



February - March 2013



TCA - A Place to Grow

THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of

The Texas Clown Association, Inc.

Greg "Zoots" Stanford, Editor

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items should be emailed to greg@joeyjournal.com or addressed to The Joey Journal and mailed to 1818 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301. 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, or copies. The preferred format is a digital copy in the "jpg" or "png" format.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Full page - \$70.00; 1/2-page - \$40.00; 1/4 page size - \$25.00; and a business card size ad - \$10.00 an issue.

Multiple placement discounts on ads are 5% for 3-5 editions and 10% 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 December 1, February 1, April 1, June 1, and August 1. Articles can be sent to greg@joeyjournal.com in the body of your email or in Word, Pages, or PDF format.

Membership and Dues - Regular membership: \$25.00 Family (each add'l); \$15.00 Junior Membership: \$12.00

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.

CONTENTS

From the President - Diana McCurtain-Talbert	6
Becoming Like Children - Lana Sue Fridge	8
Ideas to Help Your Alley Group - Andy Anderson	
Following Our Hearts - Aurora Krause	
Stay Connected - John Luce	
Ambassador of Clowning Award - Patti Gilbert	16
What Makes Things Funny? - Kim Grice	18
Healthy Competition - Patsy McMillan	20
New TCA Members	21
Planning for the TCA 2013 Convention - Mauri Norris	22

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.

The Texas Clown Association Board of Directors

Diana McCurtain-Talbert, President - (210) 391-6087 8542 Rita Elena, San Antonio, TX 78250-6524 dmccurtain@att.net

John "John John" Luce, Vice Present - (817) 281-2793 7913 Standley, Fort Worth, TX 76180 JJClown@sbcglobal.net

Olivia Adamson, Secretary - (210) 373-9624 22341 Old Fossil Road, San Antonio, TX 78261 lweyot@sbcglobal.net

Mauri "Binkie" Norris, Treasurer - (713) 664-7733 6504 Kenyon Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401-3705 maurinorris@yahoo.com

Judy "Peep" Cornett, Sgt. at Arms - (713) 201-8681 8315 Ivan Reid Dr., Houston, TX 77040-1508 judy.a.cornett@gmail.com

Andy "Smiley" Anderson, Past President - (817) 282-3339 645 Forest Lane, Hurst, TX 76053 kudosra@yahoo.com

Area Directors

North Central - Martha Warren - (817) 275-8644 1507 Marshalldale Drive, Arlington, TX 76013

martha2cool@sbcglobal.net

North East - David Mcullough - (903) 571-3089

P.O. Box 1017, Chandler, TX 75758-1017

kornpoptheklown@gmail.com

Panhandle/West - Kathy Keaton - (325) 944-4746

4505 Southern Oak Lane, San Angelo, TX 76904

kpiccolo28@juno.com

South/Central - Kim "Tutti-Frutti" Grice - (210) 698-8820

106 Tallow Trail, San Antonio, TX 78256

oxford@uthscsa.edu

South East - Patsy McMillan (713) 410-3698

20806 Durand Oak Court, Cypress, TX 77433

mcglitterbug@yahoo.com

From the President

by Diana McCurtain-Talbert

Hello to my TCA Family,

I hope this article finds you all doing well, and clowning to your heart's content. Sometimes life can get extremely busy and the day-to-day business can become overwhelming. So, my thoughts here are simple and few.

Remember why you got into clowning in the first place. Look for the joy, look for the art and look for the great feeling you receive after seeing a smile light up someone's face because you were there to make a difference.

I often look back to my clowning journey and even today it catches me by surprise... I originally wanted to clown as a way of adding additional income. Years later, I took a clowning class and my reasons for clowning were all of a sudden very different.

My main focus over the years has been to give back. I still do paid events to support my clown habit, but I find my joy and love for the art is strongest, when I am giving it away. My dear friend came to me one day to say that she realized why God had put Diana in her life. It was so that she could meet Buttons.

You see, that day she found out her granddaughter had been diagnosed with Leukemia and Buttons needed to go see her. Off I went to the hospital with my trusty sidekick Sprinkles (my rabbit). We had quite a time visiting her. Over the next few months, Sprinkles got into more trouble, started dating a raccoon and eventually proposed by giving her a very large 1 Carrot ring.

