

Joey Journal



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Issue 11

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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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THE JOEY JOURNAL

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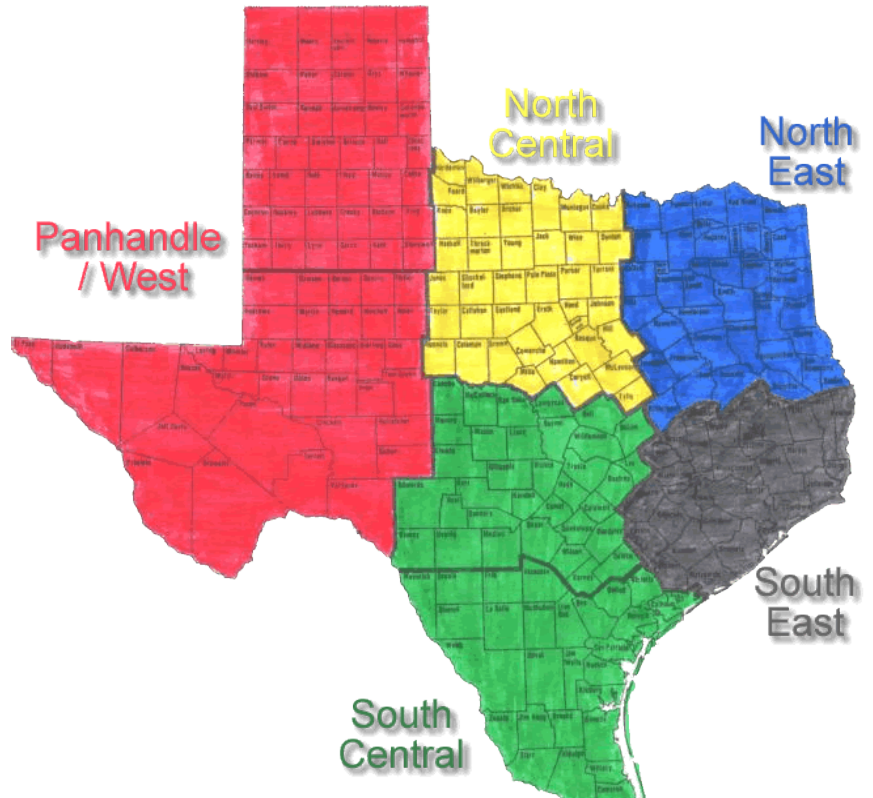
Be sure to check out the TCA website at
www.texasclownassociation.com

**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 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
Memory Makers Clown Alley - TCA #26

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

The 2022 TCA convention has come and gone and wow what a week of comedy, camaraderie, and competition did we experience. A great big THANK YOU to Cheerful Clown Alley for putting together such a great convention. If you have ever worked behind the scenes before you know that it is a huge task. If you haven't, I am extending an invitation to think of future conventions and step up to show us what you can do. And, I just have to give a shout out to the fantastic venue that we had this year. Everyone is still talking about the delicious food and picturesque setting of the hotel. There are way too many people to name but I do feel it is important to thank those who were willing to do whatever was necessary to make this convention work smoothly; especially Judy Cornett (who sat behind closed doors doing computer work in conjunction with her hotel duties) and Susan Keys (who took on the Emcee role for competitions). Because we know how to twist arms pretty good we had first time convention attendees, Melissa Nichols, doing photography and her brother, Phil Nichols, teaching classes. Just a little sidenote to let you know that my brain does not work on all cylinders at the same time (if you haven't already figured that out), I neglected to have our photographer do the pictures at the Awards Banquet because I knew that our fantastic videographer, Greg Stanford, was there to capture everything. Oops, my bad. So grateful to Cyndi Parker stepping up to save me.

Our headliner, Karen “Dot” Hoyer, put on a really good show, and I even got to participate by holding up the backdrop (gee, what some of us will do to get a little attention).

There is so much to be said about this year's convention, but I want to encourage everyone to read all the articles (and if so inclined write one) in the Joey Journal about convention happenings and experiences, especially from our Scholarship winners to see what their thoughts were about our humble little group gathering.

