

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

Joey Journal



April - May 2025 Issue 26

texasclownassociation.com

1st of May



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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

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.



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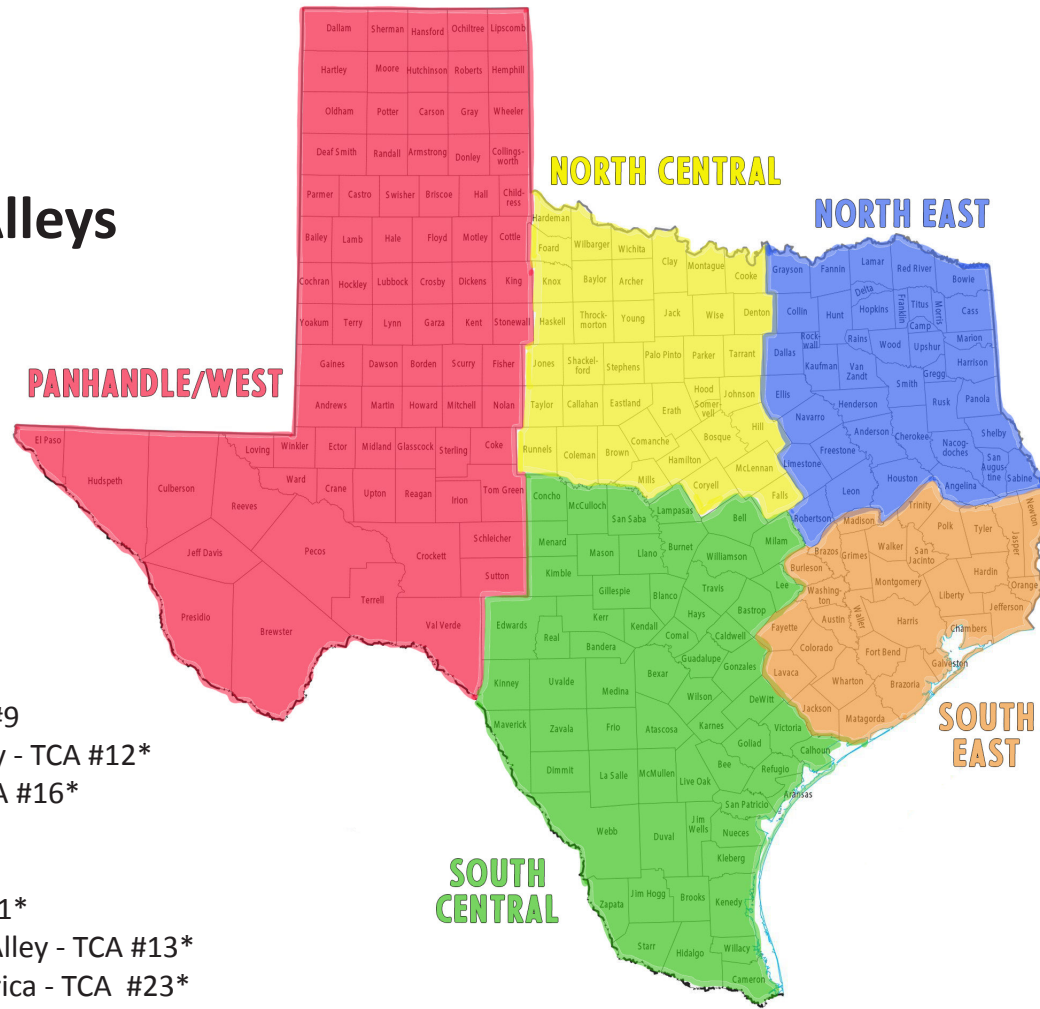
Be sure to check out the TCA website
www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is:
TCA24

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 Klow 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



From the Circus Tent of the Red Nose in Charge

Boopsie's Story: Still in the Middle

by Cinde "Boopsie" Sanders

I have been President of TCA for eight months and it just occurred to me that some of you might not be familiar with me or my story. Every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Mine? Well, I'm somewhere in the middle, and happily so! The ending is still unwritten, and honestly, I'm still not sure what I want to be when I grow up. But what a journey it's been so far!



