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Purpose of TCA

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.

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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.

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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*
Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6*
Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11*
Cheeful 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



a word from the
PRESIDENT

by Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan

Well I'll be - here it is October and I have not sent in my thoughts and words to encourage and dazzle you with all sorts of ideas and fun things to be astonished about. But it seems that I encountered a whole lot of obstacles trying to make my electronic items work. I bought a new printer because I felt like it was needed and then it took a 2 ½ hour phone call to someone in the Philippines to complete setting it up (you never know when you call the help line what country you are being sent). But I will say the lady helping me, said her name was Albert, hmmm – was very patient and understanding. Then when I tried to print, I was unable to do so – so I sent the item to my husband's printer which told me to replace the ink. I did that, but the ink I purchased didn't seem to fit in the machine. So, I waited all day for my husband to come home from work to help me and it turned out that I had the correct ink – I just didn't pull the correct lever to properly replace the cartridge. I now have access to both printers and just have to keep learning how to correctly operate them.

It has been an eye-opening exercise in our modern world on getting the new treasurer and myself added to the TCA Bank Accounts – this took several in person meetings at the bank along with lots of paperwork. Thanks to Judy Cornett who kind of had an idea of how to get this done, but even she became a little frustrated with all of the hoops we had to keep jumping through (our bodies and minds were getting pretty numb). Also, Debbie Davis had to make several trips to her bank branch in Dallas every time we thought all the paperwork was done. But all is completed and Debbie will be able to dazzle us with her Treasurer's Report at the next Board meeting.

Be on the lookout for articles about the upcoming 2022 TCA Convention which will be held in Spring, Texas on August 3rd through 7th. Cheerful Clown Alley is hosting and is working hard to get everything lined out. For those who were missing competition – it will be happening again at the next convention. So put your thinking caps on and be prepared to shine.

One thing I would like to address is membership. Our numbers have been decreasing as a lot of us get older and the state of the world is not allowing us the freedom we are used to having. This is not just a problem for clowns but other organizations seem to be having issues with their membership also. We have a lot of clowns in the great state of Texas that do not belong to TCA. We need to work toward letting them know about TCA and the alleys that are affiliated. We need to get the word out that our convention is right here in the state every year and the next one will be here before we know it, so let's make a commitment to grow our membership and have a great time at the convention in Spring, Texas next August.

Thank you again for honoring me with your vote of confidence.



CONVENTION

August 2022

TCA

Hello TCA! It is my pleasure to announce that Cheerful Clown Alley #166 WILL host the 2022 TCA convention. This is what we have so far!

We will host A CLOWN STATE FAIR at the Marriott Houston Cityplace Springwood Village Hotel in Spring TX. Convention dates are 8/3/2022- 8/7/2022.

We appreciate your patience as we finalize headliner, lecturers, and vendors. One thing is for sure, you can count on a fun, educational convention hosted by Cheerful! Please watch the Joey Journal, Cheerful's Facebook page and website, and the TCA website as we finalize everything.

See you at the FAIR!
Linda "Noodles" Cooper, Convention Chair



A Few of my Favorite Groaner Jokes Just in Time for the Holidays!!

Thanksgiving!

Why did the farmer have to separate the chicken and the turkey?

“He sensed fowl play!”

What kind of weather does a turkey like?

“Fowl Weather!”

What holiday is Dracula’s favorite?

“Fangs-Giving!”

Christmas!

Why was Santa’s little helper so depressed?

“He had very low elf esteem!”

What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?

A Christmas Quacker!”

What do you call a blind reindeer?

“I have no eye deer!”

What do reindeer say before they tell a joke?

“This one is gonna sleigh you!”

Why don’t crabs celebrate Christmas?

“Because they’re shell-fish!”

Why couldn’t the skeleton go to the Christmas party?

“He had no body to go with!”

After you groan and giggle a bit you will use at least one of these just to watch the eye rolling!

Enjoy!!

Pam (Touche’) Blacklock





Goodwill Hunting – An Annual Event

Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert

Many who clown already have well established characters. They know the style of clothes their clown wears; they have an idea of how that clown behaves and they have their hair “just so” ... and while that’s comfortable sometimes it’s fun to slip into a different pair of shoes... (clown shoes that is...)