Needless to say, every time I went to visit my friend's granddaughter, there was a new bit with the puppet, or a new storybook to read. The smiles that I saw on her face were Unfortunately, this priceless. wonderful child lost her battle, but I knew that I had made a difference. Her mom told me at the funeral. that on her last day of life, as she was in and out of consciousness, she looked over and said, "Mom, what do you think Sprinkles is doing? Somehow through all the pain, and all the meds, that silly bunny had made an impact in that child's life.

So, I ask you, why do you put on the nose, and the makeup? When you're tired and don't feel it makes a difference, please remember – it does.

Keep Smiling, Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert TCA Spark Plug Award

TCA Spark Plug Award

There is still time to recruit new TCA members and WIN!!! If you recruit the most new TCA members between July 16, 2012 and July 15, 2013, you will WIN the Spark Plug Award. If you recruit 6 or more new TCA members during that period, you are eligible to receive FREE Registration to the next TCA convention (2014). That is more than a \$100 value!! So get out there and SPARK some interest in TCA!!! Be sure all new members put your name as the referral on their applications.

Thanks, Mauri Norris, Treasurer





Become Like Children

by Lana Sue "Joyfull" Fridge

While there are many reasons that each of us became a clown; the fact remains, there is still a child in each of us! Consequently, we seasoned clowns recognize the need for youth to be involved in clowning, for they help us remember 'the way we were'. Junior Joeys, with their exuberance, energy and vigor, demonstrate the importance of relating to children 'of all ages'!

In the last several years, Cowtown Clowns, in Ft. Worth, has been blessed with almost a dozen "Junior Joeys" who have played an important part in our 80 plus member team. Of these young part timers, even with busy school schedules, four have played an active part in the life of Cowtown. Surprisingly, these four active "Juniors" turned 16 within two months of each other. Andi "Skittle-Lu" Mills birthday was September 23rd, Ellie "Sunflower" Sullivan and twin sister Emily "Hiccup" Sullivan,

and Jered "Derej" Newman all turned 16 on November 18th!

What a reason to celebrate! So Cowtown did it up royally with great food and decorations. We had clown pouches for each of the four where letters from Cowtown

members were placed. Some cash was included with the letters of thanks and praise!

These four and other young clowns have attended TCA's State Conventions, Joey to the World, a Gospel Convention, and ongoing metroplex and alley training. They understand the importance of quality performance, proper make up application, professional costumes and exhibit all. Our young clowns volunteer in city, church, and civic events. Several are now doing some paid gigs.

Cowtown Clowns encourage and mentor our young clowns and joyfully perform side by side with them! We know that the Bible reminds us that the "Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them" and we want to be a part of it!

BUMP A NOSE!



Left to right Jered Newman, "Andi" Mills, Ellie & Emily Sullivan

ALLEY SUPPORT

IDEAS TO HELP YOUR ALLEY GROW

by Andy Anderson

Over the years I have been in and around Clown Alley's. I have developed some ideas and these are just my ideas of how to make them grow. Some of the questions I have asked myself are (a) How often do they meet? (b) How long are their meetings? (c) Do they have a time to fellowship? (d) Do they have an educational program at each meeting? (e) Do they have Alley Gigs? and (f) Does the Alley have a clown school and how often do they offer it?

It is good to have a meeting date and location that is stable. Each month try to meet the same day (example the first Monday of each month) and place so that everyone becomes used to both. They can put it on their calendar and get into a routine each month. The meetings should be kept short and organized. You will lose people if the meetings drag on and on. I recommend at Board meetings to go over the business of the Alley and bring recommendations to the group. This can help keep the meeting shorter so you have more time to fellowship and have an educational program.

Where can you get the educational programs and speakers you ask? Check with your members to see what skills they need or want

to work on. Most Alley's have members with expertise in different skills. Check with other Alley's or entertainers that are local to come to your meeting to give a 45 minute to an hour program. They do not have to be a clown to show balloons, magic, face painting or other skills. Some ideas for programs are balloons, magic, face painting and walk around demos. Have a swap meet, help each other get ready for competition at the TCA convention or have someone show what they do at a birthday party or school show.

It is very important to sponsor a clown class at least once a year. This is how you can bring in the new members and help your alley grow. Try to have Ally Gigs each month. This gives the new clowns a chance to work with older clowns in your alley and learn, get experience and exposure. This works both ways because I have picked up some things from new clowns I have worked with.

