

TCA  
CONVENTION  
2023



A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

# Joey Journal



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...erwriter and Joint Bookrunner



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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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Greg "Zoots" Stanford, Editor

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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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<b>06</b>	<b>FROM THE EDITOR'S KEYBOARD</b> Greg has agreed to keep on editin'
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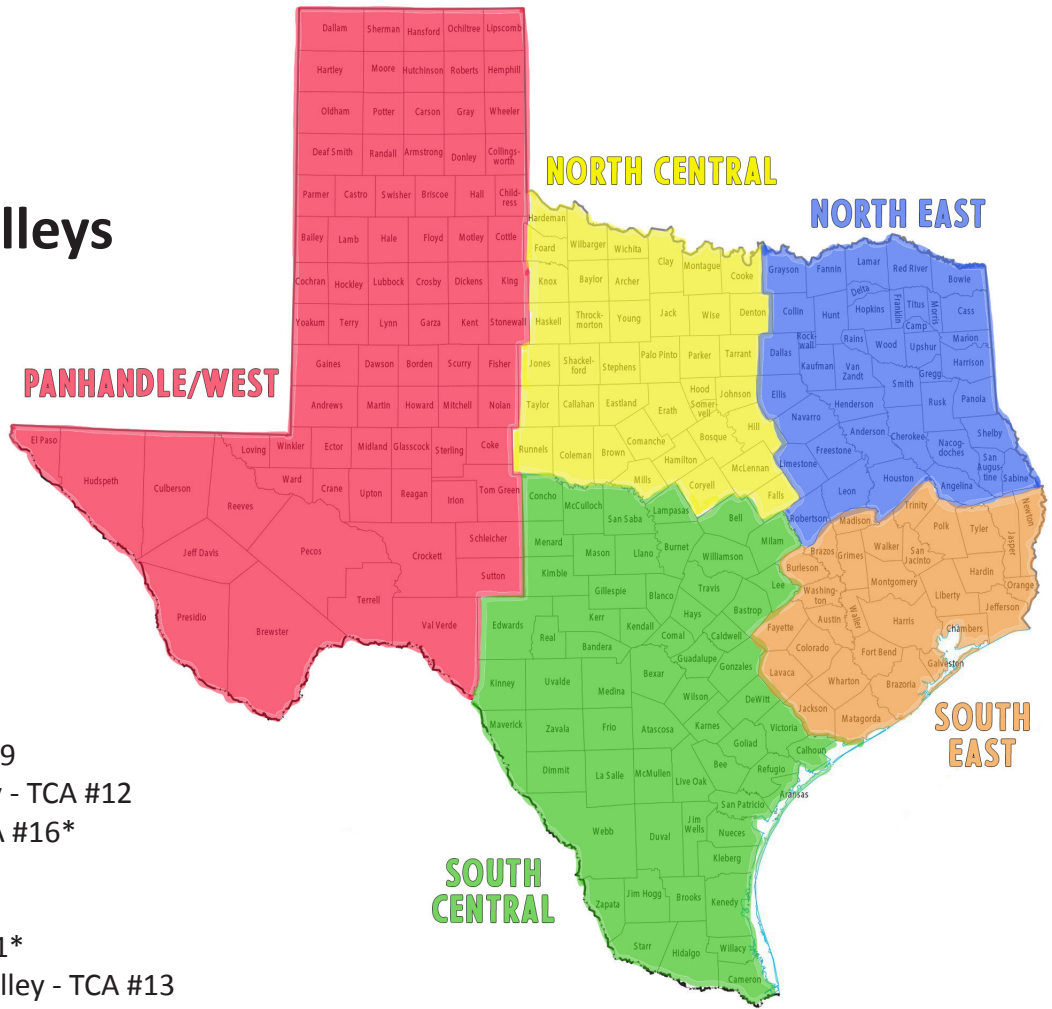
Be sure to check out the TCA website at  
[www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)

**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 Clown Alleys



**Panhandle/West Region**  
Oops Alley - TCA #2

**North Central Region**  
Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9  
Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12  
The Clown Arouds - 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

My goodness how time flies – I have been home from convention and have been swamped with things to do and have not taken the time to write down my thoughts. Well the price has gone up and no one has offered me any pennies so I guess you are getting it for free. Watch out because I don't even know what jumble of words will be hitting this paper.

