

# The Texas Clown Association



**2012 CONVENTION ISSUE**

# Announcing TCA 2012 Convention Lecturers

## Ralph Dewey



Ralph Dewey is one of the pioneers in Gospel Balloon Twisting and is known as the "Grandfather of all balloon twisters." He has been twisting balloons for more than 35 years. He teaches all ages and skill levels. Everyone will learn something from Ralph.

## Bubba Sikes

Without a doubt, Bubba is one of the funniest and sought after entertainers in clowning. He will inspire you to higher levels of entertaining, with countless new ideas and renewed energy for tackling your clown career. He is an award winning clown in Makeup, Single Skit, Group Skit, Gospel Skit and Parades. He is regarded as one of the best clown makeup artists in the country.



# THE JOEY JOURNAL

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

Kay "Nannie Belle" Quittner and Andy "Banjo" Quittner, Editors  
David Pitts, Cover Artist

**Read it online via your TCA website:** [www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)

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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.

**SPRING ISSUE**  
**JULY- AUGUST 2010**

Index

Joey Journal Info .....	1
Index .....	2
President's Message.....	5
What's Going on With Competition .....	6
Dates to Remember .....	7
2012 Convention Schedule.....	8
Dues Reminder .....	12
Are You on Track for Convention .....	13
TCA Board Elections.....	18
COAI News .....	22
Wanted—Joey Journal Editor.....	24
Safety First or Some Things Learned .....	25
Next JJ Article Deadline .....	7
Election Time Notice .....	27
Notice of General Membership Meeting ....	27
TCA Board of Directors Info.....	30

## **A Letter from the TCA President**

It is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you to the 2012 TCA Convention. Your TCA Board has worked very hard to bring you the best vendors, lectures and classes that they could. For you new clowns the Convention is a time to learn, make new clown friends, go to classes, visit the vendor room for some shopping and have fun. There should be enough activities to keep us all very busy.

I would like to commend each of you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to learn more about the Art of Clowning. The more you can learn and improve your Clown Character the better Clown you become.

Have fun at your TCA Convention this year by looking for that bargain in the vendor room, learning something new in the classes, meeting a new friend, showing your stuff in the Competitions. I hope you use all of these to make you the best clown you can be. Don't forget we have a big job and an important one. We need to put smiles on their faces and laughter in their hearts.

**Bump A Nose**

**Andy A.**

**What's Going on with Competition???** Diana "Buttons"  
McCurtain-Talbert

I wanted to take a few moments to share with our members some thoughts on the upcoming convention and competition. My firm belief is that convention should always be fun, but second, it should always be about learning. I encourage you, as you prepare to come to convention to stretch yourself. It can be scary, but extremely rewarding. I stretched beyond my comfort zone at WCA this year. I had gone to convention, without plans of doing anything other than makeup and costume. At the last minute (literally in the hotel room) I decided to compete in single skits with no props, and no music; just me... Needless to say, it was not my best work, but I will never again feel inadequate if I don't have a prop. After going out on that limb, I know at the very least I can use myself, and my character to clown, and that is what being a clown is all about, after all. If you have never competed and are thinking of doing it this year, please make sure that you take the opportunity to go to the TCA website so that you can download the TCA Competition Manual. You should read this, and come prepared. It's a shame when someone does well only to be disqualified because they did not follow simple rules. Another thing that I would like to make sure potential competitors understand; is the difference between a performance and a skit. Remember, a skit tells a story. It has a beginning, middle and an end, and there is a blow off. A performance does not have to follow that type of criteria.

On another note, we are going through a bit of a change this year. I will be serving as the TCA Competition Director as well as serving in the capacity of the Host Alley Competition Chair. Needless to say, my multiple personalities will be very busy. I will be looking for qualified judges for all areas of competition and I will also be looking for those willing to help with staging, running, time keeping etc. etc. etc. I wanted to also let you, the membership know that we will be looking for a new Competition Director for next year. This is an appointed position; it is not an elected position. As this is a very important



## TCA Convention 2012

### Wednesday (8/1/12)

12:00PM-4:00PM Vendor Set-up

12:00PM-6:00PM Registration Open

12:00PM-6:00PM Competition Signup Open

4:00PM-6:00PM Early Bird Shopping

6:15PM (Cottonwood) TCA Board Meeting

6:30PM-7:30PM Classes

1 (Post Oak) Being Creative With Magic-David Thomason

2 (Red Oak) God's Sense Of Humor-Rafael Rondon

3 (Live Oak) Silent Comedy-Angel Ocasio CLASS TO BE

REPEATED

4 (Chinaberry) Basic Puppetry-Brennon Spikes

9:30PM TCA Ice Cream Social Hospitality Suite (Room 1430)

10:30PM Balloon, Face Painting and Puppet Jam(Gallery or any Oak Room)

