

Clown Stuff

By the time you read this the convention will be over, and chances are good (if you attended), that you arrived home with more clown stuff than you left home with. You know, *clown stuff*...balloons, stickers, face paints, various items of costuming, make-up, puppets, juggling equipment, rubber chickens, foam props, magic tricks, kazoos... *clown stuff*. For many of us, myself included, clown stuff is one of the many perks of the job. I love clown stuff, so do you, admit it, you know you do. I have bad dreams sometimes though, that I have arrived at a gig without my clown stuff. If you have clowned long, chances are good you have had this dream yourself. What do I do without my stuff?! Well, in real life if that ever happened (God forbid) I have things I can do to entertain without my props. I like my props, I'd rather have them, but it's important to have a 'Plan B'. 'Plan B' can be kid games, improv games, skits, stories, knock-knock jokes, pantomime.. any fun or funny thing. 'Plan B' doesn't have to be a great plan (it's Plan B after all) you just have to have a plan. The skills and creativity involved in developing a 'Plan B' will serve you well in your performing whether you ever arrive at a gig without your clown stuff... or not (God forbid).

Mr. Pitts



Pitts '09

The Joey Journal

The
Texas Clown
Association
July-Aug '09

THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of
The Texas Clown Association, Inc.
Kay "Nannie Belle" Quittner, Editor
David Pitts, Cover Artist

Read it online via your TCA website: www.texasclownassociation.com

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items may be mailed to *The Joey Journal*, 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 or by sent by email to joeyjournal@yahoo.com. 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, copies, or Polaroids.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Full page-\$50; half page-\$30; 1/3 page size \$20

Multiple placement discounts on full, half, and quarter page ads are 10% for 2-5 editions and 20% 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 January 5, March 1, May 1, July 1, August 1 (special convention edition) and November 1. Articles can be sent to joeyjournal.com in Word format or in the body of your email for the easiest exchange of information.

Membership and Dues	Regular Membership:	\$ 25.00
	Family (each add'l):	15.00
	Junior Membership:	12.50

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

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.

FALL ISSUE
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

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A Word from the Prez.....

Well the first summertime TCA Convention is over. There will be some great memories for a lot of Clowns. I would like to take some time to thank Happi Tymes and all their helpers for all the time and hard work they spent putting this convention together. There were some firsts at this convention that happened that maybe we can build on in the future. I'm looking forward to the September Board meeting to hear more about the good things that came out of this convention.

There were a couple of things that happened that are not so good however. Aurora Krause and Ed Fitzgerald have stepped down as Education and Competition Directors. I for one would like to say the two have performed their duties to the highest standards and they will be missed. We will have to move on and hope to find some good people to fill their shoes. If anyone would be willing to fill those shoes contact myself or any board member to put your hat in the ring. Next year at the convention we will be electing our TCA Board that will led us for the next two years and it is not to early to start thinking of nominations.

Bump A Nose

Andy Anderson

****Website password: clowntown**

2010 TCA CONVENTION—FALL DATE

Over the last year the TCA Board discussed the timing of the TCA Convention in relation to the April 2010 COAI Convention that will be held in Houston. There was real concern over whether or not having a convention in April and again in the July August time-frame would work. Additionally, it was difficult to find an Alley that would consider hosting a convention in 2010. As a result, a poll was taken at the General Membership meeting. The following questions, along with their respective votes, were asked:

Your TCA board of directors is considering moving the annual convention to the Sept/Oct time frame for 2010 only. Cowtown Clown Alley is the only alley who has bid for the 2010 convention.

Would you be agreeable to this idea for 2010 only? YES 73 NO 22

Are you planning to attend the COAI convention in Houston in April 2010? YES 59 NO 27

Do you plan to attend the TCA Convention in 2010 if it is in Granbury? YES 53 NO 34

Would you attend both? YES 77 NO 22

Would you attend a TCA Convention if competitions were reduced or eliminated in 2010 only? YES 73 NO 12

Would you attend a TCA Convention if flying were not an economical option? Yes 73 No 12

Announcement

Open Position Available: TCA Education Director

Primary Responsibility and Mission statement of the Education Committee:

To create and maintain educational programs for our TCA membership that will serve to provide them with opportunities for growth and development in the "Art of Clowning"

To all TCA members in good standing, please consider placing your name in the hat for this Board appointed position. As TCA Education Director you are assured to receive learning opportunities and leadership experience along with the support and guidance of the TCA Board.

