

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association



Joey Journal

February - March 2024 Issue 19

texasclownassociation.com

Spring

History of the Make-up Tradition

Kim Grice pg. 8

Ambassador of Clowning Award

Patsy McMillion, pg. 10

Clown Continuing Education

Kathy Keaton pg. 14

What's in a Pose? (from 1997 Joey)

Mauri Norris, pg. 15



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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

Published Bi-monthly for Members of
The Texas Clown Association, Inc.
Greg "Zoots" Stanford, Editor

CONTENTS

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items should be emailed to greg@joeyjournal.com or addressed to The Joey Journal and mailed to 5407 Hooper Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76306. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints, please no slides, or copies. The preferred format is a digital copy in the "jpg" or "png" format.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Back cover - \$80.00; Inside back cover - \$70.00; Full page - \$70.00; 1/2-page - \$40.00; 1/4 page size - \$25.00; and a business card size ad - \$10.00 an issue.

Multiple placement discounts on ads are 5% for 3-5 editions and 10% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance.

Clownified ads: Free to members if you have clown-related items for sale or donation. Vendor businesses not included.

Publication deadlines: On or before Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1 and Oct. 1. Articles can be sent to greg@joeyjournal.com in the body of your email or in Word, Pages, or PDF format.

Membership and Dues - Regular membership: \$30.00
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.

05	A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT Patsy McMillan, our TCA President.
06	FROM THE EDITOR'S KEYBOARD Some words from Greg, the editor.
08	HISTORY OF THE MAKE-UP TRADITION Kim Grice dives into history to give us the low-down on make-up.
10	AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD Patsy McMillan shares the details on submitting a nominee for Ambassador.
12	SCHOLARSHIPS Kathy Keaton directs us on how to apply for a scholarship for the 2024 convention.
14	CLOWN CONTINUING EDUCATION Kathy Keaton encourages to keep on learning and find ways to continue your clown education.
15	FROM THE JOEY JOURNAL ARCHIVE Check out this great article written by Mauri Norris back in 1997.
18	LAST WALK AROUND Don't miss William Beaty's article on the passing of Joe Thompson.
20	LAST WALK AROUND Dale DePrima celebrates the life and clowning of Earl Warren.
21	AREA REPORTS Check out what's been happening around the great state.

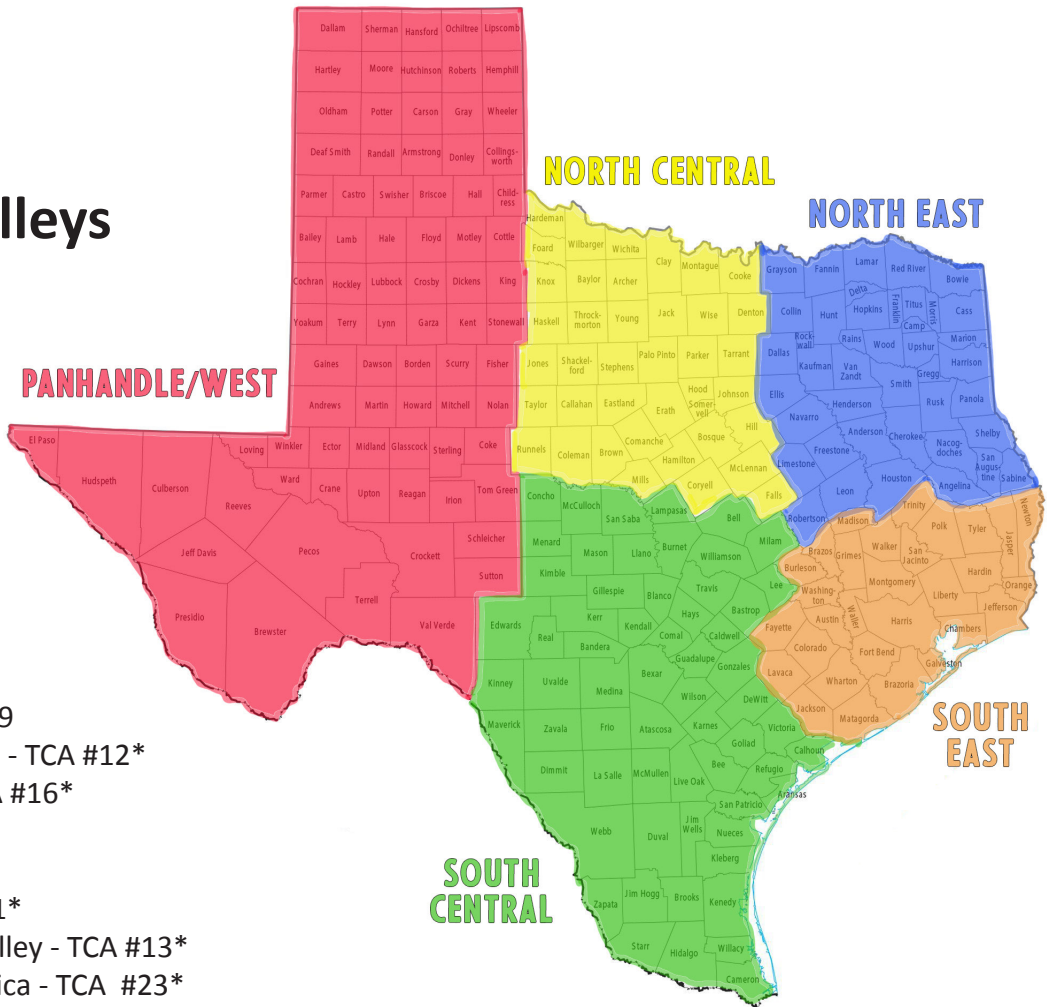
Be sure to check out the TCA website
www.texasclownassociation.com

