

THE NEW CALLLOPE

For Members of Clowns of America International

November / December 2019 Volume 36 • Number 6



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November / December 2019

Volume 36 • Number 6

Published by
Clowns of America International

The mission of Clowns of America International is to organize all members desiring to pursue the honorable profession or art of clowning, the dedication toward its advancement, and the education of its members.

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Publication Deadlines

January/February 2020—Nov 25

March/April 2020—Jan 25

May/June 2020—March 25

July/August 2020—May 25

September/October 2020—July 25

November/December 2020—Sept 25

Send ads and articles to
thenewcalliope@gmail.com.

The New Calliope (ISSN 1072-1045)

is published bi-monthly (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December) by COAI, 800 South Ave., Eustis, Florida 32726. Periodicals Postage Paid at Eustis, Florida, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *The New Calliope*, COAI Business Office Manager • Post Office Box 122, Eustis, Florida 32727.

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Clowns of America International Proudly Presents
**OUR JUNIOR JOEYS
 AND TEEN JOEYS**

By Regina "Cha Cha" Wollrabe

COAI Director of Junior Joeys

We're so excited for the opportunity to showcase our Junior Joeys and Teen Joeys on the front cover of *The New Calliope*! This is a wonderful and generous gift from Frank Bunton, Director of Conventions, who won the front cover of this issue in the auction at the 2019 COAI Convention. Arranging the photos and designing the cover with my son, Teo, was a lot of fun. Back in the day,

he was also a Junior Joey. These days, at twenty-six, he spends his time in other creative pursuits, including music, web design, and digital photo editing. I know you will enjoy reading about this month's cover subjects, our Junior Joeys and Teen Joeys, who are helping to keep clowning alive and growing for future generations.

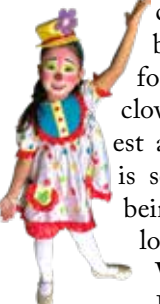


Mary "Daizy E.F.G." Anderson is twelve years old, and she started performing as soon as she was born. Her mom started taking her to charity events to avoid paying a babysitter. If the baby clown started crying, mom got to go home. She has attended three clown conventions through Midwest Clown Association. She also performs as "Dizzy Dots." She is proud to be a clown and lets everyone know it!



Samuel "Super Sam" Bearden is sixteen years old and has been doing balloons and magic about four years. He really enjoys being able to "wow" kids and adults and see their smiles and surprised expressions. Balloon décor is his specialty and has grown into a business, "Creating Fun Times," on Facebook and Instagram. It's a great way to earn some cash and meet new people.

Lucero "Dulce" Bernal has been clowning since she was born. "Dulce" is Spanish for candy, and this little clown is one of the sweetest and funniest around. She is seven years old and loves being a clown because she loves to make kids happy. When she grows up, Lucero wants to be a professional performer.



Sofie "Cutie Patootie" Caburian is ten years old and in the fifth grade. She loves drawing, reading, math, and music. She also loves animals of all kinds, from pugs to a guinea pig named Applewood. In 2017, she had the opportunity to swim with her favorite animals, dolphins.



Sofie is the youngest member of the Luv-N-Laffs Clown Alley #332 located in Stafford, Virginia. She began clowning by going out and helping her father, Christopher "cUrLy CuE", on his events. When she was five, she became interested in clowning, and she picked out her clown name when she was about six. She enjoys making balloon sculptures and doing puppetry and would like to learn juggling. She also enjoys helping her father with the restoration of their 1961 Ford Anglia, which is their future clown car.

Savannah "Nannah Banana" Canales is fifteen years old and started clowning at the age of nine. She had to get special permission to attend clown school with Alley #166 because she was so young. Charmin, Cricket, and Touché immediately began to mentor her. Plum Cute helped her with costume ideas, and Tiny, along with Hi-Lo, started to teach her the art of walk around. Her clown alley became her second family, and she loves them.



She enjoys face painting because it gives her a chance to connect with the kids on a personal level and share secrets. She also loves to compete at conventions and test her clown skills. She would like to learn puppets, stilts, and juggling in the upcoming year. Her favorite quote is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Chloe "Rainbow Cupcake" Cannon is eleven years old and in the sixth grade. She enjoys face painting and going to events with her grandmother. She and her brother are members of the San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers Alley.



Zeke "Zack" Cannon is twelve years old and in the seventh grade. He has fun clowning in parades. He and his sister are members of the San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers Alley.



Ashby "Happy Face" Edgemon is thirteen years old and started clowning when she was nine. She likes how clowning makes her happy and thinks it is fun. She likes to play in skits and is practicing her unicycle and stick juggling. Her mentor is Simplicity, and Rally Dally was an older Junior Joey that was very influential when she started.

Charlie "Ridiculous" Hepner is fourteen years old and lives in Iowa. She went to her first clown convention



at age eight. Charlie likes clowning because it feels good to make people happy. She likes performing on stage and riding her minibike in parades. She would like to learn more about magic so she can perform at birthday parties in the future. She says, "Clowning helps me gain confidence in and out of costume."

David "Giggles" Hess is eleven and attended his first clown convention two years ago. He was a natural from the start. His personality comes to life as a clown, and the world instantly falls in love with him. Why did he take the name Giggles? All you have to do is be around him, and he will make you laugh!



Conor "Bubba" Hill, who just turned twelve, is one of the children who came to the Junior Joey outreach in Richmond, Virginia. He began clowning when he was ten and just recently taught himself to juggle. He loves clowning because it feels good to make others laugh and smile. He would love to learn to juggle with diablo sticks and attend clowning summer camp with his sister. He has been attending local theater performances and is enrolled in a performing-arts class next spring.



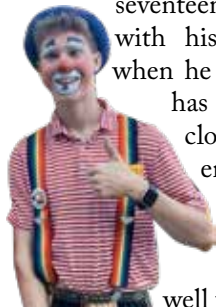
Amelia Kay "Oh-K" Ittner is fourteen years old and in her second year of clowning. She loves letting imagination come through while learning about life, sharing her talents, and serving others. She is the youngest member of Clowns across the River.



Tonya "Me-me" Widder Johnson has been an elf since she was three. She debuted as a clown two years ago in Richmond, Virginia, and calls herself Mimi's clown

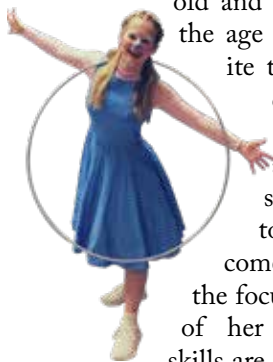


and thinks it's fun to be doing what Mimi does. Now eight, Tonya likes to see people happy and smiling. She wants to learn to do face painting and balloons like Mimi and hopes that one day she can teach other kids to be clowns, as well.



Carson "Pockets" Magee is seventeen and started clowning with his mother and brother when he was two years old. He has been passionate about clowning ever since. After entertaining at gigs with his mother and performing skits with his brother, he became well versed in a multitude of skills. He now carries on the family business and performs at birthday parties, festivals, grand openings, and company events. Making children's faces light up by creating balloon animals, performing magic, juggling, unicycling, and spinning plates is in his blood.

Taylor "Hoops" Moss is sixteen years old and started clowning at the age of nine. Her favorite thing about being a clown is spreading joy and kindness and making people smile. She says, "I try to allow the funny to come naturally and leave the focus on the joy." Some of her favorite clowning skills are incorporating circus skills (hula hoops, aerial skills, juggling, etc.) into her performances. She also loves doing pratfalls and using her ballet dance skills in her routines.



Max "Hotrod" Peck has been clowning for about four years. He likes clowning because it's interactive and teaches social skills. He likes seeing kids' faces light up when he entertains and giving kids a fun experience. He says, "Making kids smile makes me smile." He would like to know more about the history of clowning.



Annabelle "Sparkles" Thome, Rachel "Muzzles" Shearer, Makayla "Stitches" Rader

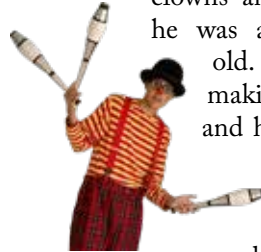
started clowning by taking a "Be a Clown" workshop at their church. The conclusion of each class was celebrated by going to a local assisted living center or adult foster home to entertain.



The girls continued their clowning by joining the Portland Rose Festival Clown Corp and being members of the Petite Clown Crew for the parades and events for the Rose Festival. They did parades, walk arounds in the City Fair, and even got to be on TV. Rachel and Makayla received the awards for the most improved clowns and have moved to the adult clown crew. They are excited to participate at the older level. Makayla and Rachel also participated in a camp for incoming third graders. They were bonfire performers while others did skits to reflect the themes of camp. They also did face painting at the carnival at camp.

