

# THE NEW CALLIÖPE

For Members of Clowns of America International

September / October 2019  
Volume 36 • Number 5

## The Mighty 2020 COAI Convention

Niagara Falls, New York

April 14–19



# Your COAI Officers

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**President**  
Michael B. Cox  
9415 Alameda Ave  
Richmond, VA 23294  
804-270-1165 (H)  
804-337-6143 (C)  
coai.president.mike@gmail.com



**Vice President**  
Merrily Johnston  
2076 Begonia St.  
Casper, WY 82604  
360-713-3893



**Secretary**  
Teresa Gretton  
3411 Lisa Circle  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
301-843-8212  
tgretton@comcast.net



**Treasurer**  
Sandra Winstead  
11801 Riverpark Way  
Chesterfield, VA 23838  
804-350-3687  
strawberry.red1@yahoo.com

## DIRECTORS



**Alley Region Support**  
Gloria Sterrett  
401 N. Washington St.  
Delphi, IN 46923  
765-564-9604  
heyseedbyccmdolli@yahoo.com



**Conventions**  
Frank "Buff Phoon" Bunton  
3129 25th Street #213  
Columbus, IN, 47203-2436  
812-371-5742  
buffphoon@gmail.com



**Education**  
Adam Schill  
P.O. Box 1076  
Columbus, IN, 47201  
812-525-7429  
adam@bigtopproductionsllc.com



**Junior Joys**  
Regina Wollrabe  
Post Office Box 40  
Gresham, OR 97030  
503-807-2584  
coaijrjoys@gmail.com



**Membership**  
Carrie Ray  
413 East Ash Lane  
Euless, TX 76039  
214-577-6002  
carriera10@yahoo.com

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS



**Northeast**  
Bill Le Blanc  
2 Dee Jay Road  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
508-378-1545  
bildabbles@aol.com



**North Central**  
Sara "Special K's" Kreutz  
P.O. Box 454 Holstein, IA, 51025  
712-369-0809  
sarakreutz@yahoo.com



**Northwest**  
Alyse Axford  
116-A Sudden Valley Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98229-7751  
360-647-9229  
sales@zigzag-ragz.com



**Midwest**  
Bobby Semon  
663 Orangewood Dr.,  
Virginia Beach, VA 23453  
757-424-1288  
bobby@bobbythec clown.com



**Midwest**  
Beth "Pickles" Cedarholm  
1450 River Ridge Rd.  
River Falls, WI, 54022  
715-426-0774  
clownpickles@gmail.com



**South Central**  
Matthew Spraggins  
1668 Chesterwood Drive  
Rockwell, TX 75032  
972-746-8455  
magicalmattyfun@gmail.com



**Southeast**  
Caitrina "Simplicity" Monaco  
6625 County Road 17 South  
Sebring, FL, 33876  
863-253-1867  
coai.cmonaco@gmail.com



**Southwest**  
Lisa Ponce de Leon Terai  
710 Lukepane Avenue, #101  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-271-4190  
lolly4upaint@gmail.com



**Canada**  
Dale McKenzie  
867 Raynard Crescent SE  
Calgary, AB T2A 1X6  
403-273-9047 (H)  
403-606-7750 (C)  
funehappenings@shaw.ca



**Latin Countries**  
Angel Morales  
24 RR5 Jardines de  
Caparra, Bayamon,  
PR 00959  
787-565-3205  
jobolin2008@aim.com



**International**  
Ted White  
20 Maple Court  
Yandina, QLD 4561  
Australia  
+61-7-5472-8018  
twaddles2014@hotmail.com

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Audio Visual:** Marilyn Barrett, 407-844-2862 • klowkop@prodigy.net.

**Awards Advisory Council (AAC):** Teresa Gretton (Chair), 301-843-8212 • gretton@verizon.net. Bob Gretton, Angel Ocasio, Keith Stokes, Mike Cox.

**Budget:** Mike Cox, 804-270-1165 • coai.president.mike@gmail.com. Sandra Winstead.

**Bylaws and Rules:** Ted White (Chair) • twaddles2014@hotmail.com • Cleon Babcock, Glenn Kohlberger, Dale McKenzie.

**Clown Week:** Carrie Ray, 214-577-6002 • shimmygiggles2011@yahoo.com.

**Competition:** Bill Le Blanc (Chair), Shirley Lee, John Kral, Paula Le Blanc, Bob Gretton, Ann Sanders.

**Ethics and Grievance:** Paul Kleinberger (Chair), 518-489-2680 • fuddiduddy@aol.com. Glenn Kohlberger, Jeanne Woska.

**Finance:** Mike Cox, 804-270-1165 • coai.president.mike@gmail.com. Sandra Winstead. Alyse Axford, Angel Morales, Sammy Smith, Regina Wollrabe.

**Good Cheer:** Crissy "Miz Daisy" Melnitzke • 863-221-4183 • crissy@mizdaisyentertainment.com.

**Historian:** Teresa Gretton, 301-843-8212 • tgretton@comcast.net.

**International Ambassador Program:** Bob Gretton, 301-843-8212 • bunkytclown@comcast.net.

**Junior Joys:** Regina Wollrabe (Chair), 503-807-2584 • coaijrjoys@gmail.com. Trudi Sang, Maria Shafer, Caitrina Monaco, Bob and Teresa Gretton, Dawn Pearson.

**Membership:** Teresa Gretton (Chair), 301-843-8212 • gretton@verizon.net. Glenn Kohlberger, Bob Gretton.

**Parliamentary Procedure Advisor:** Cleon Babcock, 515-266-6530 • ccbabcock@aol.com.

**Public Relations:** Bonnie Love, 619-282-9668 • bonbonsandiego@yahoo.com.

**Scholarship:** Adam Schill (Chair), 812-525-7429 • adam@bigtopproductionsllc.com

September / October 2019

Volume 36 • Number 5

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.*

**COAI Business Office**

Post Office Box 122  
Eustis, Florida 32727

Telephone:

1-877-816-6941 (toll-free)  
1-352-357-1676

Hours: Monday–Friday  
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)  
E-mail: coaioffice@aol.com  
Website: www.mycoai.com

**Magazine Production**

SPS Publications, Inc.

**Editorial Assistant**

Rachel Strnad

**Graphic Design**

Jessica Friend  
Tracy Hofmeister

**Creative Consultant**

Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe

**Publication Deadlines**

November/December 2019—Sept 25  
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

Send ads and articles to  
[thenewcalliope@gmail.com](mailto: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.

*The New Calliope* articles are protected by U.S. copyright and international treaties and may not be copied without the express permission of Clowns of America International, which reserves all rights. Re-use of any of *The New Calliope* editorial content and graphics online, in print, or any other medium for any purpose is strictly prohibited.

© 2019 COAI

Clowns of America International, Inc.

COVER DESIGN BY TEO WOLLRABE

Featuring members of Niagara Clown Alley. Image of Niagara Falls: istockphoto/silkenphotography

# THE NEW CALLIOPE

## OUR COVER

**4** Niagara Clown Alley Presents “The Mighty”

2020 COAI Convention Rose Cardenas

## HOW-TO

**12** Everybody Can Play a Kazoo Tricia “Pricilla Mooseburger” Manuel

**16** Quick and Easy Mental Math Trick Mariann Martin

**17** Light Auguste on a Budget Richard “Design-O” Smith

**22** Pig Hat Patricia “Pockets” Bunnell

## INSPIRATION AND HUMOR

**8** Defending the Rubber Chicken Mike “Dr. Fun E. Bone” Bednarek

**10** Junior Joeys Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe

**11** Member Spotlight: Betty Gallucci Beth Cedarholm

**15** Harry’s Hilarities Harry Allen

**15** Vanity—Is It Good for a Clown? Hal “Halaloo” Grant

**23** Spreading Joy in Curacao Ellen “Squirt” Rodwick

**31** Clown Comics Ann “Tuttles” Sanders

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**6** From the President Mike “Bonkers” Cox

**6** From the Vice President Merrily Johnston

**7** From the Director of Conventions Frank Bunton

**28** From the Membership Director Carrie “Shimmy Giggles” Ray

## NEWS

**20** Welcome, New Members

**20** Clown Calendar

**24** Snapshots

**24** Clowning Basics Now Online—Free for COAI Members

**25** COAI’s 35th Annual Convention in Niagara Falls, New York

**27** Last Walk-Around

## MISCELLANEOUS

**2** Officers, Directors, and Committees

**20** Membership Gifter

**20** COAI Insurance

**26** Our Good Cheer List

**30** Open the Vault Kent Sheets



# Niagara Clown Alley presents **THE MIGHTY 2020 COAI CONVENTION**

By Rose Cardenas

Jim Donoughe, Connie Morrow, and the entire Niagara Clown Alley are extremely excited to be the hosts of the 2020 COAI Convention, “The Mighty.” The Alley has been working hard to prepare an amazing convention for all participants. Convention attendees will not only be able to participate in the clown events but will also have the unique opportunity to have a close-up look at Niagara Falls, one of the most beautiful sights in the world. The convention website ([www.coaicongvention.com](http://www.coaicongvention.com)) states, “Clowns of America International is making its first stop to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, April 14–19, 2020, for one of the biggest and best clown conferences in the world!”

The convention will be held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, and the convention hotel, Sheraton Niagara Falls, is just across the street. The Convention Center will be the venue for all convention lectures, the vendor room, and all evening events.

Sheraton Niagara Falls is a premiere hotel offering a special rate to convention attendees with rooms available for \$139.32 for up to four people. (Bookings must be made using the link on the convention website to receive the special pricing.) Each room has a microwave and small refrigerator, as well as complimentary Starbucks coffee and water bottles. Inside the hotel are several eating options, including Starbucks, TGI Fridays, and the Rainforest Café.