**The members only password is:
houston24**

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 Arouns - 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

DFW Clowns "R" Us - TCA #

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

As usual I am having difficulty with the thoughts inside my head to successfully appear on paper – but here is a smattering of letters that I hope you can decipher

I previously mentioned that Cheerful Clown Alley convention committee has been hard at work planning the 2024 TCA Convention; and I want to thank all of them for their countless hours of hard work already done with many more to come.

When I first started attending TCA conventions 25 years ago, we had so many more members than we currently have, and it was not unusual for conventions to be planned two to three years in advance. But, with the reduction in membership it has become a struggle to find an alley or committee to take on this endeavor. As many of you notice it has become the same group of people that are always doing the work of putting together a convention. I believe it is time for those hard workers to be able to relax and enjoy themselves with the opportunity to have some fun. WE REALLY DO NEED ANY ALLEY OR GROUP OF PEOPLE WILLING TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO START PLANNING FOR TCA 2025.

Let your Board of Directors hear your comments and ideas concerning TCA. And as members of this great organization, let’s strive to make TCA the best clown family we can be.



HEADLINER



Kelly James Ballagh

invites you to the
Texas Clown Association 40th
Annual Convention
JULY 31- AUG 4, 2024 SPRING, TX
WWW.TEXASCLOWNASSOCIATION.COM



HOUSTON CITYPLACE MARRIOTT
at Springwoods Village
1200 Lake Plaza Dr., Spring, TX 77389
(Group rate for Texas Clown Association)



APPLY FOR TCA
SCHOLARSHIP

REGISTER!

(Online or mail your form in)



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



Convention or Registration Questions?

PLEASE CONTACT NOODLES;
NOODLESTXCLOWN@GMAIL.COM
OR TOUCHÉ;
TOUCHECCA@GMAIL.COM



HOST ALLEY: CHEERFUL CLOWN ALLEY #166
WWW.TEXASCLOWNASSOCIATION.COM



Why Do Clowns Wear Make-up? History of the Make-up Tradition

by Kim "Tutti Frutti" Grice

No matter what type of clown you choose to be, you will design your "face." You will wear make up in some degree. The design you choose becomes part of your clown character and is the most recognizable thing about you, other than your costume possibly. So, where did this tradition begin? WHY do we as clowns wear make up?

Probably the earliest recorded clown characters in "modern" history are part of the Peking Opera in China, which has been part of that culture since the early 1700s. This is a theatrical production on a stage. There are four "characters" in any opera and they are the warrior, scholar, woman, and clown (chou). Originally, all parts were played by men and the distinguishing feature about each one was their make-up—this is how the audience knows which character is which. The clown character has a very distinct design and will always be recognized as the "clown."



Fast forward to the late 1700s. This is when Joseph Grimaldi, the English performer who is known as the father of modern clowning, lived. He was never part of a circus, but spent his life performing full-length pantomimes in theaters in London. He first played a clown in 1796 when he developed an eccentric costume and the practice of wearing white face makeup with red triangles painted on his cheeks. He was known for being a master in the use of expressions of the body and face and his overall comic abilities. His portrayal of the clown influenced future clowns in the UK for many years. Again, pantomime performances were carried out on stages. Most performers wore make up.

Of course, the reason stage performers use make-up is to accentuate the facial features so that the audience can see facial expressions more clearly from a distance. So, for clowns, the wearing of make-up is to exaggerate or enlarge our facial expressions. Once clowns began performing in circuses, like in theater, the audience is at a distance and clown makeup helped the audience see the comic expressions better.

Today, most of our clowning is done in closer proximity to our audience, but we still use make up to enhance our facial features, for the purpose of making them more visible and comic. However, we have had to tame it down some in order to be less scary. Make up of long ago circus clowns might be considered "grotesque" and even scary to people of today.