We have confirmed with our out going Education Director that she will provide support and assistance to our new Ed. Director and Committee. It is the TCA Boards desire to appoint someone to this position that will commit to implementing and following through with the best possible efforts in providing our TCA membership with educational opportunities.

If you are interested in this position and would like to inquire further please do not hesitate to contact TCA President, Andy Anderson. kudosra@yahoo.com or 817-282-3339

COMPETITION RESULTS—2010 CONVENTION

The First Tyme Summer Tyme Convention is over, and it was a rousing success. Here are the results of the competitions:

Single Balloon - 3rd Place: Francisco Juarez; 2nd Place: Hans Mirahmatov; 1st Place: Linda Berman

Multiple Balloon - 3rd Place: Francisco Jaurez; 2nd Place: Hans Mirahmatov; 1st Place: Linda Berman

Balloon Arrangement - 3rd Place: Pennie Smith; 2nd Place: Francisco Jaurez; 1st Place: Linda Berman

Whiteface - 3rd Place: none; 2nd Place: none; 1st Place: Francisco Jaurez

Auguste - 3rd Place: Alberto Espinosa; 2nd Place: Andy Espinosa; 1st Place: Aurora Krause

Junior - 3rd Place: Angel; 2nd Place: Alexa Bodine; 1st Place: Sean McCurtain

Senior - 3rd Place: Lana Sue Fridge; 2nd Place: Donna Manna; 1st Place: Bob King

Single Paradeability - 3rd Place: Carolyn Kerr; 2nd Place: Bob King; 1st Place: Francisco Jaurez

Group Paradeability - 3rd Place: Martha Warren, Marcia Griffith, Debby Davis, Lana Sue Fridge, Aloha Peden; 2nd Place: Francisco Jaurez, Alberto Espinosa, Andy Espinosa; 1st Place: Kathy Keaton, Linda Green, Kay Henry, Claudette Hayes, Susan Butler, Sandee Finlee, Sally Papasan

Single Skit - 3rd Place: none; 2nd Place: none; 1st Place: Francisco Jaurez

Group Skit - 3rd Place: Linda Greene, Claudette Hayes; 2nd Place: Francisco Juarez, Susan Keys, Tricia Gregory, Debbie Davis; 1st Place: Alberto Espinosa, Andy Espinosa

Performance - 3rd Place: Beverly Harstad; 2nd Place: Alberto Espinosa, Andy Espinosa; 1st Place: Francisco Jaurez

Best All Around Clown - Francisco Jaurez

Ambassador of Clowning - Mauri Norris

Congratulations to all the winners and participants!!

Dear TCA -

It is with a much humbled heart that I write to thank you for the honor of being named AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING for 2009. I consider this a tremendous honor indeed. My name now appears on a long list of honorees that I believe includes some of the BEST TEXAS clowns ever: ***Rags, Wynky, Whispers, Flopsey, Superstar, Klynky, Sugar Plum Poppins, Honey, Boppo, Grits, Mr Sunshine, Pookie, Flower, Citro-nella, Tutti Frutti, Dubble Bubble, ChaCha, RolyPoly, Smiley, Greenie, Buckle, BeBop, Twinkles*** and ***JohnJohn***. During the awards banquet at the recent TCA Convention when John Luce began the presentation and read the nomination letter, and once I began to recognize he was talking about ME, even I was amazed at how impressive my “clown resume” sounded. It seems that if you keep at something for enough years, there must be a lot of good things that you accomplished along the way. John’s wonderful presentation came with a “beautiful ruby-studded tiara” (with matching earrings no less). In recent years I have not been “in face” as often as I was in my earlier clowning years, but I certainly have put a lot of hours into the art of clowning – teaching/assisting at Cheerful’s annual Clown School (every year since 1985) and serving on the boards of both TCA (going into my 6th year) and COAI and several convention planning committees and editing Cheerful’s monthly newsletter *The Cheerful Chatter* (for the last 12 years). When I tell folks that I am a clown, I usually mention that recently I have been in Clown Administration. Clown administration might not be as FUN as “real” clowning, but it is necessary too. And as “they” say – somebody has to do it. It surely can be very CHALLENGING but it does have its rewards along the way. I have made some wonderful friends in Cheerful, TCA and COAI and I would like to think that I have

“sparked” a number of new clowns over these past 26 years of my clown life. And not just to be “real” clowns but also to take active roles in their clown organizations, helping to ensure the future of clowning and continuing to provide educational opportunities in the art. The art of clowning has changed a lot since I began and the quality of the members/clowns has improved as well – so I have to think that our organizations are making a difference.

So for now at least I remain your humble clown administrator and thank you again for your vote and confidence.