Makayla had a birthday a year ago and decided to have her clown friends join her to do a birthday party for the neighborhood kids as a gift to the neighborhood.

Isaac Ralston became enchanted with clowns and the circus when he was around three years old. He has always loved making others laugh and has a brilliant talent for good-natured comedy. He has studied, watched, and practiced the classic great clowns of the past and present and knows all their famous skits, moves, and tricks.



Isaac began juggling with his occupational therapist at age three to improve hand-eye coordination and crossing mid-line strategies. He hasn't stopped since, and he now performs a fantastic juggling show in which he showcases his comedy and skills with many juggling tools. Isaac has performed solo opening acts for fund raisers, festivals,

and birthdays. His most recent engagement was starring as the opening entertainment for the Autism Society of Iowa's annual fundraiser and auction.



Kolby "B-Myster" Sawyer started clowning at age eight and is now fifteen. He enjoys the performing arts, stage plays, and magic. He loves to perform on stage in the spotlight and loves being funny.

Gabriella "Floppy Shoes" Schuldenfrei is thirteen and has been clowning since she was ten. She likes being silly and making people laugh, especially with her favorite octopus, Sticky.



Eileen "Silly Sally" Shafer is seventeen years old and has been clowning since she was ten. She also performs as "Harpa." One of her favorite aspects of clowning is the joy she can bring to people through interactions with young and old alike. Eileen's clowning experience has greatly enhanced many non-clowning opportunities, including her comedic roles at a local children's theater and at public-speaking contests. Clowning has been a big part of her life, and she can't wait for her next clowning adventure.



Emily "Snickers" Sholes is eleven years old. She started clowning with her grandmother, Betty "Sunny D" Thompson about three years ago. They are members of the Carson's Cowtippers Clown alleys. She loves clowning with her group and going to events to help do skits and glitter tattoos, but her favorite thing is performing with her grandmother. Betty makes most of their costumes, and that makes it even more special. The two often perform for the residents at a local assisted living home and helping with crafts or games. It is so much fun and a great way to brighten their days.

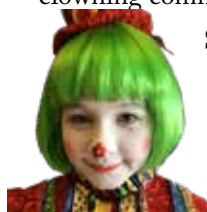


Emily hopes to learn more unique ways to entertain and to continue using her abilities to make people smile. Her big sisters, Twinkerz and Sparklez, were on the cover of the 2014 Junior Joey's issue of *The New Calliope*. She used to watch them perform when she was little, and she was waiting anxiously to be old enough to be a Junior Joey! Now that she is, it is her favorite thing to do. She hasn't been to a convention yet, but it is one of her future goals!



Annie "Annie BanAnnie" Spraggins just turned eleven.

She got into clowning about six years ago when she began going to clown alley meetings. She joined the alley at events such as Fourth of July parades and cancer fundraisers. For the last three years, she has been learning to twist balloons, play the ukulele, do puppeteering, and even do a little juggling. She often goes with others on their jobs, helping with balloons and magic shows. Last year, she attended the Junior Joey track at the Texas Clown Association Convention. The Junior Joey's got second place with their group skit. She loves clowning and hopes to continue to grow and do more with the clowning community.



Saydee "Peanut" Swales is fifteen and has been clowning since she was six years old. Last January, she reached the rank of Master Clown with the Northeast Clown Institute. She has won multiple awards for her talents at Clownfest, Mid-Atlantic Clown Convention, and Northeast Clown Institute. She does balloons, face painting, skits, and silly magic, and she performs at birthday parties, parades, and corporate events in her area.

Saydee participated in her first parade when she was three, and when she turned six, she told her mother that she wanted to become a clown. Her mother had never done any clown makeup before that. She told Saydee that she had to learn to do her own makeup, and she did.



Jayden Villa began clowning at five years old. He is now six and in the first grade. When he performs at schools, he has so much love for his clown that he never takes his red nose off until he is home, no matter how tired he is. He loves to see children smile. He also loves boxing and making new skits.



Johnathan Villa has been clowning for five years. He first put on his red nose at five years of age after begging his dad to start clowning. Once the red nose was on, he surprised his father, also a clown, by knowing every one of his dad's skits. Johnathan took it to a whole new level. Children love him, and he loves them back. He performs with his show dog named Bomita and does corporate events, school shows, and birthday parties. He is now in the fifth grade and lives in Wylie, Texas, but he is known in many countries.

Kaella "Cookie" Watt is ten years old. She was seven when she started clowning with her grandmother, Claudia "Paisley" Nilson, from Washington. She received an honorary membership in Caring Clowns International and likes clowning because she likes to make people happy and see their smiles. She does glitter tattoos and is practicing face painting, but her favorite thing to do is ventriloquism and using her puppet Ellie to entertain kids.



Kentlynn "Misty Twisty" Zastrow is twelve years old. She has lived in Lake Placid, Florida, for seven years and joined Toby's Clowns to get over her big fear of clowns and work on her bashfulness. She learned how to approach people for clowning and not be afraid. She enjoyed clown week and the various events she attended very much. She says, "A lot of people have the wrong idea about clowns. I did, but I don't anymore. They're just big kids with big hearts!" Her specialty is telling jokes, such as, "Do you know why dogs don't bite clowns? Because they taste funny!"



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From the President

Mike "Bonkers" Cox

Well, now is the time for our membership to really think about declaring themselves for the upcoming 2020–2022 Board of Directors election. On the facing page you will find guidelines based on our bylaws (Section 8. Election and Qualifications). Please consider running for the office of your choice. The only exceptions are President, because you must already be a board member to run for that office, and Junior Joey's Director, which is an appointed position. Otherwise, don't be afraid to declare for any position. This Board welcomes all members to consider running. Do not be intimidated. Do your part to help make COAI an even greater organization!

COAI has been discussing future convention sites. Right now, we are actively searching for a 2021 site. Is your alley up to holding a Convention? If so, please contact Frank Bunton ASAP! We are also pursuing the possibility of co-hosting an annual convention with The World Clown Association. As a COAI member, I am interested in knowing how the rest of the membership feels about this. Please send your thoughts, comments, or concerns to me either through e-mail or mail. My contact information is on the Officer's page.

Have a great Fall season and enjoy being a clown and entertainer! **TNC**



Vice President's Report

Merrily Johnston

Getting Restaurant Gigs

Many years ago, I heard a clown talking about her restaurant gig and asked how she got it. Believe it or not, she simply turned her back on me without answering the question. I was astonished! I couldn't believe this information couldn't be shared. After all, there are literally hundreds of restaurants in any area.

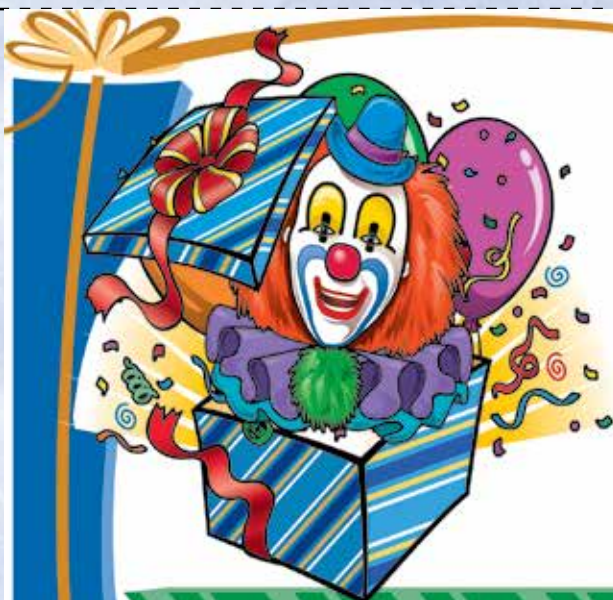
I'd like to say I figured it out myself, but truthfully, Chick-fil-A called me. Soon, customers started booking me for parties, so I asked the manager for a letter of recommendation to help me book a few more restaurants. One thing she mentioned was that I had more than doubled their Wednesday income. What a great quote to show potential clients!

Entertaining at restaurants is like being paid to advertise. Customers think, "Wow, this would be great for Susie's birthday party!" Then, all of Susie's friends want you to come to their parties. And your business grows.

When I recently moved to Casper, Wyoming, I needed to start all over again so here is what I did:

- Made a list of restaurants where I'd like to work;
- Stopped by several with my business cards, brochures, and letters of recommendation;
- Spoke with the manager about the benefits of my weekly entertainment and their cost.

I now entertain at four restaurants. Two of them hired me on the spot, the third booked me within a few weeks, and the fourth called me. I really enjoy these nights and especially love how they are helping my business grow. **TNC**



Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving Give a COAI Membership!

For more information, check out the membership application at www.coai.org or call the COAI Business Office.
877-816-6941 (toll-free)
352-357-1676

WE NEED YOU!