### Thursday (8/2/12)

7:00AM-8:00AM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)

8:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM-3:00PM Registration Open

8:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM-3:00PM Competition Signup Open

8:00AM-3:30PM Vendor Room Open

8:00AM-11:30AM Novice Orientation/Classes (Magnolia)

8:00AM-9:00AM Classes

1 (Post Oak) Using All The Props for The Kingdom-Bubba Sikes

2 (Red Oak) Balloon Stage Shows-Ralph Dewey

3 (Live Oak) Working With A Partner-Angel Ocasio

4 (Chinaberry) The Business of Clowning-Cheri Venturi

9:15AM-10:15AM Classes

1 (Post Oak) Beginner Face Paint-Mark Reid CLASS TO BE

REPEATED

2 (Red Oak) Comedy and Novelty Balloons-Ralph Dewey

3 (Live Oak) Beginner Juggling-David Slick

4 (Chinaberry)Hospital Clowning-Kelly Ballagh CLASS TO BE

REPEATED

10:30AM-11:30AM Classes



1 (Post Oak) Cheek Art-Mark Reid  
 2 (Red Oak) The Art of Sticking Stickers-Kelly Ballagh  
 3 (Live Oak) Advanced Juggling-David Slick  
**4 (Chinaberry) Required meeting for Competitors & Judges**  
 11:30AM-12:45PM Lunch (on your own)  
**11:45AM BALLOON COMPETITION CUT-OFF**  
 11:45AM-12:45PM (Live & Red Oak) "Box Lunch Lecture"  
 On Being Funny-Angel Ocasio  
 Box lunches will be available for purchase in the Gallery  
 1:00PM-2:00PM Classes  
 2 (Live & Red Oak) Walk Around Puppets-Brennon Spikes  
 3 (Chinaberry) Magic for Clown Shows-Bruce Chadwick  
  
 1:00PM-2:30PM Face Painting Track only  
 1 (Post Oak) Full Face Face Painting-Mark Reid  
 2:15PM-3:15PM Classes  
 2 (Live & Red Oak) Working With Your Audience-Angel Ocasio  
 3 (Chinaberry) Walk Around Magic-Bruce Chadwick  
 2:45PM-3:45PM Face Painting Track only  
 1 (Post Oak) One Stroke Split Cakes-Judy Uebelacker  
 2:15PM-2:30PM (Magnolia) Single Balloon Competition  
 2:45PM-3:15PM (Mesquite) Multiple Balloon Competition  
**3:00PM MAKEUP COMPETITION CUT-OFF**  
**3:00PM PERFORMANCE COMPETITION CUT-OFF**  
  
 4:00PM-6:45PM **General Membership Meeting** (Live & Red Oak)  
  
 6:45PM-8:00PM Dinner (on your own)  
  
 8:00PM Performance Competition Staging (Post Oak)  
 8:30PM-10:00PM Performance Competition (Live & Red Oak)  
 Following Performance Competition:  
 Magic Medicine Show - David and Donna Thomason  
 Meet and Greet The TCA Way  
 10:30PM-11:30PM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)  
 10:30PM Balloon, Face Painting and Puppet Jam (Gallery or any  
 Oak Room)

**Friday 8/3/2012**

7:00-8:00AM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)

8:00AM-12:00PM & 1PM-3PM Registration Desk Open

8:00AM-12:00PM & 1PM-3PM Competition Signup

8:00AM-1:00PM Vendor Room Open

8:00AM-9:00AM Classes

1 (Chinaberry) Illusions That Teach Bible Truths-Rafael Rondon

2 (Magnolia) Costuming-Kitty Kuhr

3 (Mesquite) Light Auguste Makeup Demo-Bubba Sikes TO BE

REPEATED

**9:00AM FACE PAINTING COMPETITION CUT-OFF**

**9:00AM SKIT COMPETITION CUT-OFF**

8:45AM Competition Staging (Post Oak)

9:15AM-12:00PM **Make-up Competition** (Live & Red Oak)

12:00PM-1:00PM Lunch (on your own)

12:15PM-1:15PM (Live & Red Oak) **"Box Lunch Lecture"**

**Strolling Entertainment-Angel Ocasio**

**Box lunches will be available for purchase in the Gallery**

1:30PM-1:45PM (Chinaberry) **Cheek Art Face Painting Competition**

2:00PM-2:30PM (Chinaberry) **Full Face Face Painting Competition**

1:30PM-2:30PM Classes

1 (Magnolia) Storytelling-Kelly Ballagh

2 (Post Oak) Arm & Leg Designs for Face Painters-Judy Uebelacker

3 (Live & Red Oak) Silent Comedy-Angel Ocasio REPEAT CLASS

4 (Mesquite) Easy Restaurant Balloons-Ralph Dewey

2:45PM-3:45PM Classes

1 (Magnolia) Lite Auguste Makeup Demo (Using Grease)-Kelly Ballagh

2 (Mesquite) Psychology of Working With Children 1-8-Cheri Venturi

2:00PM-5:00PM Vendor Room Open

**3:00PM PARADEABILITY COMPETITION CUT-OFF**

3:30PM **Competition Staging** (Post Oak)