I grew up in Louisiana as the middle child of two dynamic, entrepreneurial parents who ran the largest advertising agency in the state. Childhood was a blur of competitive swimming (yes, even the Jr. Olympics!), cheerleading, and modeling; from swimsuits in pool catalogs to fashion spreads in glossy magazines. I graduated from LSU with a BA in Advertising and Journalism, ready to take on the world of marketing.

Then something magical happened, literally. While working in advertising, I met the love of my life...Ronald McDonald himself (aka Dal Sanders). With Dal's encouragement and a dash of pixie dust, I shifted from pitching products to performing for families. My specialties blossomed into themed character shows, magic, puppetry, and balloon art. Together, Dal and I founded Amazing Attractions, a co-op of professional entertainers, and The Dallas Magic Academy, where we teach the award-winning Discover Magic program to kids ages 5-12. Along the way, we also juggled owning five magic shops, touring the world, and raising two incredible sons, now both grown and amazing in their own right.



Boopsie the Clown was born in 1988 when I was working as an entertainment agent. I found myself longing to be on the other side of the fun, out there performing instead of sitting behind a desk booking gigs. So, I turned to Dal, who helped me craft my clown character from the wig down. With a little training in physical comedy and a lot of encouragement, Boopsie sprang to life and never looked back.





Since then, I've been honored with multiple performance awards and have proudly served as a mentor and leader in the clowning and magic communities. I'm a member of Clowns of America International, World Clown Association, the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Society of American Magicians, Cowtown Clowns, and more. I currently serve as President of Clowns "R" Us and Texas Clown Association, and I'm a past president of Mid Cities Clown Alley 85 and The Dallas Magic Club.

Dal and I are also the hosts of Kartoon Circus, a syndicated TV show that brings back vintage cartoons from the 1940s-60s, and sprinkles in magic, science, and silly surprises for kids around the world.

As I stand in this moment of "the middle," I want to thank each and every one of you for trusting me to lead and grow TCA. You inspire me. You energize me. And you remind me every day that we are better together. We may all have different stories, but when we share, support, and clown together, there's truly no stopping us.

Here's to whatever comes next... and to all the magic still to be made.



Dal Sanders and Boopsie Perform Twister on Kartoon Circus

https://youtu.be/g5A2LRRlepM?si=gPvFn1BDv3axi7_F



Kartoon Circus - Boopsie's Bunny

<https://vimeo.com/261621631?&login=true>

“Bee” a Part of the Hive in 2025!

by Brenda “Flower” Marshall

Cowtown Clowns is happy to host a condensed version of the annual TCA Convention in Fort Worth, TX, September 12-14, 2025.

Our special guest for education and entertainment is Eugenio “Chagy” Adorno. Chagy is well known around the globe as a world class juggler, magician, mime, clown, humorous entertainer, and creative evangelist that teaches in both English and Spanish.

The location, the Radisson Hotel at Fossil Creek, in North Fort Worth will be familiar to attendees because Cowtown hosted the TCA convention at this same hotel in 2019. The Radisson has offered us a flat room rate of \$119.00 per night + taxes, with up to 4 people in a room. This includes a free, hot buffet breakfast served from 6:30 – 9:00 AM, for two people in each room. If there are more than two people in the room, the extra guests would need to purchase the breakfast.

