

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association



Joey Journal

December 2023 - January 2024 Issue 18

texasclownassociation.com

2024
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

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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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Family (each add'l); \$20.00
Junior Membership (age 10-15): \$17.50
Senior Membership (over 90): \$20.00

Visit www.texasclownassociation.com for online or mail in membership application and renewal.

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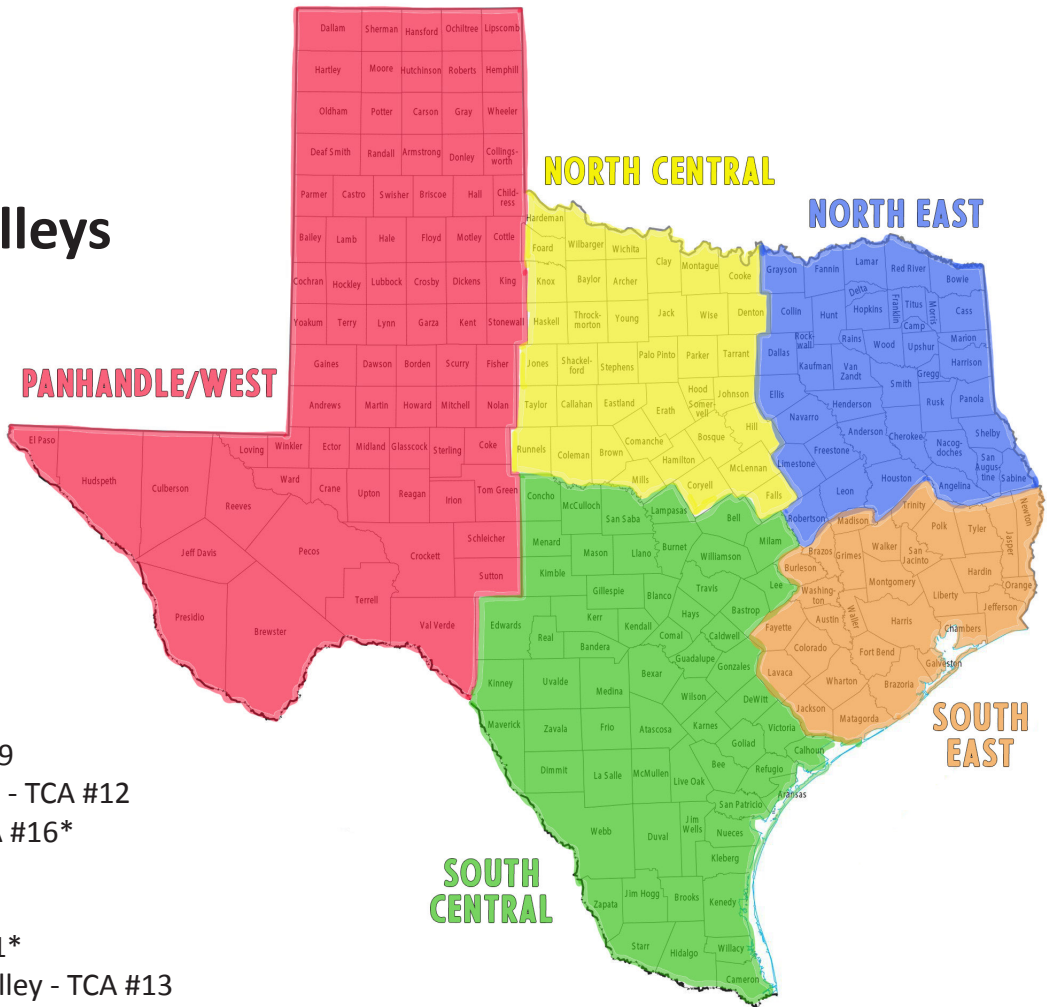
Be sure to check out the TCA website
www.texasclownassociation.com

**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 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

I have had thoughts buzzing around inside my head and now it is time for me to share them with you, but the incessant chatter has led me to forget what was there in the beginning and I am starting from scratch. Most of my thoughts were coming as I was floating in and out of a Turkey induced coma. But here goes

Following the Christmas Season, we shouldn't limit kindness to that time of year, but it is awesome to reach out to others that have been impacted by events that are out of their control and include them in as much as we can do both physically and emotionally. Especially our clown family, send a card, give them a call or better yet visit if possible. This is a challenge to myself also, but one that I hope to be more conscious about as I go forward.