YES, YOU!

Election time is here and we have several positions open. Each of you is an important part of COAI and we'd love your experience and expertise on our Board.

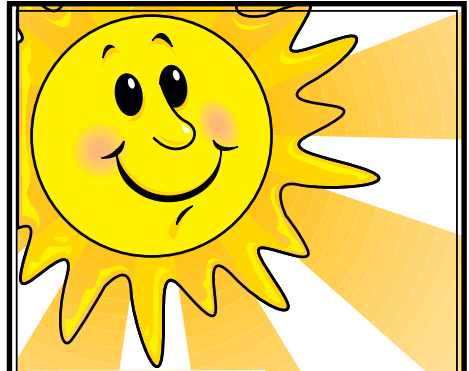
To run for office, here are the guidelines based on our Bylaws:

- a. Any member desiring to be a candidate shall submit their declaration of candidacy and requested material by mail to be postmarked by January 15, 2020, or to be received electronically via e-mail no later than midnight, January 15, 2020, to **Mike Cox, 9415 Alameda Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23294. E-mail: coai.president.mike@gmail.com.** All declarations sent to any other address will be disqualified.
- b. All officer candidates (and persons holding office) shall, at the time of the announcement of their candidacy, be members in good standing, at least twenty-one (21) years of age, and have been a member for a minimum of the past two years. All members of the Board shall take office on the first of July following their election.
- c. Only one Member of the household may serve on the Board at the same time.
- d. The President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors at Large shall be elected by the general membership. The Director of Jr. Joeys will be appointed by the COAI Board. Term of office is set for two (2) years, beginning July 1, 2020, through June 31, 2022.
- e. The Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by the Membership residing in specific regions.

If you desire to place your name on the ballot for elections and you meet all the criteria, you must: 1. Submit a written declaration of your candidacy no longer than 250 words by January 15, 2020. This declaration will be printed in *The New Calliope*. 2. Submit a non-clown photo as a digital image at 300 dpi (jpg or tiff) or a glossy print on photographic paper no larger than five by seven inches.

E-mail submissions are preferred. We prefer Microsoft Word documents for the declarations. If necessary, the declaration text may be placed in the body of an e-mail message.

Hard copies of photos and declarations sent through the U.S. Mail are also acceptable.



Our Good Cheer List

Please take a moment to spread a few words of good cheer with a card or note to one of these members.

Ruth "Sweet Sue" Hoppe
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Miriam "Senorita Soto" Kleinberger
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Loudonville, NY 12211

Kathy "Noodles" Gurak
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Richard "Design-O" Smith
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Fran Etkorn
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OVER-THE-TOP

TALENT LINEUP FOR THE MIGHTY

2020 COAI CONVENTION

By Rose Cardenas

The Niagara Clown Alley is looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2020 COAI Convention to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, April 14-19, 2020. The organizers have worked hard to bring numerous excellent lecturers to the convention to bring many exciting learning experiences to the attendees. Lectures will include a wide variety of skill levels and subjects, including balloon art, face painting, juggling, magic, marketing, ministry, and many more.

Easily Amused, a vaudeville and juggling troupe, is headlining the convention's performance night, and they will also be presenting a lecture based on their unique act.



Bob and Teresa Gretton became the clowns Blinky and Bunky in the 1970s. They have won numerous awards over the years, including the

2006 Clownitarian Award and the 2009 COAI Clown of the Year. Bob and Teresa enjoy using their clowning skills for humanitarian and goodwill efforts in the U.S. and other countries. They also enjoy passing on their clowning skills to children. Teresa will be presenting two lectures, "Bits, Gags, and Skills," and "Working with a Partner," and Bob will be showing us how to make paper roses.

Hal "Halaloo" Grant has been clowning for over twenty-six years. His passion is using magic, storytelling, and balloons to entertain and share the gospel. Hal



will be presenting his lecture on clown ministry. He explains, "I believe that all my clowning is ministry. In this class, you will learn to use your clowning to convey a message. Come prepared to play. Do you have that prop you're not sure how to use in ministry? Or do you have a message for which you are trying to create a ministry routine? Bring them with you!"



Joe Barney has been performing for over fifty-five years. He has performed at the White House, Radio City Music Hall, and for over

thirty seasons at Six Flags. Joe has been Santa for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and has portrayed P.T. Barnum for thirty-three years. Joe will be teaching "Santa Business" and "Adding Music to Your Act."



Leo Desilets has been performing as a clown, magician, and balloon artist for twenty-five years. For many years, he has been "Dr. Chester Drawers," providing healing

through humor for the children at the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. Leo will be presenting his "Bubbles" lecture. (Please note that there is a five-dollar supply fee for this hands-on lecture.)

A specialist in clowning and marketing, **Leslie Ann Akin's** career has included authoring books, performing at



the White House, and being a circus clown. She will be presenting "Your Clown Brand DNA," helping clowns to learn about their individual brands, and "Magical Mirthday Parties," in which she

will teach easy, time-tested magic tricks and routines.



Mike "Buster" Bednarek is based in the Pacific Northwest and performs a mix of physical comedy, balance, and illusions in his performances.

He serves in clown camps, festivals, conventions, and comic relief organizations. Mike Bednarek's lectures are "Walkabout Physical Comedy" and "Simplicity, Stupidity, and Truth."



Merrily Johnston has been clowning since 1997. She is an international award winner and is now serving as the vice president of the COAI. Her desire is to inspire others

to be the best they can be. She will be presenting "Balloon Bouquets Using 350s" and "Rainbow Paints for Speed and Excellence."



Adam Schill is the COAI Director of Education. He has been a professional clown and balloon artist since he was eleven years old. He has traveled

the country performing, teaching, and learning as the clown known as "Knute," an accomplished balloon artist, and Santa Claus. Adam will be teaching "Balloon Twisting for Newbies," "Printed Rounds Make the World Go Round," and "Whose Class is It Anyway: An Improv Workshop." Adam's beginning balloon

workshop will cover the basics of learning to twist balloons. He explains, "If the thought of making a dog scares you, this class is for you! Bring your balloons and pumps, if you have them. If not, we'll share a few." In a slightly higher-level class, Adam's printed-rounds lecture, he will show how to use these printed balloons in balloon sculptures. In his improv lecture, Adam will cover basic rules of improvisation and play improv games. He advises, "Come prepared to play, and you'll leave with your sides hurting from laughing!"



Dale McKenzie has brought laughter to the world through clowning for over twenty years. He offers unconditional love, a warm friendly smile, and a gentle hug to all who need it. Dale will be presenting "Santa Fun" and "Playing like a Clown."



J.T. Sikes is one of the premier clowns of stupidity in the world. He performs as "Bubba" and "Dr. Wack-O," both creative and charismatic clowns.

He will be sharing proven clown techniques drawn from his thirty-three years of clowning in his lecture, "Stupid Stuff for Funny People."



Jim "Donuts" Donoughe and **Connie "Punkin" Morrow**, the convention organizers, will be presenting "Wacky Walkarounds." They will also be presenting a workshop on painted shoes and bags. Please bring a canvas bag or a pair of canvas shoes to decorate.



Glenn "Clyde D. Scope" Kohlberger is a performance artist, award-winning clown, and Santa based in North Carolina. He is a former president of the COAI and the author of

numerous articles in *The New Calliope* and *Clowning Around* magazines. Glenn will be presenting "Tool Kit for Skits" and "Don't Rain on My Paradeability." The Tool Kit lecture will provide students with the necessary tools to build a powerful skit. Glenn says of his paradeability lecture, "This lecture takes you on a FUNdamental but informative journey down the main street of paradeability... You'll find yourself prepared, thinking out of the box, and having a lot of fun at your next parade. Everyone will leave the room a certifiable parade-aholic."



Patricia Mooseburger started her clown career with the Ringling Brother's Barnum & Bailey Circus. As a result of this work experience, she became a professional in costuming and now runs her own costume business. She also runs the popular Mooseburger Clown Arts Camps. Patricia's lecture is titled, "The Red Nose Reader."



Ruth "Jazzy Sparkle" Cerretto is an expert in face painting and balloon art. She will be presenting "Rocking the Stencil to Face Paint." Cleon Babcock, the COAI parliamentarian, will be presenting, "Parliamentary Procedures."



MaryAnne Ross



Easily Amused



Barb Field



Cleon Babcock



Kornpop



Frank Bunton



David Bartlett

Frank Bunton will be teaching two sessions on balloon art for different skill levels, and Dave Hill will be lecturing on balloon games. Barb Field's lecture is "Science for Clowns." Maryann Ross, Kornpop, and Dave "Mr. Rainbow" Bartlett will also be lecturing, but their sessions have yet to be confirmed.