I love you all and I love clowning.

Mauri Binkie Norris



Tootsie Roll Game

Supplies:

- Tootsie Roll Midgees
- 2 lunch sacks
- 2 sets of XL garden gloves

Children are divided into 2 even teams. The teams sit in lines facing each other. Each child will put on the garden gloves, reach into the sack, retrieve a Tootsie Roll, unwrap it, put the wrapper back in the sack and eat the candy before passing the sack to the next kid. No fair using your teeth to help unwrap! Of course, the first team to finish gets more Tootsie Rolls!

It has recently been brought to my attention that we should use sugar-free candy for this game because of children with diabetes. Besides, which kids need more sugar? In any case, I recommend never using any chocolate except Tootsie Rolls. If you do, be careful! You'll have a melty chocolate mess on the kids, your garden gloves, and you, too.

If you have any trouble understanding these games, call me on 713 460-4544 or email me at twin-kles88@comcast.net. Now get out there, have fun, and play!

FIRST TYME SUMMER TYME REPRISED

Report from Margaret Clauder and Earl Warren convention co-chairs

M - Well, the convention is over. The first EVER TCA summer time convention was judged a whopping success by all attendance standards. We had 154 clowns registered, plus several walk-ins for one day, (plus lecturers and dealers) - putting to rest the question "Will anyone attend a summer time convention?" The answer is a resounding YES! Also we had 11 Jr. Joeys attend the convention - that's at least 9 more than we have had EVER at a TCA convention. That's right! I've been coming to these things since 1991 and I have never seen more than 1-3 Jr. Joeys.

This summer convention allowed kids in public school to come because they were out of class! We even had kids competing (and placing) in competitions! How cool is that! We achieved our goal of getting young people interested in clowning. Last year the average age of the clowns at the convention was over the age of 45. We changed that this year.

If you did not attend this summer convention, or your kids missed it, I'm sorry. You missed some great lecturers, dealers, and parties. We had classes for the novice as well as classes for the seasoned professional. I for one was proud to see that 3 of our full time professionals in the DFW area even came to the

convention - one for the very first time and said he loved it!

While the TCA membership did vote to do summer-time conventions for *2 years* starting in 2009 and it took us *3 years to go through the process of a survey and vote* to move the date, a **straw poll, non quorum vote** initiated by the TCA board at the general meeting of this convention was **the only requirement to invalidate the membership's prior vote** and move the next convention back to the fall.

Now on to the negatives...

M -- Ok, we had some issues with the hotel. It was not a 4 star hotel. We checked out some of those and found that the price range was so high we did not believe anyone would come - especially in the current economy. In fact, we checked out 7 hotels in all for this convention. The problem we faced as a convention committee was that we had no idea how a first ever summer time convention would go over. Would we have enough attendance to break even? We certainly didn't want to go in the hole! So we did the best we could at picking an affordable hotel that had the space that we needed. Don't forget, the host alley signs a contract for several thousands of dollars - win or lose!

E - You're right, Margaret. Frankly, we use too much space for the size of our conventions. That is not a new revelation! Many of us feel a need to streamline future conventions - especially competitions. The Sterling Hotel, out of seven hotels investigated, had the space, the price range and a willingness to *work with us* (a key factor). The hotel had enough space on one floor for all the events -- which was a positive for most attendees. And when it came down to the few days prior to opening, they bent over backward to provide us with more space than we actually contracted for - *AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!*

I have never attended a convention, in cities from Vegas to Washington or in Texas that could meet "full muster" if you *looked* for problems -- and I traveled the country off and on for almost 15 years and attended some very large conventions for various companies before I became a clown! The truth is, without more attendance -- translate that into *more revenue* -- we will continue having challenges finding problem-free locations in the future that will please everyone. Note that 2010 will be in a new convention center in a small tourist town one hours drive south of Fort Worth. The fact that it is new should please most; however, if this were in the Metroplex it is doubtful we could come close to affording the facility.

M -- We have seen attendance at TCA conventions dwindle from a high of 225 when Happi Tymes hosted the convention in 1998 to just over 125 when Wichita Falls hosted it last year - in the fall. We were frankly not sure if we would break 100 attendees when we began our planning stages. Imagine if you contracted on a house without knowing if you would have a job to make the mortgage payments. That is the position we were in.

So, we did the best we could. This was the 3rd time I have helped with a convention and Earl's 4th. I noticed that as I work on more and more conventions how hard it is to do one well. There are all sorts of unseen problems and issues that no convention prep book can prepare you for.

