

The **Joey** **Journal**

The Texas Clown Association



February/March 2014



Randy Christensen
2014 TCA Convention Headliner

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THE JOEY JOURNAL

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Greg “Zoots” Stanford, Editor

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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

Happiness is a Red Nose and Big Shoes

by Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert



Hello fellow clowns,

I hope this brief note finds you well. As I write this, I have just come back from seeing many of you at Joey to the World. It was great to reconnect with many of you as well as to meet some new friends. I really love the opportunity to get away from the real world and just hang out with some of the funniest, and craziest people I know- you guys!

It never ceases to amaze me how much my attitude can improve when I am in the middle of a bunch of clowns. I mean really, how could anyone not be happy?

With all the pressures of work, family, clowning professionally, taking on duties as President of both my Alley and TCA it can sometimes become a bit crazy, to the point that I just really need a break. That's what my time at Joey gave me.

How many of you really take the time to just sit back and relax? How many of you take the time to strap on those big shoes, and take that big red nose and just go out to smell the noses - urrr - I mean roses? Those times at convention can be just such a time. Convention is a time to re-group, rejuvenate, and relax. It can be a time to reconnect, and make new connections.

If you have never been to a TCA convention, I truly hope you

will think about going this year, Oct 1-5, in Kerville, Tx. We have great speakers and vendors lined up, in addition to that we have a great headliner in Randy Christensen.

In addition to the clown stuff, the hill country is a great place to get away and vacation. We are in the process of trying to set up some outings for those of you who might want to take extra time for some local treats- more to come on that.....

I'm looking forward to seeing you in October, looking forward to puttin' on my clown and making some memories that will make me and hopefully you smile.

Take care and remember,
Keep smiling,

Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert
dmccurtain@att.net

We Need You!!!

by David "Kornpop" McCullough

Have you ever wondered how a convention is put together? How about what happens in a board meeting? I know you've wondered how we get such great teachers and instructors for all of the events TCA puts on. Well now is your chance to find out the answers to all of these questions and more.

We need volunteers and nominees for almost every office this year in our organization. If you want to see us grow and get better and continue being the best state clown association in the country, It Takes You! We can't sit still and expect things to get done on their own. You have to take charge. The meetings are very informational and there are a lot of

great people to help out along the way. Unfortunately it has been the same people doing these jobs for so long, that they have timed out and we need new blood and new ideas. If you belong to a local clown alley or group, start asking your clown friends what they would do different or how they would improve things if they could. Then ask them if you can nominate them for one of the vacated positions, or better yet, nominate yourself and come on board with your fresh ideas.

See ya soon, and don't forget to email me with your nominations and ideas at celebrationswith-atwist@gmail.com

Personal Ad Contest

We are having the Personal Ad contest again for the 2014 Convention Book. By placing a personal business card ad in the book you will be entered in a drawing for cash prize. For best results, submit an original calling card. Card quality will determine the appearance of your ad in the program book.

Please make the check payable to: Jolly Joeys Clown Alley.

Mail to: Diana McCurtain-Talbert

8542 Rita Elena San Antonio, TX 78250

Advertising can be mailed to the above address or e-mailed to dmccurtain@att.net.

Any questions call Diana @ 210-391-6087.

Business Card Ad - Color: \$25
/Blk&White: \$15 (21/2"x 3 1/2")



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

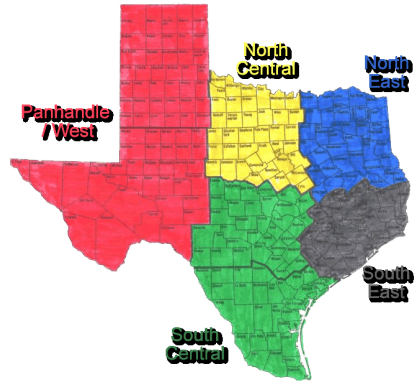
Cheerful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18

South / Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA # 19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15



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Life Safety for Entertainers

By Steve “Salty” Kissell

It is difficult to believe that we now have to watch out for our personal safety while we are performing! There are some strange folks out there that delight in disrupting our presentation or bringing harm to us. Here are a few tips that will help keep you safe while you apply the craft of family entertainment.