All of the clown organizations today have standards for make-up that represent what is considered appropriate in today's cultures. If you want to compete in make-up, you would certainly want to adhere to these guidelines and standards. As working/everyday clowns, we deviate some from these, but it is a good idea to follow as many of the guidelines as is practical. This is what will set us apart as professional clowns vs. "lipstick" clowns.

As you design/refine your make up for your clown character, here are recommended tips and principles:

1. Keep the design simple
2. Once you like the design, stick with it – don't change it up
3. A well-designed face should highlight and/or exaggerate your natural facial characteristics – study your face and expressions to see where to accentuate the movement
4. The goal of your face design should be to make your face appear cheery, comical, and smiling, even when you are NOT smiling
5. Your "clown" facial features should not extend outside the width of your eyes on your face, i.e. the muzzle should not wrap around the sides of your cheeks
6. It is recommended that all clowns keep the upper lip white. This creates a separation between the nose and mouth so that at a distance, they do not blend together.
7. Enlarge or exaggerate your bottom lip, especially if you are an auguste; always place your bips above the corner of your mouth to give it an uplifted look vs. a frown
8. Stay with the basic colors of red, white, and auguste, with black used as accent; Avoid yellow, green and mostly blue. Yellow makes your face less bright and can appear sallowness; green looks garish and appears as black at a distance. Blue is acceptable in small amounts such as accents, but can appear as black as well.
9. Keep your black accents, eyebrows, etc., as thin as possible -thick black shapes and lines can look scary and dominate your face
10. Unless a classical whiteface, it is preferred that you use a nose vs. just painting one on

Sometimes, as clowns we portray a certain "character" in a skit. At those times, we may vary our make-up to fit that character, such as the use of kissy lips or a different wig and costume than we usually wear. For your everyday clown, it is best to design and stay with a facial design that is appropriate for all ages in all situations. You may vary your costume, but your audience will always "know" you by your face! Just like we do as people!

Have fun designing your face and keep practicing!



Ambassador of Clowning Award

By Patsy “Glitterbug” McMillan, on behalf of Jackie “Lollibells” Garner

Texas Clown Association (TCA) was founded in 1982 and the first TCA AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD was presented in 1983. This award is to recognize and honor the TCA member who most exemplifies the art of clowning and supports and promotes TCA. The award is a “lifetime achievement award” meaning that a member is only honored once (in a lifetime) with this prestigious award. Since this is presented once in a lifetime, it takes more than a little bit of clowning and TCA support to earn this award. TCA Ambassador Award recipients are granted lifetime membership in TCA (meaning they no longer pay annual dues – at the TCA Board of Directors’ discretion). The award is usually presented during the annual TCA convention but an Ambassador selection is not mandatory each year. Nominees should have the following qualifications and/or traits:

- Must be current and active member of TCA.
- Must be known for his/her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain.
- Should be well-rounded clown, i.e. someone who gives to the community, is an active volunteer, and who is exposed or is a professional in the art of clowning.
- Should promote TCA in all facets of clowning, and always strive to be positive, upbeat, agreeable and have a fair attitude. Be willing to share ideas and available to assist with a smile.

Nomination letters should explain why the nominee should be considered for the award and provide examples of the points listed above – it is not enough to just say you want to nominate the person. The nominations are reviewed by a committee of past recipients of the award. Remember, that while most of the committee members are active in TCA, it is possible that they do not know every qualified member. Nominations should include sufficient details describing the nominee to the Committee members as if they do not know the nominee. Be sure to include such facts as:

- How long this nominee has been an active supporting TCA member?
- Have they held any position in their alley or on the TCA board or TCA committees?
- How do they support and promote TCA in their clowning?
- How have they exhibited extra-ordinary clownmanship?
- How has the nominee been shown to be positive, upbeat, agreeable and sharing? Are they unselfish in assisting others, caring and most of all, just there when needed with no thought of being reimbursed for their time or effort?
- How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown; someone who gives to the community as an active volunteer, and who also demonstrated professionalism in the art of clowning?
- How has this nominee shown his/her dedication and promotion of the art of clowning in assisting others?

Nominations will be accepted from CURRENT TCA members only. Nominees must be CURRENT TCA members (to check membership status, contact the TCA Treasurer). Be sure to include your name and TCA number on your nomination letter as well as the REAL name and CLOWN name of your nominee. (Include your contact information too in case the committee has any questions about your nomination).

A list of the Ambassador Award recipients can be found on the TCA website. Remember do not nominate any members who have already received the award.



