

The Joey Journal

The Texas Clown Association

August-September 2013



TCA Convention - Irving, 2013



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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.

From the President

by Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert

It is Monday, August 5th. I got back home from convention at 4:30 pm on Sunday, and I rested. After 10.5 hours of sleep, I am fully alert and very happy with the outcome of this convention. I’m so pleased, that I am already looking forward to 2014.

First, I want to say congratulations to Margaret “Maggie the Magical Clown” Clauder on winning the Best All Around Clown. If anyone deserves that honor, you surely do. You are truly an inspiration. Your attention to detail is amazing. I learn something every time I watch you perform whether in clowning, or in seeing your balloon and face painting designs. You are a role model.

Second, to Donna “Donnabelle” Manna, I am so proud of you and happy for you to have been awarded the Ambassador award this year. For those of you who don’t know this, Donnabelle was a great influence to me early on in my clowning. I took a class then as a baby clown, found the alley, and Donnabelle took me under her wing. She talked to me about what I needed to do to build on what I had learned so that I could truly move into looking like a professional clown. She was always available when I had questions and always helpful as I made my way into doing gigs with the

alley. I don’t believe I would be the clown I am today, if it were not for Do-

nabelle’s early mentoring. I have watched her tirelessly giving her time and attention to the alley, and to the community. She completely exemplifies why we clown.

To all the winners of the various competitions, thank you for competing, and congratulations for winning medals. For those that did not win medals, you still won. To put yourself out there for critique can be a scary experience, but you did it. You made our convention a richer and more enjoyable experience. There is so much to be learned at convention. Some learn by attending classes and some learn by competing. Both ways of learning are very important. When you attend classes, you learn new skills, or build on the skills you already have. When competing, you learn by applying those skills you learned, and gaining feedback on how you applied those skills. I have competed many times, and will continue to compete. The feedback I have



gained over the years has helped me to make changes to performances and routines that I have done so that I can refine those performances and hopefully make them more entertaining to audiences I entertain.

Thank you again, to everyone who attended the convention. Your positive attitudes, comments and feedback to me on the job that I am doing as President really meant the world to me. I have completed year one, and I am optimistic and excited about year two. We are open to your thoughts and ideas. I believe that it is important to try new things, and to move in different directions. Change is what keeps an organization alive. While change is good, I also know that we need to

keep to some of the tried and true things that make us a strong organization. As a Board of Directors for TCA we will always look at your thoughts and ideas and try our best to determine if they are good for the organization as a whole. One of my favorite quotes is from Spock (yes, I am a Star Trek geek)... "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few". My course is to look at the direction of TCA with that in mind. This is my focus as I continue as President. Thank you for your trust and encouragement. Please feel free to email me any thoughts or ideas. I am here to serve you.

dmccurtain@att.net

Thank You!

We just arrived home and are so pleased with the results of this year's TCA Convention. From everything involving the hotel, to the vendors, lecturers and class topics, to competitions, to watching the interaction between young and not so young members enjoying dancing & sharing with each other, people working together to get a task completed, to the raffle & silent auction, worshipping together and so much more!!! We had an awesome time and we hope you all did as well.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the raffle & silent auction and to those of you who purchased tickets and/or bid on the items!!! Without your generosity we wouldn't have had forty-nine raffle items and six silent auction items. This was really a varied assortment of merchandise. We appreciate the alleys who hosted the Hospitality Room. The refreshments were such a welcome respite and gave us time to fellowship as well. Thank you to all those who were on the sidelines and saw something being done and stepped up to help without being asked. This is what clowns do – they are there to help each other when needed.

Andy Anderson – Convention Chair

Rhea Anderson- Raffle & Hospitality Chair

TCA Clown Alleys

Panhandle / West Region

Oops Alley - TCA #2

North Central Region

Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9

Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12

The Clown Arounds - TCA #16

North East Region:

Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1

Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13

Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23

Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley -TCA #6

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11

Cheerful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18

South / Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA # 19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15



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Get On Board!

by David “Kornpop” McCullough

As I am sitting here thinking about the convention, and what a good time I had there, I realize what an honor it is to serve this great organization. This community of clowns, some young, some old, some newbies, some who have been around the block a time or two, all came together to have a great time and learn from one another. One such memory happened while I was on my stilts waiting to participate in paradeability. One of the participants was having a hard time making her props stay on the tray she was using and another clown came over and not only helped her with that, she also gave her some pointers on how to present it to the judges. The clown having trouble thanked the other one and the helping clown said, “we are all in this together, we help each other. That’s what we do.”