It is always good to have some people that are willing to jump in and help the members on the Board. I've seen Alley's disband because the same groups of people were on the Board all the time. People need to step up and take responsibility of running their Alley.

I hope this information can be helpful. Try some of the ideas and if you think it helps let me know.

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, 2013 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. Recipients must wait two years before reapplying.
- 5. Applicants must agree to write an article for <u>The Joey Journal</u> 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.
- 7. Attach with the application form: A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)
- 8. Questions for the application form.
 - a. How long have you been clowning?
 - b. What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
 - c. What clown skills are you interested in developing?
 - d. What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
 - e. Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?

- f. How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
 - 1. In your community?
 - 2. In your alley?
 - 3. In the Art of Clowning?
- g. Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?

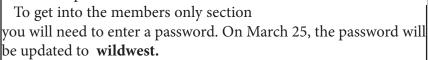
TCA Website

The TCA website is a great way to stay connected with what is going on with TCA, find convention details and get registered.

If you haven't been by the TCA site in a while, it has been recently

rebuilt. Greg Stanford has taken over the job of keeping the site updated.

Some things you can find on the TCA site include: Convention information, membership renewal, a members only section with digital copies of current and past Joey Journals (old issue slowly being added), meeting minutes, a membership roster and more.



www.texasclownassociation.com

Following Our Hearts

by Aurora "Bebop" Krause

I've always believed that if we're going to be 'in-clown' that 'clowning' should be our goal and choice of entertainment, after all we're 'in-clown'. I know

that many times it's the client that requests that we 'in-clown' be even though all they want is balloons and no clowning. Our efforts in these situations should be to inform our client that since balloons or facepainting is that's requested, we will be in festive attire not

'in-clown'. Many times a client can be very agreeable with this suggestion.

What I'm talking about is a little different matter, the issue of using clowning as a vehicle for the sole purpose of doing balloons, face-painting, magic, etc. which may actually be our true interest. These are all wonderful skills and every balloon artist, magician and face

painter makes their skills unique with their presentation style and love for the art. So, whether we're experienced or brand new to the world of clowning, it's important

> acknowledge to clowning is our true interest, or if it's being used to open doors for another interest we enjoy. Many times it helps to listen to our heart and discover where we find our joy. For example we should notice our audience's response when we've created our favorite balloon creation, preformed our best magic routine or completed the prefect full-face design on a

child's face. It's possible that their delight in this work is the result of us having shared our true passion. It's also very possible that their response will provide us with the best marketing direction we'll ever need. Clearly, this is not to say that we can't combine these skills into our clowning. We all know that for many of us first and foremost we're clowns and as clowns we combine these skills

in order to meet the needs of our clients and we do a pretty good job of it.

However, here's my thought, we should re-consider dressing up 'in-full-clown' if our only goal and desire is to do balloons, magic or face-painting. Some of the best balloon artists, and magicians face-painters have never worn a red nose and big shoes. They know their true interest and passion and are applying their best to this art; therefore their marketing is clear, direct and focused. I enjoy doing simple balloons, glitter tattoos and juggling as long as the venue also allows for incorporating 'clowning' as walk-arounds or a stage show. In my clowning adventure I focus on those areas that are my true interests, consequently my marketing material includes & Dance', 'Comedy 'Music Antics' and 'Music Participation'. I tell my clients that as a clown I do a clown show and explain what a 'clown show' consists My marketing material mentions 'simple balloons' and never lists face-painting, important to me that my clients are aware that these are not highlights to my presentation. If a prospective client is looking for these skills specifically, I always

recommend artists who excel in these skills and can fill that need. In the field of entertainment we incorporate our interests, skills, talents and passions in order to do a good job for the industry. So it's important to know that together we can meet client's expectations as we show professional respect for each other as; clowns, balloonist, facepainters, jugglers, etc. However, it's equally important that we identify our true interests in this field and follow our hearts, if we do this we'll have much to offer the industry and the end result will never let us down.



If you have any questions or thoughts on this topic, send me an e-mail I'd like to hear from you and share info.

<bebopclown@hotmail.com >

Stay Connected

by John Luce, V.P.

Hi Gang;

Well when last I wrote I told you a story about a little church reunion and the observations that I made about friendships and time. So it only seems fair to tell you about a big church and the small group that exists within it. Most people acquainted with church would call this a Sunday-School class, but not us, we refer to it as our "Connection Class", we even gave it a name. We call it the J.O.Y. Class which stands for "just older youth".

