



The **Joey** **Journal**

The Texas Clown Association

August - September, 2020



Diana "Buttons"
McCurtain-Talbert
is using these
strange COVID
times to grow as a
performer.

(Article on Page 18)

THE JOEY JOURNAL

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The Texas Clown Association, Inc.

Greg “Zoots” Stanford, Editor

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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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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*

Rosy Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

Memory Makers Clown Alley - TCA #26

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley -TCA #6*

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11*

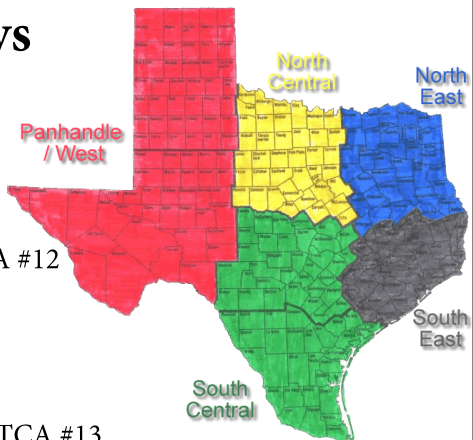
Cheerful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18*

South / Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15



*Inactive Alleys

Be sure to check out the TCA website at

www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is “iluvclowns”

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

A Word from the President

By Judy “Peep” Cornett

I know you must be anxious to get back out to clown, but the Virus seems to be 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.

I hope everyone has stayed safe during this time and you and your love ones have stayed healthy and avoided the dreaded COVID. I am glad to say I have stayed healthy.

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. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Hopefully this “lock down” will end soon.

Have you been taking advantage of various videos that have been on Facebook. There have been a lot done by World Clown Association as well as others. If you have missed them please take some time to explore Facebook for the videos that have been posted. If you have done any that you would like to share with TCA send me the link and I will send it out to the members that I have emails for.

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 it. I haven’t sent anything out since April but I do want to keep you guys informed when there are changes or news to share.

We need you and miss you. Please plan on attending convention next year. 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.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at judy.a.cornett@gmail.com or you can call my cell at 713-201-8681.

Pandemic Awakenings

Mary "Mary Canary" Turner, LMSW

Right after the pandemic started, it was still business as usual for me. I was marketing, making home health visits and preparing for gigs on the calendar. And then a couple weeks later.....Boom! Gigs were cancelled, events to market to dissipated and the home health visits tapered off a little. Things changed mighty fast. I couldn't even find a stinkin' thermometer! :) The agency where I'm employed as a home health social worker required that we take our temperatures before we entered the house of each patient. Fine by me, but the only problem was I didn't have a thermometer and couldn't find one. Thank goodness a neighbor happen to have an old one. The pandemic has given us all food for thought: What can we do differently? When will we be able to get out there and do gigs again? What can we do to bring in some dough, etc., etc? I started a journal back on March 20. I wrote out a list of things to do to try and stay productive. Here are a few things on the list:

- 1) Check on older neighbors
- 2) Donate food, etc to the community
- 3) Practice balloon figures (boy, do I need the practice!)
- 4) Post more videos to the Whatt A Hoot website
- 5) Write more jokes, comedy articles, etc. and submit to magazines, etc

You may have your own list. I keep my eyes and ears open to new opportunities. One thing that I've added to my schedule is to take advantage of our "wanderful" local parks and nature preserves to hike a couple of times a week. This is something Luther and I loved to do! It's been healing for me. There are physical health benefits for sure, but it's really more of a mental boost. I take around 20-30 minutes, so it's not real time consuming. I urge you to take a hike, literally! Or even a stroll. It'll do you a world of good. My goal is to get more serious with #5 above and as far as #4 goes, I stay busy fairly busy with a twice monthly TV show I do. But that's another story for another time! I'm

confident and hopeful that the paid gigs will return down the road, so to speak.