The Niagara Clown Alley is frequently updating convention information on the COAI website (www.coaiconvention.com). Check there for the latest information on lectures and lecturers, as well as registration, schedule, vendors, local activities, and the convention hotel.

In addition to all these exciting lectures, the convention will include a theme night titled, "The Mighty," in honor of the Mighty Niagara. The theme night will center on heroes, villains, and dare devils. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes, both the mighty and the not-so mighty!

TNC

**Remember to sign up today for "The Mighty"—
the 2020 COAI Convention in Niagara Falls, New York, April 14–19!**

Look Who's Reading 'The New Calliope'!

Marie Beck, a 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, relaxed in Ogunquit, Maine this summer, reading what we hope is her favorite magazine!





From the Director of Conventions

Frank Bunton

What to Do If You Want to Host a Convention

I ended my last article by saying that I would address some questions about hosting a convention. However, I encourage you to contact me so I can give more detailed information and help you through the process.

Step 1. Make sure your alley wants to do this. If all but one member is willing, then you could give it a try. If your alley is (too?) small, then ask a neighboring alley if they would be willing to co-host. Any time an alley decides to host a convention and it is awarded to them to host, they will see an increase in membership.

Step 2 Pick the date of the convention. At this time, you will also want to figure out if you want to have your convention start on a Tuesday and end on Saturday night (after the awards banquet) or Sunday (after a service). Or do you want to run it Monday to Friday? In the past, COAI has run conventions from Tuesday to Saturday night with a few exceptions. We also try to have our conventions in March or April. This is the early spring just before the start of all your spring and summer clowning, so it is usually a slow time for performances. The board has been known to grant a convention date outside the norm if the submitting alley shows good reason for the dates they have picked. Try to stay away from Easter/Passover time, as some members have religious reasons to not travel then. Also, since that is the time a lot of schools are out and travel is up, the cost of flights and hotels will be higher as well. This isn't ideal, since you want to keep your costs down so more people will be willing to attend.

Step 3. Pick a location! This means choosing a place that is easy for people to fly to and has an airport a short distance away. It is great when the hosting hotel has shuttle service to and from the airport. If there is no shuttle service, figure out how you will get your attendees from the airport to the hotel. Since most attending will be flying,

a major airport is an almost must! For example, if I wanted to have the convention in my home town of Columbus, Indiana, there would be a major problem getting people from the two nearest airports to the hotel because one is fifty miles away and the other is seventy-five, with a toll bridge in between. This would not work! The solution would be to host the convention in one of those two cities and commute myself (and my alley members) to that city. If you are in a suburb of a large city, then it would be easier for you to get there as well.

Step 4. Pick a hotel. It is best if the hotel has a convention center attached or can provide the convention rooms needed. But how many rooms? Well, let's see. *A.* You need a large room to hold the business meeting, banquet, theme party (if you have one), competitions (Makeup, Skits, maybe Balloons and Face Painting), and the show your headliner will put on (again, if you have one). *B.* Another large room for your dealers and vendors. This should be a room you can secure at night so everything stays safe. This beats hiring an armed guard. *C.* You will need two or three breakout rooms for classes and

Continued on page 18.



From the Alley Director

Gloria "HeySeed" Sterrett

Hi, everyone! This is your new Alley and Regional Support Director, Gloria "HeySeed." But you can call me Dolli.

I'd like to stress how important it is to update your alley info for the website. So please urge everyone to pass the word along! I have only fourteen alley updates. There are so many alleys on the website that are not correct or have not been updated. You'll find what information there is under the Alleys tab. Scroll down to Regions. Some current and past alleys are listed here. If you have updated information you know is correct, contact me, or let me know who I can contact!

You'll also find Annual Alley Report Forms on the website under the Alleys tab. They are in digital and printable forms. If you need help with either form, you can

contact Carrie Ray, our Regional Vice President, or Merrily, our Vice President. Their contact info is on page two.

Please update your alley information as soon as possible.

Thank you so much! **TNC**



So, You Want to be a Clown?

Some Advice for First of Mays

By Mark Renfro



It's not about the stuff.

Creating laughter is a very worthy goal, but it can easily get misplaced in the rush to find the perfect face or perfect costume. Anyone can look like a clown, but it takes hard work to be one.

It is so easy when you are first starting out to let all the accoutrements of clowning distract you from the essence of clowning. You must have some skills beyond looking good. Through the years, I have been highly entertained by clown performers who would never win a prize for their appearance, and I have been bored to tears by performers who looked flawless. You will find that audiences aren't all that interested in makeup and costumes. They are interested in your humor, your character, and your sense of playfulness. Don't make the mistake of valuing appearance over substance.

Don't just stand there. Do something.

"I love clowning. It's the performing I can't stand." Does that sound familiar? Is that what the little voice in your head is saying? Taking those first steps in front of an audience can be scary. Don't worry. Clowning isn't brain surgery, and even if you flop, the damage is not likely to be permanent.

There is just no other way to say it: performance is what it's all about. It is only in front of an audience that the real growth occurs. It does take a lot of performance experience before you can be comfortable on stage. Stay focused, and you will improve. Every performance will move you closer to your goals.

Sometimes, I see beginning clowns lose sight of where they are. Instead of starting small, they dive into planning that big show, and it isn't long before they get overwhelmed and discouraged. Have a little patience and take it one step at a time. You don't have to be the master of every clown skill in the book before you venture out in front of an audience. You only know a couple of funny handshakes? Great! Find a way to get out there and be the best funny handshaker around.

Build your performances on what you can do instead of what you can't do. Put together a one-minute routine as soon as possible and start performing it. Do something you feel comfortable with and polish, polish, polish. Audiences will appreciate one minute of good solid fun much more than thirty minutes of unfocused fluff. While you are preparing to do great things, be sure to do small things greatly.

What about the rules?

It would be so much easier if someone would just tell you the rules, wouldn't it? Well, it won't be me. Here's why: there is a flaw in our way of thinking that, when we are given a set of rules, we adhere so tightly to them we forget the intent of the process.

Some people would rather spend their energy manipulating rights and wrongs than opening themselves to creativity. Particularly when you begin in clowning, there are those who will try to fit you into this or that category according to the rules. Run, don't walk, away from these people. I'm sure they mean well, but what is the result of following those rules? Instead of producing something eccentric, interesting, or

joyful, we end up with clowns reduced to the lowest common denominator, something bland instead of brilliant, consistent instead of creative.

Faced with the incredible possibilities that are inherent in an art form as fluid as clowning, it is easier (or should I say safer?) for some to try reducing the endless options for creativity down to a few simple rules. Why bother? Trying to wrap up the world of clowning into a nice tidy package just isn't going to work. No matter how neatly some might try to tie the bow, some clown will just come along and untie it. After all, that is what clowns do!

Relax!

We must succeed! That's what the world tells us, isn't it? But so often, we end up thinking that we must succeed and must succeed without ever failing. When you take your first steps in clowning, it is inevitable that you will make some poor choices. It is surprising how quickly you will develop a sensitivity to your audiences' reactions that will guide you as you find confidence in your performance.

Don't be dismayed if some people are not interested in what you offer. All the world loves a clown, right? Sorry, no. There are plenty of people who don't even want to be in the same room with a clown. Sometimes the worst does happen, and despite your best efforts and wishes, you just can't get the laughs. It hurts, but you'll get over it. Some audiences will be thrilled with your clowning, and some will not. That is their right.

A common mistake many new clowns make, especially when things seem to be headed south, is to force the interaction. Driven by the urge to succeed and in a rush to do a good job, they feel a need to push a little harder than necessary. The feeling becomes, "I'm here to entertain you, so shut up and be entertained -- whether you like it or not."

Don't get caught up in your own nervousness. It is not about you. Experienced performers know that, in every aspect of your performance, you must let your

audience know you are there for them. Check your ego at the door. Your audiences mean much more to you than you do to them.

The secret of success

Often when people find out you are a clown, they will say something such as “Oh, that must be so much fun.” It is true that the best clowns often seem to be having as much fun as their audiences, so I think I know what these people are saying. I’m just not sure I agree.

My adventures in clowning have taken me around the world and enriched my life in ways I could have never imagined when I was a First of May. But I’ll be honest, it hasn’t always been a great deal of fun. Sometimes being a clown can be just plain hard work. If you want to become a clown because you think your life will suddenly become a barrel of monkeys. You might want to rethink that assumption.

Still, I wouldn’t trade my experience as a clown for anything because I’ve discovered something that makes it all worthwhile:

Clowning is not about having fun; it is about creating fun for others. It is not about what you can get; it is about what you can give. This is the true secret of success in clowning.

My best advice

Oh, to be a First of May again. I remember the first time I tried dipping the toes of my oversized shoes into the great big world of clowning. There were so many new ideas, so many things to try, do, learn, and remember. Now, when I am around people just beginning their own great adventure, it never fails that someone will ask me for advice: “What do I do now? What is the next step?”