I did mention that Cheerful has been hard at work for the 2024 TCA Convention and the registration form is on the website – so please start filling it out showing us, you want to be part of the upcoming fun. No matter what - smiling faces are always needed.

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.

Have a very Happy 2024 !!!!!!!



YeeHaw Membership Roundup

By: Debbie "Posie" Davis

Hi y'all, it's another year "2024"! Hope everyone is doing well! It's that time of year again to pay membership dues. With our conversation coming up July 31 - Aug 4, in Spring TX, you want to be a paid up member. So like the conversation "I'm rounding up clowns to pay their dues.

You can go to TCA and fill out renewal form: either print form and pay by check or go to Zelle and pay on line. We are phasing out PayPal because they charge fees.

I'm looking forward to seeing y'all at "Red Nose Roundup" this summer!

Membership Dues

(Each new member must pay a one time initiation fee of \$5 in addition to membership dues)

Regular = \$30

Family (*) = \$20

Junior = \$17.50 (10-15 yrs)

Senior = \$20 (over 90)

(*) each additional family member after the first regular member)

Join or Renew Information: <http://texasclownassociation.com/membership>

NEW PASSWORD COMING SOON

We are changing the password for the MEMBERS Section on the TCA Website. The password will change on Thursday, February 1st. 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.



Convention: It's a Family Reunion

by John "John-John" Luce

Special Offer At The End Of This Article

Well as a fellow member and Chaplin for TCA I believe that it's time again for us to talk. So... as they use to say at the beginning of the show, 'Dragnet', the story you are about to hear is true...the names have been omitted—because you don't know them anyway. You see, I just returned from the reunion of a church I belonged to many years ago.

It is a small church, most of the members are new, the pastor is new, even the paints new, but at second glance it's still the same as when I left it many years ago. At this reunion as you might expect all the old members clustered together displaying flashing smiles and warm hugs. They spoke to each other about family, memories, and the challenges endured in all those missing years.

It was all going as one would expect until I realized that we were all talking about who wasn't there: We spoke as if somehow we had been transported back twenty years. We asked "had anybody heard from them, are they alright and how about the kid's, are they home, are they well, and are they happy"? This was the way it was so many years ago when someone was absent on Sunday morning. A sense of alarm was felt throughout the congregation for it was as if without their presents we were incomplete. Back then it just wouldn't do and it was the same today.

After the meal some of the old members were asked to say a few words and this lead to others joining in as if there were things that were left to long unsaid.

The hall was alive once more with the voices of people telling the stories of how they had learned to live, love, and trust because of those in attendance and those that were not. There were heart rendering stories of how one person had forever affected another and it made me sad that the person that was spoken of was not there to hear it and might never know.

This is the best example I can give of a family and not just a church family but also the family of TCA. That's right ; I could have just as easily been speaking of anyone of the Conventions I have attended. The story is the same. Wherever we were the halls were alive with the voices of family all sharing stories, hugs and the concerns for those who had not yet been seen. Through the years we, just like any other family, have shared the joys of belonging and the tears of loss. We learned from each other how to live for the moments that our Clown can come to life, to love what we do, and trust in the knowledge that we all can learn more from failures than we can from failure to try. We are family and that brings me to the point of this story. Membership Renewal is fast approaching and it is important to our family that all noses are accounted for to prevent worry and let the Board know how the family is doing. Your dues are important but do not go as far as one might think at covering the rising cost of operation. Most operating funds come from other sources such as ads and Convention proceeds.

The importance of dues is to count our active members so that we can adjust our budget numbers to meet the needs of our Clown family. This is so important that (Here is the special offer) The TCA Board has decided to sweeten the pot. Everyone's Membership Renewal form received with payment of dues before April 1st 2024 will have their name placed in some sort of suitable contest hopper and one name will be drawn. That lucky person will receive one free Convention Registration for the 2024 TCA Convention in Spring TX. I will personally contact the winner once they have been selected. I sincerely hope you win for when you win TCA wins also and I can quit worrying about you.