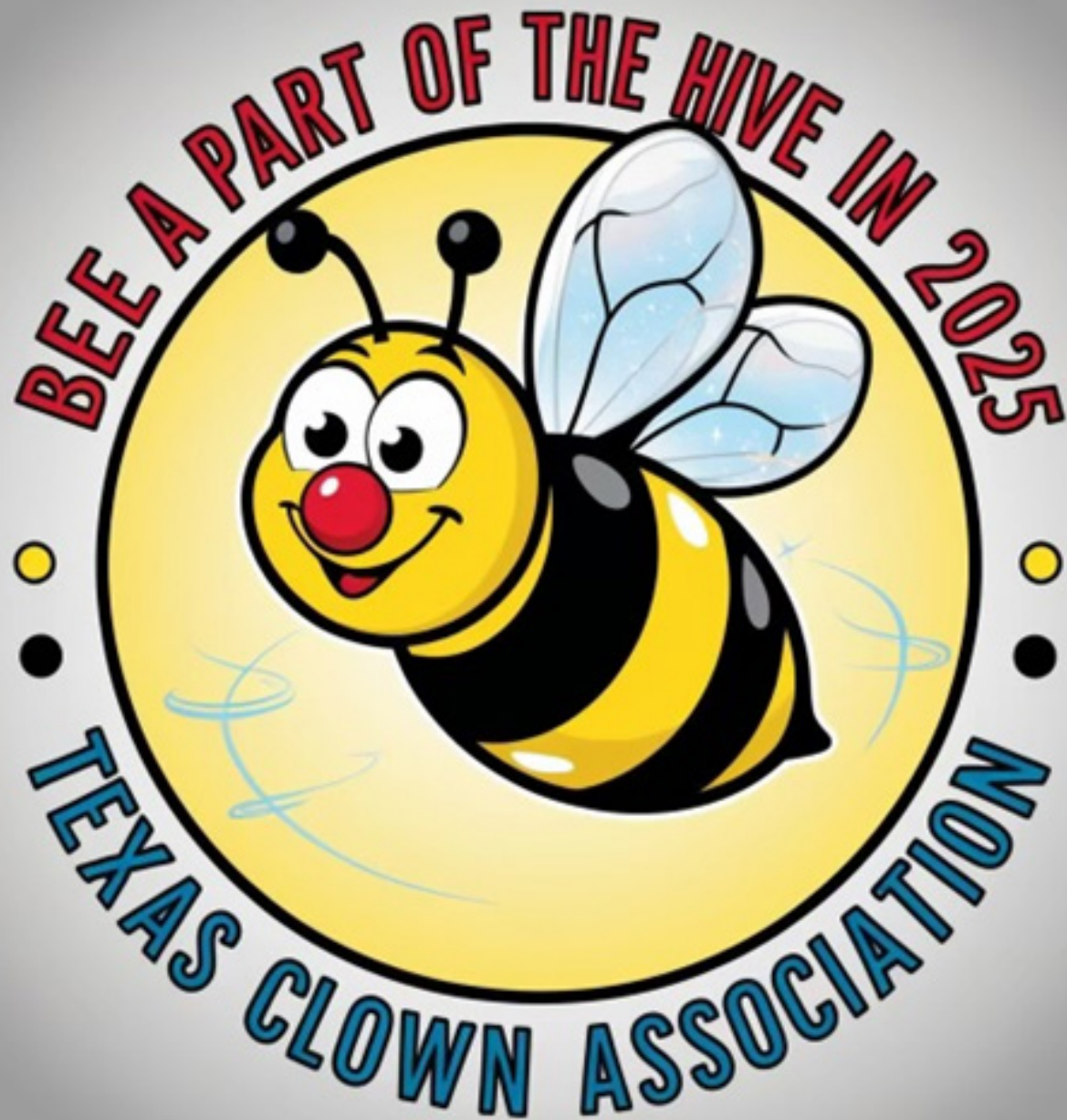
There will be incentives for staying with us at the hotel, so keep your eyes open for information...coming soon!

The hotel rates will apply Thursday through Saturday night. Attendees and vendors are encouraged to arrive on Thursday, September 11th, and stay Saturday night, leaving on the 14th. We will have some welcome activities Thursday evening, and education opportunities will begin bright and early on Friday. There will be dinner and entertainment, included in the registration, on Saturday evening and a worship service at 9 AM on Sunday morning.

Parking on the hotel property is free to guests.

The hotel has an in-house restaurant and within walking distance there is a Subway, a Donut Shop, McDonald’s, and Cracker Barrell.

The only thing missing from this convention would be the standard competition. According to the TCA Convention Guidelines/Recommendations, “Education is the main focus of the convention,” and we intend to concentrate on some of the usual classes as well as some “out of the box” education opportunities. We hope you plan to join us and Bee a Part of the Hive in 2025. Bee funny!