I wish now that I would have said something to both of them about teaching me a lesson on clowning, but I let that one slip by. We, as clowns, get to bring smiles where there were none, we get to share laughter to a world that needs what we have to offer.

As a newbie on the board of this wonderful organization, I want to say thanks to the ones who have gone before me. T. C. A. just celebrated it’s 30th anniversary,

and I say hat’s off to those who have served in any capacity. They, with their giving hearts have made this organization what it is today. Something I am proud to call mine and serve wherever I am needed.

I volunteered to be the chair person for the nominating committee, and I need your help. In order for this organization to continue being “the best it can be,” to borrow that phrase, we need you. We need you to step up and volunteer to be an officer, a representative, or whatever is needed to keep us on the right track.

Who do you know that can benefit from the teaching and resources that TCA has to offer? Have you invited them to join? What are your strengths and gifts, and how can you use them to help strengthen our organization?

Get on board, or in this case, get nominated to be on the board, so that we can grow TCA to be what it should be. After all we are not any old clown group. We are the Texas Clown Association. Everything is bigger and better in Texas.

If you need my help, email me at kornpoptheklown@gmail.com.

Post-Convention: The Hotel

by Judy “Peep” Cornett



I hope everyone had a great time at the convention; I sure did and trust that the hotel met all your needs since I didn't hear anything to indicate otherwise. As the hotel contact I worked very close with the hotel staff. They were a lot of fun to work with and did a great job at responding to all of our requests. Candi Christie, Meeting Services Manager, even participated by being a model for one of the face painting competitors. The whole staff got involved in various ways. When I arrived at the hotel, I presented the staff, that I worked one on one with, clown name badges. They were very excited and most of them wore the badges the whole time with a smile. Just to show you how much some of them enjoyed us, I gave out foam noses and Linda in the front office used hers often. Every time I went into the office she was the first one I saw. Linda would say, “Wait,” and put on her nose, smile, and say “May I help you?”. What a group! They repeatedly said how much they enjoyed us and hope that in the future we will return. I didn't get to attend many classes, headliner

show, or the Birthday party as I was busy, not with hotel issues but working behind the scenes. That was ok though, I got to network with those I don't get to see except at convention.

I did want to take a sentence or two to thank David “Kornpop” McCullough for the great balloon structure in the registration area, the help he provided when asked, and for being a great clown. I especially wanted to thank him for the great balloon design he provided for a hotel staff member that is currently undergoing cancer treatments and couldn't be at the convention this year. She really was very touched by the gesture.

Well the convention is over for 2013, but a committee has been formed for the 2014 convention to be held in Kerrville and they are well on their way to making it a success. Don't be shy, step up and offer to help the committee. They will need volunteers for a lot of things. Thanks to the Jolly Joeys, San Antonio for stepping up.

Judy “Peep” Cornett



2013 Ambassador of Clowning Award

By Patti “Patticake” Gilbert

Congratulations to Donna “Donnabelle” Manna who was awarded the 2013 Texas Clown Association Ambassador of Clowning Award for her love and dedication to clowning over the past eleven years.

In 2002, Donna developed her white face character, “Donnabelle” and joined Texas Clown Association (TCA) and Jolly Joeys Clown Alley in San Antonio.

Within TCA, Donna has held the position of South Central Regional Vice President (2006-2008), has received Spark Plug Awards (2007-2008) for recruiting new TCA members and has participated in various TCA clown competitions.

Within the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley, Donna has held the office of President and Vice President. Also for the years of 2008 thru 2012, she was honored with their Top Gigger and Boss clown award. She shares her clown passion, experience and knowledge with her fellow Clown Alley members, and during their clown school.

Donnabelle entertains/volunteers within several local hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, churches and at charity events. She loves her Clown Ministry, volunteering with the San Antonio Children’s Shelter, Cancer Therapy, and Brook Army Medical Center. Friends note, she always has a smile

on her face and a bounce in her walk.

Donna teaches at OASIS, Junior Achievement classes, is a regular blood and platelet donor, and volunteers with her neighborhood home owners association. She is also involved with her church, the Retired Officers Wives Club, and the Military Officers Association of America. At the city’s NIOSA she manages a booth in clown with other Jolly Joey alley clowns to promote the art of clowning while balloon twisting for 85,000 attendees.

Donna DONNABELLE Manna displays her passion for the art of clowning, shares her clowning experience and knowledge with others so they will be encouraged to volunteer. TCA proudly welcomes Donna “Donnabelle” Manna as our 2013 Ambassador.