Our next convention will be August of 2023 in the Dallas area – be sure to look for upcoming notices and we hope to see you there.

The next TCA Board meeting will be November 11, 2022. If you would like to attend, please feel free to do so – but if you cannot be there and would like an item to be addressed, give your request to any board member to have added to the agenda.



2022 Scholarship Winner:

My Experiences at TCA 2022

by Mary Alice "Diva" Owen

There was much to do: raffles, silent auction, seeing the wares of the vendors, classes and competitions. The Raffles had lots of goodies for clowns and the silent auction had several things that were fun and useful. The Venders had puppets, magical and fun props, custom name badges, signs and even something to go with every costume.

There were many classes, but I was only able to attend three of them; one on Thursday and two on Saturday. I attended the competitors and judges meeting. I got the chance to judge one of the competitions. After lunch, it was time to play with puppets in the "Clown and Puppet: A Relationship Built for Laughs" class, taught by our Headliner Kearn "Dot" Hoyer. She really helped with my puppet I used in the performance competition for the first time.

After the Puppet class was our General Membership Meeting where we had some business and a little fun too. Friday was my chance to judge the make up competition. It was different, but i did like it and would do it again. In the afternoon, with a little help from a friend, we competed in the skit competition and had so much fun. On Saturday, we had the paradeability competition where I was "Strolling With My Chicks" and had fun. After lunch more classes; "Laughter Yoga" with my sweet friend Donna "Sweetie" Mathews. We had a laughing good time. The stress and tension melted away, and it was very calming and relaxing. We should do this before every competition.

There was another puppet workshop with Brittney "Zoe" Allen. I took my puppet Wyverno the Dragon and the class was amazing and engaging. I learned how to make my puppet have emotions, and how to get him to look at objects, people and other things. I learned how to get him to react and come alive.

The banquet was filled with clown family and friends, and of course awards. My sweet friend, Jackie "Lollibelle" Garner, received the great honor of being named the 2022 Ambassador for TCA. Sunday was the worship service and breakfast, where we said goodbye to our clown friends and family until next year.



2022 Scholarship Winner:

Stubby Goes To the Texas Clown Association Convention 2022

by Phil “Stubby” Nichols

I was awarded one of the two TCA scholarships for this year’s Clown Convention held in Spring, Texas. I was grateful. My history with entertainer conventions has been checkered. The undertone of rivalry with the ventriloquists and magicians is very strong. So strong that it makes it hard to want to go and usually I don’t. When I got word I had been awarded the Scholarship, I began working on upgrading my costume and developing my skit. I wanted to try to add a few twists so that I could well represent my alley, Cheerful Clown Alley #166, The Texas Clown Association, myself and my sister and clowning partner, Wingnut, who was also asked to be the Convention photographer. I think I did a pretty good job accomplishing it.



Because the scholarship requires competing, it was suggested I should try for All Around Clown. So I entered six competitions. I figured if I didn’t place in one or two I would still get something. I had no real illusion I would win All Around Clown, being a First of May on scholarship and having no idea what I was doing. But, I still gave it my best effort. All in all I did surprisingly well. I medaled in 5 of the six entered categories. I was blessed to be awarded four, first place gold medals. For Make-up/Costume, I entered as my Hobo “Stubby”. For Single Skit Performance, which I did my version of “Bird in the Bag,” an old chestnut that still plays big. For Single Balloon Twist, for which I did my blue dachshund. This twist is original to my sister, Wingnut, and me. She came up with the form and I refined it with a couple ideas. I also medaled in Multiple Balloon Twist, for which I did my take on the mermaid. The mermaid is one of my most requested balloons at events when I can make multi balloon pieces. Four Gold medals! Huzzah! I did not place in Paradeability. I did not understand that it was more of another type of skit completion rather than actually doing what I do when I am in parades. But ya know I played with the crowd and got some giggles here and there and I had a great time.