The most recent recipient of the Ambassador Award serves as the Chair of the Ambassador Award Committee. (If that person is unavailable or declines to serve, a chair will be appointed by the TCA Board of Directors.) The Ambassador Committee Chair is responsible for submitting the nomination details and deadlines to The Joey Journal and collecting the nominations. Nominations will be accepted by regular mail or e-mail. They must be dated or post-marked no later than the published deadline; and the deadline for this year’s nominations will be **July 1, 2024**. The chair will validate each nomination received by the deadline (confirming the membership status of both the nominating member and their nominee). Nominations received and/or postmarked after the deadline will NOT be considered for the award. The nominations will be considered by the TCA Ambassador Committee which is made up of previous recipients. The award will be presented during the Award Banquet at the annual TCA convention.

Nominations for the 2024 Ambassador Award are being accepted by:
 Patsy “Glitterbug” McMillan, on behalf of Jackie “Lollibells” Garner
 20806 Durand Oak Court
 Cypress, Texas 77433
 or
 mcglitterbug99@gmail.com

DEADLINE: July 1, 2024



(Past ambassadors present at the 2023 TCA Convention)



SCHOLARSHIPS

by Kathy "Piccolo" Keaton

Time to apply for The Texas Clown Association Scholarships. As your Education Director I encourage you to apply early!!! For more information, requirements and application go to <http://texasclownassociation.com/forms/>





REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

- All applications must be received by the date listed in the current Joey Journal.
- All applicants must be TCA members who have maintained membership for at least 1 year by the application deadline.
- Recipients must wait two years before reapplying.
- Applicants must agree to write an article for The Joey Journal regarding their experiences at the TCA Convention they attended within thirty days of the convention.
- It is strongly suggested that the recipient participate in one or more competitions at the convention.
- Attach with the application form: A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)
- Questions for the application form.
 - o How long have you been clowning?
 - o Have you been a TCA Member for at least a year before the application deadline?
 - o What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
 - o What clown skills are you interested in developing?
 - o What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
 - o Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
 - o How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
 - In your community?
 - In your alley?
 - In the Art of Clowning?
- Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?



Clown Continuing Education

Kathy “ Piccolo” Keaton, Educational Director

When I began clowning over 45 years ago the ONLY resource I had was “Clowns of America” (now COAI) I got a monthly magazine full of all kinds of clowns doing amazing things, as I was trying to discover how to clown. There was no internet, no You Tube – and I didn’t know about any conferences plus I did not know any other clowns. I kinda just figured it out the best way I could and did the best I could do with the knowledge I had. Luckily, it worked for me!

Today I was going to offer you a list of places clowns can learn. The list got so long, I quit looking and decided, if you want to learn, really learn and get better, improve, be the best clown you can be you can find a place to learn.

Here are just “some” of what I found: feel free to google and explore on your own. Many places offer scholarships, on-line classes, and other ways to learn. Most have the goal to help clowns build camaraderie, learn, grow, improve, for all levels of clowns. You may have to invest a little, but many offer scholarships. It all depends on how serious you are about your skills and your art.

- Texas Clown Association
- World Clown Association
- Clowns of America International
- Jest for Clowns

All four above offer an on-line clown magazine, full of information shared by other clowns around the world, included in their membership, which is more than affordable.