Ambassador of Clowning Award Winner

Donna “Donnabelle” Manna

I am very honored and humbled to receive the “Ambassador of Clowning Award” from the Texas Clown Association. My journey of clowning started with what I call the fourth phase of life – life after retirement, becoming a grandparent, social security, AARP--however you relate to



it. I had cloned at family events and, looking back at the pictures, I am surprised they asked me to do it again--I was what you call the “typical lipstick clown!” After retiring from a large insurance/financial services company in San Antonio, I looked for something that I could do on my terms. I did not want to be committed to something/a job that was full time, early hours, stressful, and/or demanding, but rather something fun and fulfilling. When I saw the “Clowning 101” class being offered through one of our local school district’s evening continuing education classes, I thought this is what I want to do. Kim “Tutti Frutti” Grice was the class instructor and was an inspiration to me. What started out

to be a whim, something I could do for family and friends, took off in a whole different direction for me. I never, ever thought of how much joy and happiness I could bring to others, and how it would also bring the same joy and happiness to me.

My doctor has told me to never give up my clowning – it has made me a healthy woman.

Most recently we celebrated “National Clown Week” in San Antonio at Morgan’s Wonderland, a wonderful amusement park devoted to kids and adults with special needs. The event was so inspirational and rewarding for all of us. I truly feel that this reaffirms why we are clowns and that we are meant to do what we do: spread joy and happiness throughout our community.

I would like to thank the Texas Clown Association for bestowing

this highest award upon me. There are so many deserving people that devote their time and energy to clowning. A big thank you



to the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley in San Antonio. All of them have helped transform me into the clown I am

today by sharing ideas and through their support and encouragement. I especially want to thank my family -- my husband Paul (we have been married 55 years), my five children and their spouses, and seven grandchildren. Many of them volunteer with me at clowning events. If you do not have the support of your spouse and family, it would be extremely difficult

to clown. Coming home to someone with a red nose, blue hair, large shoes, and friends with funny names takes a lot of patience and love.

Again, thank you so much for this honor. I will continue to make clowning a positive experience in our community.

THANK YOU

by Patsy “Glitterbug” McMillian, Competition Diector

Is the convention over yet? I have been in work mode for so long, I don't know when one job started and the other one ended. Thank goodness I got to wear the pink hat all the time or I would have been wanting to get in my car every day with the thought I had to go someplace, when all I had to do was travel from the 8th floor to the Maple Room (someone called that “my secret room”). Saved a lot on gas (although some of my friends may tell you otherwise).

I want to thank all of you for extending a helping hand because we know that it is too big of a job for one person to handle by themselves and be successful. Thank you - Judy Cornett, Christie McNeil, Beverly Cowen, Liz Melton, James Gill, Patti Gilbert, Andy Anderson, Rhea Anderson, John Luce & W T Keys. These are just a few of the people who jumped in to make the competitions, tabulating, measuring and number crunching run

smoothly.

I want to thank the judges that came to the rescue when I pulled them out of the audience and who switched with others so that we could have enough to judge competitions.

The runners and timekeepers were definitely a blessing and I think Sandra (or was it Elaine) may have found a new calling in the runner department.

As you all know this was my first time for attempting to do such a huge job and I could not have done it without the gaggle of clowns that were there to support me. Even though it was a huge and scary job I am eternally grateful to God that he surrounded me with capable angels or you would have seen a big pile of glitter on the floor. To God be the glory for giving me the ability to serve you.

“A Last Walk-Around”

Jim “Mill Dude” Franklin, 61, passed away Saturday July 13th 2013.

Jim had been having health issues for several years. He had been a member of the alley’s in the Fort Worth Area. He was a TCA member from 2008-2012. He was a balloonist & loved entertaining.

If you would like to make a donation in his memory, his favorite charities were: American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, or the National Brain Tumor Society.

Reflecting on the Life of Jim Franklin

by Earl Warren

As I sat listening to the pastor eulogize Jim Franklin Wednesday morning, I was thinking, how did this man keep a clown smile?” His challenges began with a serious farm accident at 16 that would, the doctor’s said, keep him from ever walking...he decided otherwise. Jim faced everything from type two diabetes, to chronic pneumonia; heart problems and brain tumor surgery plus job loss for a long period of time...just a few of the hills he climbed. During all of these difficulties he and his wife Cheryl spent thirty-three years heavily involved in helping others at their church. He and Cheryl served as Sunday School teachers. He loved clowning for all “their” kids and congregation members, plus clowning in church sponsored outreach programs.