Performance. As wonderful as the gold medals are—and boy are they—this particular bronze means more to me. I got a perfect score. 10s across the board from every judge. The audience was laughing and having a great time, I lost myself in my performance going into show mode. The timing light never changed it was always green. Then I heard a whisper “15 seconds.” Oops. I quickly ended and sprinted off stage. The time penalty was 3 seconds over. That means each judge had to deduct 3 points from my perfect score. I figured I was disqualified and happy that everyone enjoyed my performance; at the awards when I medaled I was really shocked and so very pleased. The other surprise was the gold for Single Skit. I differ greatly in my philosophy of skit performance than a lot of our Alley’s Senior Master Clowns. We have a friendly rivalry. In fact our skit instructor, HI-Lo the Hollywood Clown, showed up to razz me on my skit performance day. That was so much fun! Agreeing to disagree and have enough respect for the accomplishments of each other to have a blast teasing.



I taught the ventriloquism class for the convention. It was well attended. I had originally planned to just do the basics, but anyone who knows me knows once I get going I don't stop until we have covered it all and I have explained it to you so that you understand. What I wound up doing was teaching sound: substitutions, mouth position, voice diffusion, distant voice and voice throwing, muffled voice, muffled distant voice, puppets for ventriloquism, and puppet manipulation for ventriloquism. I also touched briefly on ventriloquism history. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. A surprise for me was meeting other professional clowns in the state. There are maybe 4 of us here in Houston affiliated with our Alley. Most of my Pro clown friends in the Houston area come from the Renaissance Festival Circuit or the Side Show Circuit. It was a delight to talk with real live professional Clowns who do the same types of events and clowning as I do. We got to exchange ideas and commiserate.

My alley, Cheerful #166 picked me to introduce the Headliner Clown, Karen Hoyer, at her Saturday night show. I worked up the bit I did for the performance competition I called The Introduction for that purpose, thinking it would be like an opening act type deal. I was happily surprised to learn she had a part in her show for her introduction. Once I found that out I used the Introduction bit with Bosworth the Talking Crow for my performance piece—tens, tens, tens across the board was that outcome. I got to perform just a little bit with Karen Hoyer. Such a delight.



We got together the day before her show to go over what I was to do. She also wanted to know about me, my history with clowning and the ventriloquism which she complemented me on. We had a wonderful conversation. I have a similar background to hers, being a theatre kid in high school and college. My family is also originally from Illinois so we talked about that as well. I read the part for her.

She had one note, and that was that. When she did her show I got to introduce her and had a blast. After the competitions were done, I had time to take one class. I took Karen's Mime class. I got a lot out of it. I also got a work out the likes of which I had not had in 40 years.

The last night and awards banquet came. We sat with Diana McCurtain Talbert and some other lovely clowns, including my buddy, Bubba. The meal was wonderful. Our table was constantly being called up to accept awards. Diana won best All Around Clown. Had I entered two more categories, I might have stood a chance. I had talked with a lot of previous All Around Clown winners about their experience. To go for the title of BEST ALL AROUND CLOWN is A LOT. It takes all you can give and then even more. It's a marathon to win it and you have to really prepare. Being First of May, I had no idea at all about what it took. Diana is a wonderful clown and I was so very happy for her. She got best all-around but I got tens across the board and Bronze for my performance with Bosworth, so it's a wash as to who came out on top.

There are so many more moments to mention but space is limited. I truly enjoyed clowning with my friend Wee-Bo the Clown from the Dallas area, Clowning with the Joe "Blades" Lester, the dean of Cheerful's Clown School, and winning Gold for solo skits—Hey "Hollywood" how do you like those apples?



I plan to return to more TCA conventions and hope to teach more classes. I will make a run again for Best All-Around Clown down the road some time. Thank you so very much from the bottom of my little clown heart to the tip of my blue clown nose. I am so grateful for the scholarship, the experience, the awards but most of all the fellowship.



TCA Invest in Your Self!

By: Norm "Norman the Clown" Barnhart

Invest in You! This will increase your excellence add to your skills as an entertainer. It's fun, it keeps you sharp and your audience will like you even more! When your audience likes you more, you get bigger laughter responses and you get invited back to perform more and that means more income. Or, if you do it for simply the joy of volunteering – then you will get more joy. Cool!