The convention will feature a unique program each evening, including a Theme Night, Dealer Show, Banquet, and Performance Night. The Theme Night will give everyone the opportunity to participate in the convention theme, “The Mighty,” by becoming daredevils, superheroes, and villains. The theme for the convention came out of the history of Niagara Falls itself.

At least fifteen daredevils have attempted to survive a trip over the Falls in barrels, and one, Nik Wallenda, crossed the Falls on a tightrope. The site has also been the backdrop for many films with superheroes and villains, including *Superman 2* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*.

Headlining the performance night is Mr. Rainbow the Clown (David F. Bartlett) and Easily Amused,



Dave “Mr. Rainbow” Bartlett will headline the COAI Convention in Niagara Falls, New York.

a vaudeville group. Mr. Rainbow is an award-winning clown and balloon sculptor who has been a professional entertainer since 1981. He is the author of *The Clown Star* and *A Guide to Younique Clowning*. David is also an actor and playwright.

Richard Hughson, Ward Hartenstein (Flower City Vaudeville), and Joanne Brokaw (A Happy Accident Improv) have joined together to form their comedy group, Easily Amused. The trio will perform a family-friendly, interactive show of comedy, music, and fun.

In addition to the evening programs, the days will be filled with workshops provided by Joe Barney, Lee Andrews, Julia Bothun, Priscilla Mooseburger,



The Sheraton Niagara Falls, is a family-friendly hotel, located in the heart of the USA Niagara Falls tourist district and steps from the brink of the majestic falls.



The Easily Amused vaudeville trio will perform a family-friendly, interactive show of comedy, music, and fun at the 2020 COAI Convention.

Dave Hill, Kornpop McCullough, Maryanne Ross, Hal Grant, Bob and Teresa Gretton, and Adam Schill. Jim “Donuts” Donoughe and his partner Connie “Punkin” Morrow will be providing a lecture entitled “Wacky Walkarounds.” All participating vendors will also be lecturing during the convention.

Not only is Jim looking forward to the convention, but he’s also excited to show off his town and its attractions, most importantly, Niagara Falls. Jim says, “You can spend hours just staring at the Falls. The negative ions put you in a state of relaxation.” Though some of the Falls attractions will not be open at that time of year because of the ice flow, visitors will enjoy viewing the Falls from both sides

of the border (bring your passports!) and the film, *Niagara: Legends of Adventure*, at the Niagara Adventure Theater within the Niagara Falls State Park Visitor Center. Another not-to-miss experience is viewing Niagara Falls at night with its amazing lighting.

In addition to the Falls, convention participants will enjoy many other attractions in the area. Families will enjoy the recently revamped Aquarium of Niagara with its sea-lion show, penguins, and brand-new jellyfish gallery, Aliens of the Sea, and the Buffalo Zoo, a short ride away.

Attached via a covered walkway to the convention hotel is the Seneca Niagara Resort and Casino. All hotel guests are provided with twenty-five dollars of chips to use in the casino each day. Other guests may enjoy Escape Niagara, featuring both Zombie and Speakeasy themed escape rooms, located a short walk away from the hotel.

Other close-by attractions include Fort Niagara, the oldest, continually occupied military site in North America. It was the site of battles of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812 and the flags of France, Britain, and the U.S. have flown over the fort. The Niagara Power Vista at the Niagara Falls Power Authority is another nearby attraction.

Visitors can learn about hydro-electric production through many interactive exhibits and experiences. Across the border in Canada, visitors will enjoy Ripley’s Believe It or Not, Louis Tussaud’s Waxworks, Bird Kingdom, and Clifton Hill, the Street of Fun, for family entertainment and nightlife at the honky tonks.

In addition to restaurants available in the hotel, a short walk away is the Niagara Falls location of the world-famous Anchor Bar, where Buffalo chicken wings were created in 1964. Other nearby restaurants worth a visit include the Como Restaurant, a fine family-owned Italian restaurant since 1927, and the Hard Rock Café, for food and events.

Registration for the convention is open now, with an early-registration rate of \$220 until October 15. After that, the price will increase to \$240 until the convention begins. At the door, the fee will be \$260. In addition to a cost benefit, early registers will be entered to win in the registration drawing. Some have already won! Prizes include Niagara wine, Niagara swag, and Buffalo wing sauce.

The Niagara Falls Clown Alley is ready to host a wonderful convention and share their unique part of the world with all. Just don’t ask him if the Falls are turned off at night!

The Niagara Clown Alley is this year’s convention’s host. The Alley was formed in 1993 by Betty Jaekle, Joanne Hutton, and Sharon Dixon. When their meetings began, they were held in members’ homes and later moved to a mall meeting room. They now meet at the Shawnee Fire Hall. They have won numerous honors and awards, including the local TV trivia show, *Bragging Rights*, the city’s citizenship award in 2003, and theme awards in local parades. The clowns of Niagara Falls are active in other community projects, as well. Some participate in Caring Clowns, visiting and entertaining at local nursing homes, and some used to be part of the Conservation Clowns at the Buffalo Zoo, but the program ended due to lack of funding. Some also volunteer doing strolling entertainment in local hospitals. Clowns of the Niagara Falls Alley serve the community in night-out events, the Youngstown Street Dance, and school celebrations for children. They also participate in the Lockport Exchange Club Circus doing acts, cover scene changes, and walk-around entertainment before the show. Many of the Alley’s clowns have won individual awards at various conventions and clown gatherings for their costumes and makeup. Two of the Alley’s board members serve in the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association, Dennis Gisel serves as treasurer and Jim Donoughe serves as regional director of western New York.

The Alley meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Fire Hall in Sanborn, New York. Guests are welcome to attend. (Evenings with special speakers are five dollars.) Trained clowns are invited to become members after attending two meetings as guests. The Alley offers training classes twice a year for new clowns. Sessions are ten weeks in length, and a new class with five students will begin in September.



## From the President

Mike "Bonkers" Cox

Where did the summer go? My favorite time of the year has come and gone. Now we prepare for the upcoming holidays, where some of us switch gears completely and others change their programs to suit the season. This makes us entertainers at heart, and clowns clown from the heart. Enjoy the season – whatever it may be.

An important thing to keep in mind is the upcoming 2020 COAI Board elections. Please, if you have any interest in helping your great organization, this is your opportunity. If you desire to run for any office, please e-mail me or any Board member for information. When submitting a nomination, please follow the protocol laid down in our bylaws. Don't worry, it's not difficult; just state why you desire to be part of the board and how you can help make COAI even greater. And you can! This organization needs you! Be the one to make a difference in our progress. But you have to make that first big step. Are you up to it?

Have you considered attending the 2020 COAI Convention in Niagara Falls? You do not want to miss this one. The host alley is going all out to make this an experience of a lifetime, and the hotel is right next to the actual falls. How cool is that! Also, the attendees will get to meet the Board candidates and be able to ask any questions directly at a meet and greet in the hospitality room on one night. So, make plans now and save up for a great convention in April.

Till next time, enjoy life and keep the clown spirit alive. **TNC**



## Vice President's Report

Merrily Johnston

Whether you are new to an area or just starting out, the best way to advertise is give potential clients the opportunity to see you doing an exceptional job. Once they see you in action, they will take your card and give your information to friends and coworkers, because everyone loves to share an amazing discovery!

Here are some things I have done to help people discover Merrily the Clown:

1. Offer free entertainment.
2. Entertain at restaurants.
3. Have drawings and send e-mails.
4. Join the local Chamber of Commerce.
5. Join a clown alley.

This month, I'll discuss the first one—offering free entertainment.

It is easy to give away your services, but before you offer make sure you aren't stepping on anyone else's toes. Charity events are a good way to show off your skills and to give to your community, but confirm that they haven't previously paid entertainers or you may take a paying job from someone else. Always maintain good relationships with others in your field and look for opportunities to network.

When you see an event that you'd like to volunteer for, call the coordinator and ask if they typically have entertainment. Even if they say yes, ask what type. If they have stilt walkers and you are a face painter it won't interfere at all. Let the coordinator know you are willing to entertain at no charge this year because you are new to the area or just starting out, and you will charge your regular fee the following year as you are confident they will want you back. (Only use this line if you *are* confident they will want you back).

Be creative in finding venues for free entertainment. Pick places that don't typically have entertainment but will benefit from it—places or events where they can see the difference it makes having you there.

And just in case you've always wanted to entertain at restaurants, my next article will describe the steps I took to get the four I have. **TNC**

### OUR COVER

*Members of the Niagara Clown Alley featured on our cover:*

- Ruth "Jazzy Sparkle" Ceretto
- Jim "Donuts" Donoughe
- Jo "Lucy Lou" Hewitt
- Crescent "Confetti" Leposa
- Jim "Bean Pole" Leposa
- Carol "Corabell" Marx
- Connie "Punkin" Morrow
- Joyce "Springkles" Odorczyk
- Guy "Kazoo" Richards
- Julie "Ju Ju Beans" Scarupa
- Carol "Dilly Dally" Shire



## From the Director of Conventions

Frank Bunton

### Convention Tips

Around the beginning of the year, many of you might start thinking that you want to attend the international COAI Convention, but—

1. It's too far to travel.
2. Classes are too advanced or too simple.
3. I don't want to compete.
4. I don't like or understand the theme.
5. Rooms are too expensive.

Let's take these one at a time.