He was always challenging himself by learning something new. He taught himself calligraphy and donated a large amount of his time and skill to do official certificates and documents for the church. Jim

learned sign language so he could share his ministry as a counselor for hearing impaired and was instrumental in adding a person to sign the church services. He was always adding skills to his clowning. At some point he made a big decision -- he joined a Christian motorcycle group to expand his personal ministry, but as his health failed his family became concerned that the big Gold Wing bike he was riding might fall on him. To his dismay, there was a family “intervention” and the bike disappeared from the driveway one day. But, no mind, he was still a clown!

During the service, one of his daughters, according to his wishes, read the Clown’s Prayer. There were numerous times during almost an hour long eulogy that we laughed... other times I am sure a tear was shed. The pastor said he spoke with his mother before the service and asked if she remembered when Jim became a clown. Her reply, “He was born a clown.” Bump a Nose Jim! You served us well!

Behind The Scenes at TCA

by Christie “Louella” McNeill

Have you ever been a Dealer at a TCA or another clown convention? Have you ever been the lucky clown to be in charge of procuring the dealers for the dealer’s room at TCA, COAI or WCA convention? Well I have, and if you have not, I thought I would give you a little insight into how it works. So hold on.

Your first step is to decide what type of vendors (costumes, wigs, make-up magic, puppets, you get the picture) and approximately how many tables (does your hotel have 6 or 8 foot tables and how many, because you MUST sell equal space to all) can your room/space accommodate. Then the fun begins! You make many phone calls (you truly spend many hours on the phone trading calls) trying to find vendors who are willing to come to TCA’s location and who are available on the convention’s dates. We MUST provide a good mix of wares for our attendees or else we are not living up to our responsibilities as convention hosts. The vendors must be very specific when listing on their contracts what they will be selling in their space and are held to that by the procurer. The reason for this is so that they do not cannibalize each other, allowing them at least a chance to make a profit. We

cannot have 2 or 3 people selling the exact same thing. An example from 2013’s TCA Convention: All American Balloons was allowed to sell Wolfe brand face paints, only because Sharon Hodges did not have the same brand on her table. During the phone calls and e-mails traded, you find out if the host alley can afford the dealers (yes, some dealers want to be PAID to attend and sell at your event). What happens most often is that we barter with those who are willing to come. What we trade most often is lectures in exchange for table space, so that there is no actual money that changes hand. I will tell you the vendor table space for the last 2 years has been \$125.00 for the first table and \$75.00 for each extra table for the duration of the convention. Each host sets their own price based on many factors, like budget, space availability and more.

I will use Steve Roeske as my example. He has been at every TCA convention since taking over his uncle Billy Prince’s custom clown shoe business. This year Steve DONATED a \$200.00 gift certificate for our raffle and did a lecture (if you have not attended his shoe care lecture you are really missing out on some wonderful information to help you extend the life of ALL

of your shoes not just your clown shoes, truly invaluable info). Steve has donated a pair of his custom clown shoes EVERY year he has attended, just as Billy Prince did. Steve lives in Florida so he had to fly to Love Field and arrange transportation to The Westin, and like the rest of us he paid for 4 nights in our wonderful hotel (over \$400.00 cost to him). And he had to eat while there, so he shelled out quite a lot of money to provide us with his service. So unless our vendors are able to at least break even or ultimately make a profit why would they continue to come to TCA?

It is against TCA, COAI and WCA convention rules and guidelines to vend anywhere outside of the dealers room and if YOU SUPPORT these “outlaws” everyone loses. This is how:

- TCA is hurt due to less attendees because fewer dealers are willing to attend and TCA is given \$5 (if an alley is hosting, not the TCA Board as in 2012 and 2013) for every convention attendee (this is one of TCA’s largest sources of annual income)

- Dealers are hurt because of their cost involved to come and ultimately the extra product being sold by the “outlaws” could have supported them and made the difference in their making a profit or experiencing a loss (and let’s face it folks it’s all about the bottom line) - why would they want to come if they feel they cannot make a profit?

In turn you are hurting YOURSELF the attendee since eventually the vendor room will have very few if any vendors to provide you with clown supplies. So you should not support outside vendors and you should REPORT such activities to the convention hosts. It’s not tattle-telling if you are looking out for the best interest of your clown organization.

So now you have an idea of what goes on Behind the Scenes of the TCA Vendor Room, and as Sy Syms used to say “you have to be an informed shopper”. Now you have some inside information and you will be able to make informed decisions.