You can invest in yourself by attending a workshop, lecture or a whole convention filled with learning and growth activities. Take the time and invest in yourself.

Let's consider a few other ways to invest in your self that will help make your entertainment ability better every day. One example from my humble life I will share right now. As I write this, I am in the middle of 6 days on the road for a 5 day county fair. Cool! Well, actually hot and tiring. The benefit is that there is a bit of down time between the shows. I arrived at the fairgrounds at 10:30 AM to set up and the first show to start at 11:30 AM and the last of three shows will be at 8:30 PM meaning I leave at 9:30 PM I am not good at math but I think that means I am here 11 hours. However I am thankful to have a bit of time to write and to work on a couple new tricks.

Before each show, I do walk around magic for 45 minutes to an hour... this will help build the crowd at each show and it is a nice thing for the fair to have some strolling entertainment. I try to give more than they expect.

The first day of the fair, I got out a rope trick I have wanted to learn for years. Pavel's Jumping Knot. It is a bit complicated and I muddled through the instructions until I got the thing working fairly well. The important thing before adding something to the show is to try it out in front of people... and wow did I have lots of opportunity to do that! I would stroll up to a family wearing my fancy vest, bow tie and hat and say, "Just a reminder, the Comedy Magic



show start in 30 minutes over there on the Family stage. Oh, would you like to see a trick now?" Most everyone wants to, so I do a quick funny trick I know very well. Then if they are interested and seem eager I offer, would you like to see another trick?"

They nod in anticipation and the kids are glued to my every move. I bring out the ropes and say, "This is a new trick that is really confusing me, I am trying to figure it out. Maybe you can help me." I start the routine with very basic patter as nothing is really in stone yet. I talk about spinning the ropes and getting them confused – however it makes me confused too. Inside my mind I am a bit nervous, will they figure it out? Have I hidden the secret well enough, can I tie the special knot the right way? I discover that if I ask one of the children their name, everyone looks to them for a second and I can do the special knot tie easier without fear of being caught, then I realize that the process of tying this knot is so off beat and there is no reason for them to suspect foul play and I am learning and growing and seeing how the trick works in front of real people. I end up doing the trick 15 times the first day and 30 times the second and another 30 the third day.

Can you imagine my confidence level? It is still a bit difficult to do the trick, however no one has figured it out. I can see their faces of astonishment – even



the parents! I think it is going well, even though I feel a bit clumsy in the routine still. Usually kids will yell out if they think they know how a trick is done... none did. Yay! It is going well. I even discovered a way to do the set up faster so I can do the trick again sooner.

I even ask them at the conclusion of the trick in a roundabout way if they can figure it out. I say as a part of the patter, "Wow that trick is sure confusing to me, can you figure that out?" It is a way of doing a survey and making that a part of the routine. In the future that will probably go out of the routine. But in the walk around magic situation... it is more conversational. I came up with patter that talks about confusing the ropes by spinning them and they yet I am confused too. So it fits the patter – for now. As I polish and get more comfortable with the trick I will think through the spoken words more and settle on a script, but for now it is just getting comfortable with the props and making the trick work in a very magical way.

Is the routine ready to add to the stage show? Well, I even did it before one of the shows today for the people who came early. "Hey, while you are waiting for the show to start ... do you want to see a bit of confusing magic? This trick sure has me confused." They are just waiting for the show to start so they are excited to have something to do. Win – win! So finally I did it from stage and it went well and it will be a simple process to add it to the shows on the last day or two of the fair. I am thrilled!

So the point is.... Invest in yourself. If you are stuck waiting between shows – don't waste your time. You could go on FB or go to games on the internet for a couple hours of relaxation –give yourself a bit of fun – that is OK. However, you could invest just a part of your time in developing a new piece for your show.