1. Know where you are going and have several ways of getting there such as a mapped route and a GPS. Have a contact cell number as well.
2. DO NOT increase, decrease or change your medications before a show, you might be surprised by the not so pleasant side effects.
3. If you have any mechanical issues with your automobile, DO NOT drive it. Plan to arrive way ahead of schedule and with a working mode of transportation.
4. NO texting while driving! That means reading them too!
5. Are you a diabetic? If so, reconsider wearing clown shoes, they are an easy target for a bully or not so nice child to stomp on. You know what can happen with injuries to the toes right?
6. Where are your valuables? Are they on your person in loose fitting clothing? They are easy to remove without you noticing.
7. Plan an exit strategy in case the performance area becomes too wild, know where the doors are.
8. Plan on asking an adult at the show to assist you if anyone becomes too much to handle or afraid. You don't want to come off as a disciplinarian.
9. Be sure to hydrate throughout the show. Use it as a public service announcement, I do! While I reach for my bottle of water: “Boys and girls, remember to drink water before and after you play outside, so you won't get too thirsty.”
10. Remove all references to guns, head and arm choppers, swords through the neck and especially bang wands and the like. In this climate of common violence, we do not need to reinforce it in our family orientated performances. Have fun and God Bless!

Steve “Salty” Kissell

www.FamilyComedian.com

www.ConventionGuys.com

Ambassador of Clowning Award

By Donna “Donnabelle” Manna

It is time to begin the process for nominations for the 2014 Ambassador of Clowning Award. Recommendations for considering applicants are:

- Nominee must be an active (current in membership) and a participating member of TCA.
- 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.

Please send a letter giving the reasons you feel your nominee should be the 2014 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, 2014). 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 regular mail by July 1, 2014. Nominations received and/or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered for the Award.

Nominations for the 2014 Ambassador Award are being accepted by:

Donna “Donnabelle” Manna
9326 Fernglenn
San Antonio, TX 78240
dkmanna@satx.rr.com

Premio al Embajador del Payaso

By Donna “Donnabelle” Manna

Casi desde el comienzo de la Association Payaso de Texas (hace mas de 25 años) la membresia establecio un premio anual para reconocer y honorar al miembro que mejor ejemplifico el arte de ser payaso mediante su apoyo y promocion a la APT. Éste es el PREMIO AL EMBAJADOR DE PAYASO. El premio es un “reconocimiento de vida”. Podria uno decir, “ya siendo Embajador, siempre sera Embajador” y ojala los continuen promoviendo y apoyando la APT; payaseando mucho tiempo despues de haber sido nombrados. Mas sin embargo, porque solo es presentado una vez en la vida, se requiere mas que un poco de payaseo y apoyo a la APT para ganarse el premio. El premio es presentado anualmente durante la convencion APT. Los nomindaos deberian de haber cumplido los siguientes requisitos y/o cualidades:

Membresia actual y active de APT.

- Debe ser conocido por su dedicacion y promocion del payaso sin interes personal.
- Debe ser un payaso bien involucrado; por ejemplo, alguien que da a la comunidad, es voluntario activo, y alguien que es considerado o es un payaso profesional.
- Promueve APT en todas las facetas del payaso, y siempre estriva por ser positivo, optimista, congruente y siempre de buena actitud.