Bump a Nose and Make A Memory



Convention Updates

By Pam "Touche" Blacklock and Linda "Noodles" Cooper, Convention Co-hosts

Dear TCA Members and Friends,

Hopefully you all had a great holiday time! We are working hard to bring you a great convention this year. Please bear with us as we continue with plans.

We have another great addition to the upcoming convention! This gentleman has been a lecturer in the past and has graciously agreed to come back again. It will be a one time class only. The person that I am referring to is "The Astonishing Mr. Pitts". David Pitts will be leading a class on Wednesday evening, July 31st, 2024. The class will last a couple of hours. The class will be Telling Your Stories in Pictures and Words. You really don't want to miss out on this one!

We are working on schedules and will be getting back with more information as often as possible to keep you posted on what is going on. In the meantime, you can help by getting your registrations in and by also getting your hotel rooms booked as soon as possible. Room rates are \$129/night with maximum of 4 clowns to a room. Registration rates are: \$195 through March 31st, 2024, \$215 until June 30th and \$230 at the door. The registration form can be found on the TCA website. That is: texasclownassociation.com
The link to book your room is on the convention form deadline for this exceptional rate is July 17. If calling, please be sure to use the "Texas Clown Association Block" to ensure we meet our room block and you get this hard to beat price! If you have questions regarding the Hotel please contact Judy Cornett at judy.a.cornett@gmail.com.

Mail completed convention forms and checks (payable to CCA CONVENTION-2024 TCA) to:

Pam Blacklock
4202 Namora Ln
Houston, TX 77080

Registration payments are accepted via VENMO to
[@Linda-Cooper-92](https://www.venmo.com/@Linda-Cooper-92)





CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE WORLD OF CLOWNING

by Kathy “Piccolo” Keaton, TCA Education Director

I recently watched a live feed of how the “Dream Doctor Clowns” in Israel are clowning in the war zones. The difference they are making, the hope they are bringing and the laughter and smiles they are creating is heart - warming! Being connected to like-minded clowns, world - wide pretty amazing!

Why would that matter to me, a well – an established clown in my own right, living so far from the war in a dusty Texas Town??? Why should it matter to you?

If you are wanting to be a professional clown, from within or already a professional, educating ourselves and our clown is a never ending, constantly ongoing part of our continuous improvement and development.

Anytime we have the opportunity to learn, from whatever means, is a good thing!! It is up to us to connect and take advantage of those opportunities for learning for ourselves, beyond our alley, organizations and conferences.

There are many places and people in our communities that are in need of laughter.

Family Shelters – I know I was asked many times to clown for our family shelter. It hurt my heart even to imagine seeing a child or mother that had been abused, battered or beaten. Once I said yes, it was nothing like I had imagined, but very much like the Dream Doctor Clowns describe their current experience in Israel. Families are separated, hiding, afraid, sad, grieving looking for safety and security.

A clown is able to bring hope & encouragement as they watch, listen and see, in the moment as they play through improve and other means to create a moment of laughter and joy for the parent and their children. They need it and respond well.

Family Shelter Work is very rewarding for the clown and makes a big difference for others. What more could we ask??



Memory Care Centers – I know this is scary for some. Not knowing what to expect, how residents will respond. Interaction, music, dance clapping, singing can not only stimulate residence but often encourage them to speak and participate unexpectedly. For me, one on one is the best approach. Visiting with staff for informational clues and cues about residents can make a visit very surprising sometimes. By asking the resident a simple question, “did you have a dog” do you like flowers” can open up a conversation. You never know where it is going. Just keep reacting and responding and asking more questions when needed. Just go with whatever they say, connect and interact with them. It isn’t about entertaining. It’s about stimulation. It’s a special way of communication and connecting in the moment. Singing or humming old familiar tunes is quite beneficial. Studies show that many residents that are prone to agitation show much less for several hours after a visit from a clown. If a resident doesn’t respond or seems agitated – just move on to someone else. It can really make your heart feel good, when you know

it’s been a good visit.

Whatever type of clown you are, I encourage you to continue to seek out information to become better at what you’re doing.

Not sure who said this – but I like it!

“The expert in anything was once a beginner.” “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” “The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.”