It was so great to see everyone at the convention and especially the new first timers. I do believe TCA had a whopping total of 11 (woo hoo!). DFW Clowns “R” Us did a fantastic job putting everything together and it was awesome to see the many Latinos that attended.

The Board stayed the same except for 2 new area reps, Brenda Marshall and Kim Oxford; also Dale de Prima is our new Historian with Kathy Keaton stepping up to be our Education Director - welcome ladies. Just a note that was stated at the General Membership meeting - your current Board is term limited so think about how you want to support TCA by stepping up to be on the Board. I am copying the qualifications as posted on the TCA website which reads as follows:

“Qualifications: All members of the Board of Directors must be regular members in good standing, of the Texas Clown Association and must be a resident of the State of Texas. A potential board member must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time the person is nominated for a position on the Board of Directors. No single person may hold more than one position on the Board of Directors.”

Debbie Davis was busy handing out membership cards so if you didn't get one, please contact her so you can be an official card-carrying member.

Just repeating this request as sometimes our brains need a whole lot of help, so I am asking you to assist your TCA Board with some ideas to make TCA better. Of course, not every idea will be used but it can start a discussion that can be built upon to help our organization grow. As noted in the Joey Journal we meet four times a year and you can find a list with the board members' contact information there. Please submit your ideas to one of them.





## Convention Scholarship Winner

by Ellis "Ofc. Picadoodle" DePrima

The Texas Clown Association convention for 2023 was such a success for myself and my new Clown character. I enjoyed all of the classes but especially our Headliner, Jeffery Potts. Margaret Clauder's story telling class and puppetry were outstanding and so beneficial. I learned so many new things to help me promote the art of clowning. Thank the great clowns at DFW Clowns R Us for making the competitions work so more of us could compete. That was a stroke of genius! Great team work with the senior Clowns and peers encouraging each of us with advice on how to help us be the best clowns we can be! I left with more self confidence in my clown character and more knowledge to get out and clown whether with volunteering or gigs.



My wife and I enjoyed the fellowship and seeing all our clown family!

What a great experience! I want to encourage everyone that came and everyone we missed at this year's convention to make sure and plan for next year's TCA convention! We started a new change jar and every week add \$5 or \$10 to it for TCA. My wife's new diet has us saving too by stop the Starbucks for coffee and that money goes in the jar. Just a thought!

I love to see an improv class next year also.

### NEW PASSWORD COMING SOON

We are changing the password for the MEMBERS Section on the TCA Website. The password will change on Friday, October 12. The new password will be

**houston24**

In the mean time, you can still get in using clowns22. Stop by and check out our Joey Journal archive (we're still working on getting the older issues added); educational videos and more.



# I Missed Clowning Today

by Dana Fripp

Submitted by Pam "Touche" Blacklock

I missed clowning today.

I pretty much miss it every day, in one way or another. Perhaps it's because life has necessitated me becoming an intensely serious, nearly stoic person lately.

Something always tugs at me.

Maybe it feels like unfinished business.

There is a lot more to learn, and I know I haven't even scratched the surface.

Clowning in the community, as I used to do it, is a "total being immersive excursion."

It takes physical stamina to get out there. I know I need a whole lot more "oomph" than what I possess right now.

It requires a mental acuity and awareness of...well... interactive and atmospheric details, both large and small.

I used to take major restorative naps after big clowning days. It's a colorful and pretty kind of warfare out there.

I'm not as spry as I was twenty-four years ago when I first took the plunge. Doesn't have to be too big of a deal for me: I can make character behavioral adjustments (and stop carrying so much stuff) accordingly.

I was actually looking forward to training and refining my clown (if a clown could ever truly be refined).

What's given me the greatest pause, however, is not the physical adjustments: it's negotiating this current cultural landscape. I'm certain it would be the psychological and spiritual equivalent of avoiding stepping on landmines in my size '13" clown shoes.

