



# The Joey Journal

The Texas Clown Association

February—March, 2020



**Matthew "Phineas" Lish**  
*2020 TCA Convention Headliner*  
(more on page 8)



# THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of  
**The Texas Clown Association, Inc.**

Greg “Zoots” Stanford, Editor

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items should be emailed to [greg@joeyjournal.com](mailto:greg@joeyjournal.com) or addressed to The Joey Journal and mailed to 5407 Hooper Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76306. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints, please no slides, or copies. The preferred format is a digital copy in the “jpg” or “png” format.

**Advertisements:** Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Back cover - \$80.00; Inside back cover - \$70.00; Full page - \$70.00; 1/2-page - \$40.00; 1/4 page size - \$25.00; and a business card size ad - \$10.00 an issue.

**Multiple placement discounts on ads are 5% for 3-5 editions and 10% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance.**

**Clownified ads:** Free to members if you have clown-related items for sale or donation. Vendor businesses not included.

**Publication deadlines:** On or before Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1 and Oct. 1. Articles can be sent to [greg@joeyjournal.com](mailto:greg@joeyjournal.com) in the body of your email or in Word, Pages, or PDF format.

**Membership and Dues** - Regular membership: \$30.00

Family (each add'l); \$20.00

Junior Membership (age 10-15): \$17.50

Senior Membership (over 90): \$20.00

**Central membership mailing location:** Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P.O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053.

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### **Purpose of the Texas Clown Association**

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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# A Word from the President

By Judy “Peep” Cornett

Hey there members I hope you are thinking about what you are going to do at TCA this year. We are going to have a great time with all the things the Convention Committee is planning for us. When you register don't forget to also make your reservations at the hotel to ensure you have a room. You can have up to 4 people in a room.

As we all know having the convention at the hotel always makes it more convenient as we don't have to transport things back and forth from our hotel rooms to the venue. Except for the Board's Ice Cream Social, we will not be having a hospitality room this year since to ask Alleys to host it requires them to accommodate all of the registrants even if only a few visit it. They have to come up with what items they need (requires them to spend money and transport it to the venue), set it up (requires people), serve (requires people), and clean it up (requires people) and if only a few show up they have to do something with the leftovers. I know some of you will be disappointed in this change, but this is a trial and depending on the evaluations we believe it will be a workable option. All of the rooms have microwaves and small refrigerators and there are multiple restaurants within walking distance and a mall across the street from the hotel so there are many food options for everyone.

A Convention Tab has been set up on the TCA website which is being updated as new data about the convention is submitted to Greg so be sure to look at it often to see what has been added. I hear the schedule is coming soon as well as information about the Headliner, Lecturers, and Vendors.

Our next Board Meeting is going to be on April 18, 2020 in Tyler, Texas. The meeting will be held at a location to be determined. If you would like to come to the meeting to see how it works, feel free to attend, you are always welcome. If you have something you would like addressed at the meeting, but you are unable to attend, you are welcome to give your information to any of the board members to present at the Board meeting.

I hope everyone will attend the TCA Convention this year. We need your support to keep this going.  
Bump a Nose.

# **TCA Convention 2020: A Clear Vision for Clowning**

**By Cinde “Boopsie” Sanders**

Want to see clearly? Get focused? If you need a new way of looking at clowning or just a routine check up....come to TCA Convention 2020.

Do you want a Sneak Peek of what is to come this August? Well you already know that we are planning an Epic new and exciting convention in Central Texas (Killeen) on August 6-9th. We are staying at the beautiful Courtyard by Marriott in luxury rooms with free parking, WIFI, refrigerators and microwaves.

You are going to want to pack the car the night before so you can get up bright and early to make the journey to Killeen. As soon as you get on campus, we will hit the ground running. There will be excitement and surprises from the very beginning. Don't be late. Registration opens at 10:00am on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Get checked in, look around the hotel, grab your goody bag, then we have business meetings, board meetings, judges and competitors' meetings, etc. You want to make sure you are all settled in by 1:30 for the General Meeting followed by the opening ceremonies and exciting entertainment and workshop by our amazing Headliner Matthew “Phineas” Lish.

