

6

December 2016 - January 2017

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: Back cover - \$80.00; Inside back cover - \$70.00; 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 Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1 and Oct. 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: \$12.50

Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P.O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053.

The Texas Clown Association Board of Directors

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

Linda "Greenie" Green, Vice-President - (432) 689-9579 4204 Dawn Circle, Midland, TX 79707 greenietheclown@hotmail.com

Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan, Secretary - (713) 410-3698 20806 Durand Oak Court, Cypress, TX 77433 mcglitterbug99@gmail.com

Cynthia "Ricecake" Rice, Treasurer - (903) 978-0515 P.O. Box 44, Chandler, TX 75758 cindyrice57@yahoo.com

Voncille "Dimples" Hardy, Sgt. At Arms - (432) 213-2109 P.O. Box 2316, Big Spring, TX 79721 voncillehardy@yahoo.com

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

Area Directors

Anea Directors
Lana Sue "Joyfull" Fridge - (817) 577-0318
7328 Wexford Court, N Richland Hills, TX 76182
joyfulltheclown@att.net
Shirley "Daisy Dot" Hamilton - (903) 849-4842
2806 Waterwood, Chandler, TX 75758
Sjhamilt@embargmail.com
Susan "Tinker" Butler - (432) 385-0945
5232 W. 40th, Odessa, TX 79764
susan.butler@ectorcountyisd.org
Viviano "Buttons" Pena, Jr (830) 313-2847
103 Encino Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840
vivpena@msn.com
Patti "Patticake" Gilbert - (713) 681-9557
7055 Hollister St., #826, Houston, TX 77040

CONTENTS

From the Editor - Greg Stanford	6
Through the Years - Carolyn Kerr	
Keedo's Prop Shop - Joyce Dowell	9
Thanks Mad Hatters - Linda Greene	10
TCA 2016 is Just a Memory - Kathy Keaton	11
Where are All the New Clowns - Steve Kissell	12
Five FAQ's on Performing - Steve Kissell	15

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 Editor of the Joey Journal

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. 2016 was the year where they tried to steal the joy and wonder of clowning from the world but it didn't happen. Kids and adults alike still smile and laugh as they see your red nose come into the room or walk down the street.

Let's make 2017 be the Year of the Clown. Let's make every effort to show the world what real clowns are. That means we practice a little bit more, we take just that extra few minutes to carefully apply our makeup and we look for every opportunity to make someone smile.

Thank you so much for your articles and pictures that have filled the pages of the Joey this year. If you haven't submitted something in a while or ever, then let me challenge to share your wisdom, your experience and your learning. Write up an article, it doesn't have to be long or fancy. Keep it simple and bless another this year.

May God Bless you and yours in 2017, Greg "Zoots" Stanford, editor



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* Rosy Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

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

*Inactive Alleys

Be sure to check out the TCA website at www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is: heart16

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.



Through the Years: More Things I Have Learned by Carolyn "Sugar Lump the clown" Kerr

1. Although Brenda "Flower" Marshall stressed this in class, I did not follow her advice. I hope YOU do. This is especially important for new clowns. It is more difficult for clowns who have been "clowning" for a period of time.

a. As you purchase, gather or inherit anything related to clowning, make a LIST!

b. Do not "jump into purchasing too much, too soon." Buy one simple trick or prop, learn how to use it, and then proceed on to a new one.

2. Keep and FILE all your notes or hand-outs from workshops. If your notes are sketchy, re-write them very soon, so you do not forget what they meant.

3. Keep a file of your booking forms. (DO create a Booking Form, if you don't have one.) I keep a copy for myself, and I send a copy to the client. I have what I think is important information on the form and request the client to observe it carefully to make sure that I have not made any errors (for example on time, conditions, or driving instructions.)

4. Send a Thank You note, with your card enclosed, very soon after the paid event.

5. Keep a file of your program for your Birthday Parties. Not all parties are the same. Knowing your audience is very important! Age is important: (pre-school, preteen, adult, senior adult, those with disabilities.)

6. Keep a list of your favorite tricks. They can be adapted to a variety of audiences with the patter you use with the trick. Also, keep a list of your favorite walk around props and favorite songs from your CD's, and your skits (with props listed).