How does one perform for a population who is being indoctrinated to be perpetually offended by EVERYTHING?

How do you greet your audiences? How many pronouns and gender identities might I have to remember at a single event? Is this sight gag triggering now, though it wasn't three years ago? Am I going to need three days to mentally recover from one event?

This is supposed to be fun.

Even the realm of Clown Education is fraught with ideological challenges for me.

I know historically, clowns by their very nature are supposed to push up against societal and cultural

norms. Depending on the type of clown, to some degree we're all supposed to push. Hopefully, we push on a norm because it makes us look ridiculous, and elicits universally relatable laughs.

Clowns can also push against expectations in order to enlighten, inform, embolden, expose, mock, and/or correct. History bears the record of court jesters being essential allies to kings by utilizing all those tactics - mocking their rivals, boosting an army's morale, even dying beside a king in battle.

They've also been beheaded for going a touch too far. That's where it gets truly risky, for both artist and audience. Do you back off, or "damn the torpedoes," and push forward?

Clowning, even the red nosed kind, despite the stereotype, is not strictly children's entertainment. That's one of the reasons I love it, and want to keep studying.

I do, however, have a line that won't be crossed. Problem is, I've seen the trajectory of some of the assertions being trumpeted through today's clowning. Those fanfares neither celebrate nor protect our children. Too many are dissonantly blaring out for the decimation of moral foundations that keep civilizations from sinking into chaos and depravity.

I've been excited to read books by certain teachers, or longing to enroll in their clowning courses, only to discover their outright hatred for not only clown artists of a certain type, but for anyone who doesn't share their world view.

Yet more divisiveness. The crucifixion of all objective standards of learning and discourse...with a red nose. What's a girlclown to do, when even some of the best master teachers ideologically swing so far in one specific direction, and she doesn't fit anywhere on the swing?

I guess it's a good thing clown is as vast and diversified of an artform as music. It's like any other method and mode of communication: what's said, and for what purpose, depends on who's doing the "speaking".

We'll see what, if anything, I have left to say.





TCA Convention 2023





# CONVENTION AWARDS

## Performance



1st Place - Aurora Krause  
"My Hat"



2nd Place - Linda Lester - "Where  
Can They Be?"



3rd Place - Michelle Lewis - "Day 'O"

## single paradeability



1st Place - Aurora Krause  
"Shoe Shine"



2nd Place - Kim Grice  
"Chef's Special"



3rd Place - Judy Cornett  
"Bag Lady"



# WARD WINNERS

## group skits



1st Place "Open Clown Surgery"



2nd Place TIE - "Bubba's Burger Barn"



2nd Place TIE - "Poultry School"



3rd Place - "Ma & Pa"



# Area Alley Reports

## ***Southeast Regional Report August, 2023***

**by Dale "Ioppo" DePrima**

This year's Cheerful Clown Alley clown school 2023 was an awesome success with 12 graduating First of Mays!

Many thanks go out to our President Blades and Shotzie for great classes and organizing everything!

Big thanks to Putt Putt for his many talents HiLo, Buzz , Peep, and Touche` and Cherrio who helped with balloons, juggling, gliiter tattoos and many more helpers with makeup,costumes and so much more!

For opening ice-breakers a wash cloth was tossed into the circle and everyone was to improve a quick little diddy with the Opening ice breakers from one of the classes where a wash cloth was used as a prop and one of our First of May's took the wash cloth and proceeded to shine another class member's bald head.

Some other First of May's accomplishments were juggling scarfs really well. So many more got their skits down really well with the Fortune telling Machine and the car bumper which was so funny.

Many more great First of Mays did awesome jobs on makeup and skits.

What a wonderful experience watching the new Joey's find there Funny Bones!

Our Regional accomplishments for this quarter are many volunteer opportunities that our Cheerful Alley stepped up and brought laughter to the sick and turned frowns into smiles. Like our on going monthly gigs ST LUKES HOSPITAL VINTAGE PARK and

for Camp Pursuit for children and children at heart with challenges.

Also, the Spring Branch Transitional Care Center volunteer gig in July.