## **Who is Matthew “Phineas” Lish?**

**Matthew "Phineas" Lish is a second-generation clown and holds the world record for juggling on a pogo stick. As a member of the World-Famous Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown Alley during the circus' Final Farewell Tour, Matthew performed solo in the center ring during the All-Access Xtreme Preshow and made dozens of weekly television appearances on NBC, CBS, CNN, and ABC. His antics have been seen on the Food Network, at Bell Labs, the Century Club with Dick Cavett, and along the Coney Island Boardwalk with The Coney Island Alliance for multiple summer seasons. As co-creator and one of three performers in the variety comedy troupe Circus Bicuspid, Matthew has co-written and performed in three original sold out off-Broadway shows (Circus Bicuspid Almost on Broadway, Circus Bicuspid: Back for Seconds, and Circus Bicus-**



pid presents Sunday in the Park with Clowns), and together the troupe works closely with the Xeroderma Pigmentosum Society, Autism Speaks, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Diabetes Research Institute. Matthew is a former Walt Disney Imagineer, and freelances at Jim Henson's Creature Shop where he has built props and puppets for the Coca Cola Company, Princess Cruise Line, and the 50th season of Sesame Street.



Stay tuned for more exciting information on YOUR TCA Convention 2020 – A clear Vision for clowning. Register today and start getting your costumes and skits ready for competition.

## 2019 TCA Scholarship Winner

By Darris “Inka the Clown” Cross

I, Inka the Clown, was the happy recipient of the 2019 TCA Scholarship. By the receiving the scholarship I attended the convention. When attending the convention I saw many old friends and made many new as well.

The classes were creative and informative. The things I recall are how to remove the scuffs out of my clowns shoes; some new, creative & comical skits; and exciting improv classes.

I enjoyed the times that I gathered with other clowns and shared information, ideas, and thoughts.

I would highly suggest and encourage anyone that is in clowning to attend a TCA convention.

# Reasons Why...

## by Voncille “Dimple” Cox

With permission from Andrew Davis, President of WCA, I am having this printed in the Joey Journal. However, I am changing WCA to TCA as it fits this organization also. There are many reasons to join TCA. Here is a list of a few reasons to join TCA and attend a convention....

1. To be a member of a great club with likeminded people.
2. A sense of belonging and home, my family and friends.
3. To be able to improve ones abilities knowledge and skill level. Education
4. To go to conventions. Not to put other clubs down, but we have a higher quality of clowning.
5. Access to vendors
6. To meet new friends and to connect with Local to National and internationals.
7. Ministry aspect TCA has is amazing and joyful.
8. The public know I'm involved in TCA.
9. Insurance
10. Set of ethics and guidelines for my clowning
12. To promote clowning. The most logical way is to join the organization.
13. To keep in touch with fellow Clowns.
- 14, To see and hear what other clowns are doing.
15. It's just a great Clown Community
16. Networking with like-minded people from literally all over the Texas.
17. To get support, encouragement, and constructive criticism.
18. Sharing ideas, hints, techniques and learning new things.

19. At conferences and alley meetings, getting the opportunity to try new things (skits, gags, make-up techniques, balloons, etc, etc) in a safe, supportive environment.

20. Finding a mentor, teachers or Sensei

21. Developing long lasting friendships, which creates that family bond.

22. Clowning has opened up so many wonderful opportunities for me.

23. Clowning has given me "permission" to play, have fun and spread joy.

24. You can "rub elbows" with many master entertainers whom we highly respect.

25. All of the great resources that are on the website!

26. MEDIA CONTACTS

27. FACEBOOK

28. Bragging rights

29. A sense of belonging

30. To add your support to an organization that wants to further the art of clowning and provide a positive image of clowning on a scale that you could not achieve as an individual

30. Access to scholarships and funding

31. "The unknown." - You don't know what you are missing until you find it.

I want to thank Andrew for allowing me to use his reasons to attend a convention and become part of an alley. These are all very good reasons to Join TCA and become an active part of a great organization. We have struggled to keep members. If you know a member who has not sent in the registration, please encourage them to do so. This year's convention is going to be a little different so come, be a part, get to know some "new to you people", and have a ton of fun as you learn.

