

I had so much fun drawing this cover. It's based, of course, on "A Charlie Brown Christmas", the 1965 holiday special which has become a classic. I believe it has remained so popular because of its profound and simple message, its humor, and the artistry and integrity of Charles Schulz, the creator of the comic strip "Peanuts". "Peanuts" itself was an American classic, and it's as much a part of our culture as Santa Claus, Mickey Mouse and Coca-Cola. But "Peanuts", and its characters and holiday specials have survived Schulz and endured because of the depth of the work, its subtlety and intelligence. There was always gentle slapstick, funny pictures and endearing characters of course, but there was also depth of feeling and comedy based on a deeper understanding of our human weaknesses and strengths. Watch the special, accentuated by the music of by the jazz piano great Vince Guaraldi, and you'll find the melancholy of the holidays as well as the joy. There's a search for meaning and a moment of truth. There's redemption by kindness and the power of love. It's kind of a masterpiece, really, and I think it's the work of an artist who sat down every day to a labor of love. To me, that's a job well done and a life well lived.

David Pitts

# The Joey Journal

The Texas Clown Association  
November - December 2011



TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Clown Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities.

Please include a picture of you in make-up & costume. (Photo will not be returned)

Please answer the following questions either typed or written in ink.

1. How long have you been clowning?
2. What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
3. What clown skills are you interested in developing?
4. What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
5. Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
6. How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
  - a. In your community?
  - b. In your alley?
  - c. In the Art of Clowning?
7. Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?

**Application must be postmarked by April 1, 2012**

**If you e-mail all info must be received by midnight April 1,2012.**

**Please send completed form and accompanying documents to:**

**Texas Clown Association**

**Attn. Education Committee**

**P.O. Box 820**

**Hurst, Texas 76053**

**or e-mail to Rhea Anderson at [kudosra@yahoo.com](mailto:kudosra@yahoo.com)**

**ALL ABOARD!!!**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> TCA Convention? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

**CONVENTION FEES:**

Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Breakfast Ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(cost: \$30 each)

Extra Banquet Ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(cost: \$45 each)

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(S-M-L-XL: \$15)  
(XXL-XXXXL: \$20)

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

ISSUE and MAIL Checks to:  
TCA 2012 CONVENTION  
c/o Mauri Norris  
6504 Kenyon Lane  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Want to *Charge-it?* Additional \$4 convenience fee for  
PayPal payments. Call about using PayPal.

**The Texas Clown Association**

**Board of Directors**  
invites you to the  
**Texas Clown Association**  
**2012 Convention**  
**August 1 - 5, 2012**

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:**

**\$125** until 11/30/2011

**\$140** 12/1/2011 - 1/31/2012

**\$155** 2/1/2012 - 3/31/2012

**\$175** 4/1/2012 - 5/31/2012

**\$190 after 5/31/12 and at the door**

(no checks at the door – cash only)  
(No refunds after June 30, 2012)

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).

**\$110 JUNIOR JOEYS**

(ages 10 - 15) all times

Juniors enjoy all the same convention events and activities as the adult registrants, plus special classes geared for younger clowns.

**The Westin Hotel Dallas/Ft Worth Airport**

4545 W John Carpenter Frwy.  
Irving, TX 75063

**Room Rate:**

**\$89/night (+ tax) – up to 4 occupants**  
suites available at \$149/night  
(suites are limited – book early)

To book a room, contact the hotel at:  
1-800-937-8461 or

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/TxCA>

This is the same hotel as for the 2011 convention. Make your reservation early 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.

Questions? Contact:

Andy “Smiley” Anderson 817-282-6555  
[kudosra@yahoo.com](mailto:kudosra@yahoo.com)

Mauri “Binkie” Norris 713-664-7733  
[maurinorris@yahoo.com](mailto:maurinorris@yahoo.com)

# THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of

**The Texas Clown Association, Inc.**

Kay "Nannie Belle" & Andy "Banjo" Quittner, Co-Editors

David Pitts, Cover Art

**Read it online via your TCA website:** [www.texasclownassociation.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://joeyjournal.com) in Word format or in the body of your email for the easiest exchange of information.

<b>Membership and Dues</b>	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.