A few years ago, the Jolly Joeys decided to combine a swap meet, with a fashion show. The only rule: everything to be worn in that fashion show had to be a treasure found at the Goodwill. And, just like that our annual “Goodwill Hunting” event was born.

Not only was this a fun way to spend time as an alley, but it also provided some great education. Each person participating had to find things that went well together, and while it may have had the appearance of a “tailor’s nightmare”, it still made sense in the greater scheme of the look. In addition, this was an opportune time to create a character that went with that outfit. This may not be the ideal way to create a clown character that would provide a professional appearance in the art of clowning, however, it’s a great way to come up with something unique that could spark the birth a new character down the road. And it gives the opportunity to stretch and develop new personality and character traits never tried before. While not quite improv, it does allow for a clown to branch out to see who else they might want to be.





Once the meeting started, our contestants lined up on the runway. And yes, they showed off their creative costumes, and they showed their stuff by performing some sort of schtick that went with that new character that grew out of the Goodwill store.

In the past, we have provided critique and comments on the makeup, costume, and the small performances given as well as listened to the audience feedback to each person who took the time to enter that event. And we've been able to give prizes to the best efforts for the evening.

Unfortunately, due to COVID we weren't able to have our event in 2020, so we do have a few pretty excited clowns who are getting things together for the 2021 Goodwill Hunting Fashion Show... Let the Games Begin...

Til Next Time, Keep Smiling.



Yea Clowns

by Debbie "Posie" Davis

Yeah Clowns! We are back or at least almost! This last year or year and a half or maybe more, has been a real challenge. When we are all used to showing a big clown smile, covering that smile is really hard to accept. Although some of us found really cute masks with clown smiles or creative funny masks. All I can say is it is great to be back even if it's not fully back.

I want to thank the board, Cinde and Susan for putting on this years convention. It was like the rest of our lives, not the norm, but we had a great time and went with the flow. Yes there were a few changes and glitches, but everyone were pros and just went with it. I think it really shows how professional we all are, when we can make the best of the situation and make it fun!

I know we have a lot of changes to overcome and a lot of losses to get past. I also know my clown friends are the best at making everyone smile and feel better. So therefore I hope next year we all come together at convention and make it the best year ever!

Oh by the way thanks for voting me in as treasurer, or maybe talking (pushing) me into taking the job. If you need money I have the purse strings, come see me. Ha! Ha!

Be sure to check out the TCA website at

www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is: clowns22

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with TCA.



TCA 2021: A Clearer Vision of Clowning, Through the Eyes of a Newbie

by Wanda "Whimsical Wanna" Crabtree

I wanted to personally thank the TCA Board for planning and hosting the convention at the Courtyard Marriott hotel in Killeen, Texas. The past two years have been especially hard on our country with COVID. I have witnessed first hand how a kind word, smile, balloon animal or a very simple spider painted on a child's face from a clown can light up a child's face and the look of sheer appreciation on the parents faces.

I enjoyed the convention and learned valuable information which I can and will use in the future.

- 1) First Timer's Orientation
 - a) Good make up
 - b) Appearance must be approachable
 - c) Have credibility
 - d) Be open minded
- 2) General Meeting
 - a) Meet new/old clowns
 - b) previewed what to expect from the convention. I was very impressed with the old board members ability to muster through multiple challenges with laughter and grace.
- 3) Ice Cream Social: an excellent opportunity to meet new clown friends and share how they were handling COVID in their allies.
- 4) Open Mic (People's Choice): allowed anyone brave enough to share and showcase their talent (2 nights, Thurs. & Fri.) Friday night was a tear-jerker. Once performance stole the show. "Memories" with June Hinkle. June, thanks for the memories! I only just met you but felt like we were kindred spirits.
- 5) Balloon artist: Teri Stokes did an amazing job with all the convention decorations. I have never tied or tried balloon art. She made swords, lady bugs, flowered headbands, etc.
- 6) Face painting: Suzy Wall was very informative from pricing to types of pants. She took a plain butterfly design and with just a few simple strokes with a small brush, made the butterfly come to life and look exquisite.
- 7) Storytelling: Margaret Clauder was exceptionally spell-binding and brought back fond memories of coaching oral reading, poetry and modern oratory for Jr. High UIL.
- 8) Banquet: Great place to socialize.
- 9) Sunday Service: Bebop and Buttons brought the cross to life in a whole new way. Sharing your faith and doing something that bring hope to others along with a smile is so rewarding.