Other Ways to Invest in Your Self

Quickly another way I invested in myself was to get to know another performer here at the fair and have a couple good talks with him. I also walked through the booths in the commercial area. I spoke with people and dropped off fliers at the Chamber

about my motivational talk on Health, Humor and Happiness for their chamber luncheon or banquets. I visited a few church booths and left fliers with the people there. Some churches want events for families and children and they want good clean entertainment or maybe also a Bible show either way, this is investing in the future of my little business.

I dropped off fliers at the public school booth as well as the private and charter school booths. I dropped fliers off at the nursing home independent living booth and also the newspaper booth who own papers in 3 towns and might just tell the other towns about my show for their summer family events. I showed the newspaper people a trick and they are sending a photo reporter out to the next show.

These are just a couple ways to invest in yourself. Just look for the opportunities. There are opportunities everywhere. Every show you do is an opportunity to connect with people who might be planning a party or are school teachers and will take my flier to their school. So I am happy to have had a nice paid week of shows, yet also found ways to promote for many possible shows to come as well as I learned and practiced a couple new tricks that I am sure will be added to the program soon. Invest in yourself – it is fun!



Norman is a full time entertainer who has brought smiles to audiences in all fifty states and 16 other countries. More at his blog: [MagicalMinnesota.Wordpress.com](https://magicalminnesota.wordpress.com)



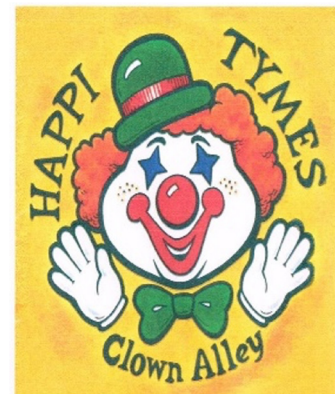
We are ALley Better Together

by Cinde "Boopsie the Clown" Sanders

July 11 was the first meeting of the NEW Clown Alley from North Texas. There are three clown alleys in the Metroplex...Texas Mid Cities Clown Alley 85, Happi Tymes and Cowtown Clowns. Since January 2022, we have all been meeting as a whole for a six month trial to see if we wanted to join together. During that time, we all three hosted two meetings each bringing quality education and entertainment to the meetings. It was amazing to see the excitement building and the quality of education that we brought to our group. A vote was taken in June and two of the three decided to join together to form a stronger and more productive alley.



Texas Mid Cities Clown Alley 85 and Happi Tymes are now one. We are ALley Better Together. We have assigned committees to merge bylaws, awards and scholarships, bank accounts, and nominating officers. We have decided on a meeting date, but not a meeting place yet. We also have not decided on a name, but there have been some interesting suggestions. Once all of that is decided we will get a new TCA and COAI number



and we will change our name on our 501c3. We have a target date of January 2023, to be up and running full speed with all of the bits and pieces put together.

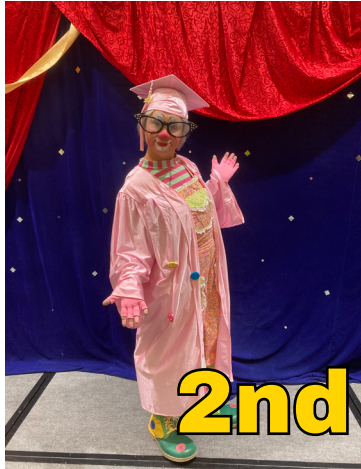
I can't express how excited I am about this merger. I am sure you have also watched your alleys decline in membership and participation. There are many factors and reasons for this. It is happening all over the country in all kinds of membership groups. We felt that instead of continuing to decline and drift apart, we would be better to join together and grow our clown community.

We are jumping in with both feet and have offered to host the 2023 TCA Convention in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We are already behind the curve since it is only 13 months until the 2023 convention, but we are excited and up to the challenge. We don't have a venue or a theme or any events planned yet, but when we do...you will be the first to know.

I will keep you informed when we find a name for our new alley and we have specific plans for the 2023 Convention. Stay tuned and remember We are ALley Better Together.