The journey of self-discovery that you began when you decided to become a

clown has no rule book. You will have to make it up as you go along. Find ways to express yourself which are unique to your personality and the character you are developing. You will always be funnier if you remain true to yourself.

Clowning is a wonderful way to liberate the power of your unique creative spirit. Being a clown will encourage you to see new possibilities and new ways of being. Trust yourself. Don’t be afraid to be different. Your adventure is waiting for you, and it begins at the edge of the map.

So, you want to be a clown? Here is my best advice: Start anywhere and don’t stop.

Mark Renfro passionately believes that laughing matters. As a clown performer, he has appeared in venues as varied as the kid-next-door’s birthday party to the stage of Radio City Music Hall. To reach him by e-mail, write to threeringservice@yahoo.com.

CLOWN COOKIES!

By Carrie Ray

Take some of these fun, homemade clown cookies to upcoming holiday parties! They will be delicious and a great way to promote clowning. If you make these, please share your pictures for us to post on Facebook or in *The New Calliope*.

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup shortening
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 ready-to-eat bran
- 1 3/4 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon mace
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/3 cup chopped seeded raisins



Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Use a mixer to thoroughly blend the shortening and sugar. Add egg and beat well.

Stir in the milk and bran.

In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt, and spices.

Add to the wet ingredients and mix well. Slowly fold in the raisins

Cover with plastic wrap and chill one to two hours.

Roll the dough to about 1/8-inch thickness and cut shapes. If you have them, clown cookie cutters work well.

Place cookies on a greased or parchment-lined baking sheet for 12 minutes, rotating pan half way. Let the cookies cool for five minutes in the pad, then for at least an hour on the rack before decorating.

Decorate with confectioner’s sugar icing and piped chocolate icing for the clown faces. **TNC**



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All COAI memberships are on an annual basis. Todas las membresias en COAI son anuales.

Do You *Not* Play in Church?

Today's reading is according to the Book of Daisy 24:7

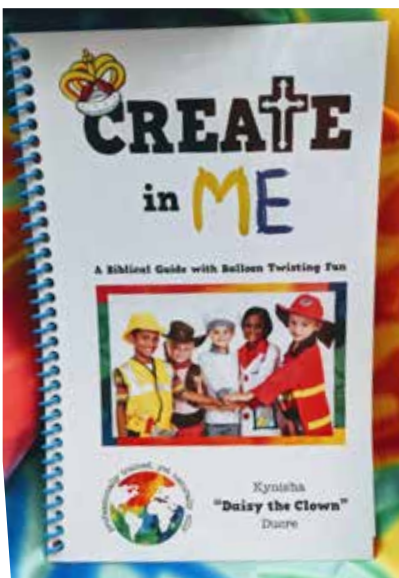
By Kynisha "Daisy" Ducre

More than five years ago, my heart jumped out of my body and I wanted to give it to a kid who was going through a tough time. I found her at a birthday party where I was performing. As an adult, I've had years of experience coping with and praying for any and everything, but this kid was hopeless; her heart was definitely not joyful like her peers. Before leaving, I made her a heart balloon bracelet, told her I noticed her, and asked her, "Tell me one thing I can try to do to help make your day better." Of course, she could have said nothing or ignored me, but asking for an action on her part allowed me to work my magic and teach her a life lesson, too!

After this, I started thinking. How can I teach more kids to cope with tough situations and believe they were created special because of who God says they are? I went to my church and asked if I could perform for kindergartners and first graders – low judgement zone, right? – and they loved it! Every month thereafter I performed or taught Sunday school along with their regular teachers.

I started out with balloon creations to compliment the lesson, went through the kids' memory verse for that week, then incorporated magic and puppets. Now, I have certainly not committed all sixty-six books to memory, or even knew how many were in the Old Testament and how many in the New. If I encountered any stumping questions, I usually let the other teachers answer them or said I'd have to read the passage again.

After stumbling upon Gospel Clowning at my church, I went in search of more instruction from books like Dewey's Gospel Balloon Routines and attended G.L.O.W. in Texas. Now with six continents and more than twenty countries in my heart, I feel a little more comfortable.



My church has since added four or five more clowns to cover different weekends and other new locations. Our program has the potential to be a frequent special treat for Children's Church. If you haven't tried clowning for your church, I encourage you to expand your clownfolio and go for it. You'll find your clown heart expanding, not to mention all the kids who look up to you and want to celebrate their birthdays with you as well.



Recently, my job moved me to the Bay Area of California, but I wanted to continue sharing my experience with Sunday School teachers, parents, and anyone looking for clean, family-friendly fun. So, I wrote a guide containing sixteen characters, personally selected songs and Bible verses, as well as a balloon figure with QR code to twisting instructions. If you're not sure where to start, that might be a good place. You can find my guide on Amazon, through my Instagram page, @daisythec clown, or by visiting my website, clownin-around.net #Iplayinchurch. TNC

Continued from page 13.

lectures. *D.* You should plan on having one more classroom for the Junior Joeys to meet in. *E.* You will need a hospitality room/suite for the evening when your guests will want to socialize and for the morning where they can get a quick bite. *F.* You need to plan for a suite (if the hotel has them) for your COAI President. This is important! He will not only use the room for his or her stay, but also conduct board business as needed there. That's about seven rooms at most, not counting hotel bedrooms for attendees.

Step 5. Select a theme for your convention! Our members love the idea of dressing up for whatever the theme is for one night without the pressure of convention judges. It is a fun time, and if you pass on having a theme party, expect some of your attendees to be upset. Check out The Vault on the COAI

website to see what the themes were for some past conventions recorded in the pages of *The New Calliope* back issues.


Step 6. Plan who you want for vendors and who you want to teach classes. What products do you want? Who would you like to see teach a class and on what subject? This doesn't have to be a final list by the time you submit a bid to host. However, an idea of who you want to invite is helpful.

Now, all this is information you should put together and submit to me eighteen months before the time you want to host. Ideally, the proposal should be in two years before when you want to host. The earlier you submit, the sooner the board can make a decision and the more time you have to really make the convention a great one. It doesn't hurt to have more time to finalize things and less pressure (rush) to do it all.

Lastly, I want to address the question, "What's in it for me and/or my alley?" There is the increase in membership to your alley from people who want to be part of something big. There are the bragging rights to have hosted an international convention. AND, if everything works out right, there is the money that can be made by hosting a convention. The profit can and will depend on how well you promote the convention and get the warm bodies there.

These are the important items, but there is plenty more that goes into a convention. I'll talk a bit about those other items in the next article.


As always, if you have more questions, you can email me at buffphoon@gmail.com or try and catch me via phone (812-371-5742). If you call, please remember that I'm on Eastern time, the same time zone that as Washington, D.C. but I'm seven hundred miles away. They have enough clowns in politics there. **TNC**




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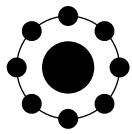
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HARRY'S HILARITIES

Applause is good because it gets the audience involved—and it's always nice to hear! Here are some lines to use after applause, and even more lines to use when people don't respond as you had hoped. Sometimes a funny line will tip the scale so they clap *and* laugh.

Lots of applause: Please, please. It will only put me in a higher tax bracket.

Lots of applause: Please, don't... don't stop.

Lots of applause: It's amazing what I'll go through for a round of applause!

Lots of applause: You're spoiling me, folks!

One person clapping: Would you hop around so it sounds like a crowd?

No applause: I know some of you have been saving your applause. Now is the time!

No applause: There are two ways to do magic. One is with applause.

No applause: This is my tenth anniversary. Ten shows without a laugh!

No applause: Please, don't shout, "Bravo!" Just clap your hands.

No reaction: Comedy is in my blood. I just wish it were in my act!

Harry Allen is the co-owner, with Irv Cook, of Daytona Magic in Daytona Beach, Florida. Harry tours extensively with his dealer show, demonstrating the latest in magic supplies, combined with his quick-witted delivery. Visit him online at www.daytonamagic.com.

Insurance In My Stocking

By Rachel Strnad

Did you know you could buy insurance from Santa? I certainly didn't till I met Larry Talbert, Georgia's magical Santa and the most successful insurance counselor in Gwinnett County.

Larry first learned magic from his youth pastor in high school. "He would incorporate magic tricks into his lessons, and I loved it. So, he called my parents up and asked if it was okay to take me to Magic Magic in Atlanta," Larry remembers. "We spent about half a day there. I bought several magic items and would goof off with them as much as I possibly could." The effects went up in the attic, however, when Larry entered college. He eventually followed his father in the insurance business, and magic remained forgotten until about ten years ago.