1. Travel distance usually dictates how you will travel: by air, train, bus, or car. Each means of travel brings its own compromise. Air travel (by plane) means less luggage but gets you there faster. Trains and buses allow you to pack more stuff, but mean you have a set timetable to follow and sometimes a more circular route to get where you want to go. You may have to put up with lay-overs and some of those could be *long!* I've had as long as a six-hour layover when traveling by train. Lastly, if you travel by car, you have to decide if you want to drive your own car or a rental. The condition of your car and the cost to rent one are major considerations in this decision. However, if you don't want to travel at all, why not consider hosting the convention yourself with your alley?

2. The classes at these conventions are below your skill level or too advanced. Worse yet, there are no classes you are interested in. There is not much you can do to control what classes are offered, nor who is teaching those classes after they are scheduled. However, you can always find out what alley is hosting the next convention and let them know what classes you would be interested in and who you would like to see teaching. Convention hosts are always looking for suggestions and input on both class subjects and teachers. After all, they want you to attend, so taking in your suggestions would be beneficial. Of course, again, the best way to get the classes you would like and the teachers you think would be good is to host the convention yourself.

3. Yes, competing can be frightening. There is the cost of your outfit, the time to get your makeup just right, waiting and waiting and waiting to be called in front of three to five people who will look at your work and write down a score that you may or may not agree with. However, there is no obligation to compete at conventions, and classes are usually offered while competitions are going on. Now, at a COAI Convention, we ask only that dealers and classes be closed for the Skit Competitions (both Single and Group). Those are times you can watch someone else make a clown of themselves.

4. Don't like or understand what the theme is? Let the convention hosts know. What does "The Mighty" mean?

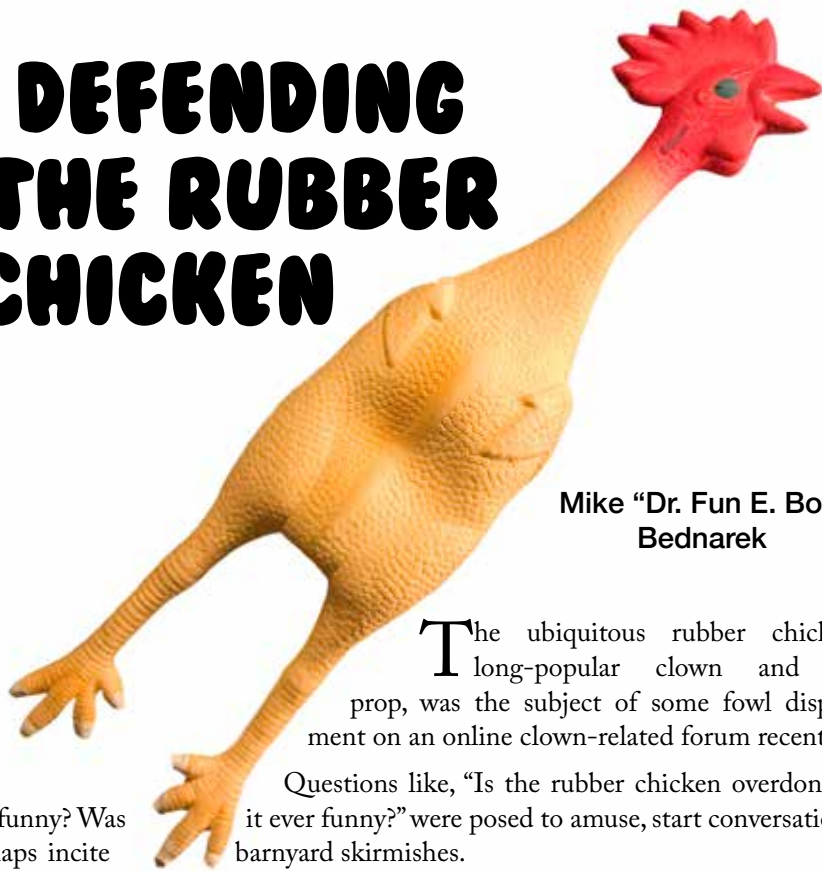
Well, the 2020 COAI Convention hosts say this could mean a mighty warrior, a mighty superhero, or a mighty villain, but it is what "The Mighty Niagara Falls" is called. Just remember, we are clowns and should think outside the box.

5. Ah! Now we get to the costs of the hotel rooms. As with most all things, the hotel's expenses for hosting a large number of people goes up, so their room rates need to compensate. Rest easy in knowing that the host alley has done their best to get you the best deal at the hotel where the convention will be, but they can only get that good rate if we attendees book rooms at the chosen hotel. If we don't fill the host alley's room block, the hotel can (and will) make the host alley pay the difference. Once again, the best way to fight the hotel cost is to host the convention yourself. That way, you can just commute to the convention and stay in your own bed every night. If you decide to go that route, remember you may miss out on some of the fun things that happen at night (late, late night). I have recommended hosting a convention yourself, but you may be thinking, what do I have to do to host a convention? How much work will it take? What's in it for me and my alley? I will address these questions in my next article. If you can't wait until then, you can always reach me at [buffphoon@gmail.com](mailto:buffphoon@gmail.com).



*The Mighty Niagara Falls. Don't miss seeing one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World while attending the 2020 COAI Convention in Niagara Falls, New York.*

# DEFENDING THE RUBBER CHICKEN



Mike “Dr. Fun E. Bone”  
Bednarek

The ubiquitous rubber chicken, a long-popular clown and comic prop, was the subject of some fowl disparagement on an online clown-related forum recently.

Questions like, “Is the rubber chicken overdone? Is it still funny? Was it ever funny?” were posed to amuse, start conversation, and perhaps incite barnyard skirmishes.

Figuring she might have something to say about that, I sat down with my lovely assistant, Dr. Fowlbreath. (She’s actually a plastic rubber chicken, as are many of her contemporaries. Her predecessor, a real rubber chicken, went flimsy on the job and retired to the banquet circuit. No backbone for the work, I guess.)

Before diving into those questions, Dr. Fowlbreath offered up a little stretching-the-truth history lesson.

## Where DID the Rubber Chicken Come from?

The origin of the rubber chicken is a bit vague, but there are a few good stories on the topic. One is based on the use of inflated pig bladders and readily available chicken corpses as slapsticks, props, or mock-weapons by medieval jesters. On the burlesque stage, comedians would whack each other with them.

Another story attributes the first use of a prop chicken by a clown in the early 1900s to mock the gluttony of the upper class at the time. He performed with his pockets

full of fake food. Yet another claims that during the French Revolution, soldiers would hang a chicken from their muskets for luck (said to be printed on the tags of rubber chickens manufactured by Archie McPhee).

“Rubber chicken” also has been used to describe food served at gatherings where a large number of guests have to be served in a short period of time. Think of pre-cooked chicken held at serving temperature too long, then dressed up with a sauce as it is served. Yep, the chicken becomes tough or “rubbery.” Someone who travels the rubber chicken circuit attends or makes speeches at many such gatherings.

Why did the rubber chicken cross the road? She wanted to stretch her legs. Why did the rubber chicken cross the road a second time? There was a rubber rooster on the other side.

## Rubber Chicken: Classic Prop or Worn-out Carcass?

So, back to the question:

Is today’s rubber chicken a classic, still useful and effective physical comedy prop? Or just an old, worn out carcass long past retirement age?

Dr. Fowlbreath offered up these clucks about her work supporting Dr. Fun E. Bone on clown doctor rounds at the hospital. Keep in mind this is just one pullet’s perspective:



### 1. More than just a visual gag.

If you're going to use me as a prop, make me more than just a visual gag. Although, there is plenty of potential there visually to get you started.

Yes, a rubber chicken makes a great low-fat, low-cal, but not too tasty, chicken sandwich served between a couple of pieces of Wonder bread. Add a juggling club and it's a chicken club sandwich. Throw in some lettuce and you've got a chicken salad sandwich. Or just throw the lettuce for a tossed salad.

Got a cape? There's Super Chicken from the late 1960s. Cape on (capon for crossword puzzle nerds), cape off. Add a blue cord to the outfit and I'm chicken cordon bleu (cord on blue). Add some springs, or a nice little slinky, and I'm a spring chicken again.

Drop me in a bowl of hot water and you've got soup.

Silly stuff, huh? Okay, dry me off—with all this manhandling, I'll probably need a sterile wipe down at the nurses' station—and let's talk about other ways to find humor and comedy in my featherless physique. First, wrap me in some gauze—chicken and dressing.

### 2. Give me personality.

Give me some personality and make me a partner in comedy, preferably with some backbone and attitude. This is called personification for you smarty-pants types, giving human qualities like emotions, feelings, gestures, and speech to objects. Vents do this all the time. You can start by giving me a name.

Now, give me something to do, like be your lovely assistant. For example, if you get stuck in the middle of a card trick, magic bit, physical shtick, song, or other piece of funny business, let me nibble on your ear, oops, I mean whisper in your ear, and I'll remind you what to do or what to say next. Yes, I can talk chicken, sometimes inaudibly except for you, just a chicken-breathed whisper in your ear.

I make a passable magic wand replacement, but if you bop my head on the cards or prop, better kiss my ow-wee. Guess what! Give me a kiss and you'll find I taste like chicken.

And that joke about chicken breath? Have you smelled your dog's? What are you feeding that beast, and why does he drool when he sees me? Have you smelled your own breath, for that matter? (Dr. Fowlbreath does indeed have attitude.)



### 3. Send me in first.

Let me poke my head into the room first to scout things out. I get attention and focus, and get the giggles going and start changing the mood in the room. This helps you "read the room" and do a funny bone assessment of receptivity. That reminds me of a joke. Knock, knock. Who's there? Chicken. Chicken who? Chicken to see if I can come in for a visit. (As opposed to chicken of the sea, which comes out of a tuna can, which leads to another visual gag.)