**SUMMER ISSUE**  
**November—December 2011**

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## **A Word from the Prez.....**

Hello Clown Friends,

I just came back from your TCA Board meeting and I have to say there are some great things happening. First of all the TCA Convention for 2012 is moving along well. Angel Ocasio from the Pacific Northwest will be one of our headliners. Angel is one of the top physical comedians and clowns and a great teacher of these skills. This will be a great chance to improve on your clowning skills and character.

Another good opportunity for some of you to go to the TCA Convention is our new TCA Convention Registration Scholarship. Thanks to funds raised at the last two years conventions this will be the first time to be able to apply for a Scholarship to pay your registration to the TCA Convention. Our charity for this years convention is the TCA Convention Registration Scholarship so we hope to continue this offer. You have to fill out an application which is included in this Joey Journal and be post marked on or before April 1.

This year at the TCA Convention we will have elections for the officers that will lead our organization for the next two years. Go to the TCA web page to the by-laws section where a list of our officers and their duties can be found. Look this over and be one of the members to step up to be a part our TCA Leadership. Contact Diana McCurtain-Talbert as she is the nominations chair. This is a very important part of our General Membership Meeting so please be there to vote.

As I said there are some great things happening with TCA so don't be left out.

Bump A Nose

Andy A.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
And *GIFTS FROM SANTA*

The editors of the JJ wish you a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the coming new year.

Yes, it is Santa time, and your editors have sent their letter to the North Pole! What did we ask for? Well, articles from our membership would be really nice. For TCA—new members—at least 50—would be wonderful. For the TCA Board—a smooth, successful convention. And for all TCA members—good health and happy clowning!

The gifts from Santa— well, read page 20 in this issue of the Joey Journal and you will see what could be like a gift from Santa. That page contains the guidelines for the TCA Convention Registration Scholarship. That's right, you can apply for a scholarship to attend the TCA Convention—and that's like money in your pocket!! That's right—money—not exactly spending money—but money that will be well spent and leave you with more money to spend in the dealer's room. And all because you read about it in the *Joey Journal*. If you are awarded a scholarship, you are asked to write an article. But that's not as hard as you think. You will be at the convention, and, believe me, that will inspire subjects of, not one, but many articles.

Again, MERRY CHRISTMAS from Kay and Andy Q.

## ***\$\$\$ OPTIONS \$\$\$: You Can Make a "Professor's Nightmare"***

*By Peggy Barton*

There are several illusion items that you can make and use with similar success of the commercially produced items. There are books authored by David Ginn, Brenda Marshall, and Duane (or David & Teesha) Laflin to mention a few, that give you items to make from common items.

The first one I'll mention is "The Professor's Nightmare." This is a rope trick that can be made from common clothesline cord/rope. Some places (like Kudos) you can buy rope cheap by the foot and you only need about 6 feet. Pull the stiffener cords out of the middle of the rope to produce a very flexible cord, cut to desired lengths and wrap each end with electrician's tape to preserve the ends. The lengths can be adjusted some to accommodate hand sizes. My hands are not large and I use lengths of 8", 21", and 36".

The story can mention needing 3 ropes of the same length and how the store clerk must have really messed up. Now that people know that the desire is to go to three lengths the same length, you can arrange the ropes in your hand. There are a couple of ways to do this. My way is at first I hold the ropes in my left hand because I am right handed. The ropes should be shortest near the thumb, the middle sized next moving to the left, and then the long rope. I take each rope one at a time and put the dangling end up beside the last rope in my hand. So the first time I bring the dangling end of the short rope and lay it beside the longest rope end that does not dangle. Next I put the



medium rope, (again the dangling end) next to the short rope end and the last dangling end from the longest rope next to the medium end. As I talk about the mess the clerk has made, I'm arranging the ends to the ropes in my hands never really moving them except to wiggle them and insure the loop from short rope is now inside my hand and invisible from the audience seating. You can then pick the first two rope ends near the tips of my fingers, then skip one tip and choose the next rope tip. As you are getting hold of these ends firmly, you will need to work your thumb of the left hand, behind the last selection to hold all rope tips that were not selected. In an instant finalize the illusion by pulling down all the selected ropes, while holding the remaining ends firmly, but leaving the other area only slightly firm to allow the rope to slide through a newly created loop formed by the short length of rope. Now you seem to be holding three ropes very near the same length. If you are left handed, you will need to reverse hands on the explanation to get an acceptable result.

