

To: All PCA Zone 8 Concours Judges, concours enthusiasts and participants

From: Dave Yertzley

Subject: Zone 8 Manual for Concours Judges

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I am gratified that in the five years since the first version of the Manual for Concours Judges was introduced it has won increasing acceptance as a useful reference and a guide for judges in Zone 8 Concours competition. Although the Competition Rules specify the broad framework of how a Zone 8 Concours competition should be conducted, they are not intended to address in detail many of the issues that judges encounter while working at an event. The manual has been written to fill in some of these gaps.

I originally conceived of writing this manual because much of concours, both in preparation and judging, seems to be based on what I am tempted to describe as lore, information that is passed on verbally. I thought that setting as much of this material down in one place, where it could be reviewed by both judges and competitors, would be helpful to all people who are involved in Concours competition and would also serve as useful background material for the Concours judging schools which are held every year. For many issues I am unaware of any principles which have been generally agreed upon, and so the manual contains new approaches which I have formulated for these areas.

As has been the case for previous versions, some people will have suggestions for changes, corrections and improvements. In addition, some people may encounter situations during events which do not seem to have been anticipated in the manual. Consequently, in addition to notes about errors or omissions, I would like to receive descriptions of any unusual judging problems which people might encounter. You may reach me at daveyerzley@gmail.com or at 818-845-6373.

Mike Mansolino graciously participated in extensive e-mail conversations with me about various issues during the time I have spent writing and revising this manual, and his insights have been invaluable in making it a useful reference. However, I alone am responsible for its final form and for any errors, omissions or inconsistencies which might remain.

I hope that this manual contributes to the enjoyment of all participants, judges and entrants alike, in future Zone 8 Concours events.