The Talberts were on a family trip with their five children to Universal Studios in Orlando the summer of 2007, and caught a magic show in Harry Potter World. Among the effects the magician performed was a fire wallet that so captivated Larry, he could not stop talking about it for the rest of the day. "Finally, my wife told me 'Go get it because I know you're going to think of something to do with it,'" says Larry, "and if you don't, I will because I don't want to hear about it anymore." So, he took his wife's advice.

Her advice proved useful again after he'd brought the wallet home and couldn't think what to do with it. "Use it for your business." This was the beginning of a complete re-branding of Talbert Insurance. "I tell people I help stop money



burning a hole in their wallet on insurance," Larry explains. "I open my wallet, the flames burst out of it, and I say if they want to keep a little more cash in their wallet to give me a call. Then I hand them one of my cards." Larry's card is printed with a fire extinguisher and his signature slogan.

Larry has now performed the effect, along with others as part of his presentation, at insurance conferences, on local TV, on the Megatron for the Atlanta Braves, as well as his local football and hockey teams. The business has been voted best in Gwinnett County for the past ten years. "I really have to give credit to the fact that I've had this wallet," says Larry. "People remembered me. Well, I also look more like a wrestler than a normal insurance agent anyway, with a goatee and shaved head, and now I look more like Santa."

Larry more than looks like Santa, he *is* Santa for the holiday season, a second career that was rather thrust upon him. Again, the idea originated with his wife. They were at the mall around Christmas. Larry's wife observed their Santa taking pictures, looked at Larry, and said, "When you retire, that's what you're going to do."

"She knew how much money he got paid," says Larry, who agreed it would be a fun job, but didn't think much more about it at the time. The idea didn't die there, though. With five children, the Talberts regularly hired



Santas to do home visits around the holidays, and each one, after meeting Larry, invariably tried to recruit him. “They’d offer to mentor me, and I kept saying, ‘No, I’m just too young for that yet.’” The mania spread to his work four years later. Larry met yet another professional Santa named Rick Rosenthal at the Chamber of Commerce professional gathering. “That was something in itself,” Larry remembers, “because he was Orthodox Jewish.” This living juxtaposition said what everyone else had been saying: “You should be Santa!” “I tried to shut him down quick because I was there to sell insurance,” says Larry. “I told him, ‘Listen, I really appreciate it. I know who he is and what he’s about, but I just don’t know how to be him.’”

“That’s the reason you go to Santa School,” Rick said.

Again, Larry had a comeback. He didn’t travel much anymore, nothing beyond twenty miles of his house. If the Santa school was farther than that, he couldn’t go. “As a matter of fact,” said Rick. “It’s in Alpharetta.” On the GPS, the town was eighteen point four miles away. Larry was out of excuses. “I called up my wife and asked ‘What do you think about going to Santa school with me?’ She laughed and thought I was joking.” When he did convince her he was serious, she agreed, and the Alpharetta Santa School welcomed two new students that year. Larry has never looked back.

As with everything he does, though, Larry couldn’t simply become Santa and be done. He had to improve on it. At that first Santa School meeting of over one hundred Santas, the number one complaint was how to handle dead time. Often, a Santa would be doing a home visit or an event, and find thirty or forty minutes still left after talking with the kids, getting pictures done, and telling a story. If the venue or parent had hired them through an agency, they couldn’t leave before their designated time. What could they do to fill those minutes for kids who were fast losing attention?

Larry thought about it and wondered if Santa could do magic. “I talked to my agent, and he said Santa wasn’t a magician. I said, no, but he could be magical.” After more thought, he came up with a new take on the Magic Coloring Book: *T’was the Night Before Christmas, A Magical Presentation*. As with the magical coloring book, the book appears blank when thumbed through at a certain spot. The words of the story appear when thumbed in another, and full-color illustrations to accompany them show up when the book is thumbed in a third place. Larry hired an artist to create original pictures, and copyrighted them.

To be economical, they produced a thousand copies. After he presented the item at his next Santa School meeting, he sold one hundred in one night. A few months later, Larry’s printer called him up and said, “I entered your book in the national and state competitions for printers and it won several awards. I need you to be Santa at the Fox Theater in August to receive them.” The book won a total of five state and three international awards, including best new children’s book, best new concept, and “They said it couldn’t be done.” This created another burst of sales: about eight hundred more copies, so the book is almost ready for a second printing.

“After that, I thought I was good. I’d made my contribution to the community,” says Larry. “But the Santas turned around and asked, ‘What’s next?’” This was the beginning of santamagic.pro, a one-stop shop for easy-to-perform Christmas magic. Some items are originals, and some Larry sells through wholesalers. Their goal is to provide effects any Santa can do with minimal practice.

Becoming Santa ended up becoming very good for Talbert Insurance as well. “People started looking me up to see what I did the rest of the year,” Larry remembers. “Then I’d get calls about insurance.” Now, Larry has clients who come specifically during the season so Santa can do their insurance. Also, an

insurance package his company was already selling to actors, puppeteers, and storytellers, turned out to be ideal for the Santa, magician, and clown communities. With connections to all three, Larry began work in earnest this past year to spread the word.

Despite this, and despite also running a second magic business with his twelve-going-on thirty son, Michael, Larry still has time to do home visits, teach his effects to fellow Santas, interview with documentarians about his work, and spend time with the rest of his five kids and their families.

His advice to aspiring Santas? Figure out what kind of Santa you are. Are you a photographer Santa? Will you be doing restaurants? Home visits? Corporate events? Build your presentation around that. A restaurant Santa could produce candy canes at the table with a cake pan. Something like *T’was the Night Before Christmas* would be perfect for a home Santa, always keeping in mind that you aren’t there to perform a magic show; the magic is part of Santa’s mythos.

You can contact Larry about insurance through the information on page 19, or if you’re interested in some magic, check out www.magicstore.pro or www.santamagic.pro. Keep a lookout Christmas Eve, and you might just catch him filling your stocking, too.



Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!

Gema "Estrellita" Anderson, TX	Jack Kalvan, CA
Kimberley "Molly Noodle" Bell, FL	Megan "Kidd-o" Kozlowski, NY
Donald "Rags" Blankenship, NY	Jane Laconto, MA
Sarah "Miss Sarah" Boiteux, MI	Lisa Laconto, MA
Abraham Carnow, CA	Mary Ann "Mary Ann" Moreno, AZ
Brent "Willy Nilly" Cavendish, OH	Tammy "Giltter the Clown" Mullinix, MD
Ron "Walter Melon" Christolear, CA	Kathryn "Kiki the Clown" Porter, TX
Erika "Gidget" Cowley, MN	Guy "Kazoo" Richardson, NY
Sam Cremeens, TN	George "Destiny" Sabotka, NY
Nicole "Jolly Molly" Death, NY	Ira "Pickles" Saewitz, NY
Benjamin "Ben the Clown" Edoff, PA	Natsuko "Summer Shiratori" Sato, NY
Ida "Jenna Sis the Clown" Frank, NY	Christopher "Officer Offbeat" Shelton, DE
Karen Freire, FL	Charles "Homie" Shelton, VA
John "goofball" Halliday, AL	Cheryl "Budderball" Wagner, CA
Holly Hoffman, MD	Claira "Jaxy" White, WI
Cindy "Ruby" Johnson, WI	Jay "Props the Clown" Zentko, IL

A big thank you to
Bruce Lawson and Zoilo Melendez
 for gifting a membership!

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You'll be glad you did.

Don't forget to register for
"The Mighty"—the 2020 COAI Convention!
www.CoaiConvention.Com

CLOWN CALENDAR

November 7–10, 2019

Mid-Atlantic Association

Clown Convention

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

www.midatlanticclownassociation.com

November 10–14, 2019

FAVE Convention 2019

Las Vegas, Nevada

www.faveconvention.com

January 17–19, 2020

Northeast Clown Institute

Plymouth, Massachusetts

www.clowninstitute.com

January 24–26

Kapital Kidvention

Tysons Corner, Virginia

www.kapitalkidvention.com

February 20–23, 2020

Show Me Clowns for Jesus

Branson, Missouri

showmeclownsforjesus.org

February 28–March 1, 2020

Circus Magic Convention

Williamsburg, Virginia

circusmagicconvention.com

March 22–26, 2020

WCA Convention

Jacksonville, Florida

www.worldclown.com

April 14–19, 2020

COAI Annual Convention

Niagara Falls, New York

www.mycoai.com

July 21–26, 2020

Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp

Buffalo, Minnesota

www.mooseburger.com/moosecamp/registration

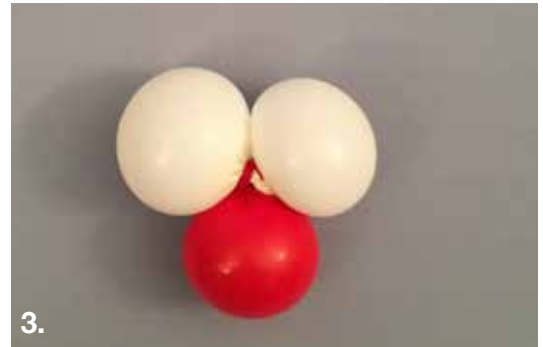


Send event information to
thenewcalliope@gmail.com with
 Clown Calendar in the subject line.