Many requests for the Kitchen Band to perform.

One of our meetings we had the honor of learning promoting our clown business with Roly the Stilt Walker and his many other talents.

We at Houston Cheerful Clown Alley will continue to promote the art of clowning to bring smiles to children of all ages!

## ***West Texas/Panhandle August 2023***

**by Susan "Tinker" Butler**

Face painting events for Linda, Claudett, and Voncille at two local country clubs for Fourth of July.

Linda and Claudett face paint at Rodeo Denistry

Claudett face painted at an evangeist event.

Linda and Claudett face painted at a VBS in Odessa and Day Cares in Midland.

Voncille also did face painting at two car shows including one at a veterans home.

Susan, Kathy, Claudett, and Linda had two ally meetings to prepare for the convention .

Kathy officiated at Early's memorial service.



## ***South Central Alley Report-- August 2023***

**by Aurora "Bebop" Krause**

The South Central TCA region currently consists of two Alleys. The Jolly Joeys of San Antonio and the Clowns from Corpus Christi, no Alley name but their leader is Danny "Lanky" Kollaja.

These last few months in San Antonio the Jolly Joey's have been busy clowning around town. Mostly doing fundraisers for local non-profits. At most gigs we'll have three or four clowns participate, sometimes we receive a donation for the Alley but we never require it. We've also done a couple of summer camp events and four Alley members participated in the Leon Valley 4th of July parade.

Our Alley meetings have been very productive. We've had Balloon jams, Glitter Tattoo demonstrations and also an evening learning Skits. At our June meeting we celebrated our Alley's Birthday with cake and ice-cream and in July we had a Swap-Meet. Several clowns brought stuff to sale or swap, it was a fun evening.

I did hear from Danny "Lanky" in June. Although he's been traveling in the Festival circuit he did say that there are four clowns in Corpus Christi that are clowning around town. In May Corpus celebrated 'Buccaneer Days' and all four clowns participated in the Festival's parade. He said things are starting back slowing and he'll continue to keep me posted.

This year four members of our Jolly Joeys Clown Alley will be attending the TCA-2023 convention in Irving, Texas.

## ***North Central Area Report August 2023***

**by Greg "Zoots" Stanford**

Cowtown still meets the 4th Monday of the month at the El Chico in Richland Hills. , They gained a few new members to Cowtown. The monthly newsletter and calling post goes out to each member so they have notice of the meetings.

They have had some great programs in the last couple months, a Face Painting class, and were able to get Rafi-Bombin Rondon to come and do some fun magic, and the members brought some tricks they bought and forgot how to use them. He showed them simple ways to demonstrate the tricks in a party, nursing home, church, etc. He also showed them an inexpensive way to make a great prop out of a Pringles can. Fun evening.

In August is Cowtown Birthday, founded in 1981. They will be celebrating with a 1950's theme, with some trivia, music, and surprises.



# the Joey Journal

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## "Grab 'em, Shake 'em and Turn 'em Loose"

Working for children is entirely different from working with any other type of audience.

At 1984's TCA Convention in Houston, "Strawberry" (Bill Watts), demonstrated ways to be entertaining. What he said bears repeating, emphasis, expansion. It's not how much you do or how much you spend that makes you entertaining - - it's what you say while you are performing (and how you say it). You need to work to keep your audience interested, involved, vocal. Strawberry said, "Grab 'em, shake 'em and turn 'em loose".

You don't want your audience of youngsters to be restless, talk among themselves, get up and wander. To keep your audience interested, get them involved. Give them a definite part in your show. Use audience participation tricks, skits, songs, stories. Use the challenge of a contest to create excitement. Children must blow off steam and it's better for you as a performer if they do it at your convenience. Even if it's only a 1-2-3 countdown, a good warm, noisy response lets the parents/teachers/staff know that you are doing your job to help the kids have a good time.