# Help Wanted

by Andy “Smiley” Anderson

Well it's that time again to put the help wanted sign out. This next TCA convention will be August 6-9, 2020 in Killeen. It's time to invite our members to place their name on the ballot. You can email me at [kudosra@yahoo.com](mailto: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

(continued on page 16)

Please provide any diet restrictions or food allergies!  
(Please list on back of this registration form)

Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> TCA Convention? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**CONVENTION FEES:**

Registration (see right side) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Banquet Ticket \$45ea \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Breakfast Ticket \$26ea \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt(s) Size \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Must order and pay before 7/1/20)

Short Sleeve (S-M-L-XL: \$ 16)

Short Sleeve (XXL and larger: \$ 19)

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

ISSUE and MAIL Checks to:

TCA 2020 CONVENTION

c/o Mauri Norris

6504 Kenyon Ln, Bellaire, TX 77401

Want to pay by credit card? Use VENMO and send total payment to:

**Mauri Norris @ Mauri-Norris**

And send this completed registration form marked  
**PAID BY VENMO** and payment date to address above  
or by email to [maurinorris@yahoo.com](mailto:maurinorris@yahoo.com).

geared for younger clowns.

**HOTEL:**

**COURTYARD by MARRIOTT**

**1721 E Central Texas Expressway**

**Killeen, TX 76541**

Room Rate: \$101/nt (+tax)

up to 4 people per room (includes WIFI)

All rooms are 1 King or 2 Queens

All rooms have refrigerator & microwave

To book your room, contact the hotel at:

254-616-2000 and ask for the

Texas Clown Association Block.

The front desk will know how to do the registration.

Make your reservation early (deadline 7/27/2020) to ensure you have a room. Please plan to stay at the convention hotel to help TCA meet its room block and save money on the convention meeting space.

Watch the TCA website for more convention information, as details become available.

Convention Questions? Contact:

Judy "Peep" Cornett 713-201-8681

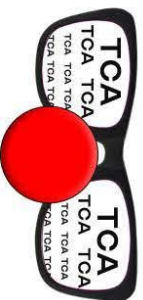
Judy.a.cornett@gmail.com

Registration Questions? Contact:

Mauri "Binkie" Norris 713-201-9995

[maurinorris@yahoo.com](mailto:maurinorris@yahoo.com)

**TCA Convention**  
**2020**



**A CLEAR VISION  
FOR CLOWNING**

**PLEASE PRINT! ONE FORM PER PERSON!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clown Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age / DOB (if under 16 on 8/6/20)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TCA #** \_\_\_\_\_ (registrants must be TCA members)

**The TCA Board  
Convention Committee**  
invites you to the

**Texas Clown Association  
37th Annual Convention**

**AUGUST 6-9, 2020  
in KILLEEN, TX**

ALL convention registrants must be current TCA members. See the TCA website for a membership application. Dues are due annually on 4/1!  
[www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

**\$145 until 1/31/2020**

**\$170 2/1/2020 – 6/30/2020**

**\$195 after 6/30/20 & at the door**

(no checks at the door – cash only)

(No refunds after June 30, 2020)

Registration includes: all scheduled workshops and shows, jams, daily admission to the dealers room, competitions, hospitality room, Saturday awards banquet and Sunday breakfast (all for one person).

**\$145 JUNIOR JOEYS**

(ages 10 - 15) all times

Juniors enjoy all the same convention events and activities as the adult registrants, plus special classes

- 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

**Be sure to check out the TCA website at  
[www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)**

**The members only password is: backntime**

**Be sure to connect to our official TCA Facebook page from our website and follow us to stay current with what is going on with TCA.**

# **TAG! You're it!**

By Aurora" BeBop" Krause

This biography is the result of being "tagged" by Shirley "Daisy Dot" Hamilton. Thank-You Ms. Daisy Dot for thinking of BeBop, I appreciate it.

My wonderful adventure into the world of clowning begun in 1995, I was then a bank officer for a local bank. As part of the bank's community reinvestment program working with inner city schools, I was a member of the bank's mentorship program. The program dealt with working at school festivals raising money for books. As a program member I rented character costumes and the school charged parents for children's photos with these various characters. I enjoyed dancing and playing in these costumes with the children. However, the renting process of these costumes became time consuming and expensive. That's when I decided to create my own character, a musical clown, BeBop.

This was around the time I met Kim "Tutti Frutti" Grice. She had been a clown in Houston and had recently moved to San Antonio. I've been forever grateful to Kim for her time and effort in teaching me the basics of the Art of Clowning. She opened doors for me that I could never have found on my own. She and I still belong to the Clown Alley we chartered in 1997 'The Jolly Joeys' and still occasionally clown together at local events.