Las cartas de nominacion deberia explicar porque tu candidato deberia ser considerado para recibir el premio, junto con ejemplos de los puntos men-

cionados arriba. No es suficiente el solo nominar una persona. Las nominaciones seran evaluadas por el comite consistiendo de ganadores de años anteriores. Recuerda, aunque la mayoria de miembros del comite son miembros activos del APT, esto no significa que conozcan a todos los miembros. Asegurate de incluir hechos asi como:

- Cuanto tiempo el nominado ha sido promotor de la APT?
- Han mantenido posiciones en el area, en el consejo de APT, o como miembro del comite?
- Como apoyan y promueven la APT?
- Como han demostrado y exhibido sus talento extraordinarios de payaso?
- Como ha demostrado el nominado su buena actitud, optimismo, comunitario, etc? son compasivos al ayudar a otros, carinosos y mas importante; estan ahi justo cuando mas se les necesita sin siquiera pensar en reembolso o compensacion personal por su tiempo y esfuerzo?
- Como ha demostrado ser un payaso activo; alguien que aporta a la comunidad como voluntario?. Demuestra profesionalismo en el arte de ser payaso?
- Como el nominado/a ha demostrado su dedicacion y promocion al arte de ser payaso al asistir al projimo?

Las nominaciones seran solo aceptadas de miembros **ACTIVOS** de la APT (asi que asegurese que la membresia este

al corriente, la proxima factura sale el 1ero de Abril.) Los nominados tambien deben estar al corriente con APT (si quieres cersiorarte del estado de membresia, contacte a Mauri Norris). Asegurese de incluir su nombre y numero de miembro APT en tu carta de nominacion. Al igual, incluya el nombre REAL y profesional del nominado. (incluya su informacion personal en caso que el comite desee hacerle algunas preguntas sobbre su nominacion). El comite juntara todas las nominaciones y examinara en grupo para poder llegar a una decision final.

Empieza a pensar que miembro de la APT tu crees que se merezca mas el Premio como Embajador de Payaso en el 2014. Ya que sepas, somete tu nominacion entre el 1 de Abril y 1 de 1 Julio del 2014. Puedes someter tus nominaciones ya sea por correo electronico o correo regular.

Manda tus nominaciones a:

Donna Manna
9326 Fernglen
San Antonio, TX 78240
210-690-8978
dkmanna@satx.rr.com

Greg's Quick Review by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

I recently purchased my first personal sound system after finding myself in various locations with no microphones and wanting to introduce music into my performances.

I have been using sound systems for 18 years in my children's ministry, however they are quite large and would be impossible to carrying around with me for the little events that I do. After seeing a small, portable system used by magician David Laflin at Joey to the World, I purchased one.

It is a great little system called a Happie Amp Pro. It comes with two headset/lapel mics and a hand-held mic. It also has a built in MP3 player that will let you play music from a USB flash drive or an SD card. It arrived a day before a school show I was doing, thankfully.

Upon arriving at the school, the Principal informed me that they were unable to get their microphone to

work. Luckily I had my sound system slung over my shoulder. Ordinarily I would have been in trouble. Even with their microphone, it was a hand held, it would have been cumbersome while handling my puppet and doing some magic tricks.

I tend to rile kids up when I'm performing, but I was able to stay in control of all 120 people in their cafeteria using the Happie Amp. The amp had a strong sound and plenty of volume. I'm looking forward to using the system more and am quite "happie" I got one.

The Happie Amp can be purchased from David Laflin (laflinmagicstore.com) or from Happie Amp (www.happieamp.com). Plus, you can purchase a annual warranty that will replace any part or all of the unit no questions asked.



A Figment of Your Imagination

By Randy Christensen

www.qualityprograms.net

Clowns have existed for centuries. They existed long before you ever saw one. Actually, I believe the clown exists in a person's mind LONG before one actually encounters one in person.

My friend, kids missionary Kevin Ross, clowns around the world sharing the Good News of God's salvation plan. He recently shared with me about his cultural encounter in Ethiopia. He found that the Ethiopians have no historical figure of clown as far as they know. His observers did not know what to call him since they did not have a word for "clown." So, they concluded to call him a word which means, "Giant Toy." What a wonderful thought!



Though we know that clowns are real people with make-up, at the same time there is a process called "suspended disbelief." This is when

people choose to believe something that is unbelievable. When a magician cuts a lady in half and puts her back together, that's not possible, but people WANT to believe so they suspend their disbelief. When a puppet comes up from behind a curtain and begins to speak, people "buy in" to the situation. Recently, I watched Disney's movie "Frozen." A delightful snowman character named "Olaf," brought comedy to the entire movie. Audience's LOVE Olaf. Simply, Olaf is "the clown." And even though people know that he's just an animated character, when they come to the movie theater they suspend their disbelief and decide to believe these characters are real; at least just for the time of the presentation.