The class consists of a class leader, a teacher, a scripture reader, a records keeper, fifty people to fill the the seats, two people to supply the grub, and a secretary to write it all down. This is a place where there are no seats saved, jobs are interchangeable and visitors are treated like family. If you are late just help yourself to the last of the now cold egg casserole, pour a cup of the dregs from the coffee pot find a seat wherever one can be found and relax. No ones cares if your late they're just glad your there. This class lives up to it's name and that's our secret for you to see we truly are

connected. We know your name and the names of your kids and We know where grand kids. you live and how you made your living. We know about your health problems, what the doctor said and where it hurts. The last and most important thing we know is what concerns you, and what burdens your heart. We as a group will pray with you and for you because we care about you. This class is committed to rejoice with you in times of joy and to share your pain when your life takes a downward turn, but never at anytime let you go through it alone. That is the true meaning of connection to have a vested interest in the lives of others and they in yours.

Sounds like a great group to belong to doesn't it? Well I belong to two such groups. The second group of connected people I refer to is my Clown cohorts at TCA. This year many of our members suffered the loss of loved ones and it makes me proud to see how everyone in their own way responded. They did this not because they felt it proper, but because they knew where it hurt. This is your Clown family and we know you and aren't you glad? This brings me to the point of the message.

Soon it will be time to renew your membership and the sooner you do this the sooner we get to count the noses on the family tree. If you renew your membership before April 1st 2013 you get your name put in the hat and could get \$25.00 back. The TCA Board needs this information so we can make budgets, plan conventions, and know if our family is growing.

The Convention is coming up and you know that your going to be there anyway, so when that renewal slip comes in the mail just choose whatever form of payment you like and get it back to us quickly.

In the mean time...stay connected.

TCA DUES

TCA membership is from 4/1-3/31 annually.

Dues are due on 4/1. Notices are being mailed in March.

Please make your payment promptly to avoid being dropped from the membership database and to ensure that you do not miss any issues of The Joey Journal. If you have any questions about your dues status, please contact me at 713-664-7733H or 713-201-9995C or by email at maurinorris@yahoo.com. The dues rates are shown below.

Membership cards will only be issued if you supply a self-addressedstamped envelope with your payment.

Regular adult membership \$25 each

Family adult membership \$15 each additional member at the same

mailing address

Junior membership \$12.50 each (if UNDER age 16 as of

3/31/2013)

Pay online or issue and mail check to:

ТСА

C/O Mauri Norris

6504 Kenyon Lane

Bellaire, TX 77401

Note: if you are planning to attend the 2013 TCA Convention you must be a current TCA member.

Ambassador Of Clowning Award

by Patti "Patticake" Gilbert

It is time to think about whom you would like to nominate to receive this prestigous award for 2013. Recommendations for considering applicants are:

- Nominee must be an active (current in membership) and a participating member.
- The nominee must be known for his/her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain.
- Should be a well-rounded clown, someone who gives to the community, is an active volunteer, and who is professional in the art of clowning.
- Nominee should promote TCA in all facets of clowning;

should strive always to be positive, upbeat, agreeable, have a fair attitude, be willing to share

ideas, and be available to assist with a smile.

Send a letter giving the reasons you feel your nominee should be the 2013 TCA Ambassador of Clowning. The letter should include examples of the points listed above and have sufficient details describing the nominee to the Committee members as if they do not know the person being nominated. Some points to address might include:

• How long has the nominee been an active supporting TCA member?



- Have they held any Board positions or worked on committees within their alley or TCA?
- How do they support and promote TCA in their clowning?
- How have they exhibited extra-ordinary clownmanship?
- How has the nominee shown to be positive and sharing? Are they unselfish in assisting others, caring, and most of all, just there when needed with no thought of being reimbursed for their time or efforts?
- How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown; someone who is an active volunteer in the community and demonstrates professionalism in the art of clowning?
- How has this nominee shown his/her dedication and promotion of the art of clowning in assisting others?

Nominations can be accepted

from active TCA members only. You may want to verify that your nominee is a current member (TCA annual dues are due on April 1, 2013.) The nominations will be considered by the TCA Ambassador Committee which is made up of previous recipients. The award will be presented during the Award Banquet at the annual TCA convention.