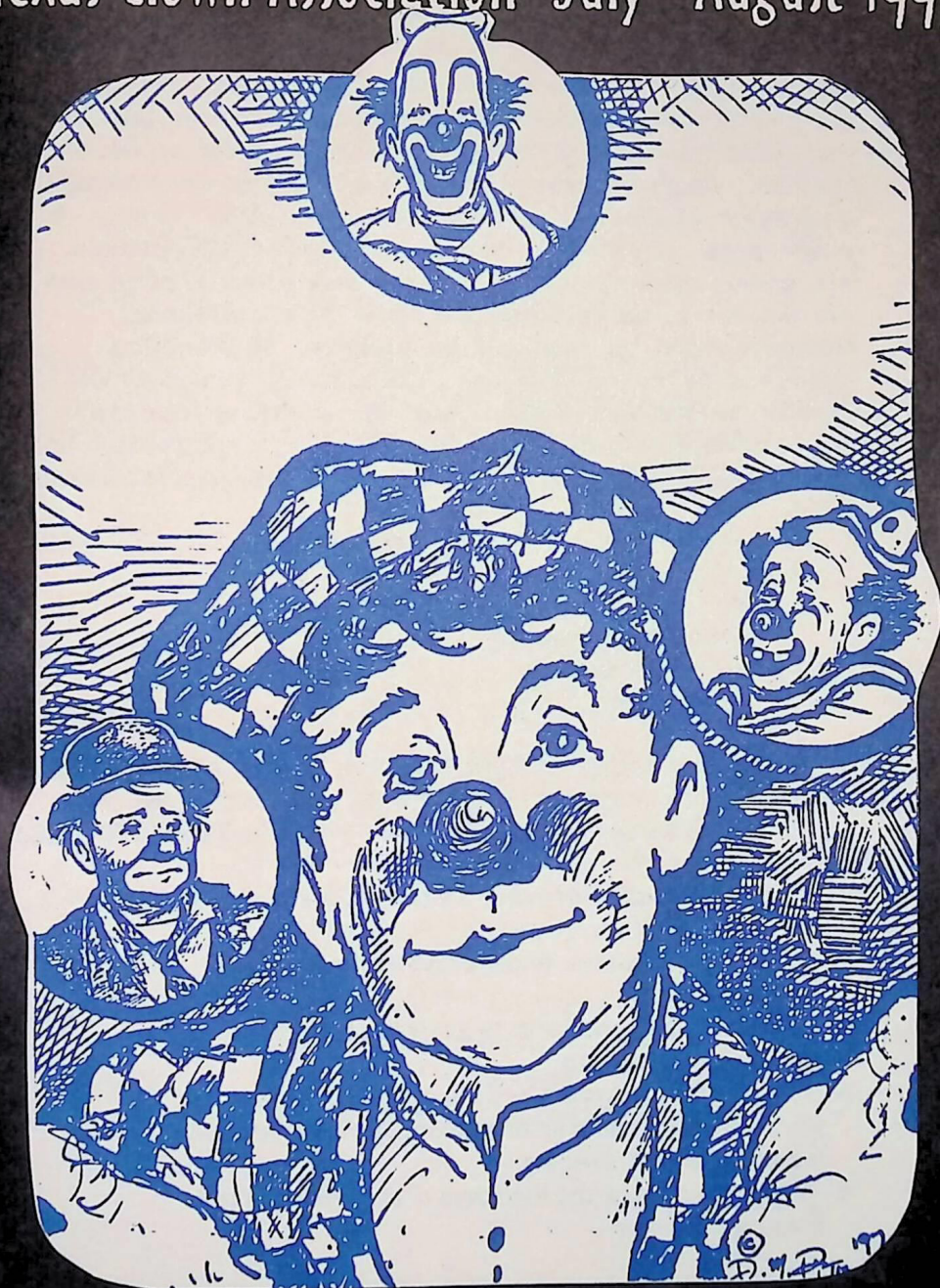
Other resources I found are below. Google your specialty and find out what is offered.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| UNIVERSAL Clown Summitt | School of Balloons |
| Mooseburger Clown Camp | Balloon Artist College |
| Clown Camp | Qualitex Balloon Education |
| On-Line Clown Academy | National Puppetry Festival |
| N. E. Clown Institute | National Puppetry Conference |
| The Clown School | Clown School International |
| NY Goofs (in Dallas) | Christian Clowning |
| Clown School (Houston) | |
| S.E. Clown Association | |



the Joey Journal

Texas Clown Association July - August 1997





What's in a pose?.....

by Mauri BINKIE Norris

I recently returned from the Clowns of America International Convention in Sturbridge Mass. Many things stand out from the event, including meeting new friends and renewing old friendships, learning a new gag or line and shopping and dancing and shopping and dancing and shopping and dancing. Well, you get the picture.....but, there was one weak area that really stuck with me. You might think it seems like a little thing, but I noticed that during the make up and wardrobe competitions, the participants rarely (I would guess less than 10% of them) had any idea of how to pose. Now, this is simply my opinion (and, by the way, I was a judge for the white face categories), but I felt that the poses were very limited and mostly ineffectual. Those poses were 'for the judges', but clowns usually pose for the public or for the camera. The pose should be one of the clown's BEST LOOKS. It should reflect or at least give a hint of the clown's personality.

Each different clown category might employ a variety of poses, using the proper movements and styles to reflect not only the type but the character of the clown himself. Like:

the very reserved, graceful and poised look of the
Classic White face

the larger and funnier look of the Comedy White face

the more extreme, clumsy and hilarious look of the
Auguste

the proud and satisfied stance of the Hobo

the minimal movement and expression of the Tramp

the appropriate actions of the Character Clown

The pose should incorporate not only the actions or position of the body, but the facial expression as well. Often I have heard lecturers advise clowns to practice their facial expressions in front of a mirror. The same is true for the pose. Practice! Practice! Practice! It is important to get it



right. You will use it all of the time. The pose is not just important for competition. Being constantly in the public eye, all clowns should know how to 'look' their best and express their characters to a crowd.

I heard one conventioneer remark that we needed a class on posing! Perhaps, but then again we do not want to mass-produce clone clowns. Poses are personal and individual. Often the physical abilities of the clown will determine at least the range of available movements and poses. What is a good, even great, pose for one clown may not work for the other. Try them out as you would try out a new hat - put it on and see how it looks and feels. If it's not right, throw it back and try another and another until you get the ones that are right for your clown.