7. Keep copies of your programs for events, so that you don't do all the same tricks or music for a second sibling. Make their event special for them.

8. Keep copies of presentations you make to adult groups. Many times I have been called upon to do a program ABOUT clowning, not necessarily doing clowning. (Why re-invent the wheel every time?)

9. Always have your program order planned. Include some "extra" tricks to use, if needed, or an extra song, in case you have more time left.

10. Expect the unexpected: driving time, safety pins for costume malfunction, plenty of water for hydration, unplanned interruptions in your program. Be flexible.

I have found that preparing as you go, makes life and clowning so much easier and enjoyable.

Bump a nose!

Keedo's Prop Shop: Pack Small, Play Big by Joyce "Keedo" Dowell

I'm writing about this as much for me as for you. If the other people I clown with didn't rein me



in, I would need a trailer for all the tricks & props every time I go somewhere. Scarves, I think, are the ultimate in packing small & playing big. You are able to load a couple of big scarves, a lot of smaller ones or steamer type scarves into a small When they are produced area. during the show they are large and colorful or maybe are printed with a picture or message. The drawback to silk scarves is that they are expensive. If you have a trusted clown friend, you might each buy one and then share with each other (saving half the expense).

Another thing that is very colorful and loads flat are spring flowers. They also come in various sizes. There are a variety of tricks that are large enough to be seen and the colorful pictures are printed on flat cardboard. Big playing cards or rope tricks don't take much room. Chalk Talks (stories told by drawing with a marker on big paper), tricks with paper (tearing/restore or folding / cutting it) and balloons also take up very little space, but are impressive. Sponge items squish lit tle and play big. They are also good for packing around that delicate or breakable trick you just had to have. Any item that stores inside itself will pack small(er) and still surprise the audience. For example, the nesting wands that go from one "normal looking" wand to 12 different colored ones (each one slightly smaller and stored within the next larger wand). The balloon pump with the spring snakes coiled inside gets a good reaction. They make several rubber items like the coke or ketchup bottle that smashes flat to disappear.

I have seen clowns use inflatable things. Those certainly pack flat if you blow them up after you get there and not at home. You laugh, but we've heard one clown's story about trying to pack inflatable inner tubes. Try to find things that pack flat, but more importantly, AL-WAYS consider the "wow factor" in whatever you purchase.

(Reprinted from The Cheerful Chatter - Houston, TX.)

Thanks Mad Hatters by Linda "Greenie" Greene

Wow TCA! You made the crazy hat party a royal success. You stepped up to the challenge of making a creative hat for the party. Who knew you were such creative Mad Hatters? The vote for the best hat was really hard but there were two hats that ran away with the votes.

Hat #49 (Cupcake) won first place and hat # 30 came in second. Honorable mention was hats #80 & 59. I hope you remember your number. Please let me know who had those numbers at greenietheclown@hotmail.com. Thank you again for the most fun TCA HAT party EVER! I want to thank the people who made table arrangements for our party. They were all so creative. I have prizes for the people who made table arrangements. Thanks to American Balloon for providing the prizes. In my effort to keep it a blind vote, I ended up not knowing who made the arrangements. If I have not given you a prize for your arrangement, please contact me at greenietheclown@hotmail.com. Let me know which arrangement you made. Thanks to everyone that helped make this a successful party.





TCA 2016 is just a memory by now. I hope you walked away with good memories, all the merchandise you needed and new ideas to help your clown character grow and improve.

Thank goodness the "creepy clown" focus was after the event! Thanks to everyone who had a helping hand in making it a huge success! The hotel was super, the convention center worked out well, the vendors, instructors, judges and competitors each played a special part in the convention! Congratulations to "All Around Clown" winner Regina Martinez as well as our newest TCA Ambassador Diana McCurtain. Both well earned and well deserved recognition and awards!

Oops alley was proud to have been the host and because of the success of the raffle and silent auction recently presented a check for \$1500 to "San Angelo Safe Kids" Thanks to all who donated and purchased items and raffle tickets. You made it happen!

I know that Cheerful Clown Alley is already hard at work making plans for TCA 2017. The hotel and venue is beautiful.



