

Musings by Mufty.....Oct 24, 2019

I go early to the meeting last month. Here's what happens.

About an hour ahead of meeting time Ron arrives with the key for the Pleasantview Community Centre and opens the door. A few keeners wander in to a large bare room that is simply wall to wall floor. Members drift in, hang up their coats and make things happen. They pull out a great long drawer from under the stage that houses all the needed paraphernalia. It is a competition night so first they pull out great large easels, 7 feet high and take them into the submerged annex room off the main meeting room. Canvas tubes are unrolled to reveal the horizontal wooden slats that hold the prints for viewing. Each easel, (there are five,) is put in place with two lights arranged on each to showcase the prints. More volunteers haul out big plastic containers from the great long drawer; some go to the coffee crew organizing the cups, the coffee, the tea, sugar and cream.

There is a small room at the front right that says "CHAIRS" on the door. More volunteers roll out pallets with 8 chairs on each. They create rows of seven chairs on each side of an aisle. Newly arrived members help. The tall projector table is rolled out and the projector carefully put on top. Several tables are hauled out of this room, legs extended and placed at the entrance for the name tags and the membership committee. Another big white plastic container full of name tags is put out on this table so that committee members can greet the photographers as they come in the door. Their big plastic container has in it clip boards, membership lists, brochures, business cards, pens, a visitor book and voting ballots.

A podium for the speaker is rolled out and the PA system tested. Up on the stage, the big heavy screen is set up on its great chrome legs and the screen unrolled down from the top. Competitions people, down behind the counter in the annex room, begin accepting prints putting them carefully in piles for Open Prints and Themed Prints. More people pour in the front door. There are new visitors and old timers all greeting one another, talking cameras, outings, weather, latest photo ops, trips and other such conversations related to photographers.

The coffee counter magically works on coffee, tea, hot chocolate or hot water, cupcakes, taco chips, ice-cream biscuits and a plate full of jujubes. Conversation levels grow higher as people find their seats and settle in for the program. The president brings us to order.

After the meeting, we are invited to stack the chairs, 8 to a stack and the room empties quickly. Many of the same nameless volunteers undo what they do at the beginning, chairs and tables go into the ROOM room. The pull-out storage is loaded up with the big white plastic boxes and the big tall easels. The lights are put away, the coffee stuff and the membership stuff is carefully put back in their big white plastic boxes and the big long storage bin is pushed back under the stage.

It is all so smooth and seamless that it is hard for members to realize how much these willing club members do to make it happen. We leave, the large bare room, wall to wall floor, as though nothing has happened.