

# *Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs*

## HOW WE BEGAN

On May 8, 1954 representatives from nine West Michigan camera clubs met at the Scott Art and Garden Center in Lansing to consider forming an organization that would combine their talents and resources to jointly sponsor field trips, competitions and conferences.

The attendees voted unanimously to form the Southwestern Michigan Camera Club Council and before the two-hour meeting concluded had:

- Elected a President, Secretary and Treasurer,
- Outlined ideas for conducting a competition,
- Planned a mid-summer field trip, and
- Scheduled a competition.

Within a few short months the Council had grown to 12 member clubs and the first slide meet was held on October 24, 1954 in Allegan with all clubs participating. It is interesting to note that a representative of each of the clubs voted on each slide (12 judges!). An electrical system of “white, green and red light boards” was employed to record the judges’ votes, and a reiterative viewing process was used to pare down to the eventual winners. The entry fee was 15 cents per slide.

The Council continued to grow and flourish and was incorporated in 1963 under the name Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCCC).

### Founding Clubs – 1954

Allegan County Camera Club	Allegan
Camera Art Club	Grand Rapids
Hillsdale Camera Club	Hillsdale
Ionia Camera Club	Ionia
Kalamazoo Camera Club	Kalamazoo
Lansing Camera Club	Lansing
Metropolitan Camera Club	Muskegon
Upjohn Camera Club	Kalamazoo
Shutterbug Club	Alma