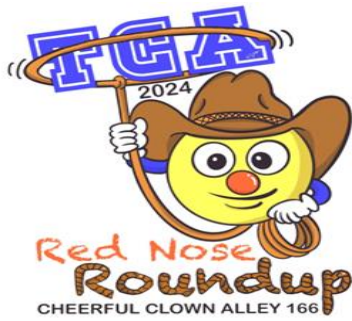
Star Bright Village

by Susan "Tinker" Butler

Our town, Odessa, has an incredible Christmas light display in December to drive through or walk. For several years our CMA Christian Motorcyclist Association has worked this event collecting donations, but donations are not required. Yes, it was usually very cold, but bundle up buttercup. Then, someone said, you should come as a clown. The challenge was on. OK, as cars drove through, we would say MERRY CHRISTMAS. Then, I started saying FELIZ NAVIDAD and the people really lit up. Being an Auguste clown I can be silly with things. I started singing FELIZ NAVIDAD but I would pretend not to know all the words and the people in the cars would finish it. They were laughing and having a ton of fun! This year I was working up Feliz Navidad on my Ukulele. Let's have fun and make people smile. We can make a difference!!

Richard Snowberg always said,

"Clown wherever you can!"



PLEASE PRINT! ONE FORM PER PERSON!

Name: _____

Clown Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Age / DOB (if under 16 on 8/4/2024) _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

TCA # _____ (registrants must be TCA members)

Please provide any diet restrictions or food allergies!
(Please list on back of this registration form)

Is this your 1st TCA Convention? Yes No
Plan to stay at convention hotel? # of nts? _____

CONVENTION FEES:

Registration (see right side)	\$ _____
Extra Banquet Ticket: \$58ea	\$ _____
Extra Breakfast Ticket: \$35ea	\$ _____
T-Shirt(s) Size _____	\$ _____
(Must order and pay before 07/01/24)	
Short Sleeve (S-M-L-XL: \$ 22)	
Short Sleeve (XXL and larger: \$25)	
TOTAL	\$ _____

ISSUE and MAIL Checks to:
CCA CONVENTION – 2024 TCA
c/o Pam Blacklock
4202 Namora Ln, Houston, TX 77080

To pay electronically, use VENMO and send total payment to:
Linda Cooper @ linda-cooper-92
And send this completed registration form marked PAID
BY VENMO and payment date to address above or by
email to touchecca@gmail.com.

Cheerful Clown Alley #166
invites you to the
Texas Clown Association
40th Annual Convention
JULY 31- AUG 4, 2024 SPRING, TX

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:
\$195 until 3/31/2024
\$215 until 6/30/2024
\$230 7/1/2024-at the door
(no checks at the door – cash only)
(No refunds after June 30, 2024)

Registration includes: all scheduled workshops, jams, shows, daily admission to the Vendors Room, competitions, Saturday awards banquet and Sunday breakfast (all for one person).

JUNIOR JOEYS FREE
Ages 10 - 15 with registered adult
Juniors enjoy all the same convention events and activities as the adult registrants, plus special classes geared for younger clowns.

DAY RATE \$75
Day rate does NOT include any meals and day rate attendees cannot participate in competitions.

HOUSTON CITYPLACE MARRIOTT
at Springwoods Village
1200 Lake Plaza Dr., Spring, TX 77389

Use this link to reserve your hotel room:
(Use CTRL+Click to follow above link.)
[Book your group rate for TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION 2024](#)

Room Rate: \$129/nt (+tax)
up to 4 people per room (includes WIFI)
All rooms are 1 King or 2 Queens
Or call 281-350-4000 and ask for the
Texas Clown Association Block.

Make your hotel reservation early (deadline 07/17/24) to ensure you have a room. Please plan to stay at the convention hotel to help TCA meet its room block and save money on the convention meeting space.

For **Hotel** questions? Contact
Judy "Peep" Cornett 713-201-8681

\$12 ALL DAY PARKING (24 HRS)
\$6 DAY RATE (NO OVERNIGHT)

Watch the TCA website for more convention information, as details become available.