TCA Convention 2025 Tentative Schedule

Thursday evening

2:00 – 5:00 PM - TCA Board meeting
5:00 – 7:00 PM - Registration open
7:00 PM
Presentation of Flags for 911 – Youth – pending
Haltom City Fire Safety Squad show and Q&A – Haltom City Fire Department Clowns
Social Time – Hosted by TCA Board
Vendor room set-up

Friday

Breakfast buffet – 6:00 AM – 11:00 AM (2 buffets included with every room)
8:00 AM - Registration open
8:00 AM - Vendor Room open
8:30-9:45 AM –
Class 1 – Chagy - TBD
10:15 –11:30 AM –
Class 1-Brittany Miller - Balloons
Class 2-Hank Morrow, Denton Clowns on Fire – Life and Fire Safety Shows
11:30 – 1:30 – Lunch on your own
1:30 – 2:45 PM –
Class 1- Dal Sanders – Comedy Magic
Class 2- Eric Binkowski – Clowning in the Hospital
3:00 – 4:15 PM –
Class 1- Chagy - TBD
4:15 – 6:15 PM Dinner on your own and prepare for Group Photo and Paradeability
6:00 PM Vendors Close
6:15 PM Group Photo
6:30 – 7:15 PM Paradeability – People’s Choice
7:30 PM – TCA General Membership Meeting
9:00 PM - Jams

Saturday

Breakfast Buffet – 6:00 AM – 11:00 AM
8:00 AM - Registration open
8:00 AM - Vendor room open
8:30-9:45 AM –
Class 1- Marcy Poland – Improv with Props
Class 2- Chagy - TBD
10:15 – 11:30 AM –
Class 1 - Shawn Patrello - TBD
Class 2 – Joel Lagrone – Christmas Characters
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Lunch on your own
1:30 – 2:45 PM –
Class 1- Brittany Miller - Facepainting
Class 2- Eric Binkowski – Body Language



3:00 – 4:00 PM –
Class 1- Rob Divers - Ukulele
Class 2- Nancy Arent & Patricia Frias – Make a fun kazoo
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Last Chance in the Vendor Room
5:00 PM - Vendors close
Cash bar - Time TBD
7:00 PM - Dinner w/entertainment

Sunday

Breakfast Buffet – 6:00 AM – 11:00 AM
9:00 AM – Worship Service

*******Extra Special Post Conference offering**

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM - Optional - American Heart Association CPR Class with certification
Nurse Rob Divers
Additional fee - \$65.00 - Paid at time of Check in at Registration Desk

Hardy Makes a Splash

TCA’s own Junior Joey, Hardy “Goofus” Sims ented his 8th grade school talent show and placed 4th out of 17. His balloon dog got a huge reaction from the crowd.



1st of May



Why is a First-Year Clown Called a 'First of May'?

by Cinde "Boopsie" Sanders

In the world of professional clowning, tradition runs deep. From the intricate designs of clown makeup to the unspoken rules of the circus, everything has a meaning. One such tradition is the term "First of May," which refers to a clown in their first year of performing with a circus. But where does this phrase come from, and why is it used to describe rookie clowns?

The Origin of 'First of May'

The term "First of May" dates back to the golden era of traveling circuses in the 19th and early 20th centuries. During this time, circuses typically opened their touring season around May 1st. New performers and crew members who had never traveled with a circus before, would arrive at the start of the season, eager to begin their journey under the big top.

Since these fresh-faced performers joined at the beginning of May, seasoned circus veterans took to calling them "First of Mays." It was a way of identifying newcomers who were still learning the ropes; figuratively and sometimes literally!

What It Means to Be a 'First of May'

Being a "First of May" meant much more than just being new. It was a rite of passage. First-year clowns and performers had to prove themselves through hard work, dedication, and the ability to adapt to the demanding lifestyle of the circus. They often took on tasks beyond their performances, such as helping set up the tent, caring for animals, or assisting veteran clowns with props and costumes.