This trick can be adapted to gospel illusions by showing the lengths of rope to stand for the sins in our life, appearing big, medium, or small to us, but all are the same in God's eyes, or all people are different, but all are the same in God's eyes. For Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." John 3:16 says, "God gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Romans 10:9-10 says, "That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your mouth that you confess and are justified and it is with your heart

that you believe and are saved. So if we are all the same, and have sinned, then we are also all the same that if we confess that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead, we will be saved.

Anyway you can make up your own patter or alter suggested ones as you like, but the points to make should hold the trick together so the audience will follow and realize the change to be the desired outcome.



Did you know that the economy might even be affecting the North Pole??

That's right, the forecast on toy production has gone down to critical levels because elves at the North Pole are suffering severely from depression this year. Not from the economy, but from low *ELF ESTEEM!!!* It's only a small problem, though, and of short duration.



What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time? Sandy Claus

How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico?  
Fleece Navidad!!



## 2012 TCA Elections

In President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, he provided what is quite possibly one of his most famous quotes: "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country."

So, today, I ask, "My fellow Texas Clowns ask not what your Association can do for you - ask what you can do for your Association."

The purpose of the Texas Clown Association is to promote, preserve and improve the profession of clowning; provide the opportunity to study the art, history and philosophy of clowning; educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning; and, to provide news to the members of all clown events in the STATE of TEXAS.

This is a pretty worthwhile purpose! I have loved being a member of TCA and being part of this Board. I love knowing that as Texas Clowns we have our very own organization. But, in order to keep our commitment strong and our impact great we need a few great clowns. We need clowns who are willing to serve and who want to make a difference. We need clowns who are passionate about the art of clowning, and want to give back for all that clowning has meant to them.

There are several ways to serve TCA. One way is to serve on our Board. At our next convention, we will

have three positions which will be reaching their term limits. These positions are: Treasurer, Secretary and President.

Our goal is to have at least two nominees per position as we go into our elections. If you are interested in serving, or interested in nominating someone, please send me an email to let me know of your interest. If you need position descriptions, I can help with that too. Call me.

I am a great believer that the best way to continue moving forward is to have new people with new ideas join in with those who are more seasoned; so that we continue to always have a fresh perspective.

Thank you in advance for those who are going to step up.

Till next time, keep Smiling!

Buttons aka Diana McCurtain-Talbert

210-391-6087

[dmccurtain@att.net](mailto:dmccurtain@att.net)

## Special Offer at the End of This Article

Hi Gang:

Well as your membership Guru, I believe that it's time once more for us to talk. So...as they used to say at the beginning of the show, 'Dragnet', The story you are about to hear is true...the names have been omitted—because you don't know them anyway. You see, I just returned from the reunion of a church I belonged to many years ago.

It is a small church, most of the members are new, the pastor is new, even the paints new, but at second glance it's still the same as when I left it many years ago. At this reunion' as you might expect' all the old members clustered together displaying flashing smiles and warm welcome hugs. They spoke to each other about family, memories, and the challenges endured in all those missing years.

It was all going as one would expect until I realized that we were all talking about who wasn't there: We spoke as if somehow we had been transported back twenty years. We asked "had anybody heard from them, are they alright and how about the kid's, are they home, are they well, and are they happy"? This was the way it was so many years ago when someone was absent on Sunday morning. A sense of alarm was felt throughout the congregation for it was as if without their presents we were incomplete. Back then this just wouldn't do and it was the same today.

After the meal some of the old members were asked

to say a few words and this led to others joining in as if there were things that were left to long unsaid. The hall was alive once more with the voices of people telling the stories of how they had learned to live, love, and trust because of those in attendance and those that were not. There were heart rendering stories of how one person had forever affected another and it made me sad that the person that was spoken of was not there to hear it and might never know.

