

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

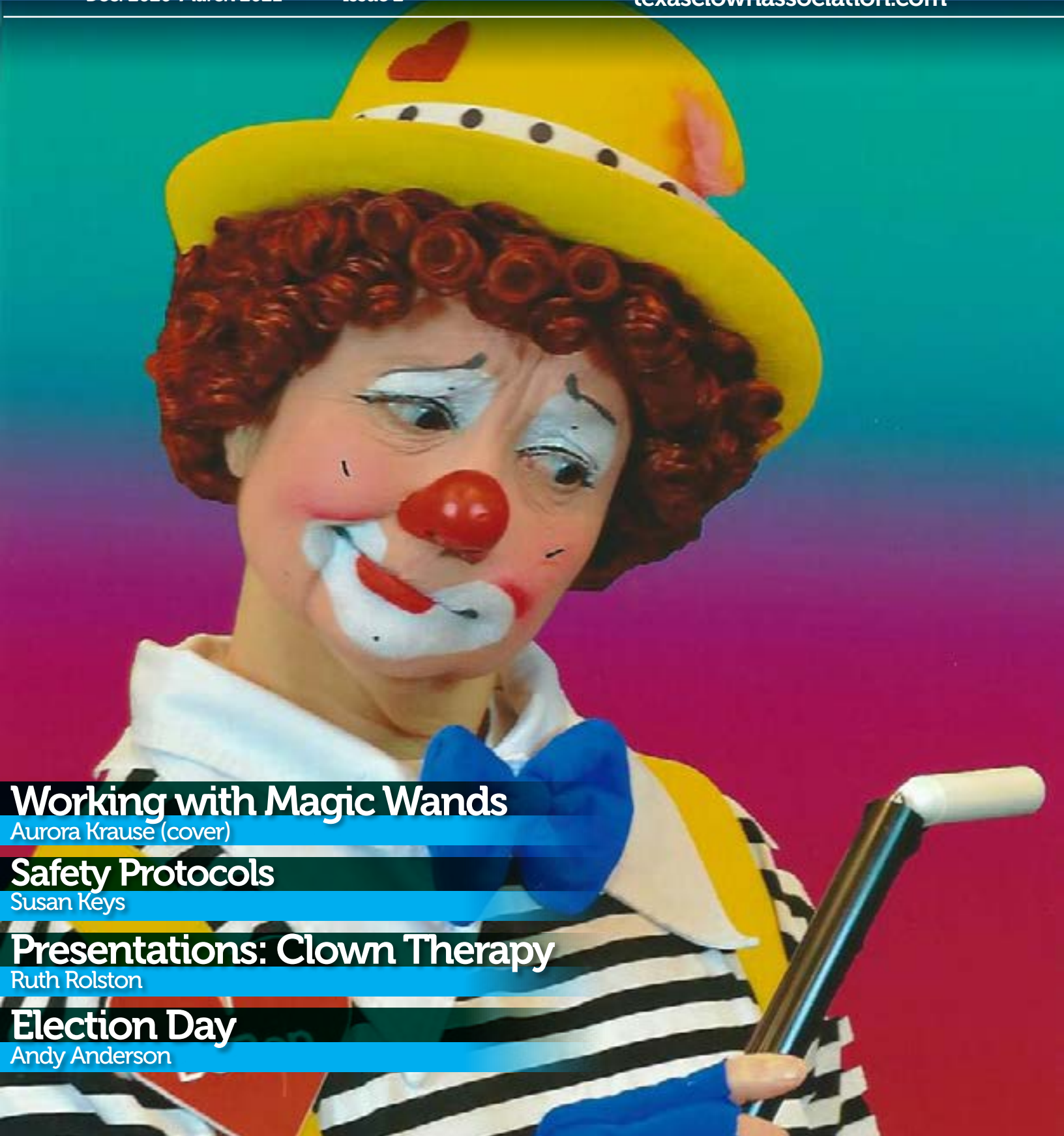
# Joey Journal



Dec. 2020-March 2021

Issue 2

[texasclownassociation.com](http://texasclownassociation.com)



## Working with Magic Wands

Aurora Krause (cover)

## Safety Protocols

Susan Keys

## Presentations: Clown Therapy

Ruth Rolston

## Election Day

Andy Anderson



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# Purpose of TCA

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

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Be sure to check out the TCA website at

[www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)

The members only password is: iluvclowns

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with TCA.

## TCA Clown Alleys



### Panhandle/West Region

Oops Alley - TCA #2

### North Central Region

Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9

Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12

The Clown Arounds - TCA #16

### North East Region

Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1\*

Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13

Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23\*

Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24\*

Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

### South East Region

Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6\*

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11\*

Cheeful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18\*

### South/Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15

\*Inactive Alleys

## a word from the

# PRESIDENT

I love the new Digital Joey Journal. Don't you think Greg did a great job putting it together? Hope you enjoy this issue and find that the articles are great. I hope they inspire you to submit an article for the next issue. It can be something you have learned, something you or your group has done that you would like to share with the other members (pictures would be welcome), or other articles that you have read elsewhere about clowning. If you do submit one that was written by someone else please ask their permission and give them credit in your article. By the way, if you have not received any of my emails this year please send me your email so I can make sure we have a current email for you on file. I have been sending out emails with TCA info and I would hate for you to miss the emails.

Well the Pandemic has continued and the end seems to be stretching long into the future. I hope everyone has stayed safe during this time and you and your love ones have stayed healthy and avoided the dreaded COVID. I hope that those of you affected by the loss of jobs have been able to get help to ride this through. I know it has been hard. I know some of you have been able to find ways to clown virtually and perform in ways we have not done before. I am proud of you for your creativity. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I know you must be anxious to get back out to clown, but the Virus is still holding us as captives. This will pass, but until it does please take proper protection by wearing masks where required, washing your hands often, and practicing social distancing. I know you are getting tired of hearing this from everyone, but let's do our part to control the spread where we can.

We need you and miss you. Please plan on attending the 2021 convention. Cindy Sanders and Susan Keys have successfully retained the lecturers, vendors and headliners that we were going to have this year so I am excited for TCA 2021. I hope you are excited as well and are making plans to attend. We can't wait to get together again next year for a "Clown Family" reunion.