4:00PM-7:00PM **Skit Competition** (Live & Red Oak)

8:00PM-9:30PM An Evening with Angel Ocasio (Live & Red Oak)

10:30PM-11:30PM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)

10:30PM Balloon & Face Painting Jam (Gallery or any Oak Room)

**Saturday (8/4/12)**

7:00AM- 8:00AM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)

8:00AM-10:00AM Registration Open

8:30AM-9:30PM Classes

1 (Chinaberry)Light Auguste Makeup Demo-Bubba Sikes **REPEAT CLASS**

2 (Magnolia) Storytelling-Kitty Kuhr

3 (Mesquite) The Proper Care & Feeding of Clown Shoes-  
Steve Roeske

9:00AM-1:00PM Vendor Room Open (last chance to shop)

9:45AM Group Photo

10:15AM Competition staging (Post Oak)

10:30AM-12:30PM Paradeability Competition (Live & Red Oak)

12:30PM-1:30PM Lunch (on your own)

Box lunches will be available for purchase in the Gallery

1:30PM-2:30PM Classes

1 (Chinaberry)Stupid Stuff For Funny People-Bubba Sikes

2 (Magnolia) The Technical Side of Music-Rafael Rondon

3 (Mesquite) Caring Clowning-Jackie Garner

2:45PM-3:45PM Classes

1 (Chinaberry) Balloon Masters Class-Ralph Dewey

2 (Magnolia) I Bought A Puppet,Now What?-Brennon Spikes

3 (Mesquite) Beginner Face Painting-Mark Reid **REPEAT**

**CLASS**

4:00PM-5:00PM Classes

1 (Chinaberry) Hospital Clowning-Kelly Ballagh **REPEAT CLASS**

2 (Magnolia) Character Development-Jackie Garner

3 (Mesquite) Beginner Balloons-Vinnie Pena

7:00PM (Post, Live & Red Oak Rooms) **Awards Banquet** - Ticket Required  
10:30-11:30PM Hospitality Room Open (Room 1430)

**Sunday (8/5/12)**

8:30AM-9:30AM (Irving Lecture Hall) Worship Service with Bombin  
9:45AM-10:45AM (Post, Live & Red Oak Rooms) Breakfast - Ticket Required

**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).

**DUES REMINDER**

Please REMEMBER that your TCA membership expires on March 31 of each year. That means if you haven't paid your dues—well they are now PAST due. TCA really needs your continued support, so please send in those dues!!

Not only your dues, but how about your friends....do you know any clown or aspiring clown who isn't a member? Remember, sparking a new member can earn rewards!!

This will be your last Joey Journal if you haven't renewed your membership. Plus you won't have the password (which will change) to the website.

## **Are You On Track for Convention?**

All aboard! Convention is almost here. We want to remind you of a few things and inform you of some other things to make sure you are on track for this TCA Convention.

The Board has been working hard to put together a full and fun convention for you this year. **Angel Ocasio** is our main Headliner for the 2012 convention. If you have never had the pleasure of seeing Angel perform or lecture before, well you are in for a real treat! If you have seen him before, then I don't have to say anything more - you will want to see him again - I KNOW! He is extremely talented and an excellent teacher. You can read more about Angel in his bio on the TCA website under the Convention button. Angel has 'donated' two **1 on 1 sessions** (a private learning session for just one convention registrant and their group skit buddies with Angel) for the 2012 convention. To be as fair as possible the Board has decided on 2 ways to 'award' these sessions. One will be a door prize at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday during the convention. All you have to do is **come to the meeting** and stay (must be present to win). The winner will be drawn at the end of the meeting (session to be scheduled before the end of the convention). The second session will be **Raffled** - so buy as many raffle tickets as you can and put them in the jar for the Angel Session. The winner will be drawn on Friday night so that they may schedule their session with Angel sometime on Saturday (before the convention ends). So easy! Just come to convention and attend the meeting and buy raffle tickets! Good luck! Remember the funds from the raffle go to the TCA charity of choice, which this year will be the TCA Education Fund.

Angel isn't the only talented lecturer that will be on hand to teach you new things. **Bubba Sikes, Cheri Venturi, Kelly Ballagh, Jackie Garner, Bombin** and several others will also be there - you can find more information about the headliners and lecturers on the TCA website.