Before you go in, though, check to see if they've ordered chicken for breakfast or lunch. If so, I'm not going in there.

### 4. Watch me in action.

I do fantastic poultry-in-motion acrobatics, standing on my head (forehead works best; weight my legs for the right balancing dynamics), standing on your head, and single or double backflips. Whoever said chickens can't fly? Weighted and backboned properly, I make a serviceable juggling club, too.

Since my neck bends at any angle, I can look around corners and over objects. You know that phrase, "rubber necking?" It's got nothing to do with kissing. And

Continued on page 26





# JUNIOR JOEYS

By Regina "Cha Cha" Wollrabe, *Junior Joeys* Director



*Why can't you find any good photography jokes? They haven't been developed yet.*

*What kind of photos does a turtle take? Shellfishes.*

**Hey, Junior Joeys and Teen Joeys!**

**You can be on the front cover of *The New Calliope*!**

Send in a photo of yourself in clown so we can feature you on the November/December cover.

Each year, the November/December cover is sold at auction during the COAI Convention. In May, the winning bidder was board member Frank Bunton. He then

generously offered the cover to the Junior Joeys so **you** could be on the cover! Thank you, Frank, for your generosity and your support for the Junior Joeys!

**How do the kids or teens get on the cover?** E-mail me a high-resolution photo of the Junior Joey (ages 8-12) or Teen Joey (ages 13-18). Tell me your age, birthdate, full name, and clown name. Also, please include your parent's name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. Send to [coaijrjoey@gmail.com](mailto:coaijrjoey@gmail.com). If you prefer to send a printed photo, mail it to Regina Wollrabe, Post Office Box 40, Gresham, Oregon 97030.

Write a little story sharing why you like clowning, what kind of clowning you have done, when you started, and what you want to learn more about.

**If you were on the cover before, it's okay to be on the cover again!** Back in 2014, Richard Smith generously donated the November/December cover to Junior Joeys. Some of you may have been featured on the cover then. If so, just send an update and a current photo so we can see how you have grown.

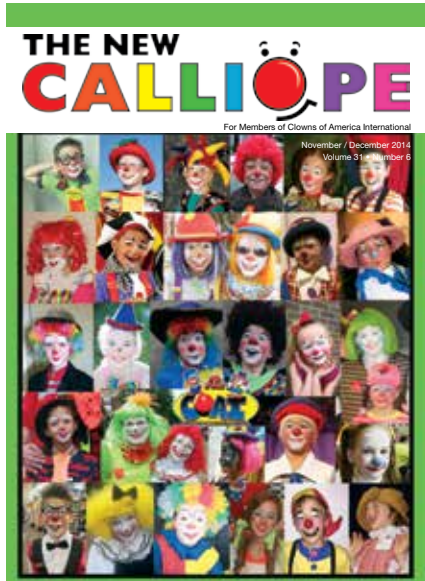
We can't wait to see our Junior and Teen Joeys' clown photos! We want to honor your contributions to the Art of Clowning. You are our future! Even if you grow up and don't want to be a clown, you will be the ones who carry on the positive understanding of what clowning is, and you will be able to share with others the good that we bring to our world.

No matter what job you have when you grow up, your clowning as a Junior or Teen Joey will develop many skills and character traits that will help you in your work and will make you a better you! And for those who keep clowning into your adult life, you will have many wonderful stories to tell as you continue to bring joy and laughter to kids of all ages. You just might be the next leaders who continue to pass on this amazing and fun art to the kids you meet in your grown-up life. I just recently took a job as a school bus driver, and I know that some of the skills I learned in clowning are going to be used every day when I interact with kids.

**Hey, Leaders, Parents and Mentors of Junior Joeys!**

We started meeting online (using Zoom) to talk about the future of our program and help one another with ideas and questions about teaching Junior Joeys and Teen Joeys.

Join us will you? We want to connect with you. **Junior and Teen Joey leaders meet on the first Monday of the month** at 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time (8:30 p.m. Eastern Time). There are many ways to get connected. Contact Regina Wollrabe or your RVP on the board. Our information is found on the inside cover of *The New Calliope*. A link will be posted on the Junior Joey Face Book Group. If you're interested, please join us in the process of putting our heads together to help us reach out to more kids who could use a positive mentor in their life while they are growing their life skills. **TNC**



*The November/December 2014 of The New Calliope featured Junior Joeys. Now, five years later, it's our turn again! Make sure your membership is up to date, and then send a current photo of yourself in clown to our COAI Junior Joeys Director.*

# Member Spotlight

## Betty Gallucci

By Beth Cedarholm

Betty Gallucci is a closet clown. Sort of.

In 1992, after her husband died, Betty fell into a deep depression. To top it off, she broke her ankle. She couldn't heal. One day, Betty noticed an ad in the paper for a clown class. She persuaded a friend to drive her there.

"You heal when you laugh," she says. "I just wanted to laugh."

It worked. Betty found laughter again, and her broken bone healed.

However, she didn't necessarily want to be a clown, although she was still regularly attending alley meetings. Eventually, alley leaders gave her an ultimatum: become a clown or quit coming. At that moment, Klosette, the closet clown, was born.

Now ninety-one, Betty, a retired realtor from Lake Oswego, Oregon, estimates she's attended about fifteen COAI Conventions.

She's also attended Clown Camp in Wisconsin and many other events, such as the International Brotherhood of Magicians' convention. Betty is an active member of the Portland Society of Magicians and Rose City Clowns. She still drives and is constantly on the go. She square-dances twice a month, gardens, and takes part in the monthly Storytellers potluck, as well as Portland Women's Club events. Betty also volunteers, collecting books for non-profit organizations, clothing for the homeless, backpacks for children in need, and canned goods for Meals on Wheels.

Betty regularly sends a newsletter to her friends, fellow clowns, magicians, and "penpals," in which she updates them on what's happening in her own life, politics, and events in the Portland area, including information about upcoming meetings for clowns and magicians.

When asked what her favorite magic tricks are, she responded, "Anything that allows me to be close to people."

"I'll never stop clowning," Betty declares, adding that she loves clowning at nursing homes with her little dog Roameo who, she says, likes to roam and loves everybody.



Betty says that the friendships she's made are the highlights of her clowning career. "I feel so lucky. Everyone is always coming up to me and giving me big hugs."

When asked if she plans to attend the 2020 COAI Convention in Niagara Falls, without hesitation, she says, "I'll be there."

### A few of Betty Gallucci's favorite "tail-wagging" jokes:

Question: How do you identify a dog? Answer: Collar I.D.

Question: What did the puppy say when it stepped on sandpaper? Answer: Rough, rough.

Question: What kind of dog can play football? Answer: A golden receiver.

Question: What kind of dog washes clothes? Answer: A laundromutt. **TNC**

# Everybody Can Play a



By Tricia "Pricilla Mooseburger" Manuel

**I**n the diverse culture of clowns, how can we make it so everybody wins? How do we make everyone feel welcome and included? I have some ideas which are easy to implement in your clown alleys, shrine units, and clubs.

Over the years, I have watched various clubs go up and down in enthusiasm and attendance. If you belong to any kind of organization you will find the same trend. Not everyone is able to commit the same amount of time, effort, or energy.

## People's desires are bigger than their schedules

Members may want to be a part of the clown alley, but find themselves pulled in a variety of directions by work and family obligations. They want to be involved, but they just don't have the time.

After a while, the other folks who do have the time and dedication get tired of being the ones who "do all the work." They get burnt out. Then resentment sets in, and the club falls apart.

People who don't have as much time to commit can feel this underlying resentment (even in the best of units) and don't feel welcome.

It really is not intentional or anyone's fault. It is simply human nature. Think about it. It happens in all organizations!

This may be the year you have a lot of free time to commit to the clown club. But next year ... who knows? Next year, it may be *you* who has an ailing parent, a teenager in trouble, or a spouse out of work.

Not all reasons are obvious — nor are they anyone's business! Be kind. Understand that everyone is doing the best they can. Keep the Welcome mat out and your door open.

## What to do so everyone feels welcome?

Get some jokes and a kazoo.

Seriously. I mean it!

This is a great way to make sure everyone feels welcome when your clown alley has a performance. Beginning clowns need something to build confidence. Clowns who are over-committed need something low-pressure they can jump into without a lot of rehearsal time. A Kazoo Band is the best tool your club can have in its bag of tricks. In other words: Everybody Wins!

## Here are some ideas for using jokes:

Use short jokes to fill in time between your skits during your next performance. It gives the new clowns a chance to get on stage without a lot of pressure. It requires little or no practice.

Follow the easy instructions on my "How to Tell a Joke" sheet. If you've attended my classes at conventions, you probably already have this. If you want a PDF copy emailed to you, send a request to [info@mooseburger.com](mailto:info@mooseburger.com).

Invite club members to bring their best kid-friendly jokes to the club meeting and share them. Have folks give them a thumbs up or thumbs down!

Appoint a Keeper of the Jokes to create a list of your club's favorite ones! Just remember to have fun with it.

Put together your clown alley kazoo band:

Open and close each show with a kazoo band performance.





Keep some spare kazoos handy so if someone forgets to bring their funny instrument they have one to go.

This works perfectly for Shrine units who have a Circus. Putting together a funny kazoo band is perfect for those guys who can't afford the time to be at all the gag rehearsals and circus performances. This gives them something to do at the shows they can make it to.

With a kazoo band in your clown club's repertoire, everyone has something to do that fits their time schedule.

I would rather be in a clown alley that has more members than just a small unit of a dedicated few. Wouldn't you?