Throughout the pandemic, I've had to rely on God more than ever. My best friend and soulmate, Luther (Pussycat) is no longer physically with me. How I miss more than ever his voice of reason, reassurance, great hugs, everything! Jesus is seeing me through and He will owe two :)

Don't Give Up

Susan "Tinker" Butler

I was a little frustrated last night. I made the comment to someone (not in our state) that we need to save the Art of Clowning. And this person went off on me! she's lost \$\$\$\$... and the circus... and the vendors... and the conventions..... I understand all of that, I contract with the schools and I lost March, April, May and I haven't gotten called from my two largest districts. Loved ones can't go into the hospitals so they surely aren't going to let a clown in that might give a smile or make a happy memory, or get a response from a young girl who had tried to committ suicide. And the nursing facilities... some are clowning outside the windows but some say that confuses them. I get all that, but that all said, call me crazy but we can't let our Art die, the children need us, people need to laugh and smile! This pandemic has made me want to get out even more. Julie Varholdt said the other day, put on your make up at least once every week and practice something. You may think you have your act together, but practice something new or share something. Everyday there is someone sharing on Facebook-I have watched ukulele classes from Bonnie and Julia, puppets, make up demos from Andy... In our town and I guess most of Texas we have to wear a mask everywhere we go even in the schools and convenient stores soooo wear a funny mask and make someone laugh. Remember, clowns are important. I saw a quote for today, It's Monday and there are reasons I could be upset and/or frustrated but today I CHOOSE to be HAPPY! I challenge you to make that choice yourself! "Happiness is not by chance, but by choice." Jim Rohn

CHANGING TIMES

We at Kudos Clown & Magic would like to let all our customers know that after 28 years in the clown and magic supply business we are downsizing.

Since we do not go to clown conventions as vendors anymore Andy & Rhea Anderson are semi-retiring and Smiley & Sweet Pea are retired. All of our magic, balloons, wigs and make up will be 40 percent off until we sell out. If you are looking for an item contact us through our website www.kudosclownandmagic.com or 817-282-3339.

We will continue making badges and selling them on our website.

We would like to take this time to thank our customers and clown friends for their support over the years.



KUDOS
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A New Look to a Familiar Face

By Greg “Zoots” Stanford

The season that we are going through has been a strange one. COVID has forced many of us to connect with people in different ways. You could count on one hand the number of online meetings I had been in prior, and now I've hosted them myself. Before COVID, I had a youtube channel with a couple of quirky videos I made with my brother, now I upload at least two a week for my job. Someone told me COVID had forced many of us into the modern age, whether we wanted to or not.

I do know that I've found so many ways to better or differently connect with people than I had. By this point, you're probably asking, okay Greg, where are you going with all of this? Well, let me tell you. At our last TCA Board meeting we started looking at how COVID is affecting TCA. Well, first the Board meeting was held on Zoom with people attending from all over the state...actually, that's not true, we had a board member attending from another country. Crazy, I know. Before, that member would have probably just not attended, and we would have missed their input and ideas.

Second, our membership is down, which means we are not financially where we should be. With a miss of a convention due to COVID, this hasn't helped us. It was during this discussion of finances, that we discussed our biggest single cost, the Joey Journal. It was suggested and discussed that if we took the Joey Journal to a digital format, we could continue to connect with our members, share news, stories and education. We could go full color, include website links, videos and more. We discussed that several print publications we have in other clubs and groups have been digital for a while, so it works.

So, to get us on a good financial footing, to embrace the way many of us now get our print medium, and expand how we communicate and teach each other, moving forward from this issue of the Joey Journal, we will begin producing a digital Joey Journal only. For years, we have archived past Joey's on our website. The change will be they will now be created for digital, with extra features that we didn't use when they were created for print.

How will I get my Joey Journal now? It will continue to be available on our website, in our Members Only section. We will also be working on an email delivery procedure, which means we need to have your current email address. If it has changed from our last member's roster, let us know. You can send it to me here at the Joey Journal.

(greg@joeyjournal.com or to our TCA Treasurer, Cynthia Rice (nts_10@yahoo.com)).

What about members that don't have computers? If you don't use a computer, please connect with your alley president or TCA area director and let one of them know, and they can connect with the board and let them know. We believe this will be a small number of people unable to access the Joey Journal.

Almost Free, Yesterday!

By Susan "Dubble Bubble" Keys

Congratulations! Winner, Winner Chicken Dinner! If you paid or you pay your dues now for 2020, you will also receive your membership for 2021.

The TCA Board met on September 21, 2020 and would like to assist our members financially by offering this TWO for ONE membership. During this X@#\$\$% time with job losses, gig losses, and layoffs etc, everyone can use a little help.

So hang in there. Your dues are covered thru 2021 if you have paid or you pay your 2020 dues by the deadline, November 1st, 2020. Don't miss out, do it today.

Hope to see you at convention in August 2021.