I hope you and our family had a great Christmas and Happy New year and that 2021 brings great things. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at [judy.a.cornett@gmail.com](mailto:judy.a.cornett@gmail.com) or you can call my cell at 713-201-8681.

Judy "Peep" Cornett



# Working with Magic Wands

by Aurora "Bebop" Krause

One of my favorite ways of including children, parents or teachers in my performance is by using different magic wands during a show. For a clown doing silly magic, the wand can provide great performance opportunities. When I work with a magic wand I incorporate comedy movement, facial expressions, funny-word-play along with audience interaction. The possibility of adding all or some of these antics to a presentation can make it fun for everyone. In order for any prop to offer this much potential you need to be able to stay open to all the creative possibilities that a magic wand can provide. When shopping for a wand look for one that has a funny look to it and that provides some sort of function or dysfunction that'll work for your shows. You might even find something that can be improvised by adding a little imagination to your wand selection.

I have collected several magic wands and have become familiar with the potential each one adds to a presentation; the following are three of my favorite wands:

- The Broken-Ends Wand-(using the thumb you can slide the gimmick either forward or backwards so the white ends fall over accordingly)
- The Fishing-Rod Wand-(A wand that you hold at one end and three sides of the wand unfold to the ground making it look like a fishing rod)
- The Large-Soft-Foam Wand-(A 28" foam and floppy magic wand that packs into an 10" space)

I've worked with these magic wands often enough to know what audience they'll work best in and I've

developed confidence in their potential to assist me in entertaining. I can include brief or lengthy patter to the routine depending on what I need at the time. This flexibility is what makes any prop valuable and important to any show. In addition to the wand itself I like to add funny, crazy magic words to the routine, for instance:

- Yummy, Yummy, Yucky Yogurt
- Pickle, Pickle Pumper Nickel

I try to make the magic words easy and repetitive and also something that the children can relate to. I don't want the magic phrase to be too long because I want the children to join me in saying the words two or three times. Of course, if you're at a birthday party it's a good idea to have the magic words include the birthday child's name for example; 'Happy Birthday Susie', children do like to hear their names.

Magic wands can be a very important part of your performance; they're one of my favorite props. As a clown who does silly magic these wands will allow you to make your magic presentations more fun and entertaining. Your unique clown character, your imagination and your magic wand selection can add an endless amount of creative material to your performance.

Let me know if you have questions or comments on this topic, I enjoy hearing from you. Visit bebop at: [www.bebopworld.com](http://www.bebopworld.com)



## Why Attend a Magic (or Clown) Convention?

By Duane Laflin

Submitted by Susan "Double Bubble" Keys

**1. Inspiration** - When we are among others who are excited and enthusiastic about something, we tend to be excited and enthusiastic as well. When we are off by ourselves, enthusiasm diminishes and sometime dies.

There is an old illustration about a piece of wood burning in a fireplace. In the fire, among the other burning pieces, it has a bright flame. However, if the piece of wood is removed from the fire and set out on a cement floor to burn on its own, it is soon extinguished even though the rest of the fire keeps going strong. This is compared to human behavior. It is hard to keep our own flame going when off on our own.

Magic is fun and, when used for such things as school, library and church programs, it can be beneficial for educational purposes. As an entertainment tool it is a wonderful thing. It is something worth staying excited about...so keep your enthusiasm going by way of participating in events involving other magicians!

**2. Education** - In the effort to improve our skills and perfect our craft it is important to keep learning. Lectures and personal interaction with other magicians is a great way to gain insight on effective techniques and better tools for magical purposes. Who wants to be the kind of magician who has been doing the same thing in the same way year after year? It is good to be a magician who keeps learning and growing as a performer. Conventions are a great way to personally keep progressing as a magical artist and craftsman.

**3. Thinking** - Observing lectures and watching other magicians perform stimulates one's own thoughts and ideas. Whether or not one directly uses ideas shared by other magicians, simply being exposed to their ideas can give one his own new ideas! Many of the best magical ideas to ever come to my mind came by way of something another magician said or did that got me thinking in a new direction.

**4. Relationships** - My first experience with a magic convention happened over forty years ago. At the convention I met people who are yet my dear friends today! Magic conventions are a place where we meet people who have the same interests as our own. We connect with people with whom we have much in common. This makes for great conversation and friendships. The opportunity to enjoy people and experience pleasant conversation about shared interests is priceless.

**5. Entertainment** - Magicians are typically fun people. Good magic shows are fun to see. A magic convention is a place where one can smile, laugh, clap and cheer. Allow yourself to experience a good time. Take a few days out of your regular routine to enjoy something that really is a magical occasion. In other words, one big reason for attending a magic convention is "for the fun of it!"

**6. Shopping** - Yes, with the internet nowadays it is possible to purchase magic without ever leaving the comfort of one's own home. The downside to this is one does not get to actually see and examine items before they are purchased. There must be reliance on written descriptions and video. At a magic convention there is a vendor room filled with props, apparatus and resources one can directly see. Demonstrators are on hand to answer questions and provide explanations. It is likely you will find items you would not have even thought to check out on the internet. This is another thing that is fun. To a magician the "dealer room" is like being a kid who walks into a candy store!

**7. History** - Because, for the past forty years and more I have attended many magic conventions, I can say I "was there" to see Harry Blackstone Jr. perform the floating lightbulb. As well, in person, I saw Marvyn and Carol Roy do the "Mr. Electric" act, I saw Jay Marshall do "Lefty," I saw Karrell Fox and Ab Dickson do the "vanished and reappearing piece of cake," I saw Billy McComb do the "half-dyed silk," I saw Pavel do his rope routine, I saw Johnny and Pam Thompson do their "Polish Prestidigitator" act, I saw Norm Nielsen do his "Floating Violin"...and the list can go on and on.

I have been privileged, because I was at conventions where such happened, to see many great and wonderful things which now are part of the history of magic. I cherish these memories and enjoy sharing them. Things happen at magic conventions that become part of magic history. Being at conventions allows one to have first hand knowledge and sometimes even participation in these things.