We are hoping to have more social time too! We all really enjoy visiting and we do understand that sometimes the Hospitality Room can get a bit too crowded. The hotel will not allow us to bring food into the ground floor meeting rooms, hence the Hospitality Room is one of the suites upstairs. But we sure can use those large ground floor meeting rooms to VISIT! So hang around and get to know some new TCA folks and catch-up with some old friends too! Watch for folks with the FIRST TIME Ribbons - they probably could use a little guidance and some TCA friends.

There will be classes on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You should try to **arrive no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday** to get the most of this TCA convention. A tentative convention schedule is also posted on the TCA website.

**Wednesday** - One of Angel's lectures will be on Wednesday so try not to arrive too late. That evening, the TCA Board will host an Ice Cream Social in the Hospitality Room, so come hungry. After that we will have some Jams in the ground floor Gallery. We are going to add a Puppet Jam this year so bring those lonely and abandoned puppets.

**Thursday** - don't miss the *General Membership Meeting* (at 4:00pm) - it's election year and you will want your say in who leads TCA in the next 2 years. Also, remember that it is your chance to win an 'Angel Session'. That night we have the *Performance Competition* followed by a short *Medicine Show* (comedy magic) after which the hospitality Room will be open and Jams will happen in the Gallery.

**Friday** night Angel will present "An Evening With Angel Ocasio", which will be followed by a short party/social time, the Hospitality Room and more Jams.

**Saturday** evening the Awards Banquet starts at 7:00pm. Typical attire for this event is smart casual-to-dressy ('churchy' for some). The winners of all the various competitions and the Best All Around Clown, the Spark Plug Awards, and the TCA Ambassador Award will all be announced during the banquet.

The Hospitality Room will be open after the Banquet so we can all continue to enjoy the moment.

**Sunday** morning wraps up the whole affair with a worship service and a Breakfast. At that time the baton will be handed to the new Board and the next convention hosts.

Of course, in between all of this fun we have crammed at least **35 classes** (some of them will be fun too! There is nothing better than having fun while you learn something!) and all of the **various competitions** - including the first time ever **TCA Face Painting Competitions**. So you can see it promises to be something you do not want to miss!

If you cannot come for the whole convention - we have a **Day Rate of \$75** (it includes all classes that day and Dealer Room entry but no meals). There is a **Face-Painting Track** on Thursday, so if Face Painting is your thing, that is the day you need to be there! There are classes offered during the convention **for all levels of clowning** expertise, from the novice or beginner clown to the seasoned performer.

If you have not already registered for the convention, please **pre-register**. This saves you money and allows the host to know how many folks will be on hand and better plan for the crowd. Also, **book your room** at the convention hotel - you can see the schedule is jam-packed so you do not want to miss anything by leaving the hotel. Be sure to **pay your TCA dues** (you will have to pay when you arrive if you have not paid in advance - better to take care of that before you arrive). Then once you **check-in at the convention** - **review your program** and the **convention schedule** to decide how best to spend your time to your own advantage. Check out your Goodie Bag and put anything you do not want into the Recycle Box at the Registration desk. Be sure to **Sign-Up for the competitions EARLY** - do not miss the cut-off times (you can cancel later if you have to, but you cannot sign-up later). Be sure to **READ THE RULES** as posted on the TCA website for each category you plan to enter. Nothing hurts more than being disqualified or penalized because you didn't follow the rules (remember the TCA rules may be

different than those for other clown organizations). **Sign-up for the Banquet and Breakfast** too - as soon as the sign-up boards are posted.

Just like last year - we are working with the hotel for them to sell **box lunches** on Thursday and Friday (and maybe Saturday too). These lunches were reasonably priced and some folks said that they were big enough to share. So you can save time by buying the box lunches. **Sign-up** sheets might be necessary to give the hotel an idea of how many lunches to prepare - so watch for that and sign up each day. Angel Ocasio will lecture during the lunch hour on both Thursday and Friday. The Hospitality Room will be open each morning with light eats and drinks and every late night for snacks and smiles. Hopefully, between the hospitality Room and the Box Lunches, you will not have to spend much money on food during the convention, but the hotel does have a restaurant on site and there are some fast-food places not too far away (one eatery right across the street).

Casual clothes (clowny clothes) are typically worn during the day at convention (sometimes the classrooms are very cool - so a sweater might be a good idea too). While you are packing, if you have a leftover lanyard (name tag holder) from a previous convention, please bring one along. We have some but they are in short supply and if you have one of your own that will help the hosts. We will be happy to take any extra lanyards you no longer want. Most folks do not get into clown (make-up and wardrobe) unless they are competing or having photos made. However, being in make-up might make you feel more involved - so feel free to wear your make-up and/or wardrobe during the convention. And hopefully we will take a Group Photo too - so you might want to be in make-up for that event. And speaking of photos - this is a **GREAT** time to have professional photos made of your clown. So check the program and schedule and plan your budget accordingly.