A COVID-19 Perspective

By John “John John” Luce

It was once said by some great philosopher “That it is an ill wind that blows no one some good”.

Well, I have had plenty of time to study on what has transpired since this Pandemic entered my world and decided that if there was any good to be found I would find it! This is what I found.

1. Try a new hair style-who’s gonna know?
2. Grow a beard, always wanted to but didn’t know about the gray.
3. Daily fashion decisions, do I wear daytime or nighttime P.J.’s?
4. Learn to cook, the grandkids can’t run too far.
5. All failed attempts in the kitchen only support the local Pizza joints.
6. You feel just like a teenager, gas is cheap and you’re grounded.
7. You are not going anywhere, so there is a lot more miles left on your last oil change.
8. You get to fix things that aren’t even broke.
9. The kids haven’t said that they miss spending time with you in months.
10. Some of the fat clothes that you were going to donate somehow shrunk.
11. You get to watch old Super Bowl’s and pretend you can’t remember who won.
12. Your doctor called and canceled your Colonoscopy exam.
13. You tell the telemarketers that call that you’re broke and they believe you.
14. Wearing a mask at the bank is mandatory.
15. You’ve cleaned out all your closet’s to make room for T.P. storage.
16. Outside is the new inside
17. Being honked at in traffic is considered human contact.
18. You get dressed up in shorts and a tee shirt so you can attend your online church service.
19. Clown meetings are on Zoom, but you have to make your own snacks.
20. Clowning fashion hasn’t changed so all your old costumes are still in style.

I would like to end this article with a challenge. I would ask you to please make your own list of good or funny things that have occurred to you as a result of this pandemic. Now after you have completed this assignment and your spirit has been lifted send a copy to our editor so that others in our group might find a much needed chuckle. The Joey Journal more than ever is in need of uplifting articles. This is a tough time and humor is as always a relief to our souls.

I personally would like you to know that if I would have known that so many months would have passed since our last hug, that hug would have lasted a lot longer and would have been a lot tighter. I miss you all. Be Safe.

Bump-A-Nose (masked of course).

Improving Your Clown Skills

Susan "Tinker" Butler

I know I may be preaching to the choir but this was on my heart. How can we improve our clown skills. Texas Clown Association Conventions are great. We always have great lectures. Think about what skills do you want to improve on and try to focus on that. Face fainting, balloons, juggling, magic..... You might want to try to get a mentor or mentor someone that has skills that you are interested in. You can join World Clown Association and/or COAI. WCA has scholarships for their conventions and clown schools- Mooseburger Camp, Clown Camp and Clown Academy. I have gotten a scholarship for Mooseburger Camp and WCA Convention but got cancelled. Online there have been many, many facebook live classes. Don't be shy about asking any of these great clowns a question. I'm trying to learn to play my Ukulele. I wear a ukulele charm everyday to remind me to practice lol. I'm trying to improve my facepainting skills. PRACTICE! Sometimes just a word of encouragement is all it takes to give someone a boost. I know there is sooo much talent in this organization. Let you clown light shine.

Evolution of a Skit

By Faith “Rainbow” Stone

I first thought of this skit when I was clowning at the hospital with Tiny, a very talented clown. He had a patter which he delivered in a deadpan voice and with many funny props. I thought about how it would be if I were to counter some of what he said in a patter of my own...like if I were to bust into the room and declare that I was the real doctor and this was my patient. Many funny things came to my mind.

I knew that it would be wholly inappropriate to really do such a thing in a hospital visit, but still the idea of it tickled me.

So when Noodles asked me to do a skit with her and develop a skit for competition at the Texas Clown Association Convention, I put what I was thinking of down on paper.

Noodles and I practiced over the phone and she added some of her ideas of what could happen in this situation between a straight doctor and a clown doctor. I recruited one of my clown school buddies Squiggles to perform with us. At the convention the year before we had a very small part in a 1st prize winning skit. And I think we both caught the bug.

Not too long after that the Alley decided to get together once a week that we had planned to devote to clown school which unfortunately didn't make and practice skits and routines and at the end maybe put on a show.

Right away I could see that we were dealing with some veterans... clowns that had background of many years of experience and that they could draw on and many routines that they had used in



the past or wanted to develop. In fact everyone had more experience than me. Up until that point I quaked in my shoes if I had to get up in front of a crowd. I had always been more of a backstage person. But honestly being a clown has given me the confidence to do what I felt I could never do before.