Reindeer Bracelet

By Patricia "Pockets" Bunnell



1. Inflate a caramel 160, leaving a 6-inch tip. Form a 6-inch loop, two 1-inch bubbles, another loop, and a 9-inch bubble. Deflate a tie off. Twist in at side. Make antlers by inflating a toffee 160, leaving a 6-inch tip. Make a 2-inch bubble and two 4-inch loops. Form two 6-inch bubbles, two 4-inch loops, and finish with a 2-inch tip. Tie off and deflate. Twist in.

2. Inflate a caramel 360 half way. Make a 4-inch bubble and a 6-inch bubble. Twist together. Make another 4-inch bubble. Deflate and tie off.

3. Inflate a red 5-inch round to Ping-Pong ball size. Inflate a white 5-inch round about mandarin orange size. Twist in half. Twist the red nose in at the center.

4. Slide cluster into the 360.

5. Fold the soft 4-inch bubble over the top and in front of the ears. Twist in at the side.

6. Insert eyes/nose cluster, twisting in at the antlers.

Patricia "Pockets" Bunnell is an award-winning balloon artist from the Portland, Oregon, area. You may reach her by e-mail at oddballoon@gmail.com.

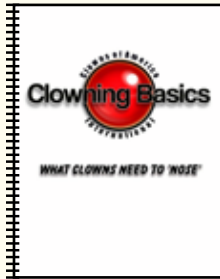


Snapshots

News from Krackerjac Alley #159

Get COAI's Clowning Guide FREE!

Clowning Basics is our organization's go-to master course for all things clowning. In its pages, the novice clown learns all he needs to know, from choosing a clown type and persona, to detailed instructions on makeup application.



The experienced clown has plenty to learn from this manual as well. Brush up on your clown safety or review the organization's rules for skits and paradeability.

Want to teach a clown class? This manual is perfect! It even includes a clown skills quiz and graduation certificate.

Best of all—COAI members now have access to this wealth of information absolutely free! Simply log in to your account on www.mycoai.com and start learning!

Printed copies of **Clowning Basics** are still available from the COAI Business Office for \$25 plus \$3 shipping. To order, call 1-352-357-1676.



Clockwise from Left: Bar BQ at the Palladium Festival in Lake Placid 2019. Boopsie and Giggles manned the festival booth. Bar BQ, Adele, and Dennis in action during Clown Week 2019!

Congratulations, Carrie!

On August 20, 2019, Carrie "Shimmy Giggles" Ray was selected for the 2019 Best Euleess Award in the Corporate Office category.

Each year, the Euleess Award Program identifies companies they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community. These exceptional companies help make the Euleess area a great place to live, work, and play.



Shimmy Giggles with a couple face painting customers.



Members of San Diego All Stars attended the Fern Street Circus to support one of their own. L to R: Bon Bon, Zorba, Banjo Belly (performing that day), Wower, and Janet (a new clown!).

NIAGARA FALLS 2020



The Mighty

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Connie Morrow

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CONVENTION DISCOUNT, RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 02/15/2020 A

MAXIMUM of 4 PERSONS PER ROOM and AT LEAST ONE ADULT (21 YEARS OF AGE

*OR OLDER) IS REQUIRED FOR EACH ROOM **BE SURE TO MENTION THE CODE!***

****Please DO NOT book your hotel room until the code is announced**

in the Calliope or Online

CONVENTION FEES:

- \$195.00 Vegas Convention Rate
- \$199.00 One Day Only! July 15th, 2019
Mail in forms

MUST BE POSTMARKED JULY 15

- \$220.00 7/16/19 - 10/14/19
- \$240.00 10/15/19 - 4/11/2020
- \$260.00 at the door....cash only!
- \$60.00 DAILY RATE (NO MEALS)
- \$150.00 for JUNIOR JOEYS AND

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ALL WORKSHOPS, DEALER'S ROOM, THEME PARTY, HOSPITALITY ROOM, COMPETITIONS, AWARDS BANQUET ENTERTAINERS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTERING:

NAME _____ CLOWN NAME _____ COAI # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ Zip _____ COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST COAI CONVENTION? YES NO ALLEY AFFILIATION _____

Updates and information: "Conventions" tab at www.MyCOAI.com Questions? Jim Donoughe at 1-716-471-3684 or Email COAIConv2020@aol.com

THE LAST WALK-AROUND

Kenneth “Kenny” Cantor

Kenny Cantor, 81, of Lowesoft, Suffolk, died September 10, 2019. Kenny was a fifth-generation comedian, starting his entertainment career at the tender age of four in the circus ring with his parents, Adele and Terry Cantor. Though an accomplished acrobat, juggler, and clown by the time he reached his teens, Kenny followed his father into variety entertainment. In the course of his career, he performed at the London Palladium, hosted the TV quiz show *Play Your Cards Right* in New Zealand, performed over fifty pantomimes, entertained the royal family, and worked with other well-known entertainers such as Frankie Vaughan, Val Doonican, and Sir Harry Secombe.



His wife Caron, who was a dancer, accompanied Kenny and choreographed many cruise ship productions around the world. The Cantor family has also successfully run theatre schools for thousands of young people across Waveney since 1981. They were asked to take over a Kessingland holiday center, near Lowesoft, for two weeks - and such was their impact that they decided to live there ever since.

Submitted by Andrew Davis, World Clown Association President: “Kenny Cantor is and will always be an inspiration to all and sundry. He spread the love throughout our fraternity which will be carried forward with honour by many! He may not be here in body but he’s certainly here in soul! Never forgotten and will be in our eternal memories forever!



As a former clown, circus performer, variety hall song and dance man, he brought smiles to so many and is very sadly missed.

Walter Frank

Recently, the COAI Business Office was notified that Walter “Wrinkles” Frank, 97, received the call on July 27, 2019. During World War II, he flew forty-nine combat missions as a door gunner on a bomber crew and was awarded the Air Medal with Eight Oak Leaf Clusters and Five Battle Stars, as well as many other awards and citations for his service. He was discharged as a Technical Sergeant in 1945 and returned home to Malta.

There, he married the love of his life, Peg, and they started their family. He and a fellow veteran pursued what became a successful partnership in specialized construction. A man with fraternal leanings, he also became a Shriner and later a Shrine Clown. A few years ago, he was recognized by ISCA as the oldest active member

of the International Shrine Clown Association. At ninety-two years young, he attended an Imperial Session, entered all the clown competitions he could, and won awards in makeup and costume, skits, and paradeability.

Over the years, he participated in almost every clown arts training program the Capital Region had to offer, sometimes as a student, often as a guest speaker, instructor, or performer. He was a regular at Northeast Clown Conventions, bringing home all sorts of awards, and was one of the first to participate in the Northeast Clown Institute. Wrinkles attended COAI, ISCA, and WCA conventions any time they were within driving distance. He had clown and circus friends, young and old, across the country and maintained contact through the regular exchange of photos, notes, and letters.

As a long-time member of the Cyprus Shriners in Albany and a friend and supporter of the Oriental Shriners in Troy, he performed in countless parades, circus productions of all sizes, public, private, and fundraising events across our region. He was even known to make surprise appearances at family events. Wrinkles was a regular visitor to the Shrine Hospitals in Springfield, Montreal, Boston, and Philadelphia, sharing joy and comic relief with staff, patients, and their families. A founding member of the Adirondack Clowns, he served as the Secretary for many years. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. His entertaining antics, sense of humor, and the smiles he made are missed.

Patty “Nurse Kindheart” Wooten

Patricia Carol Wooten, 72, of Charlottesville, Virginia, died on September 15, 2019. After years of bravely battling multiple health issues, Patty passed away peacefully, surrounded



humor, and as a hilarious, compassionate clown. She inspired thousands of other health care professionals to use humor to lift their patients' spirits.

After retiring as an infection control specialist at Watsonville Hospital in California, Patty moved to Charlottesville and continued to volunteer as a com-

passionate clown in local hospitals, as well as share her humor and wisdom as a speaker at various conferences worldwide. Patty loved the arts, traveling, outdoor adventures, and entertaining family and friends. Her compassion, love, and humor will be missed by all who loved her, but she is finally at peace and has taken her compassionate humor on to a higher place. A private celebration of life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lymphoma Society at donate.lls.org would be a perfect way to honor Patty.

by her loved ones. While we miss her dearly, her struggles have ended and she is at peace.