Thank you and I hope to see you down the clown road.

Special THANK YOU to Brennon “B HAYVE” Spikes for the design and assembly of the new TCA Competition lights. He totally rebuilt them and they now use the new LED lights. He donated his time and talent to TCA for this effort and we really appreciate it. -The TCA Board

Texas Clown Association – 2014

by Mauri “Binki” Norris

The Jolly Joeys Clown Alley (JJCA) of San Antonio Texas will be the hosts for the 2014 TCA Convention. It will be held in the heart of the beautiful Texas Hill Country, in Kerrville Texas, October 1 – 5, 2014. Kerrville is just a little south of the geographical center of the great state of Texas, approximately 100 miles west of Austin and 60-70 miles north-north-west of San Antonio on Interstate-10 (exit #508).

The headliner for the convention will be the fabulous and friendly RANDY CHRISTENSEN. Randy has authored over 20 books on a variety of topics including clowning and variety arts. He has performed and taught such topics as: ventriloquism, puppetry, balancing, storytelling, sleight-of-hand, prop building, physical comedy, mime, cartooning, unicycling, stilt-walking, verbal comedy, stage movement, balloon sculpture, music and performance, juggling, improvisation, circus skills and character development.

He is a truly accomplished artist and a well rounded performer. He has taught and/or performed in 25 states and 4 foreign countries. Check him out at this website: <http://www.randysinfo.com/Home.htm>.

The convention will be at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference

Center. All convention classes and events will be held on the premises of the Inn. The Inn is designed like an Alpine ski resort and sits just across the street from the Guadalupe River, and within walking distance to several eateries, such as: Pizza Hut, Popeye’s Chicken, Dickey’s BBQ, Taco Casa and more. Hometown Crafts is just in the next block (like a small town Hobby Lobby or Woolworth’s) and the 24 hour Super Wal-Mart is just a few blocks away. The room rate is \$95/night single/double and includes a buffet continental breakfast in the Alpine Lodge (on the premises) plus a safe, refrigerator, microwave and coffee-maker and free Wi-Fi. Additionally, there is free Wi-Fi in the meeting rooms/conference center. You can see photos of the hotel at their website: <http://www.innofthehills.com> You can reserve your rooms by calling the resort directly, or watch for more details to come with a link to use to make your reservations online.

NOTE: the hotel has only 2 floors of guest rooms (the conference center is all on the ground floor) and there is NO ELEVATOR, so if you need a ground floor room, be sure to ask for one when you make your reservation.

The usual AT THE CONVENTION opportunity to register for

next year at a deep discount is being extended until November 30, 2013. That rate is \$125 per person (Adult or Junior). After that date the per person adult rate goes up to \$145 (the Junior rate remains at \$125 at all times). There is a form included in this issue if you wish to take advantage of this deep discount. (Remember, even though we hope you can join us, if you register early and have to cancel later, you can get a full refund up until August 31, 2014 just one month before the convention).

Be sure to mark your calendars

now – OCTOBER 1-5, 2014. And start saving your pennies and dollars, you have over a year to be ready for the next great TCA Convention. More details will be published as they become available. Don't forget, you can get free registration if you spark 6 or more new TCA members in the next year or you can apply for a Kay Klynky Henry TCA Convention Registration Scholarship from the TCA Education Fund (watch for more details to come on that opportunity).

Hope to see a whole bunch of you guys next year!

What's in a Name?

By Martha "Miss Cookie" Warren

Cookie or Kookie, Spark, Sparkles, or Sparklette. Posie or Dosie, Okey Dokey, and then there's Billy Whiskers. Dubble Bubble, Jeanie-Beanie, John John, and our Mary-Canary. Names are singular, names are double, some names could possibly get you in trouble!

How do you choose a name? It really is a game--on how to choose a name! Murcee, you are so Plum Cute; my Lollibells Buckle under so much Shimmy Giggles. Someone please pass me a Hanky!

A name can come from a childhood nickname, a pet name, or out of accident. Like Dusti when she dropped her powder and it "poofed" all over the place sending dust a flying! Walla, it becomes a

part of you, your psyche, until you finally forget who you were and transform into who you've become! Every clown tries to choose something that fits them, is catchy, or unique.