Squiggles, Noodles and I decided we would try to get together before the regular crowd arrived and practice. This was hard on Noodles who lived the farthest away and had to travel roads blocked by construction. We decided then that Squiggles would be the straight doctor and Noodles the patient.

As it turned out Squiggles although she was a new clown like me had a lot of public speaking experience notably with the toastmasters. She had a great stage presence and a wonderful way of projected, not to mention a high degree of eloquent sarcasm. With her playing the straight doctor, the skit began to sound much more professional.

When it came time to use some costuming and props, I brought a old surgery gown which had been worn for years by my boyfriend a veterinarian. It was torn and faded and although it was cleaned and had even been ironed...it was raggedy just the right thing for a nutty doctor. Right away Glitterbug with her innate sense of style set me straight about what is professional and what is not. She helped me to understand that we were representing our alley and had to have a proper appearance. I began to understand that although clowns may appear to be dirty, ragged, and disheveled; they are in fact fastidious about their costume.

So I took a new paper and cloth surgical gown from my boyfriend's veterinary practice and decorated it with dots, and circles and stripes.

I took the same approach to my props. Although they may have only been seen for a few minutes, I wanted to make them as authentic as possible. I had thought at first I would just use my diploma from Clown School but found out from clowns who had been judges that using our Alley name was not allowed. When I was having trouble getting my

props out of my bag, a small table was suggested and Peep came up with the perfect medical table.

Now I had never done any acting before becoming a clown and had no idea of stage presence. When I watched a video of our performance I noticed that I was moving all wrong (at one point I even turned my back on the audience).

Then Cricket (a frequent skit and performance prize winner) gave me the following advice...”Plant your feet and turn from the waist.” That simple advice made a huge difference and actually helped me become more comfortable.

And then we practiced. We practiced a lot! Our skit group became our audience showing patience and support as we performed our skit over and over making our moves and our dialogues smooth.

But we were not really satisfied with the ending to our skit. Originally we were going to have the clown Dr present the clown diploma. Noodles suggested that the Straight Dr would ask, “Do you have time for nine holes.” Then we would remove a golf club and a funny golf hat from our bags and leave the stage arm and arm.

Squiggles noted that although it was funny, it didn’t give anything inspirational to take away. Then somebody, (I wish I knew who to give credit to) made the remark “Laughter is the best medicine after all!” And we had our perfect ending.

When we won 2nd prize for our skit during competition I knew that it wasn’t our prize alone. It had come about through the help, suggestions and guidance and support of so many in our Alley members. Our skit hadn’t just been created...it had evolved!

I especially thank Tiny (Joe Luce), Cheerio (Aldo Iglehart), Glitterbug (Patsy McMillion), Peep (Judy Cornett), Blades (Joe Lester), Shotzie (Linda Lester), Cricket (June Hinkle), and my skit partners Squiggles (Roberta Hawes) and Noodles (Linda Cooper).

TAG: You're It!

By Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert

Hello TCA Clowns. I hope this article finds you well during these continued crazy times. I know many are tired and frustrated because they can't clown right now, for a variety of reasons. Let me encourage you to take this time to do what you can to stay engaged, happy and growing. I can't believe it's been 7 months since our worlds came to a halt, yet during that time I have tried to stay positive and continue to work on my professional growth. During this time I did a balloon arrangement for the million bubbles challenge, signed up for a 3 day face painting workshop on line with the International Face Painting School, signed up with Red Nose Readers and began working on a lighter faced storyteller. I've learned how to make face painting bling, and am making more clean new buttons and bows for my costumes!

In addition, I have decided to stretch my performance abilities by adding new bits to my shows. I have added The Magic Drawing Board, the Peanut Butter and Jelly magic routine, I made a silk fountain and have included that into my show, along with doing a much longer DLites routine than I have historically done in the past. My

shows have gone from having quite a bit of audience participation to being socially distanced and engaging them without ever bringing anyone on stage. I have learned to perform for the 9-12 yr old group which I had always been hesitant to do, and have found them to be fun and easy to entertain - if I can connect early on! All the shows I've done non-clown comedy magic, while wearing a mask. But guess what, I wholly believe my clown still comes out in the way I engage and connect. I've learned a lot from Buttons and she truly is a part of me daily whether in or out of makeup! There is no telling when our worlds will go back to normal, or if we will ever be at that type of normal again. So, it's truly important to figure out how you can continue to do the things you do, in a safe and healthy way.