TCA 2022 Convention



Single Skit

- 1st Place - Phil Nichols - "Bird in the Bag"
- 2nd Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert - "Can't Find It"



Group Skit

- 1st Place - "Silly Bank"
- 2nd Place - "Safety Lessons"
- 3rd Place - "Do It Yourself Makeup"





Award Winners

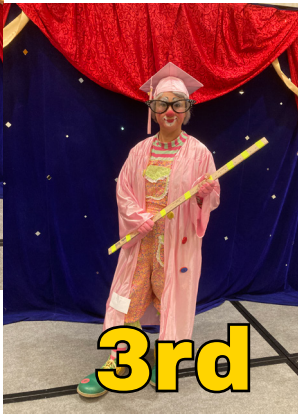


Single Paradeability

1st Place - Jackie Garner - "I Won"

2nd Place - William Beaty - "Animal Control"

3rd Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert - "Class Clown"



Group Paradeability

1st Place - "Hip-Hip Parade"

2nd Place - "Chicken Soup for the Clown Soul!"

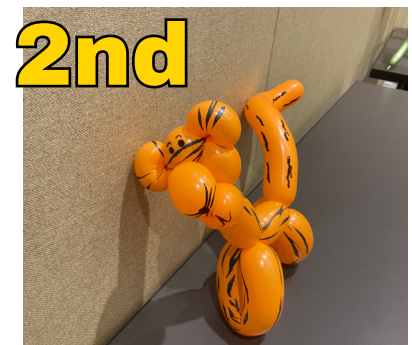
3rd Place - "Cops Take 50"



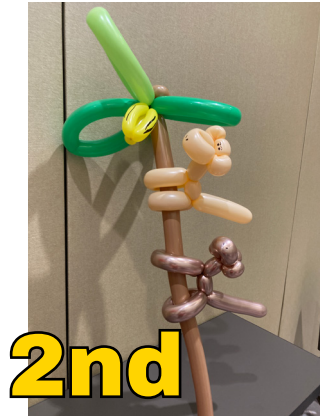


Single Balloon

1st Place - Phil Nicols
2nd Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert



1st



2nd

Multiple Balloons

1st Place - Phil Nicols
2nd Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert

Cheek Art

1st Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert
2nd Place - Melissa Nichols



1st



2nd



1st

Full Face

1st Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert

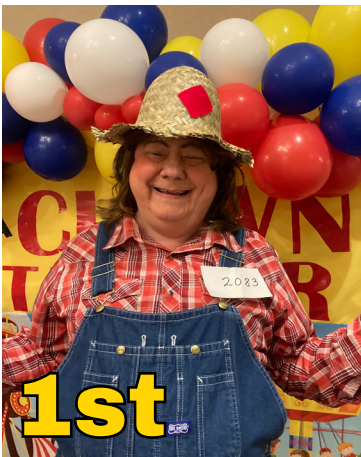


Makeup

1st Place - Phil Nichols

2nd Place - Joe Lester

3rd Place - Diana McCurtain-Talbert



Performance

1st Place - Joe Lester - "Rindarcella"

2nd Place - Elaine Hampshire - "Melinda Alice"

3rd Place - Voncille Cox - "The Invisible Bench"

3rd Place - Phil Nichols - "The Introduction"





Best All Around Clown

Diana McCurtain-Talbert





Ambassadors of the Texas Clown Association



**2022 Ambassador Award
Texas Clown Association**

Jackie "Lollibells" Garner





WHY I WEAR THE BLUE

By Phil "Otto" Nichols aka "Stubby"

I wear a 2-tone nose, a blue tip and the rest the traditional red, and I have a bee on it. All of my patrons and everyone I have clowned for love it. I get called "cute" on a daily basis. That's a first for a gentleman of a certain age. Well, I thought I would write an article on The Blue Nosed Clowns and why I ultimately chose to be a member of The Blue Crew.