All nominations must be submitted in writing by email or snail mail by July, 1, 2013. Nominations received and/or postmarked after the deadine will not be considered for the Award

Nominations for the 2013 Ambassador Award are being accepted by: Patti "Patticake" Gilbert 7055 Hollister #826 Houston, TX 77040 pcake-gilbert@comcast.com



Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482 Home 903 485 3000 Cell 903 348 5520 ctosh@cumbytel.com

What Makes Things Funny?

By Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Grice

I teach an interdisciplinary course at the University of Texas Health Science Center called "Laughter is the Best Medicine: Healing, and Healthcare." open to medical students, nursing students, and health professions The majority of the students. students are from my discipline of occupational therapy. course attempts to help these health providers understand the benefits of humor and laughter on the physiology and psychology of patients and themselves based on reading and discussion of published research, recognize the benefits of the therapeutic use of humor in patient/family interactions and develop/improve their personal senses of humor through use of techniques to enhance coping skills and stress reduction. Some of the topics covered include: what is humor? the physiological effects of humor; humor and the immune system; cultural, age, and gender differences; and appropriate vs. inappropriate use of humor.

As a result, I am always alert to any research or resources about humor and laughter as content material for my course and to keep myself updated on the topics. So, last month, when I saw that the Mind Science Foundation advertising a lecture titled, "Why are Things Funny?" by Dr. Peter McGraw, I

had to go and check it out. Dr. McGraw has been researching why we laugh at the things we do—why do we find something funny or humorous? He is a professor at Colorado Leeds University and heads up a Humor Research Lab there. (Wow! Fun job!)

There are many theories about humor, of which I will not go into here. Dr. McGraw has produced a theory which he calls the "Benign Violation Theory of Humor." In his own words:

The Benign Violation theory builds on work by Tom Veatch and integrates existing humor theories to propose that humor occurs when and only when three conditions are satisfied: (1) a situation is violation, (2) the situation is benign, and perceptions occur (3)both simultaneously. A violation occurs when a situation threatens the way that you believe the world "ought" to be. Simply put, something seems wrong. Violations take many forms, ranging from tickling and play-fighting to the violations of linguistical norms, conventions, and rules that take place in puns. There are also many ways to make a violation benign. 1) A violation can seem benign because of a lack of commitment to the violated norm. such as when people who are not religious laugh when a church

gives away a Hummer SUV; 2) A violation can seem benign because of distance from the violation, such as when it occurs to someone else, happened long ago, or doesn't seem real --or, as Mel Brooks put it, "Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you walk into an open sewer and die" and 3) A violation can seem benign because of an alternative interpretation, as occurs in the case of play-fighting and tickling. The benign violation theory suggests that primates often laugh when play-fighting and tickling because both are mock attacks --- laughter signals a threatening situation is okay.

This is a visual representation of his theory:



When you think about his theory in relationship to clowning, it seems to make sense. For instance, in a skit, there is usually some "problem" that needs to be resolved—this is the "violation"—that which is not right. The clown is having a dilemma. All of this is benign to the audience, probably due to the reason that it is happening to someone else! These two things come together to create this "perfect storm" so to speak,

that causes us to see the situation as funny and we laugh!

This may explain why some clown skits fall flat and don't get the laughter we want. First, they may seem "too real." In McGraw's theory, for the violation to be benign, it must not seem real. I know personally, that some of the "funniest videos" are not funny to me because it appears the person got hurt—it is too real! Second, maybe the violation and the realization that it is benign, do not overlap at just the right time, which is the third component of what makes us then laugh.

Dr. McGraw and a journalist friend, Joel Warner, have traveled around the world recently to find out what makes people laugh. You can check out more about their journey and what they found on their website: thehumorcode.com.

Healthy Competition

by Patsy "Glitterbug McMillan

Recently, I was thinking about the true definition of competition with a colleague of mine. This person and I have known each other for several years, have worked side by side, and have even referred processes and ideas back and forth to each other. When either of us has a question related to whether something looks good or not; how to handle tough business situations, we pick up the phone and call each other. And yet at the same time we target many of the same co-workers.

I got to thinking that this is not the standard definition of "competition". We don't fight tooth and nail against one another. We don't try to outdo each other on projects. We don't trash talk the other's work just to make sure we get an extra few words of recognition today (regardless of what may happen down the road). Instead we help each other out. We encourage each other to be successful, to work harder, and to do better work.