If I can say or do anything to encourage you during this time, please feel free reach out. I'm an email and a Zoom call away! Continue to learn, and grow. Challenge yourself to use this time to invest in your character and in your performance!

www.buttonspartyevents.com

I TAG Kathy Keaton....



“I’ve done non-clown comedy magic, while wearing a mask. But guess what, I wholly believe my clown still comes out in the way I engage and connect.”



Area Director Reports

North Central TX Area Report, Aug. 1st, 2020

Dear Clown Friends and Family,
I have always had a difficult time in getting a report started, soooo here goes.

Cowtown Clowns: I got nothing, no meetings to report on. We are not sure when our Alley will be able to come back together for meetings and fellowship. Our meeting place is not open to any extra functions until they get the ok from State officials that it would be safe.

Happi Tymes: first in person Alley meeting since the COVID-19 shut down the world, it was held July 6th, 2020. Nine attended and they had four Zoomer's.

I didn't get in on the business meeting but was able to see the second half of the activities. They did a Charades Trivia game, and a Snowball throwing contest and it looked liked fun.

The Clown Arounds: no report, but I'm sure they are being Clowns the best way possible. They are still not meeting in person.

Since John John and I are stay at homers we are also Zoomers and we so miss all the fellowship. We are sending our Love and prayers for all our Clown friends and family to stay safe, stay well and stay happy.

In closing I would like to share this Positive Quote (not mine) but I feel it's appropriate: Your mind is a garden

Your thoughts are the seeds
you can grow flowers
or you can grow weeds.

Hugs to All,
L.J. (wiggles) Lomenick-Luce

North East Area Report, July 2020

from Susan Keys

Due to the Covid pandemic, our news this month is pretty slim. Pretty much everyone is staying in self quarantine and clowning opportunities are limited to online or drive by experiences.

News from Rosey Nose Alley in Tyler

Report submitted from Dee Kirkpatrick secretary. We have not been active during the Covid quarantine as most of us have health issues and are not getting out. The prison ministry has shut down and will probably not restart until 2021. Our February program is on hold until we can safely meet again. Our officers for this year:

- Jane Wilson, President
- Shirley Hamilton, Vice President
- Dee Kirkpatrick, Secretary
- Cindy Rice, Treasurer
- David McCullough, Parliamentarian

News from Memory Makers

Report submitted by Darris Cross President. They are having their first actual meeting on Monday July 13th. They will be discussing possible Fund Raisers in October.

Officers for the Alley are:

- Darris Cross, President
- Terry Cunningham, Vice President
- Kim Cunningham, Secretary and Treasurer

News From Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85

Report submitted by President Matthew Spraggins

We have not really had much going on since April. We try to stay connected through facebook. Most all our events have been canceled due to the coronavirus. No parades or get togethers allowed. We have had our monthly meetings online via Zoom and have a pretty good attendance.

My vice president has gotten injured and is unable to help out the rest of the year. We are not sure when we can meet again in person

South/Central Area Report, September 2020

Our alley is still doing virtual meetings. We are exercising the most caution for our members and the community we serve.

Thanks,

Abigail “Gummy Bear” Robles-Membrez

TCA South East Area Report - September 2020

Cheerful Clown Alley

The Cheerful Clown Alley has purchased a Zoom account. We use it for the Board Meetings and the General Membership meetings. It is also available for our Kitchen Band and skit practices. During this (September) month, we had a couple of visitors join us for our monthly Membership meeting! Those visitors were Nancy (Bubbles) Arent and Martha (Miss Cookie) Warren. Thank you both for dropping by to visit! We would love to have more visitors! Please let us know if you are interested. Our General Membership meetings are the 2nd Thursday of every month and starting time is 6:30 p.m.

The CCA Board and Membership have decided to waive the November Board elections due to the inability to have an in-person meeting. The current members of our Board have agreed to continue in their present positions until November 2021.

We have a returning member to add to our roster! Her name is JoAnn (Candy) Schultz. That brings our membership up to 79.

We have had no Gig requests in quite a while. We may have one in October 2020 to share with the Puppet Guild.

In the meantime....Keep Smiling! We WILL get through this!
God Bless you all!

Pam (Touche') Blacklock

**We can't all have 2020 vision, but we are
LOOKING FORWARD to TCA Convention, 2021!**



**Killeen, Texas
August 5th - 8th, 2021**