Of course my real job was banking and although I enjoyed being a banker for 34 years, the past 25 years as a clown have been the most rewarding of my life. It seemed that the more I clowned the more my passion for the Art of Clowning began to pull me in. Since I've always loved music I was able to combine my interest in music with my clowning. I quickly found that as a musical clown I was able to make wonderful and positive connections with old and young alike. I started clowning at the hospitals, nursing homes and local children's shelters, but added family parties, festivals, parades, etc...which only helped to grow my 'BeBop' character. I truly believe that clowning is a gentle communication of the heart. It's about making a positive impact in

someone's day, especially those who may be ill, lonely or going through emotional stress. It still amazes me how a simple clown who notices someone's need for attention and acknowledgment can put a smile on the saddest face.

My years in clowning have been wonderful years. I have traveled to many faraway places and have met some great friends that I will keep forever.

In the past several years I have served as President and Education Director of the World Clown Association. I've created two clown educational workshops; "Spotlight on Clowning" and "Open Heart Clowning: A Caring Clown Workshop".

My clowning adventures continue and as an instructor I focus on education with a goal to inspire clown students to represent the "Art of Clowning" with respect, dedication and creditability.

Now I pass this **"TAG You're it!"** to Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert



Funny things you might see at a TCA Conv.



Andy, the fountain of Knowledge



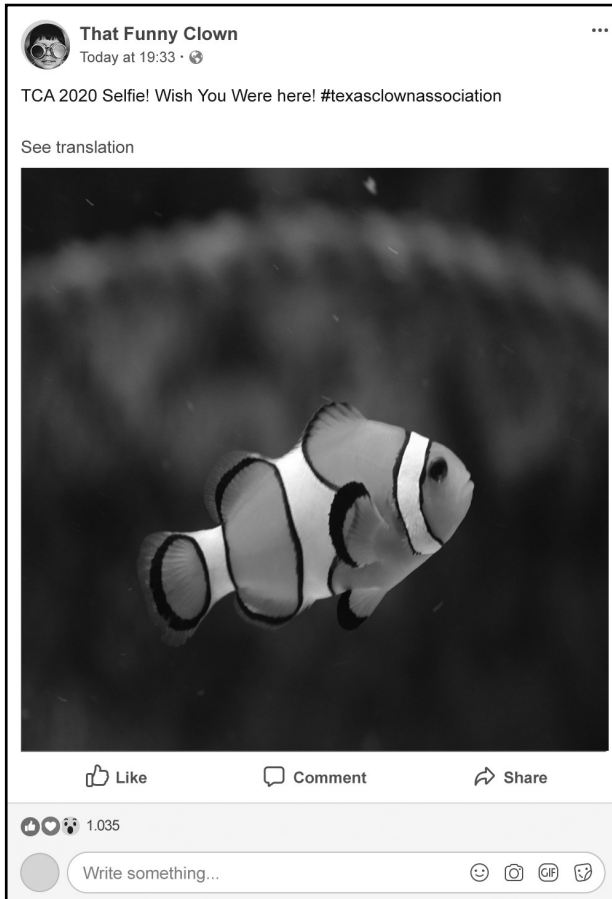
They laughed their selves off their FEET!



It is good to have a friend help PICK your nose.



Clown water fountain!



## 2020 TCA Convention Selfie Station

By Suzy “Twinkles” Wall

The TCA Convention will have a Selfie Station and when you post your selfie on your facebook if you hashtag Texas Clown Association (#texasclownassociation) with a caption “Wish You Were Here” or “See You next year!” your name will go into a drawing for a canvas tote bag with this years Convention Logo on it. Join in the fun.

# Last Walkaround: Fredrick B. Reyes, “Lico”

By Jeanette “Dusti” Sanders

On August 20, 2019 the motion picture and clowning communities lost a talented member:

**Fredrick B. Reyes D.O.B April 4, 1946.**

Performing as *Lico* Reyes, he appeared in movies, commercials and a variety of political campaigns most notably as the Democratic nominee for U.S House of Representatives in Texas 26th Congressional district in 2004. Lico was a United States Army veteran with an Honorable disability discharge.