This is the best example I can give of a family and not just a church family, but also the family of TCA. That's right; I could have just as easily been speaking of anyone of the Conventions I have attended. The story is the same. Wherever we were' the halls were alive with the voices of family all sharing stories, hugs, and the concerns for those who haven't yet been seen. Through the years we, just like any other family, have shared the joys of belonging and the tears of loss. We learned from each other how to live for the moments that our clown can come to life, to love what we do, and to trust in the knowledge that we all can learn more from failure than we can from failure to try. We are family and that brings me to the point of this story.

**Membership renewal** is fast approaching and it is important to our family that all noses are accounted for to prevent worry and to let the Board know how the family is doing. Your dues are important but only barely cover the cost of the Joey Journal. TCA

operating funds are from other sources such as ads and convention proceeds. The importance of dues is to make sure that our family numbers are growing so that we can adjust our budget numbers to take care of this growing family.

This is so important that (**Here is the Special Offer**) the TCA Board has decided to sweeten the pie. **Everyone's Membership renewal received by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012** will be, regardless of method of payment, placed into some sort of suitable contest hopper and **TWO** names will be drawn. Those two lucky people will each receive in the mail a check in the amount of **Twenty Five U.S. Dollars**. I will make sure that you receive a reminder by way of the Joey Journal and sincerely hope that you win. For when you win TCA wins and I can stop worrying about you.

Bump A Nose

Make A Memory

John Luce

V.P. TCA

## **NEW WEBSITE PASSWORD**

Please note that the password for the member's only section of the website has now been changed.

The new password is: **traintrack**

## 2011 General Membership Meeting Highlights

There was a good turn-out for the general membership meeting.

A proposed budget was distributed and approved. It was noted that TCA has changed banks, primarily to avoid new service fees imposed by the old bank.

As no alley has bid to host the 2012 TCA Convention, your board will be planning the convention. The dates are set for Aug 1- Aug 5, 2012 at the same hotel ? Westin DFW Irving (2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3 year contract). Angel Ocasio is a confirmed headliner for 2012. Additional lecturers and dealers will be announced as they are confirmed.

Rhea Anderson is the chair of the Education Committee. She announced the creation of a TCA Convention Registration Scholarship. Watch for more details in *The Joey Journal*. The Education Fund was initially funded by proceeds from the TCA Quilt auction in 2010.

The TCA Board has voted to add Face Painting Competitions (full face and cheek art categories) at the annual conventions. To make room in the convention schedule the Balloon Arrangement category is being eliminated (the single and multiple balloon competition categories will remain unchanged). Watch for the Face Painting Competition Guidelines and Score-sheets to be published in *The Joey Journal* as soon as completed and available.

TCA can now accept your dues renewals (and new memberships) via PayPal. If you prefer to use a credit card (rather than write a paper check), perhaps using PayPal will work well for you.

Summarized by Mauri Norris, secretary



### ***ASK Minnie***

Dear Minnie,

I'm a First of May Clown. I'm having a great time learning how to reach the audience and make balloon animals, but WOW I'm having trouble buying enough props and pieces of equipment to do a great show. What can you tell me to help me expand without breaking me financially.  
--- Cadillac Heart

Dear Caddie,

I really remember how expensive the first year was. I am reasonably crafty and I was able to make several pieces inexpensively. I am going share some of those with our readers over the next few issues, watch for articles titled, "\$ \$ \$ OPTIONS \$ \$ \$". MAYBE some of our readers will share a favorite item that they made. Also, remember to use some creativity with your first costume. It's possible to find pieces or the whole costume at Salvation Army, Goodwill or other resale type stores. I have a friend that shops garage sales and has picked up a lot of illusions and other items for her clown, real cheap, from clowns that for some reason are downsizing their stuff or getting out of the business. There are gems to be had. One year at convention one clown had found her entry at the Thrift store and had made a costume addition to it to complete her idea. Check out the toy section for some great items to enhance skits or walk-around entertainment. Cowtown Alley, as do other alleys, has a garage sale within the program time on their meeting one month a year. One and all benefit. --- Minnie

Dear Minnie,

I do gospel clowning but I have difficulty finding props for use and material, so much is there for secular use. ---  
Spiritually Seeking