Think for a moment about the word "competition". The word itself has some pretty strong negative connotations. One definition I found online said that it means when two or more parties strive for a goal that cannot be shared.

My argument is that this definition and the mentality around

competition could not be further from the truth. When treated the right way, competition can drive innovation, it can enhance creativity, it can lead to better ways to do old things, and it can develop more demand. And that is the key; competition can lead to a greater demand.

It doesn't really matter what specific venue you are in, whether you work as a talent, an actor, a photographer, or you sell giant pretzels at sporting events. The more a community of professionals can support one other and share best practices, the outlook will be better for that industry as a whole.

I've always felt that the word competition creates an atmosphere of hostility because many think that if you aren't the winner, you are "the" loser. We think if we are not the winner, then we are less of a human, or rock bottom in status, which is of course not the truth. Competition is an opportunity to show off your best, open yourself to improvement and overall, just have a good time being awesome with others just as awesome from whom you can learn.

Competing is often all the nudge we need to make sure our own work is up to par and able to compete with others no matter what stage of life and clowning we are in currently.

WELCOME NEW TCA MEMBERS

Please welcome these newest TCA SHERRY KNUTSON - Boopsie members: Knutsie of Ft Worth TX DIANE GAUTHIER CRIMSON MOERBE - a Junior clown from Wylie TX - of Durant OK ALEXANDER PENA MICHELLE BENNETT - Beanie - a Junior clown from Del Rio TX Baby of Wylie TX SABRINA PENA - of Del Rio TX RAE STONE - Blossom of San Antonio TX ROBERT DIVERS - Dr Dudley Dinglebutter of Euless TX MITCH CHAPMAN – Happy of Ennis TX PATRICIA PERRYMAN MARY MITTAL - Chatterbox - Lucky Lou of San Antonio TX of San Antonio TX FRANCINE SCHMIDT - Pockets of Victoria TX ERIC MITTAL - Buster a Junior clown of San Antonio TX DORIAN MORENO a Junior clown from Coppell TX RUSSELL MITTAL - Tag-a-long a Junior clown of San Antonio TX BRUCE and CINDY CHADWICK of Ft Worth TX SCOTT (MICKEY) McMILLEN Checkers of Ft Worth TX ROSEANN HEWITT - Lolli of San Antonio TX SHERRY McMILLEN - Rainbow of Ft Worth TX ROXANNE RODRIGUEZ - a Junior clown from San Antonio TX THERESA RIOS - Wildflower of Rockport TX LISA TRUSSLER - Hattie MARISOL HARPER - Harper of Irving TX of Humble TX LARRY HAMILTON - Pockets of Hurst TX KELLI LEWIS – Mippy

My sincere apologies for the delay in getting these names published. If you need contact information for any of these members, please email - a Junior clown from Haslet TX me at maurinorris@yahoo.com.

of San Antonio TX

BRIANA MASKELL

Planning for the TCA 2013 Convention?

A Few Helpful Tips --- Yee! Haw!!

by Mauri "Binki" Norris

The 2013 convention is being held in the same hotel (Westin DFW, Irving TX) as the 2011 and 2012 TCA conventions. This is the final year of our 3 year We are trying this contract. multi-year contract idea as a way to keep room rates down. were able to lock-in the room rate (at \$89/night+tax 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. limited number of suites are available at \$149/night+tax. 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 2013 (the exact deadline will be published as soon as it is finally set).

Even though the convention is in July-August and it is usually VERY HOT outside in Texas in the summer – 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 Hospitality Suite for their This is a very nice Room. suite, but can still get crowded if everyone attends at the same 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 2013 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 NEW TCA website (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 1st. 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 and 2012 conventions. These lunches are reasonably priced and many folks at the 2011/2012 conventions 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 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, 2013 for a full refund).

Convention shirts: If you want to buy a shirt, be sure to pre-order with your registration If you registered during the 2012 convention (when the shirt information was not yet available) you can order one now by sending another registration form with just the shirt order and payment (see form in this issue or on the website). is no convention T-shirts for 2013 - TCA is selling the TCAlogo polo-style PURPLE shirts only!

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



30th Annual Texas Clown Association Convention



"What do you mean you haven't registered yet?"

July 31 - August 4, 2013 at the Westin Hotel Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Register online at www.texasclownassociation.com