As a magician who is now part of the older generation I occasionally have younger magicians ask me, "How do you know that? How do you know so much about these different magical things?" The answer is, "I was there." Personal presence at magical events is a great way to keep up with what magic is really about. A day will come when you will be glad to be able to say, "I was there."

**8. Business** - A magic convention is a great place to talk business and learn more about the magic business. It is where one can converse about marketing tools and booking methods. It is a place where one often finds specific teaching about getting more shows. As well, it is a place where one might meet an individual who hires, promotes or works with magicians like you. Attending a magic convention can be good for your business!

**9. To Give Back** - Magic conventions are not just about what one receives. They are about supporting our art. They are about being there to encourage other performers (especially to cheer on the young performers). They are about being there to take part in encouraging conversation. They are about making a statement that one cares about magic and wants to see the fun and benefits of magic passed on to yet another generation.

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HERB? OH, HE JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR THE CONVENTION NEXT MONTH!

## HOSPITAL HUMOR

by Kathy "Piccolo" Keaton

When you are doing "Clown Rounds" You never know what to expect behind each door but often a clown offers patients a chance to use humor to help them over the pain, anxiety and stress they may be feeling. He said, "come in." He was in his early 20's with his leg elevated with screws coming out the sides. "Would you like me to play you a song," I asked? "Sure . . . do you know the UT Fight Song?" "I sure do and started playing "The Eyes of Texas" on my Kazoosophone." When I was finished, I asked, "do you go to UT??" "No mam. . . I'm an Aggie but if you play the Aggie Fight Song, I have to stand up and I can't."

They were quite elderly. The door was open and he was sitting right next to the bed, holding her hand. They looked very much in love. "How long have you two been married, I asked?" "One hundred and twenty- three years, he answered." "She's had three husbands and I've had two wives. We've been married for three years!"

I was walking behind a patient pulling an IV pole. "Good morning, I said." He smiled and kept up his pace. "You know why hospital gowns and insurance are alike, I asked?" "No . . .why?" "You think you're covered but you're not!" We both laughed!

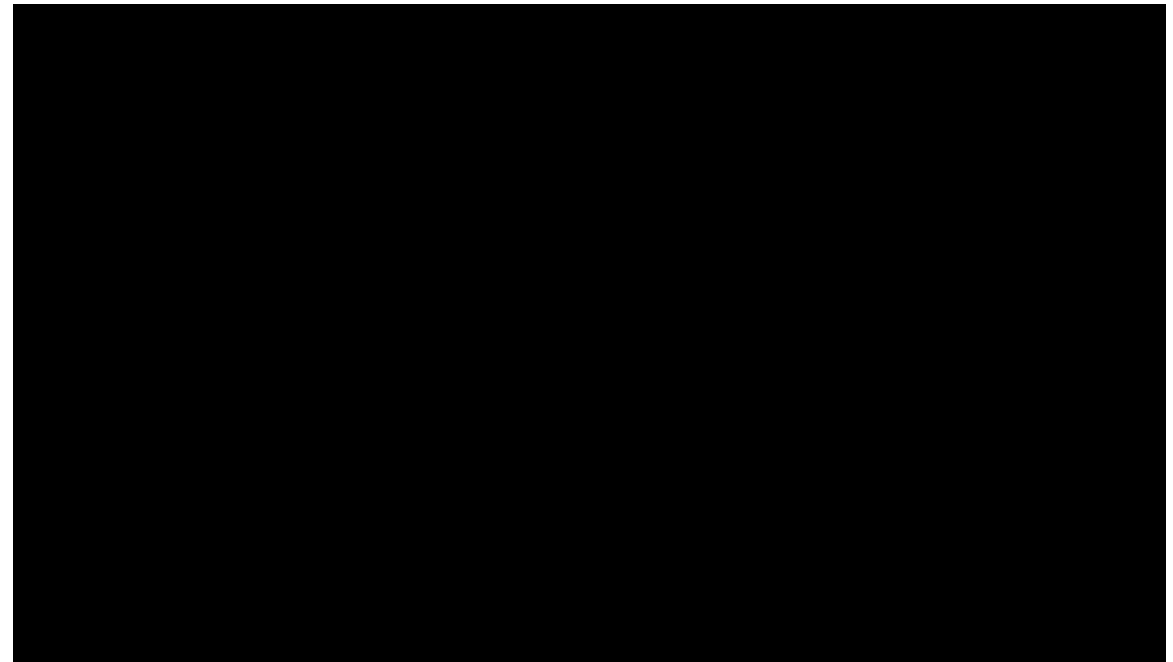
The nurse had a patient that was somewhat confused. In the middle of the night, she rang the nurse and sked her to go to Albertson's to get her an onion. The nurse tried to appease her and said, "Let's wait till tomorrow." "It's too late tonight." The patient was insistent so the nurse told her "We can't go tonight because Albertson's is closed" The patient answered and said "I don't know if you're just stupid or what but everyone knows that Albertson's is open twenty-four hours a day!"

Stories are from my book "Prescription Humor"