Looking forward to seeing all of you next year with your big hearts and huge smiles!

Kathy "Piccolo" Keaton

Where Are All the New Clowns?

By Steve "Salty" Kissell

38 years ago when I was first introduced to the art of clowning, there were many performing artists at conventions. Of course, there were not too many conventions that long ago but they had 300-500 and sometimes more attending and teaching. Over the years some events have died out and others have been created to meet the need of those not able to attend national and international conventions. I am proud to say that we have done what we could to promote the performing arts throughout the country. www. ConventionGuys.com has a goal of bringing quality instructors and dealers to regional events. That being said, where are all of the older clowns and the newer ones? The reasons are they is that they are getting older, retiring from clowning,

getting new knees and other body parts replaced. Of course a common reason is that we have become caretakers for our parents with physical and mental issues that appear in old age.

It seems that the answer is that we need to train up younger boys and girls to take our place. We have done our best to accomplish this dream. www.CircusMagicConvention. At com in Hampton, VA this February we will carry on the tradition of Little Big Top. Bob & Teresa Gretton lead the way and do an AWESOME job as well! This evolved from the kiddie circus that we created in our neighborhood when our kids were 5 and 7 years old. We did makeup, skits, and juggling for the neighborhood and senior centers in our area.



We had a blast and it introduced the kids to riding the unicycle, balancing, acting and showmanship. During www.ClownJam.com in Branson each August as we kick off National Clown Week, we feature the Kid Jam program. We usually have 15-20 kids who are taught by competent instructors in balloons, magic, clown history, make up, skits and clown etiquette. The latter is very important. We also host www. ShowMeClownsforJesus.org.There we have a one day workshop for the kids.

Where do we find the kids to invite them into our world of clowning? The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts are constantly adding more merit badges to challenge the scouts and stay current. One of the badges deals with Theater. I believe that costuming, makeup and skits would help the scout to complete the badge. Also, the Boys & Girls clue and also the YMCA have after school programs that would welcome a refreshing class or two on the art form. In addition, many elementary and middle schools have after school programs. I have taught at several summer arts camps where they would embrace the talents brought out from the children.

Perhaps churches in your area would be interested in starting a puppet, clown or drama ministry. The kids are out there and they would love to meet you! We feel strongly that children need to be exposed to the performing arts of clowning, magic, storytelling, juggling and puppetry. If we don't encourage the young folks of today to follow in our clown shoe footsteps then one day it will be like Leon McBryde says, "And then there were none." So to all those folks involved in national, international and regional clown conventions, let's re-energize and get more children involved in the art of clowning! Bump a nose!

P.S. One way to spread the word is Social Media. Please FB about Show Me Clowns and steer them to the website. It will be an exciting event the last weekend of January in Branson!

Yours in laughter, Steve "Salty" Kissell

FamilyComedian.com FamilyEntertainers@gmail.com CircusMagicConvention.com ShowMeClownsForJesus.org

(Article submitted by Martha Warren)





Happy 50th Birthday To Bubba!

On this special day we wish you all the very best. May you have a fantastic birthday and many more to come!

With love from your family and friends

Five FAQ's on Performing By Steve "Salty" Kissell

My dear friends,

I have just taken two honesty pills and washed them down with a Diet Mt. Dew. I am ready to bear my soul and be realistic with five questions that need to be addressed.

Question #1 "How do we handle late-paying customers?"

I recently overheard a clown on the telephone who was booking a show. I heard him say to the customer, "You must meet me at the front gate with a check paid in full before I come into the picnic area. If you have no check then I am not coming in." During a grand opening I heard another entertainer become agitated with the store manager and said, "I am a busy man too so where in the ^&*% is my check?!" Now folks, if you are anything like me, and I know I am, I think these entertainers are way out of line. Is the customer always right? No. But they are always the customer. It would pay us well to remember that. A speaker friend named Bobbi Staten says she would be mortified to have a customer mad at her because she hounded them for a check. When we do pester a client I believe it gives them the impression that we are unsuccessful entertainers and we need every dollar as quickly as possible. Do yourself and your business a favor and do not harass the client for money. I suggest you ask 15 comp show the following summer.

for 50% of the money up-front or even 100% of the money up-front. What we do in our office is one week before the deposit is due we call the client and ask if they have any questions before sending in the agreement. If you are working for a government organization keep in mind they were probably a meteorologist at some time so when they tell you the check will be ready in 30 days count on it to be 60 or 90. You won't be disappointed.