I heard many wonderful comments about the lecturers, the dealers, things people learned and the fun people had at the parties. I heard laughter coming from the room during the skit performances and during the various competitions. Unhappily though, I heard way too many rude and snide comments from people regarding the convention. One couple in particular was so ugly to the convention committee that several of our members have vowed to not be involved in TCA conventions in the future - as a worker or an attendee! I was witness to this behavior and I was appalled that clowns who love children so much could

act so hateful to fellow clowns. I was equally appalled that one of these people serves on the TCA board.

E -- As a matter of fact, the constant drumbeat of criticism leveled at the Competition Chairman, his assistants and judges during several recent conventions led Ed Fitzgerald to resign his position. By the very nature of competitions there will be people who see results differently, and from the outside looking in, feel it could be done a "better way." Finding someone with the experience, organizational skills, a willingness to put in the hard work and long hours that attendees and competitors never see is a major challenge. Just ask anyone who has filled the slot in the past. That very critical clown added the final straw! From the viewpoint of this writer, that person should temper their criticisms and remember they are occupying a position of responsibility.

M -- It breaks my heart that we would lose wonderful talented people over a few people's hateful and snide remarks.

Folks, if you wish there to be conventions in the future, one thing you need to do is be kind to those that work their tails off to put one on. Remember, we give up literally hundreds of hours of our time for NO PAY to do this. We did not hear any cutting remarks from former convention chairs, co-chairs, or committee

heads. In fact, we heard thank you from those people. The people that were the cruelest were ones that we identified as not having served in the planning of any recent conventions.

I want to thank all the people that came to this convention. I hope you all learned a lot and will be able to become better clowns and entertainers because of it. I want to thank the competitors who spent many hours preparing. I wish to thank Earl Warren, who was my co-chair - he did a fabulous job! It's not easy being a senior citizen and putting in the hours and time that he did. If you noticed, at the convention he was very ill but put off going to the doctor until after the convention was over.

I wish to publicly thank Ed Fitzgerald who ran our competitions for several years - a truly thankless job and he did it superbly for most of that time without significant complaints. We will truly miss your expertise. I want to also thank Susan Keys who ran a dynamite Jr. Joey program with 11 Jr. Joeys! I hope she lit a good enough fire under these youngsters that they will continue clowning even when they cannot attend clown conventions in the future because they will be in school.

E - Margaret, thanks for the kind words - senior citizen? -- but there are always a number of high profile

don't forget there are many other "heroes" that work long and hard on the dozens of jobs necessary to make a convention a success. So, to all Happi Tymes and Metroplex alley members - thanks from the bottom of our hearts. It would never have happened without you!

We can't go back to August and start over. Our suggestion is to take what you learned from the tremendous pool of lecturer talent: Use the information to better your clowning - and forget the rest!

We salute you for coming and helping us prove that a Summer Convention can work.

Please visit our website

www.happitymesclowns.vpweb.com and fill in the survey to help TCA alley's plot a course for future conventions.

Sorrisi Dal Cuore - Smile from Your Heart!



The Plunger Game

from Steve "Peachey Keene" Long

Supplies:

- 2 small kitchen plungers fixed with a chinstrap
- toilet paper rolls
- trash bag

Divide the kids into 2 teams. Each team has a designated leader. The leader puts the plunger on his/her head with a roll of toilet paper on the handle. The rest of each team tries to quickly unwind the entire roll. The team finishing first is the winner.

This game is one of my favorites. I've been using it for some time but can't remember its origin. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.



Jolly Joeys Clown Fiesta 2009 a hit!

On April 18th the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley of San Antonio (TCA #19) held what they hope to be the first of many Clown Fiestas. The event was held at Brackenridge Park's Kohler Pavilion which provided plenty of shade and places to sit for parents while their kids enjoyed a first rate show produced by Aurora BEBOP Krause. Along with some yummy popcorn, cool sodas, and snow cones the clowns, associates and their families provided face painting, balloon sculpting, and Story Time with Mizz Sunflower.

The day began with the Jolly Joeys supporting the Any Baby Can organizations annual Run/Walk in support of Autism resources for families. That meant an early day for many of the clowns but they were energized by that large crowd and the rewarding response they received from many of the autistic children and their parents. As that event wound down about 10:45 AM, the Jolly Joeys went into action preparing their booths and stage. New performance curtains were hung, the stage mats were assembled, and the Alley's new parade banner was hung proudly for all to see. An information table was also set up to provide flyers and business cards for the alley in hopes of recruiting some want-to-be clowns for upcoming Clowning 101 classes. The smell of fresh popcorn rode the breeze to entice the parks patrons as they rode by on the miniature train.