There are always lots of ways to spend money at convention - starting in the Dealer Room - we will have lots of dealers on hand to sell you the things that clowns need most. Also, there are



**Convention T-shirts** available, but **only if you PRE-ORDER** (if you want one, send your Registration form and payment as directed on the form - the form is posted on the TCA website). Do not wait until you arrive at the convention - it will be too late! Of course, there is also lunch (and dinner on your own) and photos and RAFFLE tickets! So I hope you have been saving your pennies (and nickels and dimes and dollars too) so that you can stock up on all of the goodies we will have to offer at the 2012 TCA Convention. Now if you are the gambling kind, there is a contest for Program Ads too - each individual (no businesses or commercial ads will qualify) business card sized ad you buy in the convention program will receive one chance to win a \$100 CASH PRIZE! Larger ads get multiple entries (chances). So you might be able to get some more convention spending money just by spending a little bit. See article about the Program Ads in *The Joey Journal*. Hurry, there is a deadline coming soon!

We are on track! Get on board for a wonderful convention!

We are **Engineering Better Clowns!**

**CLOWN JAM**  
**A Family Entertainers Event!**  
*Tribute to Wizard of Oz*

**July 11-15, 2012**  
**Branson, MO**  
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*Produced by*  
**DJ "Fancy Pants" Ehlert and Steve (Salty) Kissell**

## **2012 Board Elections: Get to Know Them... by Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert**

Elections are upon us, and though there is always opportunity to throw your name in the hat, here are the names and short biographies of those who have decided that they would be willing to serve on the TCA board...

### **Nominee - President**

Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert. I have been clowning for 6 years. I am a member of the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley in San Antonio TX. I am also a member of Texas Clown Association, and World Clown Association. I served as the Jolly Joeys President for 2 years, and Education Director for 1 year. While I have a profession outside of clowning, I do consider myself a professional clown. I volunteer in my community in many ways: hospitals, nursing homes, community events. I also clown for pay as a means for supporting my volunteerism habits. My passion is Clown Ministry this is the area I would most like to grow in. When I clown my intent is to first and foremost bring a smile. My goal is to provide what I can offer whether it can be afforded or not. I am currently serving as the South Central Area Director for TCA. I feel that I can provide a continuation of the passion and love for clowning that I have seen over the last few years from our current board members. I have a strong sense of organization due to my work in Corporate America and feel that, that can provide continued growth and leadership for TCA.

### **Nominee - Vice President**

John "John John" Luce. I have been clowning for 24 years. I belong to the Cowtown Alley. I have served my alley as President, Vice President, Treasure and Membership Director. I have served TCA as Vice President, Sergeant of Arms and Chaplin. Clowning is my way of bringing laughter to the young, comfort to the old and glory to my God. My honest desire is to make TCA the best clown organization that I can.

### **Nominee - Secretary**

**No nominees at this time**

**Nominee - Treasurer**

Mauri "Binkie" Norris. I have been clowning since 1984 - graduate of the Cheerful Clown Alley Clown School in 1984 and the University of Wisconsin Clown Camp in LaCross Wisconsin in 1985. I have belonged to Cheerful Clown Alley #166 in Houston Texas since 1984 and have served that alley as President, Secretary and Gig Coordinator (sometimes in multiple terms). I edited and published the Cheerful Chatter the monthly newsletter for Cheerful Clown Alley for 12 years. I have received the Whispers Award (a lifetime achievement award from Cheerful Clown Alley) and the Ambassador Award from TCA. I became a clown in order to GIVE BACK to my community in some fun manner. I thought that some volunteer work sounded too much like work so I tried clowning. I find it is also work but a lot of fun too! My favorite clowning venue is Hospital Clowning, however in more recent years I find I am more into Clown Administration (board service at the state level and newsletters etc). There is a lot of clown paperwork to be done. Clowning is serious business. I have some computer skills and worked in the financial industry for 38 years (retired in 2010). I have previously served 2 terms as the TCA Treasurer and am finishing my second term as TCA Secretary. I feel I offer TCA knowledge (both financial/accounting and clown) and continuity as I have served on the TCA Board for the last 8 years. I have competed in Clown Competitions locally, state-level and internationally in make-up/wardrobe, skit and parodability categories and have placed in the top 10 numerous times and taken several first place trophies as well. BTW - Binkie is a White-face clown.