Convention Questions? Contact: Linda "Noodles" Cooper 281-813-2354 noodlestxclown@gmail.com
Registration Questions? Contact: Pam "Touche" Blacklock 713-240-3623 touchecca@gmail.com



Dues are Due

by Cinde "Boopsie" Sanders, TCA Vice-President

Having the opportunity to be a part of a group of like-minded people with similar interests and aspirations is the best feeling in the world. As humans we all want to belong. We need interaction and creative outlets and other people to learn from and to teach. This is why organizations like the Texas Clown Association are formed. We grow and share and find our own way through others.

When we gather, there are often costs involved. Renting meeting rooms, insurance, office supplies and props, putting on conventions and paying professionals for education. How do we pay for these things that make our volunteer organization run? The answer is membership dues. These are the payments members make to an organization on a regular basis to keep their organization going. In exchange, they receive access to exclusive benefits and resources and most of all a family of unbelievably wonderful and talented clowns and performers to share with and love. All of this to say **Dues are Due** within the first quarter of the year.

The official purpose of the TCA is to Promote, Preserve and Improve the Profession of Clowning. Provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning. Educate its members and the public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning. Provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

BENEFITS! What Can the Texas Clown Association (TCA) Do for YOU?

- The TCA is chartered in the STATE of TEXAS as a non-profit perpetual corporation and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Code.
- Like-minded clown arts professionals and enthusiasts around the state are working together to propagate the performing art of clowning.
- Specific membership categories to include Regular, Family, Junior, Senior and Lifetime. Announcements are made in The Joey Journal of all New Members.
- The Joey Journal magazine, published bi-monthly, is educational, informative, and published to provide you with useful clowning information. All members are encouraged to share articles, announcements and advertisements through the magazine.
- TCA Chartered Clown Alleys for local and regional membership support and continuing educational opportunities.
- TCA offers a convention each year with education, competition, and fellowship. Alleys around the state can host a convention and share education and entertainment at the annual conventions.
- The Junior Joey Program encourages children ages 10-15 to join and participate in the art of clowning.
- Buddy Program for First Time convention attendees/ registrants.
- TCA recognition to include TCA Best All Around Clown, Ambassador, and Competition Awards.
- Opportunities for volunteer service to include Officers, Directors, Area Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members.
- The TCA Website – www.texasclownassociation.org – a full online community to stay informed about everything TCA.
- TCA is officially affiliated with Clowns of America International (COAI).

Membership Dues

Visit www.texasclownassociation.com/membership to fill out the membership application

- \$30 Regular membership
- \$20 each additional family member
- \$17.50 Junior Joey (10-15 years old)
- \$20 Senior membership (over 90 years old)

(Each new member must pay a one-time initiation fee of \$5 in addition to the year Membership Dues)

I can't wait to share joy with you as a fellow member of the Texas Clown Association!



LAST WALK-AROUND: Allan-Sambo-Driscoll

by Nancy "Bubbles the Clown" Arent

(We just got notice of Allan's passing recently , but still wanted to honor him)

Allan "Sambo" Driscoll peacefully had his last Walk-Around, on February 25, 2022. Born November 26, 1963, in Ft Worth, Texas, Allan had a host of many friends.

Allan wore many different hats with numerous degrees in the Healthcare Industry, a Floral designer/Owner of many flower shops, a Talented Musician and Singer, and of course being Sambo the Clown. Allan was always eager to learn anything new and share his knowledge to anyone that wanted to learn.



A Member of Cowtown Clowns Alley #135, Happi Tymes, Mid-Cities, TCA and COAI for many years. He was always there to help anyone in need. Allan always had encouraging words for anyone, even when he had his own failing health.

Like someone said at his Celebration of Life, He may be gone, but not forgotten. He never met a stranger and he will truly missed by all that had the pleasure to know him.



Area Alley Reports

West Texas/Panhandle November 2023

by Susan "Tinker" Butler

Oops Alley: Linda, Claudette and Voncille have been face painting at schools, churches, fall festivals and Halloween events.

November Linda and Claudette are going to an advanced face painting conference in Austin. Suzy Wall has been face painting and twisting balloons.