In a hospital, however, excess noise may be undesirable for the welfare of the patients. Ask. Look around the home/school/auditorium where you are performing. Ask the parents/teachers/staff (as well as the children), "Are we allowed to make noise"? The answer most often will be a resounding "Yes"! After all, that's why you're there - - to entertain the kids. Let them be loud. You can pretend that you can't hear them. You can tell them that you need their help to wake your "sleeping" dog, cat or rabbit. Don't, however, carry this to such an extreme that they will strain their throats, cry, or get hysterical.

And don't expect spontaneous applause. You may even have to ask for applause - - not for yourself, of course, but for your very clever dog, cat, or rabbit, or for the child who became your impromptu assistant. When you call upon a child to assist you ask what his/her name is. Hearing his/her name is important to anyone and is especially so to a child. A child's name is one of the first things he/she is taught to say and to respond to. It is the first thing he/she recognizes that makes him/her different from

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other children. It is his/her first realization of individuality.

Another thing that you will need to consider when entertaining is the approximate age of your audience. The younger the children, the more difficult it will be to keep their attention. The techniques for entertaining three year olds are different from the techniques for entertaining ten years olds (especially at birthday parties). You can do things FOR ten year olds, but you have to do things WITH three year olds.

You may want to do an hour's show but it may be more practical to do a smashing, scintillating half-hour show instead. "Grab 'em, shake 'em, and turn 'em loose".

A good opening is of tremendous importance to any show and this is especially true of a show or party designed for children. You will want them to think right from the start, "This is going to be fun"! And you will strive to sustain this enthusiasm until you finish.

Take a tip from our friends in scouting and KISMIF Translated, this phrase means, Keep It Simple, Make It Fun ! Keep your preparation time, set up time, pack up time all down to a minimum. Try to use things that are inexpensive to use and easy to prepare. Try to use things that can be given away ( balloons, Afghan bands, paper hats, paper trees, cut ropes, etc).

Try to keep your program going smoothly. After your big opening, alternate your games, tricks, skits, songs, stories, puppets, etc. so that you will have livelier activities interfaced with somewhat quieter ones. Don't drag your program out until it ceases to be fun. Stop before that point - - leave them wanting more. Prepare a strong finish for your performance. A skit or trick with a surprise ending could fill the bill. "Grab 'em, shake 'em, and turn 'em loose".

Mark Wilson, the talented magician, writes that he considers the real secret of entertaining children successfully is, "Practice makes perfect". To really learn to perform for children, you must perform for children. The best way to learn to entertain children is from experience. You must perform many shows, and you will learn something from each show. If an activity goes well and is

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well received, keep it in your act. On the other hand, if an activity does not go over, doesn't "sell" (in other words, if it "bombs"), eliminate it from your act. The main thing you will learn is how to handle an audience of children. You will gain poise, overcome (outwardly, anyway) stage fright, and attain stage presence,

"Grab 'em, shake 'em, and turn 'em loose" !

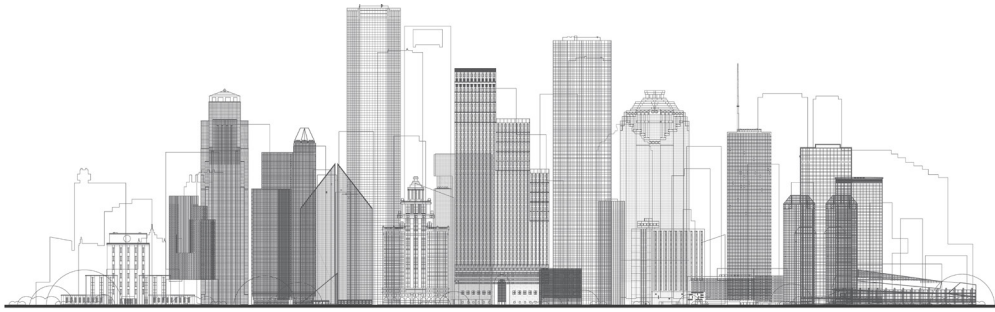
Mary Ann Beck



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This article by Mary Ann Beck was found in the [1985, January/February](#) issue of the Joey Journal. You can read the full issue in our Digital Joey Journal Archive found in the Members Only section of the TCA website.

# TCA CONVENTION 2024



**HOUSTON**  
— TEXAS —