**Nominee - Sgt at Arms**

Judy Cornett

**Nominee - North East Area Director**

**No Nominees at this time. Please let me know if you would be willing to serve.**

**Nominee - North Central Area Director**

Carrie "Shimmy Giggles" Ray. I have been clowning for 2 yrs. I belong to Mid Cities Alley 85, Cowtown Clown, Happi Tymes Alley, TCA and COIA. I have served as a Board Member of Mid Cities Alley, assisted with 2011 TCA Convention and Volunteer throughout the community. Clowning to me is going out making a difference in people's lives and leaving lasting memories of a lifetime. Someone who is always caring, giving and entertaining no matter what kind of day they are having. Someone who loves the art of clowning and represents the clowning community in a professional manner at all times and continues to grow and develop in the art of clowning. If elected to the TCA board, these are the things I can offer: I'm a team player who will go out of my way to support TCA & Clowning community in anyway. I'm hard worker, great listener and a leader who will bring fresh ideas to TCA. I know how to think out of the box and understand the importance of building & growing a great clowning association. My goal would be to help build our Junior Joey program, recruiting new members, and providing fresh ideas that will help develop and grow TCA and the clowning community.

**Nominee - North Central Area Director**

Margaret "Maggie the Magical Clown" Clauder. I have been clowning for 29 years. I belong to the Happi Tymes, Alley 85. I have served my alley in the following capacities: President, Vice President and Secretary. Clowning gives me the ability to put smiles on people's faces and laughter in their hearts. To make the world a bit better if only for a while. To help people forget problems. If elected to the TCA Board, I hope to see our organization grow more for the professional entertainer - not just the hobbyist.

**Nominee - North Central Area Director**

Martha "Miss Cookie" Warren. I have been clowning for 13 years. I belong to Happi Tymes, MidCities, Cowtown, Face Painting Guild, and attend the Balloon Jam. I have served my various alleys in the following capacities: I am President of

Happi Tymes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. I have also been VP. I am also Sgt at Arms for MidCities this year. And have served as VP for Cowtown. Clowning means everything to me---I have found my purpose in life when I discovered clowning. I have met some of the best people ever, who has helped me to get where I am today. I've always been a "people-person" so clowning is a great connection to people, and a way to uplift myself as I uplift others! If elected to the TCA Board, I can offer experience, creativity, fresh blood, energy, my time, & an upbeat attitude!!!

**Nominee - South Central Area Director**

Olivia "Cupcake" Adamson. I have been clowning for 6 years. I belong to the Jolly Joey clown Alley and I have served as Vice President, Treasurer and am currently secretary of my clown alley. Clowning means "fun" to me! I love creating smiles and making people laugh! it's the best hobby anyone could ever pick and be rewarded for each time you do it by making people smile! I can offer TCA fun, excitement, professionalism and Hopefully new members!

**Nominee - South East Area Director**

Valerie "Valliboop" Bandy. I have been clowning for 8 years. I belong to Cheerful clown alley #166. I am currently serving as the South East Area Rep. Clowning means everything to me. I love to make people laugh and smile. I feel that I can provide TCA with lots of participation and help with anything asked of me.

**Nominee - PanHandle Area Director**

**No nominees at this time, please let me know if you would be willing to serve.**

**By Law Change:** There will be one proposed by-law change that is being made to clarify when a person is no longer eligible to be a junior joey. The change, if accepted, would make March 31, the date memberships expire, the cut off date. Everyone who is 16 years of age, as of March 31 will need to be a regular member.

## **COAI NEWS** By: Mauri *Binkie* Norris

I encourage all Texas clowns to support other clown organizations and I know that many of our Texas clowns are also supporting members of Clowns of America International Inc (COAI). This is a reminder that the annual COAI dues are due each year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. You can securely pay your dues online at [www.coai.org](http://www.coai.org). Simply sign in (create your profile) and then click on "Membership Info" (left-side menu), then click "Securely Renew Your Membership Now" and then work through the screens. Once you see the "additional family members" block, input the number of family members you have - if you have no additional family members, put 0 in the box. Then securely pay online if you prefer or select "BILL ME" or "Pay with Credit Card". If you select Bill Me - COAI will send you an invoice in the regular mail. Be sure that they have your current mailing address.

Various geographic regions are represented in COAI by Regional Vice Presidents (RVP) on the Board of Directors. Our current RVP (South Central Region) is Dale *Patches* Flashberg. Board elections are coming up and this position had no declared candidates on the ballot. The Board will appoint a member to this position and has issued a call for members interested in serving in this position. Dale tells me that she is interested in serving another term (but her application arrived after the ballot deadline). The term begins with the appointment in July 2012 and continues through June 30, 2014 (basically a 2-year term). Anyone wishing to be considered for this appointment should send a statement of their declaration and a photo (non-clown). The declaration should include any pertinent qualifications and explain what you can bring to the COAI Board. Declarations (and photos) must be received no later than June 25, 2012 and can be submitted by regular mail or email (please put "APPOINTMENT DECLARATION" in the Subject Box) to [coaexecvp@aol.com](mailto:coaexecvp@aol.com) or Mike Cox, Attn: COAI Appointment Declaration, 9415 Alameda Avenue, Henrico, VA 23294. If you have any questions please contact Mike at [coaexecvp@aol.com](mailto:coaexecvp@aol.com)