People will believe what they want about clowns, because the clown does exist in their imagination. Some believe the clown is happy, playful, and naive. Many are. Some believe that the clown is sneaky, creepy and terrifying. Honestly, some are! The "haunted house" and horror film folks continue to bring those types of characters to the audience that desires it.

When a person says, "Clowns are scary!" I often reply, "I understand that some people portray horror clowns, but those aren't clowns.

Those are horror characters. I'm not that kind of clown. I'm the happy, friendly, funny clown." It helps some people to realize that not all people who put on make-up are clowns.

Our role is to either verify or negate what is already in our audience's psyche. We can confirm that clowns are personable, loving and lovable or that clowns are rough, freaky and weird. Whichever you do, realize that you are impacting

the perception of "what a clown is" for all the other clowns that will encounter this person in the future.



Randy Christensen

by Andy Anderson

The first two weekends in February we were at Gospel Clown Conventions. First one was Joey to the World in Hurst Texas and the next was Show Me Clowns for Jesus in Springfield Missouri. The thing in common about the conventions other than being Gospel ones was Ben Christensen was at one and his dad Randy Christensen was at the other. They are both great performers and lecturers. The apple did not fall far from the tree.

I'm going to talk about Randy because I can't wait to see him at TCA this October in Kerrville. The Jolly Joeys are working hard to have a great convention and Randy Christensen is a wonderful choice for their headliner. Randy is a well rounded performer from juggling, to mime, to balloons, to improv, to puppetry and much more. Not only is he a great teacher but you can learn by just being around him. Watching him perform is an experience in itself. He is the ultimate professional and great performer.

There is still time to send in your registration for the convention and reserve a room at the Inn of the Hills. Just go to the TCA web page and the Convention link will send you to the Jolly Joeys page for all the information you need.

I'll be watching for each one of you in October.

Bump A Nose
Andy Anderson

Thoughts on Education

By: Aurora “Bebop” Krause, TCA Education Director

Focusing our attention on clowning education is one of the best things we can do for ourselves and this great adventure of big shoes and red-noses. Whether we decide our niche is specific to gospel, caring clown, birthday parties, stage performances, etc....we should open our hearts and our minds to every learning opportunity available. There are so many ways for our clowning potential to surface because there are so many educational resources to select from. We all have different goals for our clowning, this is what



makes us unique and therefore what makes The Art of Clowning entertaining. If you're fortunate enough to

have a Clown Alley available to you, becoming a member is a great way to share in your clowning adventure. Alleys should serve to continually introduce you to the various skills that your clown character can devote time to learning. For example; Puppetry, storytelling, skits, juggling, etc...but by no means should you expect your Clown Alley to be your only resource of education

and opportunities. This would be limiting yourself to so many learning possibilities. Always doing the same walk-around gag or working the same routine with the same puppet would not only be boring to your audience you would be boring yourself as well. If you don't add to your skills with a creative imagination and you decide to work with just one routine over and over at every gig, it can become stale and eventually it will lose all entertainment value. Here are some tips for feeding your creativity, moving forward and adding growth and potential to your clowning.

➤ Nurture a creative thought process by studying the history of those clowns that came before us. A wonderful source is “Creatively for Entertainers” Volumes I, II and III authored by Bruce “Charlie” Johnson. These books provide a wealth of clown history and he has included so many useful ideas and actual routines throughout each volume.

➤ Watch and Listen to videos, CDs & DVDs of old variety shows and old sit-coms such as Carol Burnett, Burns & Allen and Red Skelton, Laverne & Shirley and Bob Newhart.

➤ Use Google or the library to research specific talents or skills which are of interest to you and will help you meet your goals in a specific area in clowning.

