

Hi, my name is Mat Rick, and I'm asking for your vote to become a member of the ASMP National Board - but you probably already knew that. Here's some information you might not know...

I've been passionate about photography my whole life, but did get a little side-tracked along the way. Photography was one of my college majors, and eventually my main hobby. For the first decade of my professional career however, I pursued the business world, earning an MBA and shooting only on the side. During that time, I learned many business skills that would aid me in my future photography career. Additionally, I served as a board member for an online charter school in California. My passion eventually grew into a career, and I started my full time photography & videography business in San Francisco, though I now call New York City my home.

The same year I incorporated my business was the *same year* I joined ASMP. I had learned that ASMP was the golden standard for information, community, and advocacy on behalf of the working photographer. It was during those first years that ASMP became an important resource in my career, teaching me what it meant to create and maintain a successful photography business. That open sharing of information was a stepping stone to my success and a large reason I would like to give back to ASMP.

At 36 years of age, I honed my craft during the analog age, yet built my business and network during the digital age. My colleagues are just as many established photographers with decades of experience, as new professionals, who found their way to full-time freelance work through the internet and social media. I've long been a consultant to many of my younger friends, sharing my knowledge of contracts, licensing, copyrights and all the other complications of working in this industry. I've also been a strong advocate of ASMP, and have been dismayed at how few young photographers have any awareness of the benefits to joining a community such as ASMP. I'd like to change that, and help become a bridge to continue ASMP's success with future generations of photographers.

I truly believe that the photography industry has a bright future, and that ASMP can play a defining role in shaping that future. By continuing to embrace the sharing of knowledge with its members, using new technologies to attract younger professionals, and leading the charge in diversity and equality in the industry, ASMP and its members can continue to be one of the defining pillars of the industry.

Thanks for taking the time to read my statement, and thanks in advance for your vote of confidence in me.

Mat Rick
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