The annual COAI Convention wrapped up in late April in Kansas City MO. There were a few Texas clowns attending and they represented well. Dale **Patches** Flashberg entered the Senior Make-up Competition and placed 5<sup>th</sup>! Lulu **Boofa** Mire entered skit competition and she and her husband appear on the cover of *The New Calliope* (May/June 2012 issue - lower left corner). Also, Lulu wrote a great story about another Texas clown at the COAI Convention - Kynisha **Daisy** Ducre-Jarreau. Kynisha entered and placed in Top Ten in single skit, single paradeability, character make-up, single balloon, multiple balloon, balloon arrangement, cheek and full-face painting competitions. Among these eight categories she received 3<sup>rd</sup> place cheek art, 2<sup>nd</sup> place character make-up and 1<sup>st</sup> place in both full-face painting and single balloon categories - FOUR medals! As a result of this outstanding performance she also received the Best In Clown Award for COAI 2012. Wow! What an accomplishment! Some of you may remember Kynisha from the 2011 TCA Convention (where she placed very well in various competition categories) and she is already registered for the 2012 TCA Convention - so folks - Get Your Clown On! You have some tough competition indeed! Congratulations to all three of these Texas clowns and thanks for representing our great state so well! (**Patches** is a member of the Jolly Joeys of San Antonio, **Boofa** is a member of Cheerful Clown Alley in Houston and **Daisy** is a member of Mid-Cities Clown Alley #85 in Dallas. I apologize if I missed any other Texas clowns that attended the COAI Convention.)

Belonging to alleys, state and national/international clown organizations and attending the conventions presented by these organizations not only supports clowning but helps you to expand your clown horizons through the interesting and educational articles in the various publications for their members and by competing and networking with other members.

So don't forget to pay your dues and register for the TCA Convention. Now, hurry and get your clown-on!

## **WANTED - EDITOR FOR THE JOEY JOURNAL**

Hi clown friends and aspiring newsletter editors...

As you may know I, along with assistance from Andy, have been editing and producing the *Joey Journal* for a number of years. As other editors before us know, it is a challenge but also a rewarding job. Andy and I have been proud to serve TCA in this way, but after careful consideration, but we have decided that it is time to hand over the reins to someone else. We have enjoyed putting the newsletter together, but we also believe that the joy should be shared. Have you been longing to use your talent and love of the printed page but didn't know how? This is a great opportunity to help TCA in a unique way.

What it entails—The editor is responsible for gathering articles and putting them together so that the newsletter can be printed and seeing that the issues are mailed. Since we had the necessary equipment, we chose to edit, print, fold & staple, then mail the issues ourselves - but that certainly isn't required. Generally any copy service that is willing to fold and staple will do (and some may even have in-house mailing services). The current member address list will be sent to you by the TCA treasurer, who also maintains the membership database. The cost of printing and mailing is paid by TCA.

We have used Microsoft Publisher since we have Windows computers, the new editor can use any software (or no software) he or she desires, but we will gladly provide publisher files to ease the transition.

To express your interest, please contact Andy Anderson, TCA President, or any other board member as soon as possible. Kay Nannie Belle Quittner



**Safety First: Or Some Things I Have Learned... OR -  
(Why is it, that what I need is where I'm not?)**

By Carolyn "Sugar Lump" Kerr

1. Always carry ID on your BODY, not in a separate bag or locked in the trunk of your car. I have a flat billfold with my Driver's License, AAA card, Proof of Ins. Card, AND all of my medical cards: ie-medications that I am on, any allergies, person to contact in case of emergency, my insurance cards, etc. Included in this small array of items is some petty cash and one credit card. Reason: In case of emergency, it is very easy to be separated from your bag or possessions, or even a person who knows you personally. I have a good friend who collapsed on a parking lot in a diabetic coma. As she fell, her sports bag went flying under a parked car. When someone came to her rescue, they had no clue who she was or who to contact, until they found her sports bag with her bathing suit in it. She had locked her purse in her trunk of the car to go to water aerobics. When her wet swim suit was found, they went into the Sports Center and they were able to identify her and contact her family and get medical attention. I have seen clowns lock their purse etc. in the car and take only the car keys with them into a gig. If it is a large event, who would know?
2. When I have a gig at a private address, I try to "scope out" the day before how to find the address. There is so much construction and detours everywhere I go, that it is wise to be able to locate the event the best way. This is especially true, if the event is after dark.
3. Carry your cell phone with you (preferably charged up, ha). Hang it on your bag, (turned off), but where it can be easily reached.
4. Clown with a partner if possible. First of all, it is more fun, but secondly it is safer for you and your client. Unfortunately, it is easy for false accusations to be made against you. Safety in numbers!

**5.** If you are going to be standing for a long period of time, (for example doing balloons or face painting), carry a jell mat to stand on. It makes a big difference on your level of exhaustion.