Dear Seeker,

"What God has joined together, let no man frustrate." Or something like that. Okay, having said that, I want to encourage you. As your experience and additional training accumulate, so will your ability to adapt generic props/skits to gospel uses. But in the mean time, please check out David Ginn's website ([www.ginnmagic.com](http://www.ginnmagic.com)), J.T. Sykes ([www.bubbasikes.com](http://www.bubbasikes.com)), Ralph Dewey ([dewey.balloonhq.com/](http://dewey.balloonhq.com/)) and Laflins' website ([www.wholesalemagiconline.com/](http://www.wholesalemagiconline.com/)). They are all gospel led creators and lecturers, and have props with gospel instructions. Also, I have typed, "gospel skit" into Google and found a wealth of free copy out there. Of course all will not meet your needs, one must pray and be selective, but it will give you ideas of your own if you can't use what you see.

Texas is also blessed to be the home of one of the best gospel training weekends anywhere. All but one out of about the last 14 years, Sagemont Baptist Church has hosted Joey to the World on the first weekend in February. The group that organizes this event are Spirit led. I hear some of the worlds greatest gospel lecturers and I am blessed in spirit from the time I arrive in the parking lot until I drive away on Saturday afternoon. You can't beat the price anywhere. We greatly appreciate that this Church allows us in their facility to learn how to present God's word in areas where others may be restricted. If you are willing to be available, God has a plan for you. --- Minnie



## **Planning for the TCA 2012 Convention? A Few Helpful Tips ---**

The 2012 convention is being held in the same hotel (Westin DFW, Irving TX) as the 2011 convention. This is the second year of our 3 year contract. We are trying this multi-year contract idea as a way to keep room rates down. We were able to lock-in the room rate (at \$89/night for up to four occupants in a room) for the full 3 year contract. Please plan to stay at the convention hotel and book your rooms early. Booking with the convention hotel helps TCA meet its contractual room block and avoid very costly meeting room expenses. A limited number of suites are available at \$149/night. Also, when you make your hotel reservation, you may request to have a refrigerator in your room (the hotel has a limited supply of refrigerators, so book early). Remember these convention room rates will only be honored if you book your room(s) before mid-July 2012 (the exact deadline will be published as soon as it is finally set).

Even though the convention is in August and it is usually VERY HOT outside in Texas in August - pack a sweater or light jacket as the hotel meeting rooms are COLD!

A Hospitality Room will be available each morning and evening during the convention. Light snacks are available in the Hospitality Room. The hotel allows TCA to use the Presidential Suite for their Hospitality Room. This is a very nice suite, but can still get crowded if everyone attends at the same time. Please understand that the larger meeting rooms (on the ground floor) are not available for Hospitality

purposes - this violates the hotel policies -- as no outside food can be served in ground floor rooms. So please understand if the Hospitality Room is a little crowded.

There will be NO Door Decorating contest at the 2012 TCA Convention. This is also against hotel policy.

The Board is still in the planning stages for several fun events during the convention. Read *The Joey Journal* and watch the TCA website ([www.TexaClownAssociation.com](http://www.TexaClownAssociation.com)) for more details as the plans are finalized. Some events will be contests with prizes, so plan to join the fun and WIN!

Remember you must be a TCA member to attend the convention. TCA dues are due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please pay your dues promptly to ensure you do not miss any issues of *The Joey Journal* that may contain informative details about the upcoming convention.

Only TCA members registered for the convention will be allowed to shop in the convention Dealers Room. Day rate registrations will be available for folks who wish to shop only.

Eateries in the hotel area are limited. TCA plans to have the hotel offer box lunches for sale. Similar box lunches were offered at the 2011 convention. These lunches are reasonably priced and many folks at the 2011 convention thought that they were "big enough to share". This should help you save money that might be better spent in the Dealers Room.

Another way to save money - Register for the Convention NOW!!! The registration price will continue to increase as the convention dates get closer. If you are planning to attend, why not register now and save money? (Note: if necessary, you can cancel your registration up until June 30, 2012 for a full refund).

Convention T-shirts: If you want to buy a T-shirt, be sure to pre-order with your registration form. If you registered during the 2011 convention (when the T-shirt information was not yet available) you can order one now by sending another registration form with just the T-shirt order and payment (see form in this issue or on the website). T-shirts will be white with full color convention logo - Engineering Better Clowns!