➤ Work at being able to afford time and expense to attend at least one educational program a year, more if your circumstances will allow. Make an effort to attend a clown convention. These conventions have a lot to offer in form of lectures, performances and competition.

➤ Don't overlook the scholarship opportunities made available by many of the clown organizations. The Texas Clown Association has a scholarship it offers and all you have to do is apply for it and qualify. You can find that application for schol-

arship assistance from TCA in this publication of the Joey Journal.

My point is that if you're truly interested in clowning then you have a responsibility to seek out resources and educational opportunities available to you. Keep an open mind and allow your creative energy and ability to be a wonderful contribution to The Art of Clowning.

Contact me; I enjoy hearing from my TCA friends. Visit Bebop at: www.bebopsworld.com

2014 TCA Convention T-Shirts

The 2014 TCA Convention T-Shirts are now available for pre-order. Only pre-ordered shirts will be sold. T shirts will display the convention logo as seen on the convention registration form and the Jolly Joeys website. The prices are \$16 for S-M-L-XL and \$18 for larger sizes (XXL-XXXXL).

To order - go on the TCA website www.texasclownassociation.com and click on the Conventions button or go directly to the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley website www.jollyjoeys.org and double click on the TCA Convention 2014 page at the top. Or mail a check for the total amount (payable to: Jolly Joeys TCA Convention) to Mauri Norris, 6504 Kenyon Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE ORDER PORTION OF THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM.



Ads For Convention Book

Maximum space on each page 7 1/2" x 4 1/4" - no bleed. (Final trim size: Same as Joey Journal). Rates are for camera-ready ads (over size ads will be reduced to fit ad space).

- 1) Inside Front & Outside Back Cover-Color: \$125 (7 1/2" x 4 1/4").
- 2) Inside Pages - Color: \$100 / Blk&White: \$75 (7 1/2"x 4 1/4").
- 3) Half Page Inside - Color: \$75 / Blk&White: \$60 (3 3/4"x 4 1/4").
- 4) Quarter Page Inside - Color: \$45 / Blk&White: \$30(2"x 4 1/4")
- 5) Business Card Ad - Color: \$25 /Blk&White: \$15 (2 1/2"x 3 1/2")

(Note: For best results, submit an original calling card. Card quality will determine the appearance of your ad in the program book).

Traditionally, alleys have purchased full page ads while individual clowns have invested in quarter-size or business card ads; dealers insert half-page or full page size ads.

Deadline is August 15, 2015.

Make checks to: Jolly Joeys Clown Alley

Mail your checks to:

Diana McCurtain-Talbert

8542 Rita Elena San Antonio, TX 78250

Ads may be submitted by mail, but e-mail is preferred.

Picture format is also preferred (jpg or similar files).

If you have any questions please call Diana McCurtain-Talbert –

Phone Number: 210-391-6087

Email address: dmccurtain@att.net

Random Acts of Clowning

by David “Kornpop” McCullough

Do you remember why you became a clown? I'm sure there are almost as many answers to this question as there are clowns. I remember when I was a young boy, I was the class clown and was clowning around for mostly the wrong reasons. It was usually about me being in the spotlight or being the center of attention. Of course I still like being the center of attention, I won't lie to you, but what I remember the most is the smiles on the other kids and even some adults. That is why I clown today, I Love seeing people smile and having a good time.

On Facebook, I belong to a group called Random Acts Of Balloon Kindness. We will take balloons with us wherever we go and leave them for people to find, or if we find someone having a not so good day, we can leave them a balloon creation to help their day go better. This got me to thinking.....Why not do the same thing but with clowning. This is where it gets a little tricky. I know some of us think you can't clown without putting on all your makeup and your clown suit and your big shoes..... To this I say nay!

I think most of us clown a little each and every day with or without all that stuff on. Don't get me wrong

if you are on a clown job, birthday party, church event, etc. where you have been hired or asked to be a clown, by all means suit up. I do sometimes several times a week, but that's not the type of clowning I'm talking about here. Have you ever pulled up next to a car at a red light and you can just tell the person in it is not having a good day. Try a smile and a wave. If that works, maybe keep a sponge clown nose in your console and try putting that on when you wave..... Do you see where I'm going here? Sometimes it's the little things that can turn a person's day or maybe even their whole life around.