The great Master Clown Frosty Little tells us circus colors are red, white, blue, yellow, and black. That's the Ringling palate or at least it was back when Ringling's had clowns and ran Clown College, I suppose. There have been a couple notable Blue nose clowns. Steve Laporte was a Ringling Clown and he did the 24 foot stilts. He wore a 2-tone nose like I do. I am homaging him a bit. I worked for Steve back in my movie days when I was a special effects make-up person. They were shooting a movie in Houston called Powder. I got to work for Steve and the Burmans. Steve Laporte and Keith Craey were the only 2 Ringling Clowns who went into Make-up FX biz post Ringling's. Keith used to teach the Ringling Clowns how to make their noses at Clown College. If you can find it there is an article about it in an old Theatre Crafts Magazine. The other Blue Nose clown of note is the Superb Master Clown Billy Vaughn. Billy started out at a Ringling red Auguste but over time turned blue. His nose and his mouth color turned to blue and it was and is wonderful.

Another unique nose clown of note is Mike "Hillbilly" Weakley. He wore a red nose with yellow rings around it and a blue mouth. I asked him about his make-up and he told me in a sea of red he wanted to stand out. That is also why I wear the blue. I want to stand out. I want to be unique. I don't want to be a carbon copy of clowns gone by or all around me. I am a hobo but I wear lighter pants than black or brown which is the tradition. I still have patches I still am a bit shabby but I am not dressed all in black. I don't shuffle. I'm not down trodden; I am a happy go luck clown

living my best life, hitching a free ride in the coal car. This style of clown began as another style of clown before making the change by fate or desire. I include a hint of that in my look.

Blue is a tricky color, you have to play around with it to see what works and what doesn't. I began using blue after doing an online study with the Fool's Tools Facebook group during the lock down. It was just a hint on my eyes. Then I accented my lower lips with blue instead of black, and now I have finally gone all in with a blue nose. I am proud to be a member of The Blue Crew! To be honest it was not love at first site with the nontraditional clowns for me. But as I grow as a clown on my journey to master clown, I am evolving into the clown I am, not the clown others say I should be.

I am inspired by all the great hobos and tramps of the past and I take cues from Otto Griebing, Paul Jerome, Red Skelton and Mark Anthony more than Emmet Kelly. I am not beaten down, I am not sad. I am happy, I am joyful and I wear the Blue.





Greetings from the Southeast Region

By Dale 'loppo' DePrima Southeast Regional Director

What a fabulous TCA convention 2022! Super fun and we learned loads of great challenging ideas! We're growing Big and Better here in Houston. Cheerful Clowns have multiplied! We're excited about our new members! Our summer Clown School helped grow our smiling funny faces. To get our Real Clowns faces out in the public view our Cheerful Clowns in the Southeast Region have upcoming events and volunteer OPPs.

For Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Back to School Jam for Cypress Assistance Ministries. Fun with the kids. Walkaround and Balloons! Randy 'Fiddle Sticks' Payne is Boss Clown.

August 27, Noon to 4:00 PM

Special Kids Back to School event at Tom Bass Park Pavillion. Boss Clown 'Fiddle Sticks'

September 10, 8:00 AM to Noon

Texas Dept of Corrections- Day with Dad (prison ministry event to allow families to visit with inmates) in Brazoria, TX. Balloons and Face painting at an indoor facility.

Also,

September 10, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Fall Festival at Arabic Church of Houston. Balloons, facepainting, walk arounds.

On Going Volunteer Ops

Camp Pursuit, the last Saturday of every month starting Sept 24, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Our sweet Ms Jean Pirtle is Gig Coordinator!

Oct 8, 5:30 PM to 08:30 PM

Ainsley Angel's 5K run for Disabled individuals at Rob Fleming Park.
Balloons, and walk around.

Oct 21, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Halloween Trunk or Treat, Trini Mendenhall Community Center
Balloons, and walk around

Many thanks to Ms Jean for handling these task so expertly!

And to our entire team of Clowns at Cheerful!

Hey TCA board, maybe we need a new category award for the Alley with the most New Clowns?

We challenge our other TCA regions to Grow Your Funny Faces!



A BIG THANKS to Melissa “Wing Nut” Nichols for all the great convention pictures found in this issue (unless otherwise noted)!

KUDOS

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