In conclusion, while I'm aware this convention was like nothing that has happened before, I do hope the Open Mic (People's Choice) becomes a regular event at the conventions.





Audience: The Most Important Part of Your Performance

by Jeanette "Dusti the Clown" Sanders

Performers are not the most important element in scheduling and performing for birthday parties or other events.

Performers sometimes overbook themselves to get the most parties. Its lucrative and fun of course. However, performers may overbook, overextend or suffer ego problems which keeps them from realizing that they are not the most important part of their performance.

Yes, you read that correctly. Even solo, you are not the most important part of the party or event you are performing for. I believe for a clown or entertainer to be successful he or she must believe the audience is the most important in their performance. I consider the members of my audience that assist me, are the smartest, strongest, and fastest. Make the children (teen or adult) feel more important, complimenting them on how smart they are to figure something out. Tell them how strong they are when the breakaway wand falls apart in their hands. Give the child a chance to excel.

As a clown (or appearing as a colorful "Happy Person") that performs simple, silly magic, I make a point to never come out superior. I express my surprise at the ending of the trick and congratulate the child for making it happen. It's possible to utilize these effects in a way that my helper is always the hero. tThe last laugh is on the performer not the children.

Most of my magic props I use are from David Ginn collection and Barry Mitchell props. the balloons I twist are from All American Balloons in Arlington, Texas. Other supplies are from RA engraving (formerly Kudo's clown and magic). I'm always open for suggestions as our business changes daily. Every performer uses the same props but in different ways. I am happy to help if needed. I prefer the simpler, silly magic routines. Standard routines can be changed into super routines too.





Using Evernote to Create a Magic Database

by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

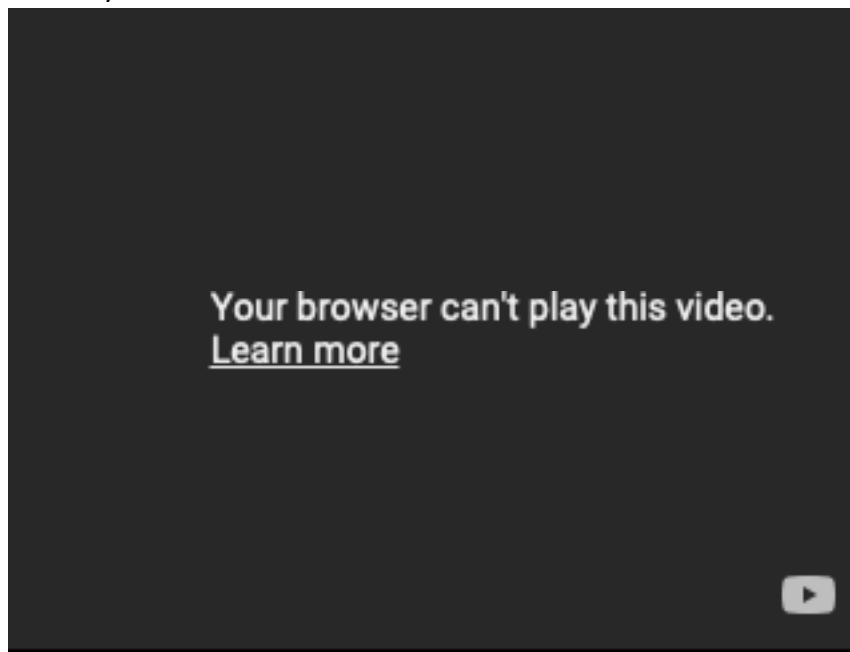
For the longest time, I've wanted to find a good way to organize all of my magic instructions, tricks and routines digitally. Even better, I wanted to be able to search and find a trick that would fit with my topic. I started scanning the instructions sheets included with the magic tricks that I would purchase long ago, however, I didn't have any easy way to search for them by topic. Sure, I could use the trick name and alphabetize them, but if I was looking for something on love, or Christmas I was stuck. Many tricks could be used for a variety of topics, too.

I'm sure there are several ways to do this, but I've settled on using a program called Evernote. This can be downloaded and used for free. The free version is limited to how much you can upload per month. There are two other subscription rates that are quite reasonable if you are going to use the program regularly. Check it out at evernote.com. It will let me access the files on my computer, in the cloud and my mobile devices. Sweet! Now just to decided on how to organize everything inside.