I Love seeing people smile.....not the fake smile that they have to give you like a bank teller or the checker at the convenience store, but a good old smile that you put on their face. I always have balloons and a magic trick in my pocket. Sometimes I even carry a kazoo, just for the fun of it. I want you to think of clowny things you can do to make someone smile and then do a "Random Act of Clowning" every day. Then I want you to email me what you did, and I'll put it in my next article. God Bless and Happy Clowning!

Kornpop
celebrations withatwist@gmail.com

Why Should I Attend a Convention for Family Entertainers?

By: Steve “Salty” Kissell

I am sure you have heard the old saying: What’s in it For Me? You may be considering attending a professional conference for family entertainers. There are events out there for storytellers, jugglers, mimes, balloon decorators, balloon sculptures, magicians and clowns. There is so much to choose from! But how do we justify the expense of attending? We need to explore the importance and benefits derived by conference attendees. Making this decision, we need to understand the expense (investment) and the return on investment. I would suggest that you make a list of expenses such as below.

Registration cost: is there a group discount or reduced rate?

Flight: got any frequent flyer miles you can use or a free ticket?

Lodging: maybe a share a room with one or more attendees?

Transportation to event from airport or home: mileage, taxi or shuttle fee.

Parking: is there hotel parking or convention center parking?

Food Per Diem: check with your tax person on this, a real time saver!

Exhibit Area: you know you’re going to “invest” in a lot of goodies there!

Many benefits from the convention are difficult to quantify. We agree that the most important benefit of attending is networking. Where else can we find so many teaching experts, performers and exhibits in one place in a short amount of time? Read over the course offerings and take note of the national instructors that will be teaching and performing. Make a list of those you would like to engage at perhaps meal time or at their booth. Prepare a list of questions to ask. That way, you will be guaranteed to come away with value for your investment.



We have hosted several events where entertainers met, married and had children! Wow, that is what

I call networking! It is guaranteed that you will meet new friends that you will have for life. So many times, I have been introduced to folks that have hired me for other conventions as an instructor and also to present corporate training at their “real job.” You never know who is in the audience and who will be your next employer! Most of the networking takes place at vendor booths or at meals. It is amazing what you can learn before and after class!

Be sure to review the session content and course descriptions before signing up for that particular course or track. Take full advantage of what is available to you.

Visit all of the exhibitors present at the event, they will have valuable product that will enhance your performances. The latest and greatest in sound, costuming and props will set you apart from your competition.

Carry your new knowledge home with you and share with your alley or ring. Bring that awesome trick or prop to the next meeting and toss it around for more ideas from your colleagues. Remember, you don't have to perform it the way the instructions or patter are given. Be your own person and develop a new and unique way to perform it! DO NOT put your new prop in the closet and sell it at the next alley or ring swap meet! Use it right way to get

the maximum benefit from it.

The big question is: Why should I attend a convention? Simply put, you will have an awesome time, meet new and exciting folks and walk away with a wealth of knowledge to improve your presentations! See you at the next event!

Steve Kissell has been produced over 200 events for family entertainers since 1981. His popularity has grown as a valuable MC for other events and takes pride in creating educational gatherings for all family entertainers to network, improve their performing abilities and grow their business. In addition, he is an active member of National Speakers Association where he has received the Certified Speaking Professional designation. He delights in sharing information and techniques on how entertainers can enter the field of public speaking and corporate training. He currently serves as a Hospital Corpsman in the Naval Reserves with 27 years service and has donated over 3,000 volunteer hours with Virginia Beach Emergency Medical Services. Reach Steve at FamilyEntertainers@gmail.com and check out his websites at ConventionGuys.com and also FamilyComedian.com

Steve “Salty” Kissell
www.FamilyComedian.com
www.ConventionGuys.com

GROWING YOUR CLOWN

By: Kathy “Piccolo” Keaton

Tran-si-tion

[tran-zish-uh n, -sish-]

noun

1. movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another; change: the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

I can remember when I first decided to become a clown. One thing I knew for sure – I wanted my make up to be clean and neat. Since I began on a whim, actually overnight, I didn’t have any models or mentors. Back then I didn’t even know any other clowns existed, except in the circus.