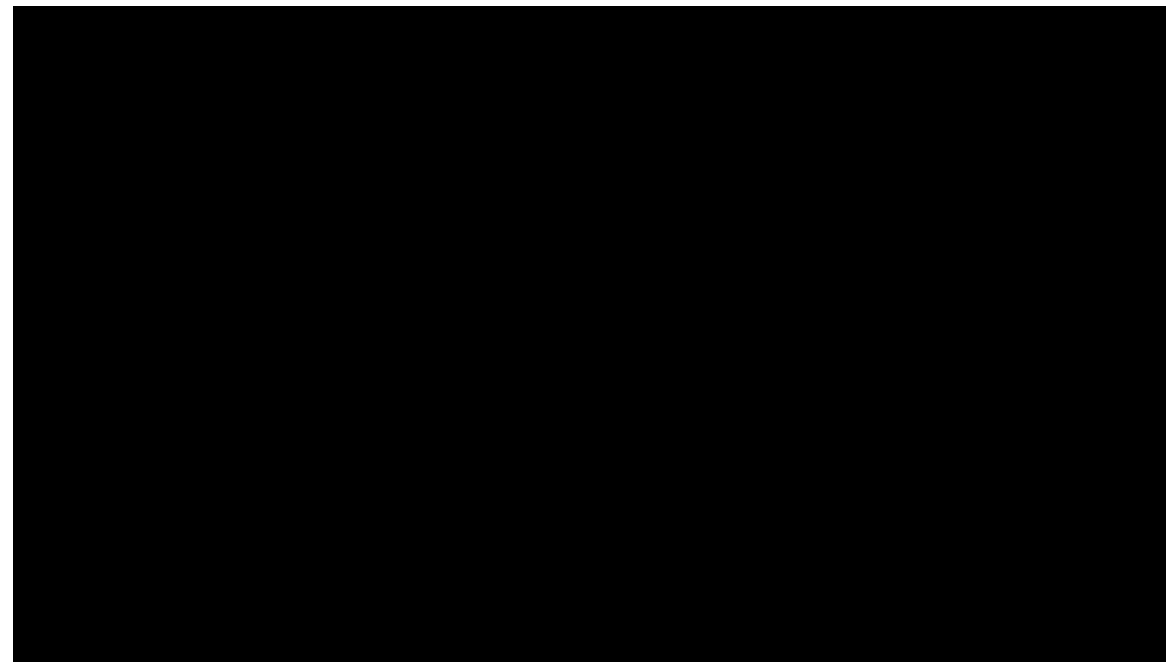


## What's on the TUBE?

Here's a little messy fun! First up, Steve & Ryan - Laundry Gag - Circus World.



Don't miss Ringling Bros. RED UNIT Clown Alley 2003 - in Cafeteria Gag.



# Safety Protocols

## Air Brush Tattoos

- Face Shield or Face Mask (until such time as not deemed necessary for public safety)
- Hand sanitizer to be used in between each child
- Area for placement will be swabbed with alcohol for each person and stencil will be cleaned after every application
- If anyone presents to you with anything questionable (appearing unwell or has any type of skin infection) you have to the right to refuse them service

## Balloon Twisting

- Artist will no longer mouth inflate and will use hand pump or electric pump only
- Hand sanitizer will be on open display for ready use
- Face Shield or Face Mask (until such time as not deemed necessary for public safety)

## Children's Shows

- All Props will be sanitized before and after each show
- All shows will be adjusted to reflect less direct audience participation while still engaging the children

## Glitter Tattoos

- Face Shield or Face Mask (until such time as not deemed necessary for public safety)
- Hand sanitizer to be used in between each child
- Area for placement will be swabbed with alcohol for each child and every stencil placed
- 1 Stencil per child and absolutely no reuse of any stencils, they are to be 1 application per stencil only to prevent the transference of any skin or communicable disease

## Face Painting

- One sponge per person is now required (I normally use 1 sponge then place that used sponge into a separate bag that I throw in the laundry on delicate with extremely hot water and soap, let your sponges air dry afterward)
- Face Shield or Face Mask (until such time as not deemed necessary for public safety)
- Disposable lip applicators, these can easily be purchased on Ebay
- Alcohol spray to mist your make up as needed (any grade is fine)
- Hand sanitizer to be used in between each child
- 10-1 Bleach solution for your rinse water (1-part bleach to 9 parts water) you should have 2 rinse water cups one with your sanitizing solution and the other is clear water to rinse your brush (brush must be in the sanitizing solution for at least 30 seconds to be effective)
- If anyone presents to you with anything questionable (appearing unwell or has any type of skin infection) you have to the right to refuse them service

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we will all need to adjust our methods of entertainment in order to comply with new standards and create a safe environment for everyone. Sanitary and safety protocols are outlined above. Sharon Hodges and friends put together the facepainting guidelines and the rest have been submitted by Susan Keys.

As we hopefully are moving out of this pandemic, most of these guidelines are probably things we should be doing anyway.

Photo by Michael Morse from Pexels



# Are Magic Conventions Dying Out?

by Duane Laflin

Submitted by Susan "Double Bubble" Keys

*Here's a great article, though directed towards magic conventions, could give you and your alley some things to think about as you consider hosting a TCA Convention in the future.*

Over recent years I have heard it on numerous occasions. Someone says, "Magic conventions are becoming a thing of the past. People just don't attend them anymore."

Those who say this are usually thinking of a regional convention which is no longer what it used to be. I was recently at a well known gathering of magicians which has been going on for more than 60 years. The organizer said to me, "I remember when we would have close to 500 magicians at this event. Now we are lucky to get 100."

"Every year fewer and fewer people attend..."

This past summer I attended on event which once would draw around a thousand in attendance. This year attendance was under 300. When talking to people at this convention I heard comments such as, "We are concerned this gathering will die." "Early year fewer and fewer people come."

Such comments are typically accompanied by head nods indicating what is thought to be a profound observation...People are not as excited about magic as they used to be.

I disagree. I think people are as excited about magic as ever and yet enthusiastic about magic conventions which are done well.

Are magic conventions really dying? Is interest in magic really going away?

How can we say magic conventions are dying out when MAGIC LIVE, with an attendance of 1600 at around \$450 per person registration, sells out every year? And what about Columbus Magi-fest, with an attendance of 1000 at a ticket price of \$250 each, also selling out? Then there is the Blackpool magic convention in England that annually draws more than 3500 magicians. And what do we think about the many who are subscribed to online services like Penguin LIVE and willing to pay as much as \$49.95 per month to receive digital lectures on a monthly basis?

As well we must consider the popularity of Penn

& Teller's "Fool Us," and the fact that "Masters Of Illusion' is now in its sixth season, and the fact Shin Lim won on a recent year's version of "America's Got Talent," and the phenomenal run of the "Illusionists" which presently has spanned from Broadway to around the world.

I have been involved in magic almost 50 years. From my point of view, magic is as popular now as it has been anytime in my lifetime.

The problem is perspective...

A reason why some think magic is dying is they have their minds on how things used to be. Rather than seeing what presently is happening, they are looking at the past and wondering why what happened "back then" is not the same as what is happening now.

It can be true that what "used to be" is no longer doing well. Current culture calls for change. If there is unwillingness to change in spite of changing culture, events will struggle to survive.