Since I use Evernote for work, I've got several "notebooks" inside. So, for my magic I've created a notebook for Magic Instructions, Magic books, for routines and one for ideas. I've put all of these notebooks into a stack called "Magic." In Magic Instructions I will have all of my scanned

instruction sheets for the purchased tricks I own. Inside the Magic books, I'll have all the pdf books I've purchased. For the routines notebook, I will keep any routines or alternate trick ideas I create and finally, In Magic Ideas, I will keep notes and webpages for any tricks I want to purchase, develop or build. One convenient thing about Evernote is that you can save articles or entire webpages with a click of your mouse and it's available and searchable through Evernote.

What makes all of this searchable is the process of tagging each document you put into Evernote. When you add an instruction sheet, you add a "tag" for anything it can be used for. For example, you may have a trick you use through out the year with a joy message but it can also be done with a Christmas message. You could include the tags "joy" and "Christmas" and when you search for either topic, the trick would be included in your results. If you use Evernote for other functions I would suggest adding the tag "magic" to seperate the tricks from other documents. Would you like to see this method in action? Check out my youtube video below.





Spotlight on Earl “Billy Whiskers” Warren

Submitted by Jeanette “Dusti” Sanders

In years past, Earl has been the first to volunteer for any Happi Tymes charity events such as Arlington’s Fall Festival Fest, providing his own tent and setting it up at the three day event for 15 years. He has been officially recognized by the Alley for his volunteer activities.

Earl, along with two other ally clowns, planned and organized an annual city wide event for Arlington at risk children which lasted five consecutive years. As many as 130-200 Children each year were treated with games, food and clown entertainment for four years. Along with other organizers, he built a half dozen large games for the events and stored them each year at his home. He coordinated the event for all five years, using his time to do the publicity, much of the food solicitation and publicity calls at churches, low income organizations and news organizations.

The three man team also organized and produced the first annual joint Entertainers Meeting in the Metroplex in 2004, designed to be hosted every third year by a different alley to bring all area entertainers together to socialize and get to know each another. The hope was to break down the “wall” between some of the groups primarily magicians and clowns, to know clowns: to know clowns as legitimate entertainers rather than someone who “violates the magicians oath” !

Since other organizations have long since dropped out of clowning, Earl has been a driving force, along with Happi Tymes board, in keeping this even rotating. Earl created and has acted administrator of Happi Tymes website for many years without reward and has created and maintained two clown sites, one for a fellow clown and one for Miss Cookie on his own time. During the early years of the alley he wrote and published our monthly newsletter, which was sent through the U.S. Mail.

Earl has been the coordinator for the Happi Tymes local 4th of July parade for at least 15 years and volunteer float builder for the years the city required Happi Tymes to enter a float to participate.

Earl is an Auguste clown, entertained as characters: birthday parties and Professor Moon and Harry Potter teacher; Billy Whiskers the twister and cowboy clown; Professor Applehill the Egypt explorer and “dirt doctor” and has appeared as a Patriotic clown. He has 30 years of entertaining as Santa throughout the DFW Metroplex, which includes volunteering for visits to charity events.

He has been a member of the planning and administrative team for at least 5 + years TCA conventions, including the first Summer convention sponsored by Happi Tymes where he was the coordinator. As a clown Earl has attended and participated in competitions for numerous conventions through the years.

Earl is a member of all three ally’s in the Metroplex and participates in charity events and fund raising events for Cowtown and Mid- Cities, donation his time and inventory.

Earl continually encourages Clowns in Happi Tymes and outside to learn and participate in as many clown activities as possible to become better and more confident in their craft. He has always been willing to take time with any clown that wants to learn new skills. He has frequently built walk around items or pocket magic items as handouts to Happi Tymes members. He, along with Miss Cookie form a team that



drives the alley forward in education and public service. He has served as Happi Tymes treasurer for 10 years and has been president of Happi Tymes at least four times. At each meeting he urges everyone to be a TCA member and encourages members or the other COAI local alleys to join or renew and to attend conventions. At the age of 84, Earl was still active and driving force in clowning locally and through TCA. Earl Warren is 88 years young now and is still as dedicated to the art of clowning.

(Much of this information was provided by Earl several years ago for Jeanette who has updated it and submitted it here to celebrate the contribution Earl has made to clowning and TCA.)