Question #2 "What do I do if I am double-booked?"

It has probably happened to most of you. You get booked for the \$100 birthday party and then a call comes in from a long-time client and they've got a \$2,000 job for you that will cover several days. What to do? Remember that I just told you that I took two honesty pills so here it goes. I recently had a \$195 library program booked when I received a call for an \$800 performance. I called the library and told them that I was very excited about being there as they were a new library customer. I informed the librarian that I had received a call for a performance from a long-time client and would she mind if I sent a substitute in my place. If she was kind enough to do that I would pay half to the substitute or if she really wanted to have "Salty" there I would give her a

Either way I would be ahead of the game. I did tell her my first obligation was to her and I had intentions of honoring that. She felt that since the advertising had already gone out we needed to stay with the plan. So I did the library program and I gave the \$800 performance to a friend and kept 25% commission. Well, I did have to make some monev from it, didn't I? I would never suggest that you call a customer and say that you are sick and not able to do the program or that you had some other excuse not to be there. Be honest in your dealings with the clients and your reputation will grow.

Question #3 "How do I deal with being late?"

Of course, as a professional entertainer I know you have a cell phone and you have the cell phone numbers for your clients. I am advising you not to tell clients that you overslept, can't find props, or some other excuse. Instead, I suggest that you tell them you were delayed in traffic. It is true because if there was no one else driving you would be there a lot faster! Every person who has driven an automobile has had a delay due to traffic but not many will tolerate being late for any other reason. Let the folks know that you would like them to prepare the area of the performance and ask that they have the children ready so that you can begin as soon as you get there. And in a show of professional courtesy you may knock off \$25 from the performance. The birthday mom or dad may turn it down and you may get a tip at the completion of your performance or show.

Question #4 "What do I do if the customer is unhappy with a substitute that I assigned to the performance?"

In our business we have the good habit of calling the customer after one of our performers has completed their program. I ask them to give me a score from 1-10. I ask if the performer was on time and stayed the entire length of the program. We often send out evaluations and we take this opportunity to ask about their next event. Wink wink. If we discovered that someone was totally unhappy with the subcontractor we offer them a gift certificate for another program from another entertainer. We also require the performer, after being counseled, to send a letter of apology to the customer. Susie Klein, aka Pancakes, has a 100% guarantee on the performance. What we want is another chance with this client. We don't want to leave them with bad feelings. I would rather do a second show at a reduced rate and make them happy with our company than to turn away from the issue. Unresolved problems often return with a vengeance at a future date.

Question #5 "What do we do if we miss a program?"

I think this question is covered by common sense. We must do everything we can to provide substitute entertainment at any cost. If that means you have to pay more than what the job pays then you must do it. This is the price you pay for being a reputable entertainment agency. In the past I have lost thousands of dollars of work due to family illness and death and somehow I have managed to find substitutes for the job. The customers, of course, have been very understanding. If personal illness is the issue and it's too late to get another performer then I offer a free program at the earliest convenience of the client. That is the best thing to do. They will appreciate it and might in kind even pay you.

vIt may be more work, and sometimes more money, to keep your clients happy but in the long run it is worth it to maintain your professional reputation.

Yours in laughter, Steve Kissell Familycomedian.com Familyentertainers@gmail.com

(Article submitted by Martha Warren)



TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION SCHOOL BAZE CHEERFUL CLOWN ALLEY 166
PLEASE PRINT! ONE FORM PER PERSON
Name:
Clown Name:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip:

How Many Years A Clown? _____

Phone: _____

Email:

TCA # _____ (registrants must be TCA members)

Is this your 1st TCA Convention? ____Yes ____No

CONVENTION FEES:

Registration (see right side) \$_____

Extra Banquet Ticket (cost: \$35 each)

\$		

\$_____

T-Shirt Size Short Sleeve (S-M-L-XL: \$TBD) Long Sleeve (S-M-L-XL: \$TBD) (2X-10X: \$TBD per extra X)

TOTAL \$

ISSUE and MAIL Checks to: TCA 2017 CONVENTION c/o Mauri Norris; 6504 Kenyon Lane; Bellaire, TX 77401

Want to *Charge-it*? Additional \$5 convenience fee for credit card or PayPal payments. Link on the TCA website will be available soon. Keep watching.