If conventions are advertised now as they were in the past, attendance will likely be weak. If magic shows are promoted now as they were in the past, not many are likely to show up. If magic shows are characterized by the political incorrectness of the past, the rude and borderline abusive onstage behavior of the past, and such things as insensitivity to sexism and diversity, people will not support them.

Forward thinking is required...

In other words, magic is still going strong, but some magicians are looking at it with a warped point of view. Specifically, about magic conventions, forward thinking is required.

Why are MAGIC LIVE and Magi-fest doing so well? They are put on by people willing to break with tradition. Stan Allen and his team (MAGIC LIVE), Josh Jay and Andi Gladin (Magic-Fest), are not doing things "as they have always been done." Instead of thinking, "What is the tradition?" They are thinking,

"What is the way to do it now?"

The conventions which are struggling are those who keep trying to do things "as they have always been done."

In light of current culture, here are three things for organizers of magic conventions to consider if they want their events to be well attended and appreciated...

1. Social media must be relied upon heavily for advertising and promotion.

Putting an ad in a magic magazine, or even in several magazines, is no longer sufficient advertising.

In the past having an ad in the Linking Ring, M-U-M, or Genii was enough. Magicians would see the ad, check out what performers were booked and make a decision to attend.

Nowadays, not as many are reading printed publications. Print ads get far less notice than in the past. Readers are going to digital publications and social media. If a convention does not have a strong presence on social media it can expect to die.

Note: There is yet value in print ads. I am not suggesting they not be used at all. I am saying they are not enough...and not even close to being enough. They will reach a few people. Social media will reach many.

2. Booking and programming for conventions must be done with a commitment to high quality and excellence.

In my early years as a magician my attitude was anything is better than nothing. Opportunities to see other magicians were rare so I was excited to see a magician anytime anywhere. At conventions, even if performers were not particularly good, I was yet happy to see the props they had and, if they did tricks I had not seen before, I enjoyed seeing the tricks no matter how they were presented.

The world has changed. Nowadays, with YouTube and the internet it is possible to see a magician anytime and anywhere. It is possible to watch the best of best at a moment's notice. It is possible to research any trick that captures one's interest. By way of digital teaching programs there is instant access to fantastic teachers.

It is still better to see magicians in live circumstance, but comparisons will be made...

What does this mean? In my opinion it is still better and much more interesting to see magic in live situations (if it is done well). However, we must

accept the fact that now there is much with which people can make comparisons. If a performance is weak they will know it and possibly think I could have stayed home and seen something better than this. If a lecture is lame they are likely to think Why did I spend money to come see this! What a waste of time. Watching the lectures from Penguin Magic is much better than this!

If conventions are going to continue to attract people they must up their game when it comes to the quality of performances and teaching. This does not make it necessary to bring in the "best of the best" (many conventions cannot afford to do so). However it is necessary to ensure all presenters on a convention schedule are well qualified to teach/perform and skilled in whatever they do.

There must be an effort to ensure audiences will not be bored and frustrated...

Convention organizers have a responsibility to ensure their audiences will not be bored and/or frustrated by what is seen on stage.. Convention shows and lectures must be put together with good "show sense" and disciplined preparation.

As well, it is necessary to put careful thought into overall programming to keep things as interesting and beneficial as possible. The old-fashioned schedule with two lectures in the morning, two lectures in the afternoon, and one late night lecture does not have to be followed. The idea of making every lecture the same length of time should be reconsidered. Nowadays TED talks are 18 minutes long. Researchers determined that, for modern audiences, this is long enough for a speaker to flesh out an idea, but short enough that a listener can take in, digest, and understand all of the important information. Why not mix up a convention schedule with shorter specialized presentations as well as longer ones? (This is another thing MAGIC LIVE is doing and it seems to work well.) Why not look at some new teaching models? Why not give more attention to the use of video and technology in instructional sessions?

Modern audiences are discriminating. Technology has given them means to easily research any choices they are considering. Quality programming and excellence in presentation is critical in motivating them to attend and support an event.

3. There must be an image of class and atmosphere of respect.





There is no doubt but that political correctness is an expectation in modern society. Beyond that, there is an expectation for all people to be treated with respect.

It is true that the “good old boys” will keep on laughing at crude innuendos, rash political statements, and put-downs of audience members, but less and less people will put up with this kind of thing.

There is an old saying that folks “vote with their feet.” It means, if people don’t like something they express it by walking away and not coming back. Most people are uncomfortable openly voicing their complaints. To avoid confrontation they keep their mouths closed, but the next time an event happens they don’t go.

A disrespected audience is an audience which will lose respect for the event.

It should be obvious logic. If performers disrespect their audiences, audiences will lose respect for the performers and the events which feature them.

How are audiences disrespected? Sexually suggestive and potty humor disrespects the average audience. Mistreatment of volunteers disrespects an audience. Insensitivity to the value, significance and accomplishments of women disrespects an audience. Insensitivity to certain segments of society whether they be those with limited education or minimum wage jobs disrespects an audience. Intolerant remarks relating to religion, politics and lifestyle choices disrespect an audience.

Note: Readers will know I am a committed Christian. I am not suggesting we must all surrender our individual points of view. The point is: The platform of a magic convention is not the place for promoting a personal agenda. It is a place for showing respect for all fellow human beings.

Conventions which see their numbers dropping year after year might analyze their image. Is it time to get rid of cheap jokes? Is it time to quit hiring acts that use profanity and off-color humor? Are things being said and/or done on stage that demean or alienate particular groups of people? Is it time to make a commitment to being a “class act?”

On the matter of being a “class act;” this is another thing which has been strongly affected by modern media. This generation of society researches the choices they will make. They search for and compare options. When making a decision about a magic

convention, they look for indications of competency, value and relevancy. This clearly means, to compete in these modern times, magic conventions need to craft for themselves such an image. Their advertising, published schedule, and the performers they bring must all combine to give the message “This is the place where you find competency, value and relevance!

A convention that clearly and obviously seeks to do things with class and integrity can do well in this 21st century.

Conclusion

There is more which could be said, yet taking time to address just these three issues could turn around some convention situations...

- Get serious about using social media to promote your event
- Make sure you really do have high quality and excellence in your programming
- Deliberately develop the image of being a classy event that shows respect for all who attend.