Patty was born in Springfield, Illinois, on December 22, 1946, and grew up in Castro Valley, California. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, Patty became a nurse, specializing for years in ICU. That experience, along with her amazing sense of humor, led her into a second, simultaneous career as a writer and renowned international speaker in the field of therapeutic

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Date of Filing: September 30, 2019
 Title of Publication: THE NEW CALLIOPE
 Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly
 No. of Issues published annually: 6
 Annual Subscription Price: Dues \$45.00.

Complete mailing address of Known Office of Publication: Clowns of America International, PO Box 122, Eustis, FL 32727, U.S.A.

Complete mailing address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor – Publisher: Clowns of America International, PO Box 122, Eustis, FL 32727, U.S.A.
 Business Office Manager: Laurel Smith, P.O. Box 122, Eustis, FL 32727, U.S.A.

Owner: Clowns of America International, PO Box 122, Eustis, FL 32727, U.S.A.

Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None.

For completion by Nonprofit Organization authorized to mail at special rates (Section 423.12 DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: Has not changed during preceding 12 months.

Extent and Nature of Circulation—

	Avg. No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months:	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date:
Total No. Copies Printed (Net Press Run)	2,105	1,950
Paid and/or Requested Circulation:		
Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	none	none
Mail Subscription	1,906	1,847
Digital Subscription	184	210
Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	2,090	2,057
Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies		
Total Distribution	2,112	2,079
Copies Not Distributed:		
Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	107	95
Return from News Agents	none	none
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
 Laurel Smith, Business Office Manager



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From the Membership Director

Carrie "Shimmy Giggles" Ray

Hello COAI members!

I hope this year is treating you all very well. I just wanted to remind you, we have elections coming up next year with a deadline of January 15, 2020. To declare for a position see page 9 for details.. If you are a member, please step up and help out with your alleys and other clown organizations: we all need to build our memberships and bring in new ideas and opportunities. Fresh and new faces are a great way to do this, so go out there and run for an office or help out with alley events.

We are also looking to add people to my membership committee. If you're interested, please call or text me at 214-577-6002.

Have a great idea for a fundraiser? Share it with me, as I would love to find ways COAI and our alleys can bring in more revenue. Some examples are coloring books with members' clown coloring pages that can be sold; a clown recipe book that can be sold; a clown members calendar that can be sold. I know there are a lot of other great ways to do fundraisers.

Don't forget to checkout Facebook. There are also a lot of educational sites that can help you develop and grow, such as Twisted Sisters Balloons; Giggle Bytes Alley #1000 online meetings; *A Fool's Guide to Clowning*; our own *Clowning Basics* book; Clowns Supporting International Clown Week; and many other places to learn and grow.

In closing, please remember to always take the time to call, text, or e-mail a fellow alley member who hasn't been attending your meetings lately. You never know! They may be sick, can't drive, or have other issues preventing them from going. See if you can help and make a difference in another member's life.

Take care and big Hugs to All! **TNC**

Membership Rates

I hope everyone is ready for the upcoming holiday season. What about giving someone a COAI membership? Our prices and membership options are listed below.

Individual \$45

Family Membership \$25

E Membership \$35

Senior \$35

Junior Joey \$30

International \$45

Lifetime \$1000

New and Renewing Family Membership (Member **MUST** reside in the same household and will not receive *The New Calliope*)

Individual Plus ONE Family Member:
\$70.00

Individual Plus TWO Family Members:
\$95.00

Individual Plus THREE Family Members:
\$120.00

If you would prefer to make a payment over the phone or mail a check, please contact the COAI Office. Please contact the COAI Office for all family memberships.

P.O. Box 122

Eustis, FL 32727-0122

Phone: 352-357-1676 or

Toll Free: 877-816-6941

Email: coaioffice@aol.com

Important things to note:

Seniors and Juniors must provide proof of age. Seniors must be sixty-five or older within the enrollment year. Junior Joeys must be eight to fifteen within the enrollment year.

Children ages eight to fifteen can choose to join as a Family Member or Junior Joey. Family Members can be of any age but *must* live in the same household as the primary member.

Full members and Junior Joeys receive *The New Calliope*. Family Members do not, thus two issues won't come to the same house.

E-members receive everything through e-mail, including *The New Calliope*, their membership card, and all correspondence.

HAVE YOU TOLD A FRIEND ABOUT COAI?

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or gift a membership
today!



COAI PERKS!

PROGRAM



Clowns of America International is proud to announce the newest list of COAI Perks!

As a COAI member, you can receive special discounts and promotions some of our member-owned businesses have to offer. Keep watching *The New Calliope*, our website, *MyCOAI.com*, and our official Facebook page for the newest opportunities. If you are a member-owned business and wish to participate in this growing program, please contact us at *COAIPerks@yahoo.com*.

MOOSEBURGER ORIGINALS COAI members get 10% off their purchase when they use the online coupon code IAMCOAI or tell us over the phone they are a COAI member. This coupon code can be used more than once and is good until January 1, 2020. The offer is good for all Pricilla Mooseburger Originals orders, including custom costume orders and in-stock clown supplies (excluding shipping and handling). The offer is not valid for Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp registrations. To place an order, call 320-963-6277 or visit *mooseburgeronline.com*.

BALLOONS AND CLOWNS/THE MAGIC DOLLAR STORE 20% off all orders excluding balloons. This includes magic, sound systems, and games. To receive this promotion, provide your COAI membership number when ordering at *BalloonsandClowns.com* or by calling Dave at 919-344-1313.

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CLOWN COMICS

FREE RIDE

By Ann "Tuttles" Sanders

★ Starring: Jeremy "Dilly" Manning, Jerry "Dr. Dufus" Dodson, and Ann "Tuttles" Sanders. Kolonial Klowns of Williamsburg – Alley #357. Stage Manager: Harold "Ducky" Wood

Photos by Tim "Sawdust" Laynor



FOUR FUN-TASTIC CHRISTMAS ROUTINES

to Make Your Holiday Shows a Success!



Art by Gina "Cha Cha" Wollrabe

RUDY REINDEER!

Show a colorful cardboard plaque of Rudy Reindeer. Rudy couldn't fly like all of the other reindeer, so Santa gave him a magic cape – and a special job. Rudy flies from house to house scouting out which houses have chimneys and which ones have doors, so Santa will know ahead of time where he needs to use his magic key.

To demonstrate Rudy going down a chimney, you slide him into an envelope printed with a chimney design. One volunteer holds Rudy in the chimney envelope while another helper holds an empty envelope with a printed door design.

The audience shouts the magic words, and the plaque is pulled out of the chimney envelope, Rudy is gone! A cut out area where he used to be is all that remains.

When the door envelope is opened – oops! Rudy is NOT there! His little green silk cape tumbles out, but no reindeer. The cape disappears, but Rudy is nowhere to be seen. Finally, after a frenzied search and lots of enthusiastic "advice" from the audience, Rudy Reindeer is found to be clinging to the second helper's back! "He made it to the next house – he just went around to the back."

Be the first on your block to own this fabulous flying reindeer. Everybody needs a little R&R – that's why you need Rudy Reindeer! **ONLY \$20!**



Art by Selina Frederick

BIG RED NOSE!

Rudy starts out as a blue-nose reindeer. The children object so you magically turn his nose to red. You like it better the other way but when you try to change it back, the color vanishes from the reindeer's nose. The children howl as the red nose ends up on you! Complete with glossy cards and a high quality, red foam nose. **ONLY \$20!**



Art by Selina Frederick

PRESENTS OF MIND!

Display a set of jumbo cards, each with a different holiday picture (candy cane, Santa, snowman, candle, gifts, ornament, angel, etc.). Two spectators think of any picture. You roughly sketch the pictures you think they have mentally selected. Place your sketches on a stand, and when you reveal your drawings, you have correctly guessed the pictures they chose! Absolutely NO artistic skill is required! Complete set includes cards, card stand, and marker. **ONLY \$35!**

they chose! Absolutely NO artistic skill is required! Complete set includes cards, card stand, and marker. **ONLY \$35!**



A fun idea by Silly Billy

MAGIC CHRISTMAS PICTURE

Show a black and white drawing of a rooftop with reindeer and sleigh ready to land – except the sleigh is empty! No color, no Santa, no presents, oh no! A volunteer picks several crayons and writes his name on the sign in front of the house, colors the reindeer's nose, and adds some smoke coming from the chimney. The child holds

the picture while everyone says the magic words ("Out to Lunch!"). When the picture is turned around, Santa and a sleigh full of presents – complete with a Christmas tree – appears, all magically colored with crayons! The child keeps the magic drawing as a souvenir of the show! 20 refills included. **ONLY \$20!**

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