**6.** Be kind to your back and shoulders. Use a roller cart, roller suitcase, or dolly to carry your supplies. Bunge straps are my friend.

**7.** Make sure your gas tank is full before the gig. It is not a wise idea to get gas after dark, in a strange neighborhood, and in clown.

**8.** Back Up: Take more or prepare more than what you plan to use. You never know when you might be asked to do more or stay longer. Take something "age appropriate" for all ages. You never know who might show up. Don't leave home without bubbles. They are the perfect ice breaker for the shy child or infant.

**9.** Even though your sound system might work perfectly on batteries, take an extension cord, just in case.

**10.** Texas in the summertime...ASK: indoors or out? Outdoors: No wig, no collar, no long sleeves, no gloves. Jell neck bands are life savers, even indoors.. Take your own cold water! I say "NO, to outdoor BD parties in July and August.

**11.** Ending your line- I have tried a number of ways to end my line when doing balloons or face painting. None of them were satisfactory. I never want to leave some child in a line when it is time to go, so to eliminate that problem, I try to survey the number of children waiting (at least a half hour before the end of the gig). I give each child a ticket (\$ Store variety). I tell the last child (and parent) that I will have a special treat for that child, if they will inform others that they are the last one. As each child approaches my chair, I take their ticket, place it in my pocket, (because they can be used several times), and present the "last child" with a special trinket (\$ store variety). This eliminates some potentially "sticky" situations.

Have a safe, fun-filled summer clowning by eliminating unforeseen problems!

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DURING CONVENTION**

The annual general membership meeting along with the TCA Board Elections will be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention on:

**THURSDAY, August 2, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. continuing to conclusion before 6:45 p.m.**

**The meeting will be held in the Westin Hotel - DFW, 4545 W. John Carpenter Frwy, Irving, TX 75063 in the Live and Red Oak Rooms All members are encouraged to attend. This meeting includes the election of officers and one by law change.**

### **IT IS ELECTION TIME!!**

At this year's general membership meeting, TCA will hold its election for officers and board members. **WE NEED A FEW GOOD CLOWNS** to step up. It's not that those who are serving now, don't want to continue, but new blood leads to a healthier organization.

If you can't go to the convention, then there is a ballot enclosed in this issue. Fill out your vote and mail it to: TCA, P.O. Box 820, Hurst, TX 76053. Please put your TCA number on the envelope.

Write in candidates are allowed. **BUT** you may only vote for one area director, and it must be in your area...that means your vote and your post mark must match, or we can't count your vote.



## **TCA's 2009 Junior Joey Winner Sean McCurtain, makes his mark in the world of magic**

Selected to be the youngest of 4 magicians competing in the first season of a reality show for magicians! Look for him in:

**The Layman Slayer Project :** A reality show pitting 4 relatively unknown magicians against each other to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project... Visit [www.indiegogo.com/laymanslayerproject?a=656097](http://www.indiegogo.com/laymanslayerproject?a=656097)

for details on how to support 17 yr old TCA member Sean "Magic Seanson" as he tries to find his place in the world of professional magicians





## **The Texas Clown Association—Board of Directors**

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e-mail: JJClown@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary: Mauri "Binkie" Norris—713-664-7733  
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- Treasurer: Andy "Banjo" Quittner –512-878-0998  
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- Sgt. at Arms: Judy "Peep" Cornett – 713-201-8681  
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- Past Pres.: Christie "Louella" McNeill – 409-727-2044;  
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- Area Director**
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- S. East: Valerie Bandy—936-441-0621  
1101 Wilson Rd, # 1007, Conroe, TX 77301  
vbandy@consolidated.net

## AND MORE CONVENTION PRESENTERS:



Judy Uebelacker has been facepainting since 1978. Her experience includes 25 years at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, 15 years at Scarborough Fair and numerous other festivals. She has contributed to Face and Body Painting magazine, taught at the first facepainting convention in Orlando and has authored two books with accompanying videos.

Bruce Chadwick is a full time magician and illusionist who performs regularly in Dallas Magic Circles. He has been performing for most of his life, and full time for over 30 years. Bruce also specializes in the manufacture and design of illusion apparatus. He has published several works on the psychology of illusion.



## Presenting at the 2012 TCA Convention:



Angel Ocasio has made a name for himself over the past 25 years as a top physical comedian and clown. Angel teaches comedy and clowning skills. He is a graduate of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey "Clown College." You don't want to miss his classes.

David Slick is a juggler, magician and clown who has been performing since July 2002. He holds the Guinness World Record for the longest run of 3 object juggling: 3 balls for 12 hours and 5 minutes (July 29, 2009). His performances blend comedy, audience interaction and world class skills, which also include unicycling, stilt walking, and fire eating. Equipment will be available to use during classes.