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# 100 Years Old

How would you feel if you were 100 years old? Can you remember the things you have see in these many years?

Man walked on the moon, Kennedy was assassinated, 19th amendment was passed, prohibition was enforced, Spirit of St Louis flew nonstop across the Atlantic, Empire State building was completed, the Great Depression hit, the Dust Bowl came, the Holocaust occurred, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Vietnam lasted November 1955 through April 1975, first man in space, Three Mile Island, AIDS, Oklahoma bombing, and Columbine then 9-11.

This is a list of things in history that my Dad has seen. He has talked about some of these but mostly about how he and his family dealt with the Dust Bowl days and his entering the Navy towards the end of WWII. He has told us of how he walked the rode a horse at times to get to school and how he had to work to help the family.

He has many stories but the things I remember most is how hard he has worked and the work ethics he gave us kids. I think one of the things he is proud of (but wouldn't say so) is that I became a clown. This was totally unexpected to him I am sure.

He is going to be 100 on April 1. Please send him a card and fill his mailbox!

John B. Hardy  
12880 Hwy 70  
Perryton, Texas 79070

Thank you,  
Voncille Hardy Cox



# An Idea For A Presentation: Clown Therapy

By Ruth "Buttons" Rolston

If you are both a clown and a teacher of others about clowning, you may find this idea one you may use. I presented "Clown Therapy" at a Convention of the Texas Association of Hospital Volunteers in 2005. I was asked to do this as a member of our Hospital Auxiliary and Head of the Clown Troupe.

I prepared boxes with the letters on each spelling out "Clown Therapy". As I opened each box, I presented a part of my information. Props were used as appropriate for each letter. As I spoke of each area, I gradually had the topic spelled out on the table and used this as my closing.



Here are examples of each box:

**Box C** stands for Clown Therapy. Therapy is defined as: treatment, activity intended to remedy or alleviate a disorder or undesirable condition, healing or curative quality. In the medical sense, therapy is treatment of disease.

Clown is defined as: a professional buffoon in a play or circus who entertains by jokes, tricks; a zany, jester. Clowning is not seen by all as therapeutic. It is in the way it is presented and the way it is carried out by the particular clowns. Clown Therapy can be very soothing and calming to patients or can be disruptive to healthcare routing. Richard Snowberg who headed the University of Wisconsin Clown Camp coined the phrase, "Caring Clowns", to describe hospital clowns.

These clowns go about their work in a very quiet and soothing manner and are in their roles to provide assistance to health-care professionals, patients, and families. His book on this subject was one of my guides in becoming a "caring clown". Often, just being in the presence of a clown can be all that is needed to provide welcome diversion from the routine of whatever healthcare is being administered. The clown is a neutral party and is there to offer someone who is not a threat.

Next is **Box L**: Explain in this box how you got started in being a clown and what did or do you expect to accomplish in your new avocation. Your boxes may be based on where you are in clowning or what you are learning to do. You may not be in Clown Therapy. So, use whatever mission you plan to fulfill.

In **Box O**, I talked about The Character of a Clown. You have to decide who you will be and, what you want to convey when you are in clown. "In Clown" refers to when you are ready to go out and perform in your garb and mind set. The time you spend in preparation is like meditation. I prepare myself in a set ritual which takes nearly two hours. In the Circus, clowns have a separate, almost sacred area, called the Alley, where they get into character and do not allow visitors. This is because they need time to think about how they will be seen by their audience.

I truly believe, if you are going to be a clown, be a good one or not at all. A poor clown reflects on us all. If you want to throw on an old wig and some make-shift clothing and call yourself a clown, then I would recommend you reconsider your choice. It takes preparation, but the rewards are worth the effort. You will feel good and your performance will reflect your attention.

Some general rules:

- Clowns do not copy other clowns.
- Your character reflects something of your personality.

- Your chosen name may not necessarily be unique, but try not to have the same one as someone in your area.

There are several types of clowns you may choose from. **Box W** would include a discussion of the types of clowns and their meaning, costume, make-up, and methods of performance. The choices are several to include: auguste, white-face, hobo, or character.

**Box N** presents an overview of the make-up varieties, supplies needed, color schemes, and design. A demonstration may be done in another session. There is a variety of commercial products, but one needs guidance as to the proper ways to use what you may acquire. Clown workshops are a great resource for this.

Now we have "CLOWN" spelled out. The next boxes would then be the letters of "Therapy" and I add more information for each of these boxes.



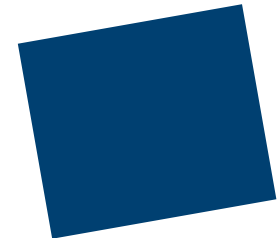
**Box T** is a discussion of how you arrived at your costume. Items such as your wig and shoes can be expensive when you are starting out. You may want to try out some alternatives before you finally settle. Take care with those Halloween wigs as they can be shabby and difficult to make look neat. Shoes may be tennis shoes or others made to fit your character. Custom-made clown shoes may be costly and would be worth waiting to see if clowning is for you. As far as clothing, be creative. By the way, the one piece outfit may present some challenges when it comes time to go to the restroom. Plan ahead so you do not keep your audience waiting!

**Box H** is for discussion of Props. You can have a field day in this area. Props may be purchased or hand-made. The fun is in working out a gag, making, and trying it out at your next gig. Remember where you will use the prop and consider the efficacy. Some parents and some places you will perform for are concerned about the dangers of using balloons for animals. This is especially true when it comes to smaller children.

**Box E** was used to consider the "Rules of the Road—Clown Ethics. There are no written rules per se, but clowns learn certain guidelines and these are good for us to follow. These keep us above those who would use the role of clown for other not so nice purposes. The ones I have learned along the way are:

- Be as physically clean as possible, including the use of deodorant and washing your costume frequently;
- Avoid smoking or drinking of alcohol when in costume;
- Change out of clown costume as soon as possible after the performance is over;
- Watch your language when in costume;
- Watch how you act toward others;
- Remember, you represent the clowning profession;
- Do not copy another clown's make-up design or costume;
- Be your best at all times.
- 

**Box R** for me considered my roles as a Hospital Clown. This is a special role and provides many rewards. These clowns need to have an awareness of the needs of patients, staff, and families. So was born the "caring clown". This role requires a different approach than say 'a birthday party clown'. It deems one be aware of confidentiality, quietness, sensitivity to surroundings, infection control, patient approach, and allowed equipment and props.