Now here are a few suggestions to get you started. These ideas might be the most appropriate for Characters, but try modifying them for use by your own clown. Remember to include the proper facial expressions for the pose.

Ballerina: touch fingertips above head, point one foot/toe in front and bend forward slightly at the hips

Baseball Player: assume a batter's stance, gripping the imaginary bat over the up stage shoulder (side opposite the judges)

Soldier/Sailor: stand at attention and salute

Dapper: puff up chest and tip hat (as in "How do you do?")

Boxer: raise clasped hands over head in winner's stance

Little Girl: scrunch skirt with one hand and throw kiss with other hand

Others: lift one foot, sit down, kneel down, turn to side in hitch-hiker stance, point toward something, touch bow-tie or hat with one hand

And one more time because it is important.....

PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! POSE!

Editor's note: Mauri is a white face clown, active in Cheerful Clown Alley in Houston, Texas.



LAST WALK-AROUND: Joe Thompson

By William "Wee-Bo" Beaty

Dear clown family, I am sad to announce the death of Joe Thompson. I only had the chance to talk with him a few times over Facebook, and I loved the guy; I wish we had met in person! He could tell you like it is, but had a heart of gold!

The following is a few stories, and memories I collected about him from the people that knew him most. The first are words from Margaret Clauder:

Friends, one of the founding members of Happi Tymes Clowns passed away Monday January 29th. It was Joe Thompson. He lived close to Twin Falls, Idaho. He was known as Cannonball the Clown, the Balloon Buffoon, a wizard – Professor Armstrong Tuttle. He would also perform as a comedy magician, and Santa. He traveled the central US for many years doing county fairs as The Balloon Buffoon. Margaret Clauder's company, DFW Funny Business hired him from about 1993 until he retired up in Twin Falls. He "discovered" Earl Warren in the early 90's while going table to table twisting balloons at a Golden Corral on S. Cooper St. He remarked about how great his beard looked and would he like to become Santa? Joe invited Earl to Happi Tymes and the rest was history. Joe would donate his time quietly to several charities on a yearly basis as either the Balloon Buffoon or as Santa. When he lived in Texas, he always gave his time to "Dark in the Park" at River Legacy Park for Happi Tymes. He also donated time to MADD- Mothers Against Drunk Driving, as well as the Arlington homeless shelter. He would be Santa for them. He also mentored many young clowns. He won many awards for balloons and performing at TCA conventions. He and Margaret competed together in skits and won a few awards. He was also a former mime. Joe is survived by sons Gerrin, Dallas, Ryan, Bryce, Brett and daughter Lachelle. All are married. He had 30 grandchildren! He was 71 years old. He would have been 72 on April 4.

Loving memories of Joe from Margaret Clauder:

"Today a dear friend, Joe Thompson, was laid to rest in Twin Falls, Idaho. I am bummed that I couldn't attend his memorial service. I met Joe in 1988. I was taking a clown class from Bill Penny and Van Chauvin at UTA. I had been a self-taught clown up until then. He attended the clown class graduation ceremony where we had to perform live on stage at the Forum 303 mall. He walked up to me afterwards and said I was the best clown of the class. It made me feel great hearing that, but I didn't know what a high compliment it was until several years later when I got to see him perform. Joe was a comedic genius. He was quick witted and loved to play with people.

A lot of people I think didn't get Joe. He was a bit rough around the edges, but he was a true and loyal friend. He was also one of the most honest people I have ever known.

When I started my entertainment agency in the early 1990's, Joe was the first person I hired. He worked as either Cannonball the Clown, Santa Claus or the Balloon Buffoon. I never had to worry about Joe whenever I hired him. He was AT LEAST 30 minutes early to every gig but more often he was an hour early. After his gig he would always call and report in, sometimes even rattling on himself if he thought the gig didn't go well. He was just very particular and wanted to make my agency look good. I always appreciated that. We became close friends over the years. We would often work gigs together. My fondest memories were when he was Santa and I got to be his Mrs. We could really act like an old married couple harping on each other in front of the parents, grandparents and children. His improv skills were superb and working with him stretched my creativity to keep up. I learned so much from him.



We also put together a “Say No to Drugs” school show that we both enjoyed performing for the schools. On several occasions we put together skits that we competed with at the Texas Clown Association. Together we won a few performing awards. I think he was best known for his excellent balloon twisting skills and he won multiple awards at the clown conventions for that.

Joe introduced me to his fair agent out of Omaha, Dean Short, who hired me to also work the fair circuit just on Joe’s recommendation. I am eternally grateful for that as working the fair circuit every summer for years was a fabulous learning experience. My boys would travel with me in the summer going to those fairs. That is where they learned how to twist balloons. My son John has since taken over the fairs I did when I retired from doing it.