Since clowns come from all over the United States, actually the world, names can be duplicated or are very similar. Is that okay? In my opinion, if you have just started clowning and you're deciding on a name that you know someone is already using; I would think twice about using that same name. On the other hand, if you've chosen a name that is the same as someone you come across at a gig, another clown alley, or a convention, then both parties would probably just

(continued on page 28)

Scholarship Winner Report

“An Experience, Laughs, & Memories”

by Nancy “Bubbles the Clown” Arent

Being a Clown for 20 years I had my first experience in competing in Paradability, Single Skit, & Balloons at the 2013 TCA Convention. Now I have to tell you first hand, I felt like I was under the firing squad when I first stepped out on the stage and saw how many clowns were out there watching. Of course I was FIRST in line. I almost wanted to run off the stage instead, but I was thinking the whole time, I can do this. Yes I was nervous, and I am sure it showed.

Then came Paradability, my position again was #1. I thought I was set up for sure to fail), I took a lot of deep breaths, and had some great support from the Stage hands, telling me to go for it, you can do this & just go out there and have FUN!! (Thanks Pepper & W.T.)

When my time was over, I had some nice compliments, and said they were proud of me for trying and I am sure some of the Clowns that know me were surprised that I competed. Watching my fellow Clowns try their best to give their all, I sat back and said that wasn't so bad after all. I can do this again now that I got my feet wet.

I had some great laughs, tears of joy, and met some new friends which were very supportative. Even

though I didn't place in anything that I tried competing in, it was a lesson to read what others thought of my work, and where my strengths were and where I could improve.. I am sure we have all been FIRST TIMERS, and maybe this will be a remembrance when all you did your first competition.

My hearty congratulations to all the winners and my hats off to all that tried out, (like myself). You're all winners in my book for just competing.

Thank-you for awarding me a scholarship this year, it was much appreciated. I had a wonderful time, learned some new things, But I had to come home to get some sleep.

When I first applied I thought I don't have a chance, but wanted to apply anyway. One of my requirements was the letter of recommendation. I asked a fellow clown if she would help me. When I saw the copy of the letter, that was more rewarding than the scholarship. If I didn't win, I still had my letter. That meant a lot to me.

Good Luck to the 2014 TCA Convention that will be in Kerrville TX (hosted by the Jolly Joeys). Go ahead & apply for the Scholarship, I am glad I did.

Scholarship Winner Report

by Jeanette “Dusti The Clown” Sanders

I was a recipient of TCA's 2013 Scholarship this year. Thank you for awarding me this scholarship to help broaden my skills and direct me into fresh and more creative thinking about clowning. This year I felt the subliminal “nudges” (actually they were shoves and I appreciate it by the way) to write my letter of request and ask for endorsements from clown friends who I have clowned, worked, and played alongside over the years. I was pleased to receive two letters of recommendations from Martha “Miss Cookie” Warren and Debbie “Posie” Davis. A few short weeks later I was pleasantly surprised to find a congratulatory letter in my mail box. As the guidelines suggested in the letter, I was to participate in one or more competitions at this year's convention. I proceeded following the guidelines, making plans to participate in single skit and single paradability as well as face painting and balloon competition. I was surprised two clown alleys included me in group skits: Mid Cities Clown Alley 85 and Happi Tymes in Arlington. I participated in all competitions that were allowed in the convention rules and regulations.

I also found time to sit in a few instructional classes of personal interest and visit the vendor rooms. I also helped with Happi Tymes' breakfast hospitality room on Friday morning.

My activities planning began weeks before competition with prop building, scripting my performances and developing a manageable schedule, all with the help of my husband Bob and convention roommates - Billy Whiskers,

Miss. Cookie and Posie. They helped keep me focus on convention participation. One thing I found refreshing this year was the on-going compliments and encouragement I received from other clowns throughout the entire convention. I felt the warm fuzzies and a feeling of acceptance. I am encouraged to participate in future conventions with renewed enthusiasm. And, with guidance from my clown family, find a way to be a more valuable team player in my clown alleys and share my experience with others. This year while participating in the convention, I was able to find a key ingredient in the art of clowning that had seemed to escape me in recent years: That ingredient is participation. I am encouraged to study and practice the rudiments of clowning and re-ignite the passion for clowning I felt in my early years. It's with passion and courage of conviction and a strong sense of self that I take this year's TCA experience into the world of clowning remembering that first impressions are not always correct. I will remember that you must always have faith in people. And most important, you must always have faith in yourself. Thanks again for this opportunity and congratulations to my past and present fellow scholarship winners, we did it, with a big hand up from TCA!