CHEERFUL CLOWN ALLEY

invites you to the

Texas Clown Association 34th Annual Convention

September 27-October 1, 2017

ALL convention registrants must be current TCA members. See the TCA website for a membership application. Dues are due annually on 4/1! www.texasclownassociation.com

REGISTRATION FEES: \$140 until 12/31/2016 \$165 1/1/2017 - 8/31/2017 \$195 after 8/31/2017 and at the door

\$5 additional convenience fee for registrations paid by credit card/PayPal (no checks at the door – cash only)

(No refunds after July 31, 2017)

Registration includes: all scheduled workshops and shows, jams, daily admission to the dealers room, competitions, hospitality room, Saturday awards banquet and Hospital Reception (all for one person).

\$140 JUNIOR JOEYS

(ages 10 - 15) all times Juniors enjoy all the same convention events and activities as the adult registrants, plus special classes geared for younger clowns.

LaTorretta Lake Resort and Spa 600 LaTorretta Boulevard Montgomery, TX 77356 (near Houston)

Room Rate: \$105/nt+\$1/nt Resort fee (+tax) up to 4 people per room (includes WIFI) All rooms are SUITES (1 King or 2 Queens) All rooms have refrigerator (no microwave)

To book your room, contact the hotel at: <u>https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=</u> <u>welcome_ei_news&eventID=14769887</u> Tell them you are with the Texas Clown Association.

Make your reservation early (deadline 9/8/17) to ensure you have a room. Please plan to stay at the convention hotel to help Cheerful meet its room block and save money on the convention meeting space.

Watch the TCA website for more convention information, as details become available. Questions? Contact: Judy "*Peep*" Cornett 713-201-8681 Judy.a.cornett@gmail.com Mauri "*Binkie*" Norris 713-201-9995 maurinorris@yahoo.com

Christmas Funnies

- 1. What's red and white, red and white, red and white? Santa Claus rolling down the hill.
- 2. What did the Christmas tree say to the ornament? "Aren't you tired of just hanging around?"
- 3. Where do snowmen keep their money? In a snow bank.
- 4. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.
- 5. What do you call Santa when he stops moving? Santa Pause.
- 6. What kind of bug hates Christmas? A humbug.
- 7. Why do Mummies like Christmas so much? Because of all the wrapping.
- 8. What goes "oh, oh, oh"? Santa walking backwards.
- 9. Why is it so cold at Christmas? Because it's Decembrrrrr.
- 10. This year even the toys are stressed out! Yeah, they came already wound up.
- 11. What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? A cookie sheet.
- 12. Knock. Knock. Who's there? Hanna. Hanna who? Hanna partridge in a pear tree.
- 13. Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor? Because he was feeling crummy.
- 14. Where would you find chili beans? At the North Pole.
- 15. What do you call a snowman party? A Snowball.
- 16. Why does Santa have 3 gardens? So he can hoe-hoe-hoe.
- 17. What does one snowman say to the other? Do you smell carrots?
- 18. Why did the elves ask the turkey to join the band? Because he had the drum sticks.
- 19. What does Tarzan sing at Christmas? Jungle Bells.
- 20. Why did Santa get a ticket on Christmas Eve? He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.
- 21. What's Santa's favorite sandwich? Peanut butter and jolly.
- 22. What kind of ball doesn't bounce? A snowball.
- 23. Who lives at the North Pole, makes toys and rides around in a pumpkin? Cinder-"elf"-a.
- 24. What do you get when you cross a bell with a skunk? Jingle smells.
- 25. What does Mrs Claus say to Santa when she sees clouds? Looks like rain, dear.

What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?

— Neither, candles always burn shorter!