Several years ago Joe retired and moved to Twin Falls Idaho to be near a son and his family. He loved being near his family (his kids are scattered all over including Australia). He suffered from diabetes though which progressively got worse. I never tried to educate him on my new way of eating. I started that after he moved away and Joe was not one to take diet and exercise advice from anyone.

I’ll always miss “my buddy” as he would call me and I would call him. I’ll see you on the other side my friend.”

Memories from Martha “Cookie” Warren:

“Joe also volunteered for the CAPO Book fair for the underprivileged children throughout the Arlington school district. Also, for Lico’s Christmas party for the poor. He had quick wit and used it constantly. He took Earl’s place as Santa with me one year, for a family Earl and I visited on Christmas Eve, for almost 20 years. Santa Joe was not your traditional Santa, but he was very funny, and the family loved him! Joe will always be thought of and missed!”



Joe Thompson, April 4, 1952 - January 29, 2024





LAST WALK-AROUND: Earl Warren by Dale "Loppo" DePrima

We lost a dear friend and awesome clown, Earl Warren, in 2023. Earl was Santa Claus and aka Mr Whiskers, and the Professor.

He preformed magic and had a Professor Dumbledore show for Harry Potter enthusiasts. He did balloons at many alley volunteer events and paid gigs.

Earl had many charity organizations that he worked together with wife Martha Warren, 'Miss Cookie.' They worked with Happytymes clown alley of Arlington Texas for the Annual Christmas party, for the Arlington Clubhouse for underprivileged children and Accessible needs children. Miss Cookie carries on that tradition.

Many children knew him by sight and his baritone voice. Many times in restaurants we would be approached by children and the parents who recognized Santa even in the summer. No red suit needed.

He tried to teach loppo magic and a few of those inspiring classes stuck, too! Really.
He is missed!



Area Alley Reports

North Central Area Report - February 14, 2024

by Brenda "Flower" Marshall

Cowtown Clowns is the only alley currently active in the North Central Region of TCA. Cowtown meets at 7:00 on the 4th Monday of every month at the El Chico's restaurant in Richland Hills, TX.

The November alley meeting featured a "Zoom" class with Dr. Brad Stone, from Minnesota, presenting his science show for kids with "Professor Flutterblaster." The Professor was assisted by his grandson, demonstrating science experiments to share with kids in a fun way.

In December, Cowtown celebrated at the annual Christmas Party with games, music, memories from Christmas past, and a demonstration by Mrs. Claus (aka Brenda Marshall) on how to use magic, music, and puppetry as a Christmas character.

Donations for JPS and N.E.E.D. were collected and delivered by Wanda Carter and John Luce. The Cowtown Board met in January and worked on restoring the Alley's Policies and Procedures. Also in January, the Alley hosted a Face Painting class for Alley members and anyone interested. The education at the January Alley meeting was presented by President Nancy Arent on inexpensive props, costume ideas, walk-arounds and stories.

So far, in February, Alley members appeared at an event at the Haltom City Senior Center, sharing balloon sculptures with those in attendance.

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

North East Area Report

by William "Wee-Bo" Beaty

Rosy Nose:

Alley is doing well; a few of their members have been ill. Meetings average about 7 members. They participated in a recent charity event, and had a fun Christmas party get-together!

Memory Makers:

Alley is well; they average about 6 members per meeting. Several of their members are also ill. They meet at TCC- Triumph Christian Center of Sulphur Springs every 4th Sunday at 2pm, as long as there are no holidays, etc. Recently they had a birthday bash for their past president Terry Cunningham, he has been very sick the last few months. Many prayers going his way that he finds a liver donor soon! Some past events they participated in was the Christmas parade in Sulphur Springs. Heather and a member jumped in her bug, and had someone wrap the car in banners, etc. Memory makers also participated in The Lake Fork Baptist fall festival. For Thanksgiving they put an advertisement in a cookbook fundraiser, looking into radio ads, and are working on ways to better market themselves. They are also preparing for a possible fundraiser. More details on that, in the next Joey!



Memory Makers Christmas Parade



Christmas Party: Top left to right- Kim, Nancy, Heather, Darris. Bottom left is Terry and then Norlatta "Petie."

DFW Clowns "R" Us:

I have so much to say about my home alley, DFW Clowns "R" Us!

Just a quick reminder, due to a decrease in membership over the years, Mid-Cities and Happi Tymes decided to merge in June of 2022. I have to say it's the best thing we could have done! The merger brought together all the talent and resources from both alleys, and really helped us grow as an organization! Most of the alley members went to both the Happi Tymes and Mid-Cities meetings, and also were officers of both, so it only made sense to come together, and really focus on our goals! There is so much we have done with this!