South Central Alley Report-- November 2023

by Kim "Tutti Frutti" Grice

The Jolly Joeys in San Antonio continue to meet on the fourth Thursday each month. They have been busy clowning at numerous fall festivals and charity events. They are currently gearing up for the annual Elf Louise gift delivery in December. They help wrap gifts and teams of Santa and elves (clown elves in our case) deliver gifts to underprivileged children. They have been participating in this for 27 years. As always, recruitment for new members is ongoing.

Danny "Lanky" Kollaja reports that the group in Corpus Christi is communicating via Facebook and that they meet virtually rather than face to face at this time.



North Central Area Report August 2023

by Brenda "Flower" Marshall

November 1, 2023

Cowtown Clowns is the only alley currently active in the North Central Region of TCA. Cowtown meets the 4th Monday of every month at the El Chico's restaurant in Richland Hills, TX.

During National Clown Week, several Cowtown Clowns visited the Richland Hills Fire Department and Police department, delivering water and snacks and clowning around. We also visited the kids camp program at "The Link" in Richland Hills and spent some time with the kids who were there.

There were several Cowtown Clowns in attendance at the 2023 TCA Convention and Membership Meeting. Since then, Cowtown celebrated its 42nd birthday with a 50's themed party. There were games, costumes, 50's karaoke and even root beer floats!

Cowtown has had a program called the "PUP", benefiting the county hospital in Fort Worth for many years. Each month, those celebrating their birthdays during the month are encouraged to bring either a donation of money or a donation of new underwear for the hospital to use. Thus, the name, "Panties & Underwear Project". During Covid, these donations were not being received, but Wanda Carter, our liaison with the hospital was happy to report that we can start bringing them again!

In September, The Cowtown Clowns returned to another event that had been closed during Covid. There were several clowns doing balloons, facepainting and walk-around at the St Michael's Feast in Euless.

Also in September, we had our first "Zoom" class during our meeting. Jane Kinney, from Wisconsin, gave us a Red Nose Reader refresher course. The Red Nose Reader program started just before Covid hit, so it was good to be reminded about the program, now that we can get back into the schools.

In October, Cowtown Clowns returned, for the second year, to the Haltom City Fire Department Open House to celebrate Fire Prevention Month. There were face painters, balloon artists and those walking around helping with various projects.

And on Halloween, Cowtown provided face painting, glitter tattoos, balloons, and game monitors for the Haltom City Senior Center Halloween Party.