My first face, especially the mouth was huge (and it was blue) I know now with limited information, it was experimental. It was “ok” but didn’t move with my facial expressions. I also remember believing that once you had chosen a clown face it was yours forever. I believed people would not recognize my clown if I changed. I even had one of those clown eggs made, just in case someone else tried to steal and use my face.

It did not take me long to begin tweaking my make-up. A little addition here . . . a little less there.

It was the same for my costuming. Because of the few clown characters I knew of on TV I didn’t think a clown was allowed to change

their costume. I thought my clown would be the same forever. I felt excited when I was brave enough to begin making small changes that suited my needs better. I felt sort of like a rebel clown and brave to step out against what I thought was the norm.

As I slowly continued making minor changes throughout the years, the children always knew who I was. My costumes and face changed along with my personal growth, self confidence, and the true awareness of who my clown actually character was.

When I began to focus on hospital work and therapeutic clowning, I really began my passage and to transition into a new character. My face, my costume and the way I entertained changed more than I could ever have imagined, but the heart of my clown remained focused on making a difference and trying to make people feel happy.

It’s not that the faces and costumes I chose earlier in my clowning career were wrong, they were just different according to who I was at that time. Some may find and be comfortable with their character early on in their clowning, and never change, others may feel a need to continue to experiment and transition as they and their characters mature. That’s ok.

I now have two different clowns. One for parties and special events

and a more gentle and lighthearted variation for hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living.

Some clowns today have many characters and faces, unlike the clowns of yesterday who had one face and one character throughout their career.

Whether you are a seasoned clown or a new clown I encourage you to continue to grow and experiment with your looks, your character and costume. You may be surprised at just who you find hidden beneath the make-up as your personal character continues to grow within.

Just as the outer appearance of our clown transitions and changes so do we as people. For those who choose to go beyond the looks, techniques and skills of their clown, the center of our clown remains our heart, the essence of who we are. We are each as unique as our clown character and when those two merge we have a strong foundation to not only entertain and make people smile but to reach out and make a difference through sharing our humor and laughter.

Keep growing your clown
“Pic”



TCA DUES

TCA membership is from 4/1-3/31 annually. Dues are due on 4/1. Notices were 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 713-201-9995 or by email at maurinorris@yahoo.com. The dues rates are shown below.

Membership cards will only be issued if you supply a self-addressed-stamped 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 3/31/2014)

Pay online at <http://www.texasclownassociation.com/> or issue and mail check to:

T C A
C/O Mauri Norris
6504 Kenyon Lane
Bellaire, TX 77401

Note: if you are planning to attend the 2014 TCA Convention you must be a current TCA member.

Be sure to check out the TCA website at

www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is: sanantonio

Be sure to connect to our official TCA Facebook page from our website and follow us to stay current with what is going on with TCA.

WELCOME THESE NEW TCA MEMBERS

Duane "MORGAN" Wilhite of Live Oak, TX
Brienne "CHEESE" McGUIRK of San Antonio, TX
Rachel "GUBBINS" King of Tivoli, TX
Melissa "RAGTIME ANNIE" Williams of Greenville, TX
Allan "SAMBO" Driscoll of Richland Hills, TX
Cynthia Ann "GIDDY-UP ANNIE" Parker of Magnolia, TX
Joe "WILLY BUDDY" Briarton of Georgetown, TX
Randy Christensen of Willmar MN

CALLING ALL ATTENDEES:

2014 TCA Hotel Reservations
Where? INN of the Hills, Kerrville, Texas
When: October 1-5, 2014
Reservations only accepted by phone:
800-292-5690
Rate: \$95.00 a night (this includes breakfast)

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