First, the convention! It was a complete success, despite the low turnout. We had some well-known instructors, and were able to bring clowns in from the Latin community! So much to be said about the convention! We couldn't have done it if we didn't all pull together, and helped each other! We really are one big, sometimes dysfunctional family! lol! After a very successful convention, we took some time off to catch up on sleep...lol... This was very much needed as much work is put into this, as you all know! Then, in October we were back at it! We had Tricia Gregory go over some Halloween balloons to get us ready for our annual fundraiser "Dark in the Park" at River Legacy in Arlington. There we sold balloons for tickets, sort of like a small carnival, then got a percentage of what we earned. In September we had John Fite talk to us about marketing, and tips on building a website! If you need any information on this subject, he really is a marketing Guru! Our next big event was "Live Thankfully" where we entertain family's doing balloons and face painting while they have a food packaging party! They get food packaged and ready for needy families. We also had Jeff Tharp "Tharpo" The Happiness Coach at the November member. He shared with us tools and technique to build our happiness, and how to support others. He also put on a stellar improv show! Finally, in December, we participated in two events for Children's Medical Center. One was for cancer and blood disorder patients and another for Sickle cell patients. Our members provided walk-around, balloon twisting, and face painting. Lastly, between these 2 events we also went to the "Clubhouse for Special Needs" and provided a much improvised Christmas program, some walk around, and balloons.



Finally, 2024!!! We had our awards banquet, officer installation, followed by an incredible performance by the “The Ramazini’s” So much to be said about the banquet, but most importantly, I am no longer the PreZ! That means I can focus on all the stuff I wasn’t able to do as president! Also, I can do more to help with TCA! The new PreZ of “DFW Clown’s “R” Us is Rudy Rosales, and the Vice-PreZ is Tony Win. I can’t wait to see where they take the alley!

In Late May/Early June we will hold another Clowning 101 class. This timing gives the students an invitation to be in a large scale July 4th parade for the city of Arlington, hopefully after graduation, and to get them prepared for all the things they will learn at convention in August! It will be based on notes gathered over the years, instructors available, and the COAI Clowning Basics manual. I want to keep this going while there is so much momentum! In the past, various members taught the Clowning 101 Course at The University of Arlington. Susan Keys was my instructor 7 years ago actually, and she taught me what it took to be a Real Clown! Who knows, maybe we will get to do this again in the future, as we grow! More details soon!

South Central Area Report - Date

by Kim “Tutti Frutti” Grice

The Jolly Joeys elected a new board in November and they have met several times to organize and plan activities for the year. In addition, the alley is gearing up for the Fiesta Battle of the Flowers Parade in April. As always, members are attempting to recruit new members and find interested folks who want to learn to clown. The alley meets the second Thursday of the month at the University United Methodist Church in San Antonio.

South East Area Report - Feb 16, 2024

December was very busy for Cheerful Clown Alley. We had several of our First of May Joey’s from last summers Clown school step up to be a Boss Clown at different events in December. We are so proud of them for stepping out of their comfort zones!

December 2 and 9, Bush Intercontinental requested clowns to entertain with balloons and walk arounds for First Responders and Military family as they waited for flights to Disney sponsored by the Gary Sinese Foundation.

The Victory for your health event January 20, 2024.

The United Way volunteer events.

Each month continued gigs:

Camp Pursuit, at the Center for Pursuit on February 27.

Boss Sparkles.

St Lukes Hospital VINTAGE PARK and Baylor St Luke’s Medical Center



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



TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME: _____ TCA#: _____

CLOWN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE PAGE

1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CLOWNING?
2. WHAT CLOWNING VENUES ARE YOU MOST COMFORTABLE CLOWNING IN AND WHY?
3. WHAT CLOWNING SKILLS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING?
4. WHAT CLOWN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS HAVE YOU ATTENDED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?
5. HAVE YOU RECEIVED A TCA SCHOLARSHIP IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?
6. HOW WILL YOU APPLY THE EDUCATION YOU RECEIVE AS A RESULT OF RECEIVING THIS SCHOLARSHIP:
 - A. IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
 - B. IN YOUR ALLEY?
 - C. IN THE ART OF CLOWNING?
7. HAVE YOU ATTENDED A TCA CONVENTION IN THE PAST AND WHEN?

**PRICE
INCREASE
BLAST**



**YOU CAN STILL
GET THE "BEST
PRICE" FOR THE
40TH TCA
CONVENTION!
\$195 is the current
rate.**

**DON'T GET FOOLED
ON APRIL 1ST!**

**THE PRICE INCREASES
TO \$215 ON APRIL 1,
2024.**



JULY 1ST PRICE INCREASE (AND AT THE DOOR) IS \$230.

**REGISTER ON LINE AT:
[WWW.TEXASCLOWNASSOCIATION.COM/convention/
registration](http://WWW.TEXASCLOWNASSOCIATION.COM/convention/registration)**