We need to find ways to foster the fun and community within the unit. I hope you find these ideas helpful!

*Tricia Manuel is better known as "Pricilla Mooseburger" and "Miss Moose" and is a long-time member of COAI. She is the director of Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp. Her company, Pricilla Mooseburger Originals, has been designing clown costumes since 1989. She is the founder of Red Nose Readers, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading kindness and literacy. More clown educational articles can be found at her blog: [www.mooseburger.com](http://www.mooseburger.com).*

**It's been on your  
"BUCKET LIST"  
for years...  
...make this year  
YOUR year!**

**It's not too late to have the  
best summer of your life.**

Pay as low as  
**\$85**  
a month!



**MOOSEBURGER CLOWN ARTS CAMP**

July 21 - 26, 2020 in Buffalo, Minnesota

[www.mooseburger.com/moosecamp](http://www.mooseburger.com/moosecamp)

**320-963-6277**

**SINCE  
1996**





# Application and Renewal Solicitud de Iniciacion y Renovacion

Female / Femenino  Male / Masculino

Name / Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street / Direccion \_\_\_\_\_  
City / Ciudad State / Estado Zip /Codigo Postal Country / Pais

Phone (Required) / Numero de telefono \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth / Fecha de Nacimiento \_\_\_\_\_

Clown Name / Nombre de Payaso / a \_\_\_\_\_

COAI Number if Renewing / de renovacion \_\_\_\_\_

Age / Edad Alley / Nombre del Alley \_\_\_\_\_

## GIFT A MEMBERSHIP Regale Una Membresia

- Please gift a membership to the person on this form /  
Por favor regale la membresia a a persona indicada en esta solicitud
- I wish to remain anonymous / Deseo permanecer anonimo.
- I wish for you to identify me to the recipient /  
Deseo que usted me identifique al recipiente.
- I wish to write a note / Deseo escribir na nota.

Please give us your name and phone number so that we can contact you if necessary. If you wish to remain anonymous check the box above and we will not reveal your identity.  
Por favor denos su nombre y numero de telefono para poder ponemos en contacto con usted si es necesario. Si usted desea quedarse anonimo, marque la casilla indicada arriba y no revelaremos su identidad.

Name / Nombre \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # / Telefono # \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Membership Dues / Cuotas Anuales de Socios

- Individual Membership (16 - 64) Membresia Individual.....\$40.00
- Senior Membership (65+) Membresia Mayor de edad.....\$30.00
- Junior Joey Membership (8 - 15) Jovenes.....\$30.00
- Family Membership - Membresia Familia.....\$20.00
- LIFETIME Membership - Membresia de por vida.....\$1,000.00
- E-Membership - Membresia E Nacional.....\$30.00
- International E-Membership / Membresia E Internacional.....\$20.00

## Payment Method/Metodo de Pago

- Check No. / Checque a nombre de \_\_\_\_\_
- Visa Card Number / Numero de Tarheta # \_\_\_\_\_
- MasterCard Experation Date / Fecha de Expiracion \_\_\_\_\_ CC Code 3 Digits \_\_\_\_\_
- Discover

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature / Firma**



## Send Form To/Enviar Solicitud a:

**Clowns of America Intl. • P.O. Box122 • Eustis, Florida 32727 USA**  
**Telefono 1-877-816-6941 • Fax 352-357-7166 • Web: www.coai.org**



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

# VANITY— IS IT GOOD FOR A CLOWN?

By Hal “Halaloo” Grant



I pondered this question as I began to consider getting lens replacement for my eyes so I wouldn't need to wear glasses. Was this from vanity?

First what does vanity mean?

*Noun: excessive pride in one's appearance, qualities, abilities, achievements; the character or quality of being vain; conceit.*

Thank you, Webster's. Fortunately, I didn't fit these definitions. I had several reasons for wanting to get rid of the glasses.

Just to get rid of glasses. This would help my character's look. The old Halaloo could return. But I now had a beard, so the original Halaloo still can't fully return and Otto Pilot wears glasses.

2) It was a pain to need glasses in order to find my glasses. There were a couple of times I put on an old pair so I could see enough to locate my current pair.

3) Keeping glasses clean was a pain. If you wear classes, you know this frustration.

4) Needing glasses and trying to put makeup on is not easy.

5) The cost of new glasses every two years adds up. I had to buy a pair for Hal, sunglasses, Halaloo glasses, and Santa glasses. Now I need prop glasses only.

At first, a different pair for each look may seem vain, but when I explored my reasoning deeper, I realized I was not doing this for selfish reasons. I was concerned about how my audience was going to perceive me. Whenever I perform or prepare to perform, my first focus is my audience.

How lense replacement would affect my audience needed to be one of the chief considerations when making that decision. Yes, I would benefit in real life, too, but that was a bonus. In the long run, the surgery was cheaper than four pairs of prescription glasses every two years.

I won't say there wasn't risk involved. Right up to the moment I laid down on the table I considered backing out. A day later, though, I'm feeling good about it. That may change in a week, but I don't think so. Was it vanity that drove me to do this? Maybe just a bit.

Then I looked at the word as an adjective.

Produced as a showcase for one's own talents, especially as a writer, actor, singer, or composer.

Funny, really. Every clown or entertainer puts their shows together to emphasize the skill they are best at, or at least working to become best at. So is vanity a good thing? I still am not sure, but a little bit might be.

As always, get out there and be the best performer you can be. And if my wife asks, I got my eyes done so I can see her lovely face without needing glasses. **TNC**

## HARRY'S HILARITIES

**Niagara Falls:** I went over Niagara Falls in a milk can and almost drowned. Next time I'll use an empty can.

**Shoes.** Do you like my shoes? They're made out of banana skins. They call them slippers. You buy them by the bunch, not the pair. They just "apeeled" to me.

**Comedy Force.** Choose a number between nineteen and twenty-one. Twenty? Good. We'll use twenty.

**Balloon gag:** Do my balloons break often? No, only once!

**Wave Your Hand Over a Prop:** I do all of my own choreography.

**Holding Up a Prop:** I bought this for seven dollars and not much sense.

**To Volunteer:** In ten years, you'll be telling this to your therapist.

**After Doing Something Crazy:** I know what you're thinking: "Does he suffer from insanity?" No, I enjoy every minute!

**Lots of Applause:** I'm glad you're applauding now, because this may be it!

You're a great audience. Give yourselves a standing ovation!

*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](http://www.daytonamagic.com).*

# Quick and Easy Mental Math Trick

By Mariann Martin

For this trick, I use a magic deck of six cards. These all have numbers on them, as you see in the picture; some numbers are on multiple cards.

1. Have someone pick a number from any of the cards, but not tell you what it is.

2. As you go through the cards, raising one at a time, ask your volunteer if their chosen number appears on the held-up card. Set these in one pile and the ones without the chosen number in another.

3. Pretend to divine the number. Feel free to add some theatrics; give a little shake. Close your eyes. Hold hands or touch the other person's arm or shoulder.

While going through all this, add the numbers in the top, left-hand corners of all the cards with the person's chosen number. Then open your eyes and exclaim, 'I've got it! I've got it! Your chosen number is ...' and tell them the number.

This is a great ice breaker trick. I use the cards whenever I travel and keep some extras to give away. **TNC**

2	11	22	31	42	51
3	14	23	34	43	54
6	15	26	35	46	55
7	18	27	38	47	58
10	19	30	39	50	59

1	11	21	31	41	51
3	13	23	33	43	53
5	15	25	35	45	55
7	17	27	37	47	57
9	19	29	39	49	59

32	37	42	47	52	57
33	38	43	48	53	58
34	39	44	49	54	59
35	40	45	50	55	60
36	41	46	51	56	★

16	21	26	31	52	57
17	22	27	48	53	58
18	23	28	49	54	59
19	24	29	50	55	60
20	25	30	51	56	★

4	13	22	31	44	53
5	14	23	36	45	54
6	15	28	37	46	55
7	20	29	38	47	60
12	21	30	39	52	★

8	13	26	31	44	57
9	14	27	40	45	58
10	15	28	41	46	59
11	24	29	42	47	60
12	25	30	43	56	★

## CLOWNS OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL

### Annual Membership

Individual Members—\$45  
 Seniors (65+)—\$35  
 Junior Joey—\$30  
 Family Membership—\$25

Lifetime Membership—\$1,000  
 E-Membership—\$35  
 International E-Membership—\$25



\$25 of the COAI membership includes a one-year subscription to *The New Calliope* magazine. Subscriptions are not a benefit of the family memberships. (Only the Individual Membership in the household receives *The New Calliope*.)

Send membership dues to: Clowns of America International, Inc.  
 Post Office Box 122 • Eustis, FL 32727

Make all checks payable to COAI.

Join or renew by calling 352-357-1676 or visit [www.mycoai.com](http://www.mycoai.com)

# DESIGN-O'S WARDROBE

## LIGHT AUGUSTE ON A BUDGET



### PART 4

By Richard "Design-O" Smith  
Adapted for Print by Rachel Strnad

*Before we dive into the final installment of Design-O's Auguste costume on a budget, I want to give a brief note on our previous article. Some readers were concerned some steps might have been cut off. Let me assure you the full instructions were printed in the magazine: step four is the last step of the cuffs before we move on to pants. So, without further ado ...*

### Pants

Several notes about the pants before we begin. As I said in the first article, we bought pants that were a size or two smaller for Patti because we were going to make them wider with fabric panels. It helps to get pants that have an elastic waistband, since that makes alterations easier. Also, our pants had no rivets or decorative stitching around the pockets, which made it easier to take out the side seams.

