum requirement may apply each year. Additionally, another PAA member may apply on behalf of a PAA member who meets the minimum requirement. A PAA-member club may identify someone in the club who will help PAA members apply and/or apply for the club's members.

Holding a position will not be considered for PAA Honors points, rather the tasks completed while in a position will each be given points and counted.

PAA Honors Requirements

There is a minimum requirement of **five consecutive years of membership in PAA**. This means being a PSA member living in the USA and a member of a PSA-member club in the USA for a minimum of five consecutive years. If proof of PSA-member club membership cannot be confirmed from PAA records, proof will be requested from the club. PAA was established in 2017 and became a member of FIAP in 2018; therefore, the five-year minimum requirement can be met by anyone who was a PSA member living in the USA and a member of a PSA-member club in the USA on or before 2018.

Have a **FIAP Photographer's Life Card for at least five years**. If proof of the date on the FIAP Photographer's Card cannot be confirmed from PAA records, a copy of the card will be requested.

PAA Honors are earned and presented annually. Each PAA Honor must be earned and presented at least one year before the next honor is earned and presented. That means that if someone already has 105 points when they apply for their first PAA Honor, they will be awarded the first PAA Honor (SSPSA-50 points) and can apply the next year

to achieve the second PAA Honor (ESPAA-100 points).

PAA Honors

SSPAA (Significant Service) – Awarded to a PAA Member for Significant Service to PAA and to other members of PAA as accounted for by earning **50 points**.

ESPAA (Exceptional Service) – Awarded to a PAA Member for Exceptional Service to advance PAA and provide visibility for USA photographers and USA photography. Additionally, this honor requires extensive service to other members of PAA. The Exceptional Service Honor is awarded as accounted for by earning **100 points**.

XSPAA (Exemplary Service) – Awarded to a PAA member for Exemplary Service and Leadership to advance PAA Nationally and Internationally, provide International visibility for USA photography, and mentor PAA members to achieve FIAP Distinctions and provide leadership for PAA. The Exemplary Service Honor is awarded as accounted for by earning **150 points**, including at least 10 leadership points.

LSPAA (Leadership & Service) – Awarded to a PAA member for Extensive Service and Leadership to ensure the future of PAA and the potential for USA photographers to continue to earn FIAP Distinctions. The Leadership & Service Honor is awarded as accounted for by earning **200 points**, including at least 25 new leadership points.

Honorary PAA Honors

HonFPAA (Founder's Honorary Award) – Awarded to the Founder of PAA who is not eligible for any other PAA Honor (only one Founder's Honorary Award will be bestowed).

HonAPAA (Honorary Advisor to PAA) – Awarded to non-PAA Members who provide outstanding, unique, and extraordinary advice to advance PAA internationally through specific activity/action.

The PAA Executive Committee will suggest persons who are not PAA members, but have provided outstanding, unique, and extraordinary advice/counsel to advance PAA internationally through specific activity/action. All members of the PAA Executive Committee must approve of those to receive Honorary PAA Honors.

If the recipient of an Honorary PAA Service Award attends the PAA Annual General Meeting, a certificate will be prepared for presentation; however, a digital certificate will be sent via email if the recipient cannot attend the PAA Meeting.



Service Points Awarded For

- Publishing a mini recommendation describing a photography opportunity in the USA in the FIAP News.
- Publishing an article or section of an article in the FIAP News.
- Publishing a photograph (not a head shot) in the PAA News in the PSA Journal.
- Attending a FIAP Photo Academy online program.
- Presenting a program to the FIAP Photo Academy.
- Attending a PAA Annual General Meeting in person (10 points) or by Zoom (5 points).
- Attending a FIAP Photo Festival.
- Arranging & Chairing a PAA Program/Presentation for a minimum of 20 participants at/for a USA PSA-member Club.
- Judging one section of a PAA-Patronage salon after January 1, 2023, to a maximum of two sections in any one PAA-Patronage salon.
- Serving as General Chair of a PAA-Patronage salon after January 1, 2023. (General Chair of a Circuit is counted as one salon, same as a single salon).
- Judging a PSA-recognized and FIAP-Patronage salon not in the USA after January 1, 2023, to a maximum of two sections in any one salon. For this purpose, a Circuit will be considered one salon.
- Serving on the PAA Board as the Director of a PAA Service.
- Accomplishing the tasks of a PAA Service Director.
- Providing unexpected, unplanned service as a PAA Service Director.
- Providing ideas, suggestions, plans, or concepts for the continued development and future of PAA.
- Preparing a chart, graph, sample, example, certificate, artwork, etc., for PAA operation (points based on item produced).
- Helping with PAA Annual General Meeting physical set-up and take down, including the audio-visual equipment needed, and layout of the certificates, pins, and cards.
- Helping with PAA-member Club Representative attendance at PAA Annual General Meeting.
- Taking and providing photos of the PAA Annual General Meeting.