Scholarship Winner Report

by Kaden “Jam” Delgado

My name is Kaden Delgado. I am 12 years old and have been clowning for 4 years. This was my third convention to attend. My clown name is Jam. I am part of “Ham & Jam.” I clown with my grandmother. I have learned so much from my convention time. I am a balloon artist and learned this year how to make some quick and amazing balloons. I learned how to build and maintain marionette puppets, how to start and create puppets and the rules that follow along with them. Also, I learned

how to create the skits to use my wonderful new puppets in with the different types of props made out of foam. My main excitement of this year was learning how to walk on stilts. This was the start of a new part of my clowning profession. I am excited as to what my future will hold as I go forward with my clowning career.



Welcome to our new Education Chair

By Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert

As you guys have read in previous articles, and as you heard at the convention- we are in the process of transitioning from one Education Chair to another. I asked for those interested in filling this position to email me a few months ago, and then asked again at convention for anyone interested in the position to come talk to me. I am thrilled to let you know that we do have someone who would like to fill this position.

Before I let you, the TCA Members know who our new Chair will be, I want to say once again, “Thank you” to Rhea Anderson for the years of service you have provided to TCA. You did a great deal with

education, scholarships, the raffle, and the list goes on. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to announce that TCA’s new Education Chair is Aurora “BeBop” Krause. As many of you know, BeBop was our headliner, and she did an outstanding job for TCA this year. The feedback I heard throughout the week was incredible. For those of you who sat through her classes, you know that she brings a true passion to clowning, and a strong commitment to the Art of Clowning. I am looking forward to the good things that lie ahead with BeBop charting the course.

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Slowing Down to Clown

by Aurora “Bebop” Krause, Education Director

We all know it's important to listen and be attentive to others. However, in clowning I didn't think that was possible or necessary, maybe in a Caring Clown venue but clowning in general...? I thought slowing down might take me out of my character. This certainly was an interesting concept that I started to give some thought to. It wasn't in any clown class that I learned this concept of slowing down. It's actually been through my clowning experience that I have learned how being attentive and slowing down a bit has made positive contributions to both my interest in giving and my clowning abilities.



As I prepare for a clowning event I remind myself who my audience will be and where the event will be taking place, next I remind myself to slow down when I arrive. Because

clowns are naturally perceived as pretty loud and out-going I consider slowing down to clowning, in any venue, a skill. Way before Bebop reaches into her pockets, way before her music begins, her clown character has created a curiosity that interests the heart and she wants to make that heart-felt connection.

When we're in clown we all create this interest and I believe it's important to notice it and play with it. We can use this opportunity to focus on them by acknowledging their interest. Let's make sure we don't jump into our planned routine or performance before acknowledging and responding to the interest we've created. What a delight to notice the wide-eyed and happy look of a child, the appreciation of an elderly individual and even the rolling eyes expression of a teenager. We're clowns and we're not easy to ignore. We've come to play, to create joy we certainly don't want to miss a thing.

Many times this is what happens way before I say Hello.....

I receive a wide open hug from a child...

My face is cupped in the hands of an elderly woman who is glad I've arrived to see her...

Some of what I hear as I walk through after arriving at an event is; "Where did you come from, do I

know you”?

“Do you belong to the circus”?

“Do you shine your nose”?

“Are you a real clown”?

“Just stand back and let me look at you”!

I can tell you that I was able to clown as I responded to each one of these questions or comments.

This is when I realized the clowning potential in these encounters and I began to slow down.

The point is that as clowns sometimes we need to set our agendas aside and relate to our audience.

What thoughts, questions or emo-

tions have we created by just being there? What a great opportunity and privilege for us to offer a pleasant and entertaining interaction with a clown. There will always be time to bring out the new prop, magic trick or routine. So let’s take time to notice everyone in our path. Let’s Slow Down and Clown!

I welcome your thoughts on this topic; I enjoy hearing from our TCA members.

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Please welcome these new TCA membes:

Rose Marie “RosieRose” Rose of Meridian TX

Nicole “Sparkles” Coleman of Mansfield TX

Sherry “Lovey” Moskal of Austin TX

Robert (Bob) “Pip” Evans of Desoto TX

Lela “Mustard” Evans of Desoto TX

Robert (Bob) “Mr. B” Phillips of Cleburne TX

Patti “Cuddles” Thompson of Robstown TX

Gary Stokley of Robstown TX

Zach “Dino Mite” Maskell of Hurst TX - a JUNIOR member

Shirley “Daisy Dot” Hamilton of Chandler TX

Steven Davidson of Wylie TX

Henry “Chuchin” Velasquez of Dallas TX

Jose “Chistosin” Rodriguez of Dallas TX

Lance “Krash” Goff of Wylie TX

Melynda “Dazy” Merrifield of Lindale TX

If you need contact information on any of these new TCA members, please see the TCA roster or contact me at 713-201-9995 or maurinorris@yahoo.com.