Also, in steps five through ten, I give instructions on attaching the panel and panel lining to your pants so the seam allowances are hidden inside the lining. If you don't mind the seam allowances showing and you want to save a little time and effort, simply sew your lining on with the panel according to step five, wrong sides together, zig-zag, and top stitch.

### The Panels:

1. Measure your pants with a tape measure starting on the **INSIDE** of your waistband and following the side seam to the hem. You will cut your panel an inch or two longer than this measurement.

2. Note: for the pants, I'm giving measurements to accommodate a half-inch seam allowance because that's easier to measure precisely. If you are set on five-eighths of an inch, I recommend measuring the finished size first, then adding the seam allowance before you cut.

Making sure you work along the straight grain, trace off and cut two three-inch strips from your main fabric. Cut four two-inch strips of your secondary fabric, and two four-inch strips from your lining fabric.

3. Pin and sew your secondary fabric strips to your main fabric strips, right sides together. Zig-zag along the seam allowance and press the seams toward the outer edge of the panel. Top stitch in the ditch.

4. Rip out the side seams in your pants. This may mean taking out some of the hem and the waistband. We lucked out in that the seam went all the way through the lattice work on Patti's pants.



One note about the waistband. Often, elastic waistbands are made as continuations of the pants pieces folded over. If your pants are like this, it makes things so much easier. If they aren't, you will need to figure out whether you want to



cut into the waistband or take the waistband off before embellishing the pants. If you cut into the waistband, you will need to add extra fabric to it separately because it won't have the seam allowance on either side like your pants pieces.

5. Pin the panel to the back piece of your pants, raw edge to raw edge, along the seam you just opened and sew a half-inch seam. Do the same on the other side.

6. Pin your lining fabric along the fabric edge of the seam you just sewed, right side to **WRONG** side. To clarify, the right side of the lining fabric should be against the wrong side of the pants fabric, with its edge along the panel seam allowance edge. This will sandwich the seam allowance between the panel and the lining fabric.

7. Sew a half-inch seam, or use your stitching line as a guide. Remember, you should have three layers of fabric in this seam now: panel, pants fabric, and lining. Zig-zag along this seam and trim it a little, if you like.

Fold the lining over so it is wrong sides together with the panel fabric and press all flat, with the seam allowance between them. Top stitch in place no larger than an eighth of an inch from the seam on the panel fabric. Do the same on the other side.

8. I recommend putting the front pants pieces on the back one side at a time, so complete all the seams for one side, make sure the pants are inside out, and finish the other side.

To connect the front of the pants to the back, pin the front side of the pants seam you ripped out to the opposite side of the

panel piece **ONLY**. Let the lining flap free for now. Zig-zag and press toward the panel.

Fold the raw edge of the lining fabric under three-eighths of an inch, press, and pin along the stitching line of the second seam. The fold should not line up with your stitching line, but overlap it a little. Just make sure the lining fabric lies smoothly across the panel.

Note: I recommend pinning this in place from the outside of the pants. Though this can get a bit fiddly, it helps because the panel side provides a much more accurate guide for top stitching than the lining side.

9. Do the same for the other side. **HOWEVER**, I recommend top stitching in two sections to prevent sewing your pants shut. Start at the cuff end and sew **SLOWLY**, taking care to keep the back side of the pant leg from getting under your presser foot. Go as far as you can. You're going to connect the seams, so try to go a good length. Back stitch a couple stitches, raise your needle and presser foot, and fish the pants out.

Rotate the pants (please tell me you cut your thread first), and begin at the waist band. This side should be easier, but remember to take it slow all the same and keep the back side of the pants out of the presser foot. Connect the seams, sewing a few stitches over.

10. Re-hem the pants. If your waistband is elastic, cut another length that fits your waist comfortably and put it in the pants. Directions for inserting an elastic waistband can be found in any good sewing reference.

If you needed to add extra fabric to the waist band, do that now, following the same method we used for the pants panel, and sew it in place.

Note: If you find your pants are riding up in the inseam, you probably overestimated how small of pants you needed to buy. You can try creating a new waistband with more length on it, as well as letting out any darts if your pants have them. Beyond this, you may need to add a wedge of fabric to the back seam at the waist. A good sewing reference will have instructions on how to do this. If you are creating a new waistband, I recommend putting interfacing on both sides if there is no elastic and on the inside if it has elastic.

### Embellishments:

We created pin-on embellishments for Patty's costume and head piece. Since she doesn't wear a wig, we wanted something for her head that would tie back into the costume.

If your main fabric has big enough flowers or character on it, you can cut them out carefully and use them as accents, or make your own with a contrasting fabric.

We didn't, so I drew flowers onto iron-on transfers and transferred them to belt-lining material. Clip art works well for this sort of thing as well, especially



since iron-on transfer paper is printable. Make sure you have a good ink-jet printer, so the image comes out very saturated, and wait for the ink to dry completely before transferring.

Belt interfacing material, or any stiff, non-fraying material that will provide a good foundation, can be found at any fabric store. Cut out the shapes once

you've transferred the image and you're all set.

If you are making your own with a contrasting fabric, I recommend sewing your contrast fabric to both sides of a stabilizing fabric.

Whichever option you choose, glue the finished pieces onto your headband or barrette clips, and button-style pins for your costume. This will allow you to easily take the embellishments off when it's time to wash your costume.

Make as many or as few of these as you want, and use your imagination when it comes to placement. We ended up having flowers all down Patty's button band, which created a nice effect.

If you liked this series and want more, or if you need me to go into more detail about a specific section, please write me at [redesigno@msn.com](mailto:redesigno@msn.com). Or, you can always get in touch with our editors at [thenewcalliope@gmail.com](mailto:thenewcalliope@gmail.com). In the meantime, look for our upcoming series on skits and character development. **TNC**

A hand in a Santa hat holding a glowing magical orb. The background is dark with bokeh lights and snowflakes.

*Be Santa,  
and Be Magical!*

**Quality Christmas-themed magic effects for all skill levels**

Browse our selection at  
**[www.santamagic.pro](http://www.santamagic.pro) | 404-538-7978**

## Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!

Stephanie "Pixie the Bubble Fairy" Biagioni, MA

Nancy Fahie, ME

Felipe "TACO" Fischer, LA

Patricia Fox, CO

Marla "Molly McDoodle" Godel, NE

Gene "Cheekie McCheekerson" Gonzalez, OH

Lorri Inglis, MA

Pamela Lee, SC

Stephanie "Krash" Mendoza, OH

Maykol Ali Olazabal Martinez, Peru

Christopher "ChrisPy Crackers" Palmer, MA

Janina "Bubbles" Radachowsky, CT

Jose "Chokolito" Roberto Alvarez, Costa Rica

Paige Sheehan, NY

Joan "SillyJoJo" Smith, CA

William "Billy" Vaughn, NY

Elaina Vratatos-Jacobs, MA

Deborah "Ho Ho Wainerdi" Wainerdi, TX

Steven "Tuey" Wilson, MN

A big thank you to **Richard Smith** for gifting a membership! Richard wanted to gift a membership to commemorate National Clown Week.

# Have You Renewed Your Insurance?

## Clowns of America International **INSURANCE**

Just Call:

# 800-518-5047



**coai@bbofpa.com**

You'll be glad you did.

## CLOWN CALENDAR

**September 25–29, 2019**

**Texas Clown Association Convention**

Fort Worth, Texas

*kudosra@yahoo.com*

**October 8–13, 2019**

**Midwest Clown Association Roundup**

Grand Rapids, Michigan

*www.midwestclownassociation.org*

**November 1–3, 2019**

**Daytona Beach Festival of Magic**

Daytona Beach, Florida

*www.daytonamagic.com/2019-convention*

**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*

**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*

**April 14–19, 2020**

**COAI Annual Convention**

Niagara Falls, New York

*www.mycoai.com*



Send event information to [thenewcalliope@gmail.com](mailto:thenewcalliope@gmail.com) with *Clown Calendar* in the subject line.

**Don't forget to register for  
"The Mighty"—the 2020 COAI Convention!  
[www.coaiconvention.com](http://www.coaiconvention.com)**

Beautiful **CARICATURE** or **TRUE-TO-LIFE**

# CUSTOM PORTRAITS

## From Your Photos

You and your clown are dedicated to making the world a better place. Thank you.

Award winning artist & illustrator Charles Tant will **capture the essence of your character and the memories of these special times** in a unique portrait.

My caricature style is fun, detailed, and adorable, not grotesque and goofy.

From single portraits you will cherish to **complete branding packages for print or web**. High-res full color and black line art included.

Contact Charles Tant by Phone: **864-868-4486**  
Email: [portraits@charlestant.com](mailto:portraits@charlestant.com)  
Website: [www.charlestant.com](http://www.charlestant.com)



"... a resource you can turn to time and time again, for funny one-liners ... the routines she shares are funny ... tried and true material ..."

—Regina Wollrave, ChaCha the Clown  
COAI Junior Joey Director



Order now  
**\$20**

22 fun-filled chapters on all-around Clowning.



Pre-order  
**\$9.99**

Adventures in Clowning, The Best and Worst of the Best Times, is a CLOWNpilation written by clowns like yourself.

You'll know their most challenging and gratifying tales—narratives of heartwarming and heartbreaking adventures, in Volume one.

[AFoolsGuideToClowning.com](http://AFoolsGuideToClowning.com)



# Pig Hat

By Patricia "Pockets" Bunnell



1.