DONNABELL, PANDORFUS, and SAWDUST'S families were GREAT as they stepped in to help with the food booth, cashier duties, and even acted as carnival barkers directing park and zoo visitors to come visit the Clown Fiesta. Phillip BILLY BUBBLES Wright was also a great carnival barker with his pink hair and bubble wand drawing plenty of attention which enabled him to direct more and more families to the Clown Fiesta.

Under the leadership of President Diana BUTTONS McCurtain-Talbert the Jolly Joeys successfully entertained a crowd estimated to be between 500 to 700 people in total for the day. Many months were spent in the planning and rehearsals. It all came together in the six hours the Jolly Joeys presented the Clown Fiesta with the entire groups already talking about what they can do to make next year's event even better.

Kevin IRISH Watt

2009 DATES to NOTE

Joey to the World: February 6 and 7, 2010

NEW PASSWORD FOR MEMBERS ONLY:
CLOWNTOWN



Next JJ Deadline is October 15, 2009

TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals

may be found on our website at
www.texasclownassociation.org

From the Desk of the Secretary:

May 2, 2009 Board meeting/actions

The board met at the Sterling Hotel in Dallas, site of the 2008 TCA Convention set for August.

Representatives from the convention host alley Happi Tymes presented a reported on the plans for the upcoming convention.

Board approved a proposal for the awards and trophies for the 2008 convention from Image Engravers.

The board discussed possible options for the 2009 convention, related to location and dates and hosts. Andy A presented information about a possible location in Glen Rose Texas – Riverbend Retreat Center, a camp environment with cabins and meal plans. Board members discussed some pros and cons of this location. Also some members expressed concerns about the fact that the COAI Convention will be in Houston in April of 2010. There is much board concern about the declining attendance at the annual TCA conventions. Various ideas were considered, such as: skipping a year, eliminating or reducing competitions, reducing length of convention, etc. No decisions were made. Board members were encouraged to speak with members and alleys in their areas about these concerns and ideas.

Committee Reports:

Competition Committee: Ed Fitzgerald discussed items he will need for his committee at the convention. Lisa Ezell and Kim Grice volunteered to assist Ed with the computer work for the various competitions during the convention.

Ambassador Award: John Luce reported it was too soon to have received all nominations.

By-Laws Committee: Andy Quittner had no proposed changes at this time. There is some concern about the manner in which the area directors are elected but nothing was decided at this meeting. It was mentioned that some members in the Panhandle/West region were requesting that their director be replaced. The board agreed to accept ideas and comments at the next board meeting in August when all parties were present for the discussion and decision.

Education Committee: Aurora Krause (not present – sent a report with Kim Grice) – Kim requested advance information from the convention host alley regarding FIRST TIME attendees that are preregistered so that they can be contacted regarding the Buddy Program.

Membership Committee: Kim reported that the 2009 alley reports are due on July 15.

Spark Plug Award – Andy Q will handle this for this year as he has all records in the database. The winner will be determined prior to the convention and Andy Q will notify Andy A so that the award can be prepared. He will also have Certificates for each member sparking at least one new member in the period.

The Joey Journal – Kay Quittner Editor – not present – report was given by Andy Q – reported that David Pitts is planning to retire as cover artist. He noted that he has received 56 responses to his survey in the last issue. He plans to recap these results for an article in The Joey Journal.

Website – Robert Whitley, webmaster was not present. Board discussed some needed changes, updates and improvements. There was a request to have the alleys listed under their respective regions. Andy A agreed to contact Robert with the suggestions and to confirm he wants to continue in this position.

Director Reports: Each area director discussed upcoming events in their regions.

Adjourned.

Mauri Norris, Secretary



TCA FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 31

Income	Budgeted	Actual
Dues	7400	3989.00
Interest CD	200	
Convention Profit	2000	3599.81
Convention seed	1000	
Sales- Merchandise	50	8.00
Advertising JJ	360	
New Alley Fee		25.00
P.O. Permit rebate		36.00
Total Income	11,010	7657.81
Expenses:		
Board Expense	1500	864.65
Convention	2000	105.00
Convention seed	1000	
Insurance	600	500.00
JJ Editor	100	
JJ Mailing/postage	1000	545.85
JJ Printing	2400	1544.10
JJ Supplies	300	238.23
Mailing/other	250	3.09
Office	700	11.00
Total Expenses		3811.92
Income - Expenses		3845.89
Bank Balance 12/31/2008	8,863.78	
Bank Balance 07/31/2009		12709.67

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