The term also carried a sense of mentorship. Experienced clowns would take a "First of May" under their wing, teaching them the unwritten rules of clowning, from comedic timing to the importance of audience interaction. The relationship between a veteran and their "First of May" was crucial in keeping circus traditions alive.

Earning the Title of 'Old Timer'

A "First of May" remains one until they complete their first full year with the circus. Once they return for a second season, they shed the label and are considered part of the seasoned crew. At this point, they might take on their own "First of May", passing down the lessons they once received

The Legacy of the 'First of May' Today

Even though the traditional traveling circus has declined, the term "First of May" remains alive in clowning and circus culture. Whether in a modern circus, a clown club, or an independent performance troupe, new clowns still face the challenge of learning their craft and earning their place among seasoned performers.



The phrase symbolizes fresh beginnings, enthusiasm, and the time-honored cycle of passing down knowledge from one generation to the next. To be called a "First of May" is an honor. It means you've taken the first step into a world filled with laughter, wonder, and the never-ending pursuit of bringing joy to audiences.

So, to all the "First of Mays" out there: Welcome to the circus! Enjoy the journey, and before you know it, you'll be an old-timer, teaching the next generation of clowns how to embrace the magic of performance.

LOLLI'S TRICYCLE WILL BE OFFERED IN THE SILENT AUCTION AT CONVENTION

by Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan

I don't think there is a person in TCA that doesn't know Jackie "Lolli" Garner who is celebrated for spreading joy and laughter everywhere she goes and the trick tricycle she used when doing hospital visitations (even having someone ride on the back). Well, I was thrilled to acquire this treasured item last year before the convention and tried riding it when Lolli and Larry brought it to my house. Lolli even convinced my husband to try it out, which he did much to his chagrin. He went down the driveway, flipped it over and bonked his head on the concrete. Good thing he has a hard head because he was ok. It was definitely in my game plan to use it for the upcoming parade in November. Well life has a way of throwing curveballs, and I broke my femur working the election on November 5th. After 6 months of therapy and reflection, it has been decided to donate it to TCA's Silent Auction, with the proceeds going to Education for flexible clowns.

I am hoping this unique item will generate significant interest making it the star attraction at the Silent Auction at this year's convention.



Ambassador of Clowning Award

By Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan, on behalf of Liz "Lotta Buttons" Melton

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 August 15, 2025. 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 2025 Ambassador Award are being accepted by:
Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan, on behalf of Liz "Lotta Buttons" Melton
20806 Durand Oak Court
Cypress, Texas 77433
or
mcglitterbug99@gmail.com

DEADLINE: August 15, 2025

Scholarship 2025!!!

Kathy "Piccolo" Keaton, Education Director

The 2025 Convention is coming fast, so don't miss the opportunity to win a scholarship to make going easier on the pocketbook. You can download an application from [HERE](#) (or visit the TCA website and go to the FORMS menu). Along with the application, you'll need to also send:

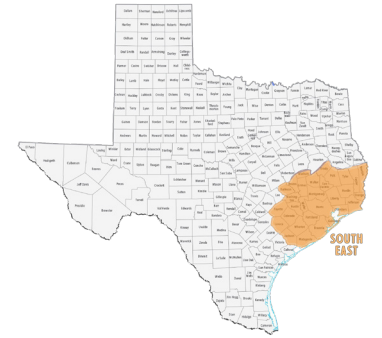
- A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)
- Answer the following questions and include:
 - How long have you been clowning?
 - Have you been a TCA Member for at least a year before the application deadline?
 - What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
 - What clown skills are you interested in developing?
 - What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
 - Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
- 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?

Deadline: June 30, 2025



Area Alley Reports

Panhandle/West Area Report by Kathy "Piccolo" Keaton



Oops Alley - March 2025

Oops Alley had several meetings to prepare for WCA Skit and Paradability. If our entire alley was to get together it would be 2325 miles for a meeting – we are that spread out. Linda, Susan, Claudette, Voncille and Kathy attended WCA. We entered Group skit but were unable to compete in paradability because WCA only has single parade competition. Kathy won 2nd place in "clown-Lite" and 3rd place in "Variety Arts" She also taught 2 classes. So fun to see the skills of clowns from all over the world!