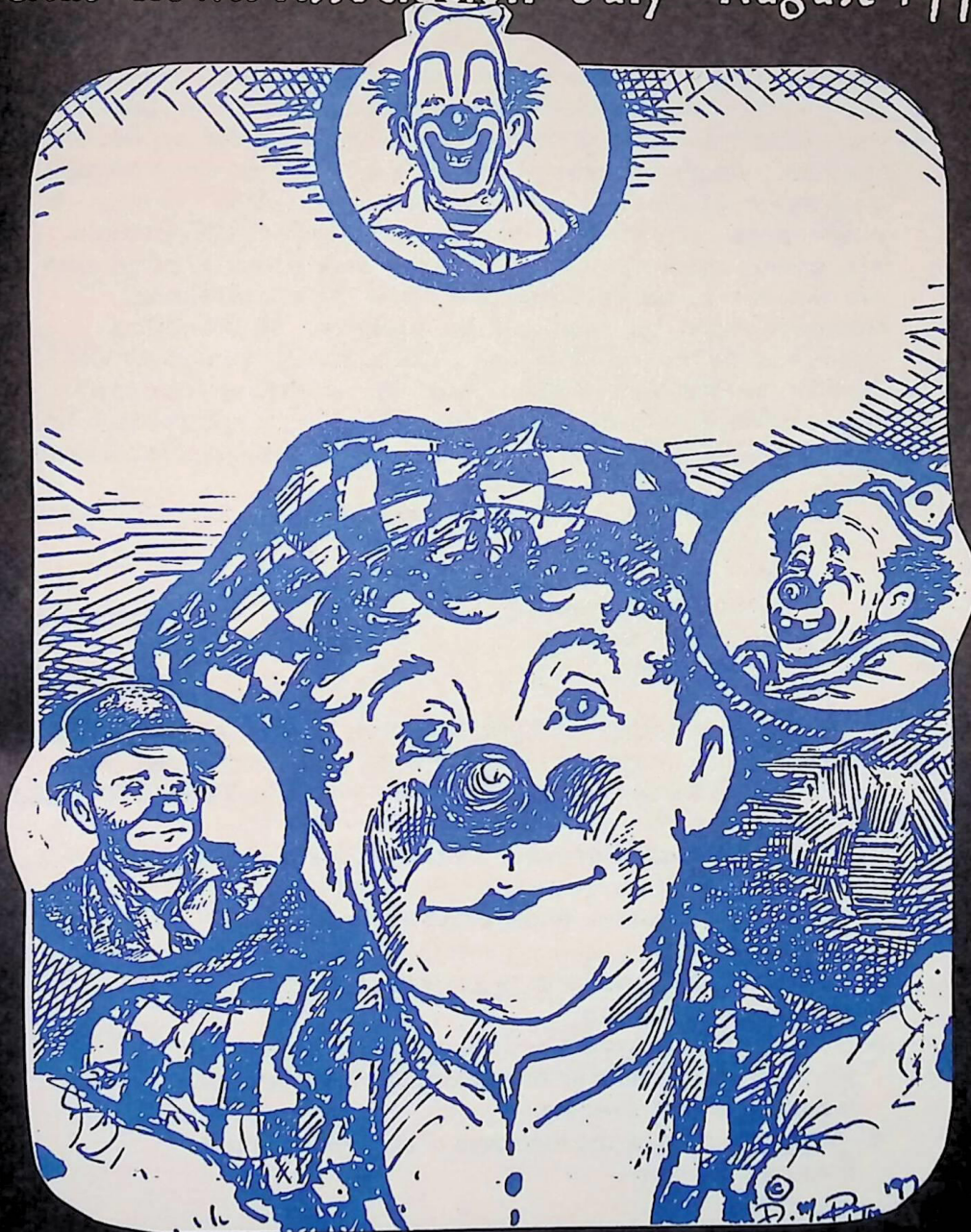
Our November meeting will feature another "Zoom" class with Dr Brad Stone, from Minnesota, presenting his science show for kids with "Professor Flutterblaster."

Pictures and info can be found on the public Facebook page, "Cowtown Clowns".



the Joey Journal

Texas Clown Association July - August 1997





Survival Tips

by Sugar Plum

Editor's note: This will be a featured column in the next several issues--maybe more! These are ideas and suggestions from Mary Lostak, a very experienced and talented clown in the Houston area. We thank Mary for sharing her insight from her many experiences as Sugar Plum!

Working with big groups in a show type set-up

The adults in the room think you will take control of the kids. This can even occur at schools with the teachers or teachers' aides. Many think this is their break time! I THINK NOT! You may be able to control them but it is not a good idea to be left alone in the room with a group of kids. At the onset of the event, if this appears to be happening, speak to the one in charge and tell them it is your policy to have one or more adults to supervise the kids. (This will help protect you from false accusations). It will also help to let the organizers know that you are there strictly as an entertainer.

If, as it sometimes happens, the aides or grown-ups are ignoring the kids, you can bring one of them into the show by using them as a helper. If the situation is more serious and they are ignoring blatant bad behavior, you can choose to stop what you are doing and ask for some assistance or put the blame on the disruptive kids by saying "Hey you guys, this is a clown show, not a wrestling match! I know you forgot, but if it happens again, your teacher (ask for the teacher's name) will have to do one of the following:

- 1) Take you from the room
- 2) Put you between two buns and feed you to the alligators
- 3) Make you laugh till your pants fall off
- 4) Roll you in peanut butter and rice krispies and hang you by your shoes as a bird feeder.



Then say, this will be her choice. This lets the teachers know that they must do their job.

Adults making noise during your show

Let them know at the start that they are expected to be part of the audience. You may actually say "I invite you to sit down and enjoy the show with your children. They will be helping with the magic and I'm sure you will want to see what a good job they are doing." If they are particularly noisy, point out politely that there is one of you and many of them. The very best way though, to keep them involved, is to put them in the show! All eyes will be watching!

This article by Mary Lostak was found in the [1997, July-August](#) 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.



DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE FUNNY FACES FROM THE JULY-AUGUST 1997 JOEY JOURNAL?



.....clowning around!





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