Watch for more convention tips in future issues of *The Joey Journal!*

"Binkie"



## Story telling

The story is the main attraction, if you are a beginner, choose a story in a fun and unique way. Choose a story that is easy to remember, has few characters, and tells something with which you can identify.

There are many types of stories, repetitive and tall tales for instance. Search for stories in your local library. You can research plays, folk tales, old children's books, magazines and stories about holidays. You can also examine books about different countries. Think about your childhood memories to inspire you.

If you are new to story telling look for stories that may use a few props or for the kids to act out the story. Use balloons as props or even costume such as crowns, etc to enhance the story. Look for ways to include audience participation.

Read the story over and over until you have learned it. Recite the story out loud to hear how it sounds, use a

mirror while telling the story looking for facial expressions and body language.

Once you have your story create a routine to go with the story. Build props or use existing props. Lay the props out to make sure there are no repairs needed or build props to create a visual while telling your story. If you chose balloons you can make them prior to your performance or make the balloons as you tell the story creating the feeling the story should bring. Incorporate traditional themes from holidays or a dance from a country from the story or dance of your choice. Keep a spiral or folder with jokes or other information relating to your story theme. Make notes in the order which you will tell it and include the title and where the story originated. Know your material to see where to include the audience participation.

You might want to give your performance to a small audience such as a local day care, church or school. While you deliver your performance enhance various parts of the story with expression and vary the length of your sentences. Slip in unexpected words, voice pitch or expressions to keep the attention of your audience. It's also important to let your audience know when the ending is near and then bring the story to a close.

After story time its always good to get a feed back. Send a form to the person in charge to critique the performance. Its also good to send a thank you note.

Jeanette Dusty Sanders



## **TCA Convention Registration Scholarship Guidelines**

1. The number of scholarships awarded for each TCA Convention registration each year will be determined by the Board and/or the Education Committee and based on funds available.

Scholarship fund must maintain a minimum \$500.00 balance.

2. All applications must be received by April 1, 2012 to the Education committee.
3. All applicants must be TCA members who have maintained membership for the last two years or more.
4. Education Committee, Board Members, and their immediate families are not eligible to apply. Recipient's must wait two years before reapplying.
5. Applicants must agree to write an article for The Joey Journal regarding their experiences at the TCA Convention they attended within thirty days of the convention.
6. It is strongly suggested that the recipient participate in one or more competitions at the convention.

## **2011 DATES to NOTE**

Joey to the World — February 3-4, 2012; Sagemont Church, Houston, Texas. For more information check the website: [www.joeytotheworld.org](http://www.joeytotheworld.org)

World Balloon Convention—March 21-25, 2012—Dallas, Texas. Go to [www.rainbowballoons.com](http://www.rainbowballoons.com) for more information

TCA Annual Convention—August 1-5, 2012  
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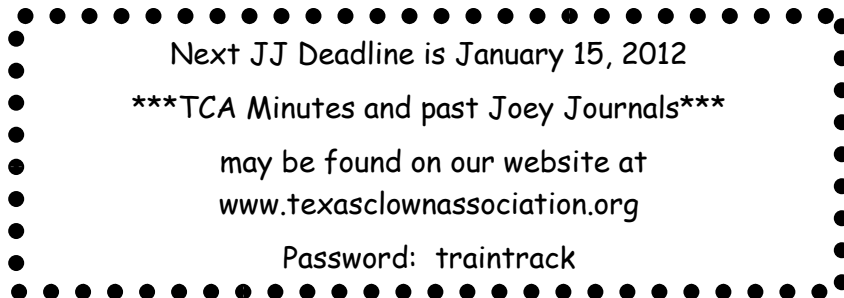


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## **PLEASE SHARE YOUR TALENTS**

We still need some articles for the Joey Journal. Please help us make this a better newsletter. It is another way to share your talents. Send those articles to [Joeyjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:Joeyjournal@yahoo.com).


  
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 Next JJ Deadline is January 15, 2012  
**\*\*\*TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals\*\*\***  
 may be found on our website at  
[www.texasclownassociation.org](http://www.texasclownassociation.org)  
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vbandy@consolidated.net