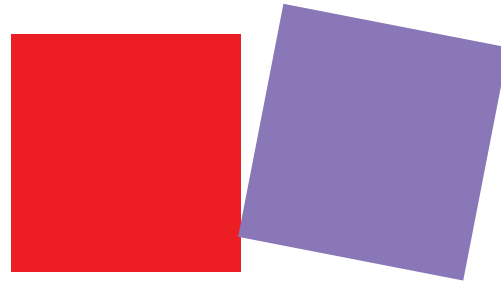
**Box A** is for discussion of "Paying the Way". Most of us buy our own costumes and other items needed to do our role. I will donate my balloons when doing charitable activities as part of service to others. For a party or commercial affair, one needs to work out how this will be funded.

Remember, your costume speaks to who you are as a clown. I once loaned out my wig and regretted that I did so. Someone wanted to borrow my whole costume and I refused as it is part of me as a clown. If anything happens to these items, part or your clown has to be replaced. Props and gags may be shared more freely. They may be replaced.

**Box P** speaks to When and Where to serve. This really depends on the individual and what is your comfort zone. I like service appearances, not paying gigs, but this is me. One cannot always make money in this role, but many do manage.

**Box Y** is a challenge to those listening. It is titled, "Are There Clowns Among You? I usually encourage those who are showing some interest in this profession or avocation to look into the possibilities. Now, we have spelled out and considered some of the many requirements of "CLOWN THERAPY". Good luck with these ideas!

Give a summary of what your goals were in the presentation.



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# Election Day is on the Way

by Andy "Smiley" Anderson

This year TCA will be having an election of Officers. I am the head of the Nominating Committee so it is time to invite our members to place their name on the ballot. You can email me at kudosra@yahoo.com. I would love to hear from any of you interested in being a part of the group that governs our great organization. Or if there's anyone that you think would be an asset, please send me their information so I can contact them.

The term of each board member is one year and we have four board meetings each year. One is at the convention and the others are in different parts of the state so the same people do not have to travel for every meeting.

Below are the Job descriptions of the board positions. I look forward to hearing from all.

## TCA BOARD POSITIONS

### Job Descriptions

#### President:

The President's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Presiding over all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Supervising the affairs of the corporation
- Appointing committee chairs as needed
- Acting as an ex-officio member of all committees
- Serving as a secondary signer on the checking account
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

#### Vice President:

The Vice President's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Fulfilling the duties of the President in his/her absence
- Coordinating alley applications and reports
- Acting as the primary point of contact between the Board of Directors of TCA and the General Membership of TCA
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas



## Secretary:

The Secretary's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Keeping all records and correspondence of the corporation
- Recording the minutes from each Board meeting and General Membership meeting, copying and distributing said minutes to each board member and the Editor of The Joey Journal
- Sending out to and receiving proxy statements from each board member before each quarterly Board meeting
- Answering correspondence for the corporation when requested by the President and keeping an accurate file of all correspondence
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Preparing voting ballots as needed
- Holding the corporate seal
- Willing to assist the President where needed
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

## Treasurer:

The Treasurer's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Maintaining the financial records of the corporation including quarterly financial reports and budget reports
- Preparing and mailing annual membership Dues Renewal notices and membership cards; notifying Area Directors of new members in their respective areas
- Maintaining complete membership database
- Providing a bi-monthly list of current membership to the Editor of The Joey Journal so that labels can be printed (or providing printed labels)
- Serving as the primary signer on all bank accounts and making deposits in a timely manner
- Holding the corporate credit card
- Paying all expenses in a timely manner
- Preparing the annual budget
- Filing an annual tax return (if applicable) and/or any other federal, state or local government forms in a timely manner
- Providing coverage for the TCA table at annual conventions for new member registrations, dues payments, membership status, etc.
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

## Sergeant-At-Arms:

The Sergeant-At-Arms' job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Maintaining order during TCA Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Enforcing Roberts Rules of Order at both TCA Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Keeping track of all TCA merchandise
- Running bi-annual elections, including balloting
- Handling any vote at the General Membership meeting
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

## Area Director:

The Area Director's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Taking pertinent information from those meetings to their region
- Voicing concerns to the Board from regional members
- Sending out a Welcome Packet to new members in their region
- Following up with members who do not re-up to determine reasoning
- Promoting TCA merchandise and maintaining an inventory for proper accountability of same
- Providing the Board with input regarding trends and popularity of merchandise
- Encouraging alleys to exchange newsletters
- Introducing First-time convention attendees from their region at the Annual Convention
- Encouraging new clowns in their growth in the art of clowning
- Encouraging each member to attend TCA conventions
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas





## North East Area Report

By Susan "Dubble Bubble" Keys

### January 2021

Due to the on going Covid pandemic, our news this quarter is still pretty slim. Pretty much everyone is staying in self quarantine and clowning opportunities are limited to online or drive by experiences. Some alleys are meeting in person and some are zoom.

### News from Rosey Nose Alley in Tyler

Report submitted from Jane Wilson President. We are all GREAT. Hoping to resume some sort of meetings by March. Even if only a few. Absolutely nothing going on in our alley. Tell ALL HELLO for us.

### News from Memory Makers

Report submitted by Darris Cross, President. Hello, it's been crazy here. We were having meetings for a little while but then people were out of town or got sick so we didn't have a December meeting which was our Christmas party and we had planned on trading Christmas ornaments or just ornaments, balloon dogs, rag dolls, clown figures, etc. We canceled our December meeting due to I was sick and others out of town. January meeting was great. It didn't last long but we did talk about trying to do at least one event as a clown alley other than our meeting per month this year. Our account has finally met the balance that we don't have to pay Bank Fees.

Our next meeting is on February 8th. Since it is close to Valentines, everybody is going to bring munchies and we are going to watch a movie. We are calling it the Memory Makers Movie Munchie Night. The movie will be either about clowning or First of May. But we're excited our election went well. Everyone stayed in their position again.