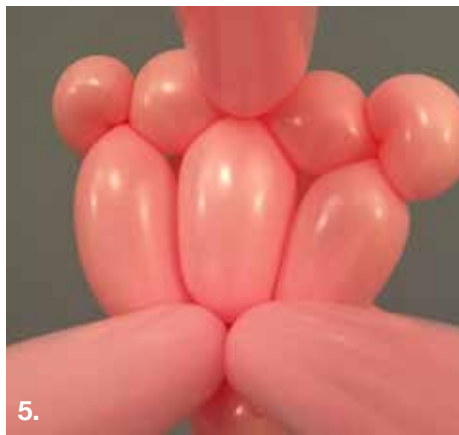
2.



3.



4.



5.



Tip

1. Inflate a pink 260, leaving a half-inch tip. Burp very little. Tie off. Make a small tulip twist in the nozzle end, then make a basic hat base (for reference, look back at this year's March/April issue). Use your hand as a guide to make a bubble. The tulip twist becomes the pig's nose and the second bubble is one eye.
2. Inflate another pink 260, leaving about a 7-inch tip. Make one small, squishy

- loop and two slightly bigger loops. Use your hand as a guide to make a bubble.
3. Insert at the top of the bubble in the hat base. This creates one side of the head.
4. Make another eye similar to the first, using your hand as a guide to make the bubble. Twist the tulip twist into the center of the three loops on the hat base.
5. Using the remaining balloon, make a 3-inch bubble, a pinch twist, a second small bubble, and twist in at the top of

the head. Finish with another small bubble, a pinch twist, and a 3-inch bubble to complete the other side of the head. Discard remaining balloon and tie off.

6. Add artwork!

**TIP:** If I have time, I like to use an Edding marker to paint spots on the eyes. This makes the artwork a little fancier!



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](mailto:oddballoon@gmail.com).



ISTOCKPHOTO/CWORTHY

# Spreading JOY in Curacao!

By Ellen "Squirt" Rodwick

Curacao Dolphin Therapy and Research Center is a professional environment where the strength of the participants is more important than their deficits. Children with disabilities from numerous countries come to this place where joy is a key factor in success, and a caring warmth helps build self-confidence. An individualized program, reflecting the latest research in therapy and rehabilitation, is created for each patient. Each therapy team consists of international experts and dolphins who are specially chosen for their unique characteristics. Together, the teams have helped hundreds of patients with CP, Downs Syndrome, autism, ADHS, and other developmental disorders.

Since spreading joy is one of the major components of clowning, I offered to volunteer my skills at the Center, which is next to our timeshare. I have been blessed to entertain patients and their families for many years. It all began when I met the director and was allowed to see the program in action. After watching the bond between the patients and dolphins, I knew I was in the right place. The director and I discussed the best way to approach the patients in a non-threatening but humorous manner. Since the patients speak different languages and I speak only English, I

determined that a non-verbal magic show would be the best way to communicate and entertain. I must admit that my visits as Squirt are indeed the highlight of each trip to Curacao! **TNC**



# Snapshots



Sunday July 14, at DeAnza Cove, The San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers had their annual picnic and a celebration of life for Mis-Fit Maude.

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful picnic. We had a great turnout: Wower, Bill, Grandma Huggs, Bob, Bon Bon, Uncle Rusty, Banjo Belly, Rosie, Zorba, Dreamin Mimi, Cricket, Bonkers, Clumsy Mumsy, Chloe, Rosie, and Bruce. The tribute for Mis-Fit Maude was perfect. Thanks to Grandma Higgs, Wower, and Cricket for bringing items. Uncle Rusty performed magic and Bon Bon bubbled. Thanks to everyone for participating in the picnic. We had a lot of good food and great company.

## 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](http://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.

Above left: : Wower made an awesome tribute board for Mis-Fit Maude.

Above, Left to right: Bonkers, Grandma Huggs, Cricket, and Clumsy Mumsy.



Left to Right: Members of Northland Clown Guild Alley 217 with Susan Anderson, president of the Platte City Friends of the Arts. Her organization is a big supporter of our guild, providing us with local entertainment opportunities. Thank you, Susan! Submitted by Cindy Johnson. Members of Northland Clown Guild Alley 217 gearing up for our local Parkville 4th of July parade. The theme was, of course, stars and stripes. The weather was smoking hot that day and a few noses melted off, but there were plenty of smiles everywhere! Submitted by Cindy Johnson.

**NIAGARA  
FALLS 2020**



# The Mighty

**COAI'S 35<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION APRIL 14 - 19, 2020  
- NIAGARA FALLS, NY**

**Hosted by: Niagara Clown Alley**



**REGISTRATION** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Includes FREE Collector's Tee Shirt Until October 15, 2019),*  
 Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extra Shirts \$20.00 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size \_\_\_\_\_  
**EXTRA BANQUET TICKET \$60.00 EACH** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to Niagara Clown Alley and mail to:  
**Connie Morrow**  
**98 Woodward Drive West Seneca, NY 14224**

**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 INTERNATIONAL FEES

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

**NO CHECKS AT THE DOOR . . . CASH ONLY**  
 \$30.00 CHARGE ASSESSED ON ALL RETURNED CHECKS  
 \$50.00 PROCESSING FEE FOR CANCELLATIONS BEFORE **02/15/2020**  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER 02/15/2020**

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR BY PHONE**  
**SHERATON NIAGARA FALLS - MARRIOTT 1-716-285-3361**  
**300 3RD STREET NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14303 USA**  
<https://www.sheratonatthefalls.com>

**\$139.32 a NIGHT for SINGLE, DOUBLE, TRIPLE, or QUAD**  
*(RATE IS ALL INCLUSIVE - TAXES, FEES, PARKING, CASINO VOUCHER)* TO RECEIVE 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**

**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](http://www.MyCOAI.com) Questions? Jim Donoughe at 1-716-471-3684 or Email [COAICConv2020@aol.com](mailto:COAICConv2020@aol.com)

Continued from page 9

for my final bow, a right angle of the rubber neck downward and I'm outta there!

Need directions? Follow the chicken. Need dance lessons? I do a mean funky chicken.

You want music? Stuff me for a DIY kazoo. Some of us now come with pre-installed squeakers. We can squawk out or hum wedding marches, mash-ups, or bumper alerts.

Some of us squawkers are even good at facilitating staff meetings! We can signal that it's time to move on, bring the conversation back to center, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak. If nobody can answer a question, ask me. I've got plenty of answers and opinions. Use me as a pointer on the whiteboard or to call on someone, and as a microphone when someone's answering questions (or singing karaoke). And I make a great exclamation point to indicate that the point you're about to make, or the one you just made, is worthy of special attention.

#### 5. Rubber chickens have medicinal uses, too.

Yes, you can keep practicing your red nose transplants on me. And don't forget how lost you'd be without me navigating your way around the hospital campus. I make a great fixed-point on which to pivot when I point out the right way to go and you're still moving in the wrong direction.

If the cat or dog aren't available, I can be a pet therapy substitute in a pinch, too.

And with that same vacant, open-mouthed look, Dr. Fowlbreath ended her TED chicken talk. Give her a high four!

(Rubber chickens only have four digits on each foot, duh.)

Thank you, fowl doctor, for serving up some rubber chicken soup for the red nosed soul. After a hard day's work, you deserve a nice, long soak in the tub. (Thus, soup.)

So, is the rubber chicken a leftover physical comedy prop from the past, or still a clown's best prop-friend? Is there a place and use for the rubber chicken in your stash of ever-ready-to-use-and-amuse props, or is that rubber chicken best left unserved in your banquet of bemusements?

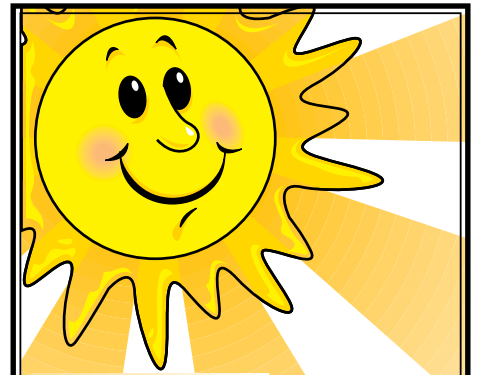
You decide, maybe over an egg salad sandwich for lunch. Then ponder the inevitable question: Which came first, the rubber chicken or the rubber egg?

Want to read more about the origins and relative funny-ness of the rubber chicken? You might want to chick (intended typo, no yoke) out this piece from *Modern Farmer* magazine: [www.modernfarmer.com/2013/12/farm-pop-rubber-chicken](http://www.modernfarmer.com/2013/12/farm-pop-rubber-chicken).

Until next time, clown on, my red nose friends! And remember, clown is a verb. TNC

*Mike Bednarek clowns as Buster (physical comedian) and Dr. Fun E. Bone (clown doctor). He's taught the art of clowning at community colleges, camps, festivals, and conventions. After a thirty-four-year career in public education, he's now grown up to be a full-time clown. In his spare time, he cycles without training wheels, squeezes the concertina unmercifully, and gets taken for frequent walks by his dogs.*

Editor's note: An earlier version of this article appeared in the digital publication, *Jest for Clowns*.



## 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**  
1355 Shannon Dr., Apt 103  
Iowa City, IA 52246

**Miriam "Senorita Soto" Kleinberger**  
2 Maple Lane North  
Loudonville, NY 12211

**Kathy "Noodles" Gurak**  
18 Park Avenue  
Garfield, NJ 07026

**Nicholas "Doc" Reed**  
528 Sunset Pointe Drive  
Lake Placid, FL 33852

**Fran Etkorn**  
1015 Champion Circle  
Longmont, CO 80503

**Dale McKenzie**  
867 Raynard Crescent SE  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
T2A 1X6

**Good Cheer Chairperson:**

**Crissy "Miz Daisy" Melnitzke**  
[crissy@mizdaisyentertainment.com](mailto:crissy@mizdaisyentertainment.com)  
863-221-4183

## SAVE THE DATES!

Join your friends at the 2020 COAI Convention  
in Niagara Falls, New York, April 14–19!