Susan joined "Clowns on a Mission" visiting Guatemala for 8 days. They entertained at schools, orphanages and underprivileged elderly bringing smiles and food to 100's. Her uke lessons are paying off and she also clowned at senior living centers and hospitals in Midland.

Linda and Claudette have ongoing face painting jobs at 2 children's dental offices in Midland and Odessa and also did corporate face painting for the holidays.

Susie Wall continues to face paint in Herford and has also added store front window painting, and advertising painting to her activities, as well as murals and rocks for schools and church's. She does face painting and balloon animals for "Make a Wish" and is stepping up her game adding bling and jewels.

Voncille painted faces at several gun and car shows. She is moving from Big Spring to Abilene. Her grandson Hardy (13) competed in a school talent show and put his face and costuming on all by himself without grandma for the first time. He placed 4th. He also clowned with Voncille at a show and made \$65 dollars in tips and \$250. Not bad for his first job.

We have two prospective new members. Anna Banana in El Paso who is a "Lady of the Nile and has 8 other Schriners wanting to learn clowning. Oops plans at least one training day to meet with them and touch on all parts of the clown and clowning – hoping to get interest for TCA in Sept.



NAME: _____
CLOWN NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
AGE (DOB if under 18 as of 9/1/2025) _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
TCA# _____ (Registrants must be TCA member)
Please provide any diet restrictions or food allergies-List this on the back of this registration form or email to Nancy Arent -Registration Chair

Is this your first TCA Convention? YES ____ No ____
Plan to stay at convention hotel? # of nights ____

CONVENTION FEES:
Registration (see right side of form)
Extra Banquet Tickets \$ 60.00 ea

T-shirt(s) Circle Size and add price to right
Must order and pay before 7/1/2025
Short Sleeve (S_M_L-XL) \$ 20.00 \$ _____
Short Sleeve (XXL & larger) \$ 22.00 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

ISSUE AND MAIL checks to:
Cowtown Clowns-TCA 2025 Convention
c/o Nancy Arent
3824 Oxley Drive, Richland Hills, TX 76118

To pay electronically, use Zelle and send payment to:
Nancy Arent@817-680--8510
And send this completed registered form marked PAID BY ZELLE and payment date to address above or by email to klown3824@charter.net

COWTOWN CLOWN ALLEY #135
Invites you to the
Texas Clown Association
41st Annual Convention
SEPT 11-14, 2025 FORT WORTH, TX

All convention registrants must be a current TCA member.
See the TCA website for a membership application.
www.texasclownassociation.com

REGISTRATION FEES:
\$145 till 6/1/2025
\$165.00 till 8/11/2025
\$180.00 at the Door

(No checks at the door-cash only) No refunds after 8/1/2025
Fees include access to all activities, the Vendor Rooms,
Saturday Banquet (all for one person)

DAY RATE \$75
Day rate does not include Saturday Banquet

Raddison Hotel Fossil Creek/Fort Worth Fossil Creek
2540 Meacham Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76106
817-625-9911
Click this link to reserve your hotel room:
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/zy16a8?ratePlanCode=BSJRYX&checkInDate=2025-09-11&checkOutDate=2025-09-14>

Book your group rate for Texas Clown Association 2025
Room Rate: \$119.00 per night (+ tax) up to 4 people per room
(includes WIFI) All rooms 1 King or 2 Full
Breakfast included for 2 people per room.
Extra Breakfast tickets are \$11.95 ea (Payable to hotel)
Or call 817-625-9911 and ask for the Texas Clown Association Block
Make your hotel reservation by the deadline 8/11/2025
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.
****If you require an ADA room, please call the hotel direct and request that and specify it is for the Texas Clown Associaton Block.**

For **Hotel** Questions? Contact **Patricia Frias 817-714-1682**
FREE ALL DAY PARKING (24 HOURS)

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

Registration Questions ?-Contact **Nancy "Bubbles" Arent**
817-680-8510 or klown3824@charter.net

Download a Convention registration form and find all your Convention
information at
<https://texasclownassociation.com/tca-convention>



September 11-14, 2025
Fort Worth, Texas