Lico was born in Catalan municipality of Duran-go, Mexico. He became an American citizen in 1965. After arriving in America he began studying for the Jesuit Roman Catholic Priesthood, but switched from seminary training to agricultural engineering. For later friends in the Hollywood and clowning communities this made perfect sense once you knew the “real” Lico.

He graduated from U.T. Arlington with a degree in Mathematics and computer programming. He was in the Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps ( R.O.T.C) program at UTA. However, by the time he graduated, the Vietnam war had ended. As a second lieutenant, Lico joined Texas State Guard, served several years and received an honorable discharged as a company commander, captain .

Lico then enrolled in a four year performing arts course to train as an actor. Lico developed several characters in his acting career. The first: Father Vito. Lico took pleasure playing the role of a comedic parody of a priest and hosted a variety of different community access cable television programs and live events. In addition to the Father Vito character, Lico was an Elvis and Micheal Jackson impersonator.

He had speaking roles in 1988 made for television *Pancho Barnes*, 1990 Universal movie "*Problem Child*" and one episode of Walker Texas Ranger. He also appeared in many industrial films, television commercials and stage productions.

Lico was as an active member of Happi Tymes clown Alley in Arlington, Texas where he and the alley annually sponsored the charity event: PARTY FOR THE POOR.



As owner of Portable parties, a party service where he DJ'ed and entertained at various corporate and public events. Lico was the driving force in organizing the first annual Christmas Party for the Poor, feeding a large number of needy and homeless individuals and families. Party for the poor provided toys and other necessities for the needy families each year with Guests from Mission Arlington , Salvation Army, Arlington life Shelter and off the streets. The party for the poor had special guests each year as Lico (Elvis) and impersonators Frank Sinatra and many others.

Happi Tymes clown Alley provided walk around entertainment, balloons and face painting. The special appearance of course was Santa played by Gerald Roberts each year.

Party for the Poor was held in Arlington, Texas. Portable parties with Lico held Christmas parties for the poor in Denton on numerous occasions. Lico will be greatly missed.

# Alley Reports: HappiTymes

By Martha “Miss Cookie” Warren

I'd like to share with you some of the events our HappiTymes Alley #12, located in Arlington, TX, does to keep clowning alive, to share laughter and smiles, and what we do to keep our alley movn' and groovn'!!!

July of this year, HappiTymes will be celebrating 27 years!!! One of the leading founders, Bill and his wife, Mary Eddleman were proactive for keeping HappiTymes in high spirits!!! It was Joe Thompson, a charter member, who recommended having a Doc Eddleman Award, to go to someone who exhibits personal development and enthusiasm in the name of clowning, and contributes service to the community. We started this award back in 2011...along with The Alley Oops Award; something funny, silly, or strange that happens to you while clowning. And the Ring a Ding Award; a member who brings in the most new members to the alley. Awards puts a little incentive in play for members to have something to strive for! As well as gigs, so our clown members can exhibit their clowning skills...whether it be solo, or as a group, this way, they can feel apart of the organization.

I've been a member of HappiTymes for probably 18 of my 20

years of clowning. And there are standing events I know the alley has been doing for almost 20 years! And other events we've been a part of each year, for as long as I've been a member, or can remember!!! Well, I remember because I keep a list!!! HA! Otherwise, my memory is shorter than I am!!!

Our long time standing gig is a fundraiser for the alley, Dark n The Park at Legacy Park, Arlington. Our members who participate, do balloons, we take tickets, and split the proceeds with the park. It's changed up a little over the past few years, but is still a great gig! We started out doing 4 evenings, now it's down to 2.

Another event, Capo Book Fair, that supports the underprivileged children from the Arlington School district. This started out with Earl, Myself, Sharon Huber, and Mary Turner, we've participated for almost 10 years! It started out as a volunteer gig, then eventually I requested a donation to split between who participated for our supplies. This is a incentive for members to show up!!! At this event, the kids get to take as many books home as they want....which encourages them to read!!! Such an awesome gig!