Tammy Daulton of The Clown Arounds in Wichita Falls practices her balloons in preparation of the alley's participation in the City's Parks & Rec. annual Halloween in the Park.





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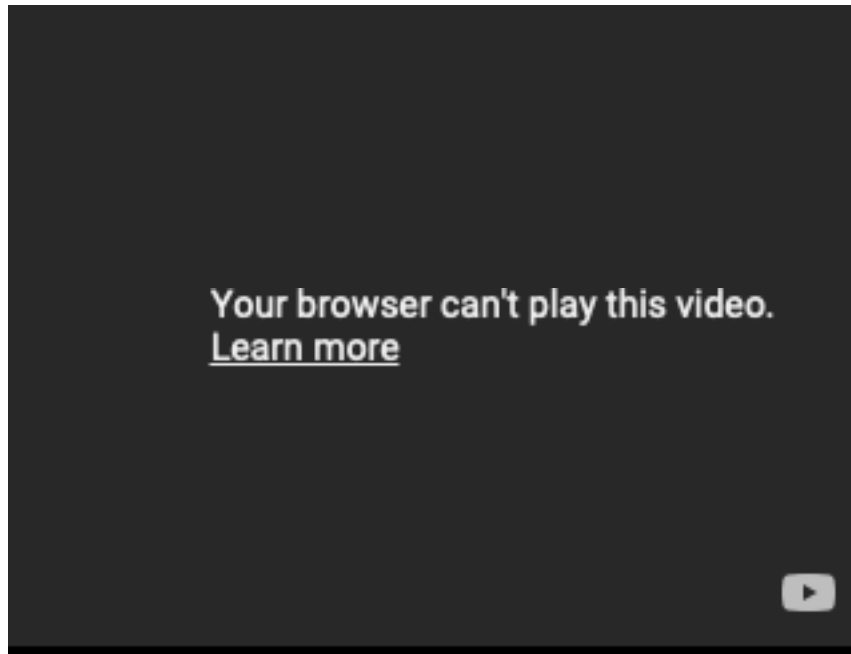
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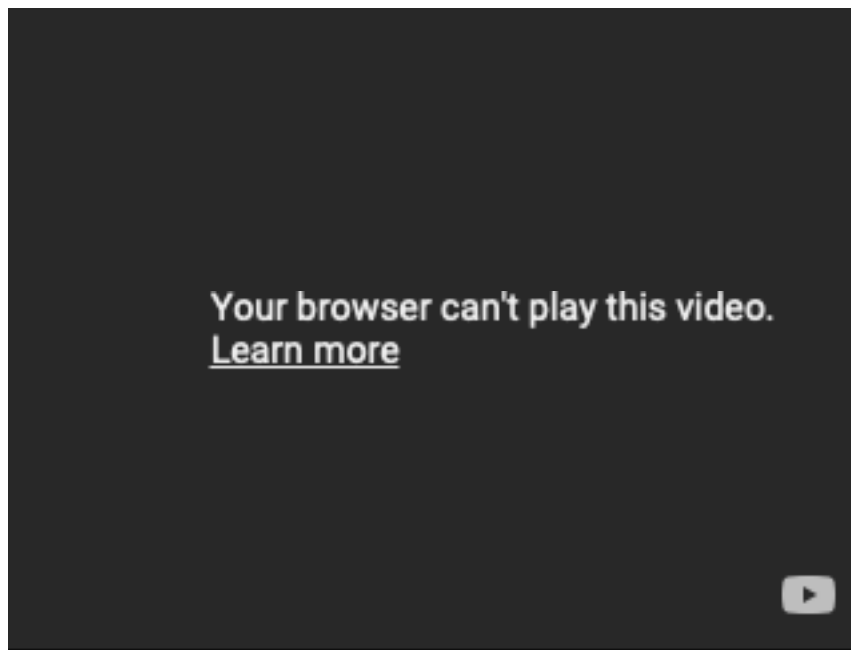


What's on the **TUBE?**

Here's Magical Matty with "Real Magic Vs Clown Magic" - Ball on Balloon Trick



How to Make Four Balloon Flowers - A Beginner's Guide



Did you hear?
Cheerful Clown Alley is going to host the
TCA Convention in 2022!!!!



Wahoo!

2022 CONVENTION - SPRING, TEXAS