### News From Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85

Report submitted by President Matthew Spraggins. Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85 is currently NOT meeting as an alley due to COVID and our meeting location. We are currently attending another local Alley (Happi Tymes Clown Alley) who is still having monthly meetings, both in person and via Facebook Live.

We are still discussing our Alley as a board to keep up with the going ons of the Alley so we are prepared for when we restart.

We hope to restart our Alley meetings ASAP once the COVID allows us to do so.

## South Central Area Report

by Abi "gummy bear" Robles Membrez

### January 22, 2021

Meetings are still on hold as COVID cases surge in our area. The current officers will remain in their roles till we are able to meet in person again to vote on new officers."



## South East Area Report

by Pam "Touche" Blacklock

### January 23, 2021

Cheerful Clown Alley has been meeting by way of Zoom in the last several months. We are scattered all over Houston and outside of Houston. Impossible to meet in person right now due to Covid-19.

A few of our members in and around the Baytown Area were part of the Baytown (Virtual) Shoebox Parade in November. They had a blast building the CCA shoe box float! It did not win First Place, but they had a great time getting together and doing something! It was really cute and a lot fun!

Robin Bryan was our Education and Entertainment for the November General Membership Meeting. She gave us tips on how to clown at birthday parties and other events in these Covid Pandemic times. It was very good and informative!

Keep Smiling!

## North Central Area Report

by L.J. "Wiggles" Lomenick-Luce

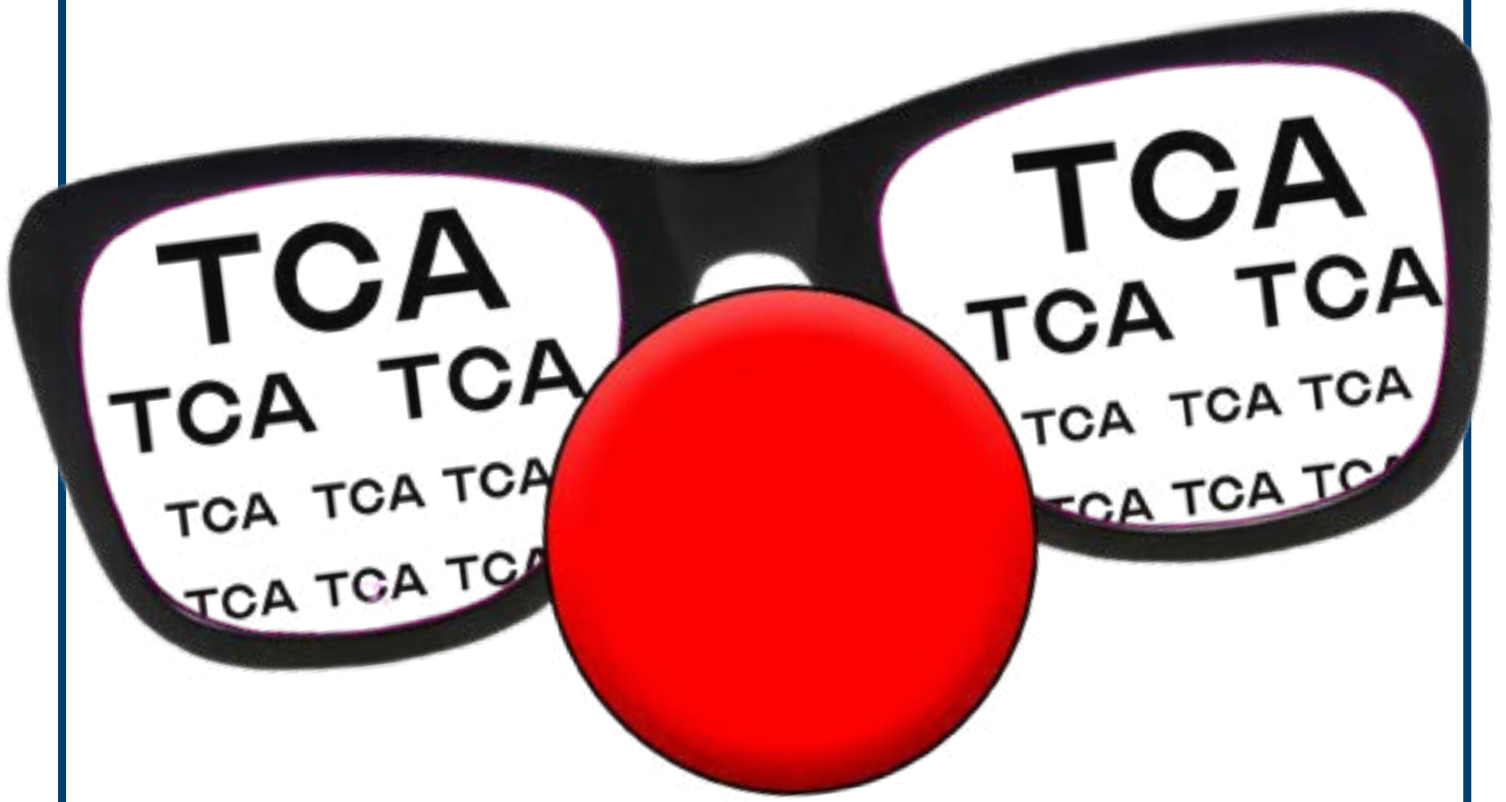
Cowtown Alley has not been meeting because of the current pandemic. The Executive Board has conducted meetings via Zoom. Cowtowns meeting place has not been allowing any group functions to take place until it has been deemed safe to do so.

Happi Tymes has been having their meetings at Coker's BBO in Arlington. with those Alley members that feel safe to attend and by Zoom and FB for those that choose to wait a little longer before getting out in the public. They have a separate room and for the most part follow CDC guidelines. The Alley has been active in putting on socially distance drive by Halloween and Christmas shows outdoors. The group that does meet is still having some form of Entertainment and or Instructional shows at the monthly meetings and those on Zoom and FB have the privilege to watch from home.

Clown Arounds are still doing everything they can to keep clowning alive in beautiful Wichita Falls.

Remember if the job of clowning in a pandemic was easy.....anybody could do it !

Blessings to all stay safe!



**Hope you are doing and well and  
can't wait to see you again!**