SPARK PLUG AWARD 2013

by Mauri Binkie Norris, TCA Treasurer

The Texas Clown Association (TCA) presents the Spark Plug Award annually to the member who sparked (recruited) the most new members to TCA (during the award time period). This year the sparking period was from July 16, 2012 through July 15, 2013. If the award recipient recruits at least six (6) new members within the specified time frame, they are eligible for FREE REGISTRATION to the next year's TCA convention – a value of \$125 this year (and maybe more in future years). Every member who sparked at least one new member receives a Spark Plug Certificate. Those sparking new members this past year were:

Sparking ONE new member each:

SUZY BAKER
DALE FLASHBERG
PAUL DeBEE
SUZY WALL
JUDY CORNETT
CHANDRA SATTERWHITE
JANE WILSON

Sparking THREE new members each:

DIANA McCURTAIN-TALBERT
DAVID McCULLOUGH

Sparking FOUR new members:

ANDY ANDERSON

And sparking SIX new members and the winner of the 213 Spark Plug Award and receiving FREE REGISTRATION to the 2014 TCA Convention:
MARTHA WARREN

Congratulations Martha (Miss Cookie)! Keep up the good work for TCA.

The new year has already begun for TCA Sparking, so get out there and spark some interest in clowning and TCA! (In order to receive credit for the spark, the new member MUST list your name on their application form as the REFERRAL. Forms with blank referrals will not be assigned to any member.)

Competition Award Winners

Single Balloons



Multiple Balloons



Performance



Cheek Art Face Painting



Full Face Painting



Best All Around Clown
Margaret Clauder



Competition Award Winners

August/Character



Senior Make-Up



Single Skit



Group Skits



First Place:
Reindeer School



Second Place:
A Gift for Momma



Third Place:
Clowntronics

Single Paradeability



First Place:
Mike Ford



Second Place:
David McCullough



Third Place:
Mary Beth Mayer

Group Paradeability



First Place:
Roller Coaster



Second Place:
The Picnic



Third Place:
Smart Phone Graduation

(What's in a Name Continued from page 17)

have to live with it. And more than likely you may never meet again! No two clowns are alike, so just respect the fact that those things happen.

I ran into that situation when I started clowning. My name is Miss Cookie the other clown didn't have a Miss in front of her name and didn't sound anything like mine at all once you pronounced it! She wanted me to change my name because she had been clowning "longer" than I. She asked me to think about it. I did, and decided my name came legitimately from my very unique background, wasn't really like hers, so I had to decline. We didn't become friends after that.

This story about clown names came to mind at convention this year, when a friend told me of a similar situation. She and this other clown had the same name, or very similar. She told my friend she'd had her name for many years and my friend couldn't keep the same one. When my friend said she wouldn't change hers, the lady said she was going to talk to ---- about that.

It goes to show your clown name can start a very Sassy conversation! So before you just go BeBopping into a name, do a Lit'l Bit of research, especially in your area, to make sure no one else is using the name you have in mind. You don't want to start Treble among your Boopsie's. There are several ways of

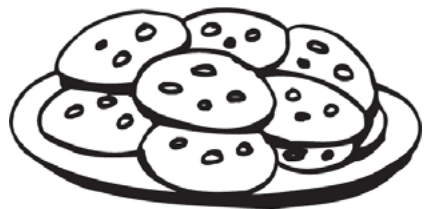
legally protecting your name, if you feel the need. You can start by first checking with your county resistors office. I registered Miss Cookie after that other clown got her Korn Pops in a ChooChoo.

My daughter was selected through People to People Foreign Exchange, while a Junior in high school, to go to Australia ... Lucky Me!! I baked thousands of cookies and sold them when I worked at AT&T. That's how I got my name so I certainly wouldn't consider changing it: And, I do make the best cookies in the whole wide world! I don't care what Mrs. Fields or Martha Stewart say! Or, Cupcake, or Sweetpea, or Candy, or Sweet Tart, or Tutti Frutti, or...ooh well, Zoots, you get the picture. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Jeepers, we are out there putting Smiley's on peoples faces and bringing Comfort...so let's all be Happy Hearts...And try to stay out of Mischuf!

Joyful-ly Yours.....

Miss Cookie aka Martha



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