There are many other events we've participated in over the years. The Clubhouse for Special Needs, we do 2-3 times a year. The Pantego Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast, 2 times a year. Mission Arlington, 2 X's a year. We started Live Thankfully 5 years ago, there are now 2 locations our clowns participate in. This is a huge food drive that supports low income families in the Fort Worth school districts...And IDD-April Cool's Day for Special Needs children and families, we started 3 years ago....So all in all our members can attend at least 10+ functions a year. There are a handful of our members who attend every one of them.....!!! Big Applause

And then there's International Clown Week, August 1-7th!  
Ha! This is the icing on the cake in addition to our events!!! I've challenged our members several years to do at least 1 event each day. There has been a couple of years, myself and a couple others planned out 2-3 events each day...that almost killed a couple clowns off, so we went back to at least one!

Being we have 3 clown alleys in the Dallas/Ft Worth metroplex, all clowns are invited to set a place up, and all are invited to attend. During this week we always plan time for the Clubhouse for Special Needs, a couple of nursing homes,

1 or 2 of the fire departments, 1 or 2 daycares, a community center. There's also the HubbaHubba Food Drive. So numerous venues! If some clowns are not able to attend what's planned...they have gone on their own. The purpose being is to promote clowning, we're sharing smiles, and the love of the art!

I am proud to serve as an officer in each of the alleys. This year I am President of HappiTymes, and look forward to some new and exciting things to happen.

I am past-President of Cowtown, and on the board for MidCities. I'm also the Program Chair for both Happi Tymes and Cowtown. This year our new Vice President of HT's, William Beaty, has already helped me book programs for 3 of 4 months so far!!! Yah William...and thank you very much!!!

I so appreciate the help! I'm sure many alleys have a hard time booking something each month, for each year! It's tuff, especially if a program backs out the last minute....BUT, we're clowns, and the show must go on! So you go to Plan B...even if that means everyone at the meeting tells a joke, shares a skit they've done, talks about characters they'd like to develop. Or, for instance, what happened at our alley a few months ago, the guy doing our program had the wrong month on his calen-

dar, and didn't come. Andy and Toty were there, I asked if they had any ideas? They said, "Sure, we can practice our "Improv Games" that they will be doing at the WCA convention coming up!" That was true clowning, stepping outside the box...and showing their true clown spirit!!! Plan B saved the day, and we had so much fun!!!

Our Happi Thymes alley stays very active! In spite of the shortage of clowns, we are still striving. You never stop learning as long as your minds and hearts are open. So happy clowning to everyone...and always spread your Smiles and Laughter for All....!!!

## **Alley Reports: North Central Texas**

**By L.J. "Wiggles-d-Clown" Lomenick-Luce**

### **Cowtown Clowns:**

Since last report the alley has been doing all the things that alleys do. They have been busy planning the new year and all the yearly events that they will be involved in. Then there is the election of officers which came off without a hitch. Then there was all the Christmas charities that were made a little richer by their volunteers and their donations. Of course there was the Christmas Party itself and all the fun, food and programs that brought a smile and a healthy dollop of Christmas songs to everyone lips. Now they are just waiting for the New Year to begin.

### **Happi Thymes:**

Happi Thymes as most alleys is using its holiday season to plan for all the events that are to come in

this new year. For example: Pante-go Lions Club Breakfast, Mission Arlington's Easter event, Fall Fest at a local church, the Clubhouse for Special Needs, and The Live Thankfully Food Drive benefitting the Fort Worth School District to mention a few. Then International Clown Week hits and the Clowns of Cowtown and Mid-Cities Alleys are called in to participate in visits to the Richland Hills Fire Department, Richland Hills Police Department and the City Community Center. This is followed by visits to the Haltom City Fire Department before assisting the Cowtown Clowns with the annual Hubba Hubba food drive to benefit the North East Emergency Distribution Center.

This enthusiasm for International Clown Week netted Happi Thymes a Proclamation from the Mayor of

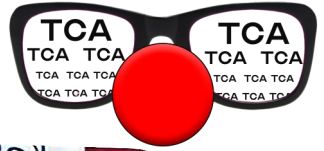
Arlington. This honor was presented by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court in front of a packed house of Court attendees. More on that later.

### **The Clown Arounds:**

The Clown Arounds are off to a great start this year after enjoying a wonderful Holiday Season. Soon plans will be put into action and the town of Wichita Falls will reap the benefits. Stay tuned for more updates.

Don't miss the 2020 Convention, it will be a memory maker!

# TCA Convention 2020



TCA Board of Directors



This looks pretty PHONEY to me

This is NOT the TCA Board



THESE ARE MY PEEPS