[www.mycoai.com](http://www.mycoai.com)

# THE LAST WALK-AROUND

## Brian Douglas Lemee

Brian "Onion" Lemee took his last walk-around on May 25, 2019. He was only sixty-six years young. Brian had many health issues in his life: diabetic amputations, open heart surgery, and a kidney transplant six years ago. The anti-rejection medication unfortunately gave him Basil Skin Cancer, which eventually led to his death. During his many visits to the hospital, he entertained the nurses with his quick wit and fun personality, often wearing his clown surgical masks or twisting balloons for them! With all his health issues, he never complained and never gave up.



Brian was a graduate of Bentley College and a certified public accountant with a Master's in taxation. He gave tirelessly to his community of Bourne, MA. He was a wood worker and fix-it guy. He loved re-canvassing Old Town Canoes. He spent a lot of time in his canoes before he got ill. Brian was a skilled nature photographer as well, and won many awards for his talents as a member of the Cranberry Carver Camera Club. Brian loved long walks along the Cape Cod Canal and in the park near his home. He loved his family and was a wonderful husband to his wife, Janet "Twinkles the Clown," of forty-two fun-filled years. In their wedding vows, they said, "Fun and adventure every day in God's name ... AMEN!"

Brian was also a member of the South Shore Joey's Clown Alley 159A in Hanson, MA, and a member of COAI. If we needed a volunteer for an event, Onion, would always come. Onion and Twinkles always worked together as a team. They went many years to Clownfest at Seaside Heights, NJ, and to Northeast Clown Institute in Plymouth, MA. In 2018, Onion received his Craftsmanship in Clowning, but he was more proud of Twinkles who received her Masters in Clowning at the same time.

Onion and Twinkles were husband and wife, soul mates, and best friends! Twinkles

wanted to celebrate his life, not mourn it. At his wake, she had happy face balloons and a bubble machine going in front of the funeral home. Inside, she had more smiley face balloons. The South Shore Joey's came in clown and each brought a balloon animal or flower. We blew bubbles out the car windows on the way to the cemetery.

Brian is survived by his wife, Janet; sister, Susan; and all the clowns in



South Shore Joey Clown Alley. Onion will be missed by all of us. We loved him, but we know he is at peace and smiling down on us pain free. God Bless.

Submitted by Maureen Yalenesian



## Farrel A. "Twister" Thomas

Recently, our Headquarters Office was notified that Farrel "Twister" Thomas of Seattle Washington, passed away at his home on March 23, 2019.

He was an icon at the Pike's Place Market for nearly twenty-five years, twisting balloon characters for thousands of visitors from around the world, entertaining, building relationships, and bringing smiles and laughter to many who crossed his path each day. He was featured in the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Magazine*, *Seattle Pots-Intelligencer*, *Pike's Place Market Newspaper*, and *Komo TV*.

Farrel was a shrine clown with the Affi Temple of Tacoma, the Pike's Place Performers, COAI, Groundhog International (since his birthday was February 2), and The International Union of Operating Engineers. He was also a close friend of the Big Foot Clown Alley in Tacoma and received our monthly meeting notices. He often came and shared new-found balloon techniques or products. He will be greatly missed.

Submitted by Pennie Smith, Big Foot Clown Alley Chair.



## From the Membership Director

Carrie "Shimmy Giggles" Ray

I hope you had a great summer and life is treating you well as you head into fall.

### Nominations

Please review the COAI Award nomination deadlines, which can be found in this issue and on [mycoai.com](http://mycoai.com). We have a lot of awesome members who truly deserve to be nominated, so please take the time to submit a candidate.

### Membership Boosting Tips and Tricks

I've talked to many members recently who are saying their local alleys are struggling to keep or recruit new members. We all know attracting new members is the lifeblood for any club. No matter how good your club is, you'll be doing well if sixty to seventy percent of the members renew year to year. Any higher rate of retention is way above average. This means that if you have one hundred members today and want a larger membership next year, you should aim to attract at least forty-one new members just to guarantee adding one person to the membership list. That's a shocker, isn't it?

I've done some research in the trenches and come up with forty-six membership-building ideas COAI alleys have used effectively.

1. Ask a member from another clown alley or organization to talk or teach a class at your club meetings. Invite interested community members to attend and make sure you post about it on social media.

2. Do a membership drive to encourage more people to get into clowning. Once you get them involved, focus on promoting the importance of being involved in a local clown alley as well as international clubs. Encourage them to be a part of conventions, clown schools, and other educational opportunities.

3. Schedule your next meeting in a different location like a community center, library, or bookstore. Ask the meeting place to publicize the special meeting and invite people in the "new" area to attend.

4. Design a colorful new club brochure and distribute it to prospective members. Make sure it contains a fill-in-the-blank membership form.

5. Make sure you have a website for your alley and add an online membership form to it. Also make sure your alley has a Facebook page and promote it on other social media as well.

6. Do live meetings on Facebook or on a Zoom Meeting so members who can't make will still be able to participate.

7. A 100 percent COAI alley qualifies for certain benefits. Get your clown alley members to join so you can reach 100 percent.

8. Make sure you have a sign-in book for guests attending your meetings. Later, send each guest a thank-you card to invite them back to another meeting.



Johnathan Fuentes.

9. Offer to have members pick up guests and drive them to the next meeting if they have issues with transportation.

10. Match up meeting guests with club members who are willing to be mentors.

11. Have lots of extra membership applications at every meeting.

12. Plan a club membership-building contest.

13. Have fun meetings! Keep business to a minimum or skip over it sometimes.

14. Send out an advance press release or post on social media when a meeting is coming up and set up a Calling post message that you send out a few days before the meeting as a reminder.

15. Hand out club business cards or flyers listing meeting dates, times, location, and phone number.

16. The members should follow up on new-member leads.

17. Get feedback after every meeting and use it to make improvements.

18. If you meet in a public location with a sign or placard out front, ask the facility to promote your alley meetings on it.

19. When traveling, look for a clown alley you can visit while in the area. Contact the club to see if you can meet with them and learn how they attract new members.

20. When attendance drops off, consider a new meeting place. People enjoy a change of scenery, and a new location may be closer for some members.

21. Provide special recognition for members who sign up new members.

22. Have a formal new-member induction ceremony. It makes them feel more important and it may also impress guests who are thinking of joining the club.

23. If your local high school has a career day, see if they will let you have a booth. Doing this will help recruit Junior Joeys into your alley.

24. If your alley doesn't allow kids under eighteen to meetings, consider setting up a Junior Joey alley in your area, or do live online alley meetings for Junior Joeys.

25. Does your alley meet all summer? It should. Attendance at summer meetings usually drops, but it's better than stopping and trying to start all over again.

26. Do not cancel a meeting because of poor attendance. A small core group that meets consistently can often turn things around by spreading its enthusiasm.

27. List the best things about your alley. These are the features and benefits you should be promoting in your membership brochures and on your Facebook page and website.

28. Start your meetings on time but end them as early as possible. People will sit still and pay attention for just a certain amount of time and no longer.

29. At dues renewal time, promptly send reminder notices to unpaid members. Tell

them it's important to keep their dues current even if they miss a meeting.

30. Encourage club members to wear club hats, shirts, and jackets as often as they can both at conventions and in public.

31. By the same token, make sure club garments have a pleasing design that people will want to wear.

32. Develop a list of potential members who have e-mail. Send them an invitation to join, but don't spam them. Limit e-mails to people that you've had contact with and be prepared to remove addresses from your list if asked to.

33. Award prizes for new members. Use a point system that recognizes high numbers are hard to hit: one point for ten members, five points for twenty-five, and twenty points for fifty members. Give nice prizes that will help them improve as a clown or entertainer.

34. Have Guest Night meetings where each member brings a guest.

35. People who had enough interest to join the club once are hot prospects for joining again. Use past-member lists to reach them. In some cases, you may have to show them that things they did not like have been changed.

36. Build morale at every meeting. Recognize members for their efforts or for achieving special goals. Remember, honey attracts more flies than sticky paper.

37. Read your alley newsletter from cover to cover. If you were a potential joiner, would the newsletter make you sign up? If not, it probably needs some work.

38. Require members to wear their name badges at all meetings and provide blank name tags for guests. The names should be in large print.

39. Your meeting place should be convenient, accessible, and user-friendly.

40. Take comments from guests at the end of the meeting. This may provide an opening to ask the guest to join the club. It may also lead to improvements.

41. Have a prize drawing each month for members who bring a guest to meetings. Give a duplicate prize to the guest if he or she joins the club.

42. Look for ways to get an ad, interview, or article in school, hospital, community organizations, and local business newsletters.

43. Have club members practice how to fill out a membership form before they attend events to promote the club.

44. Set monthly new-member goals. If you miss, you can increase a later goal.

45. Be timely in sending out dues renewal statements. Encourage members to pay their dues early. Don't allow non-paying members to attend club functions.

46. Follow Wal-Mart's example and have a greeter stationed at the entrance to your meetings to make sure everyone gets a warm, friendly "Thanks for coming."

### The CHARLIE Award

I hope everyone had a fun and memorable International Clown Week. I look forward to receiving your scrapbooks for the Alley and CHARLIE Award.

**HAVE YOU TOLD A FRIEND ABOUT COAI?  
Give an application  
or gift a membership  
today!**



Below are a few reminders of things you need to do to win the CHARLIE Award.

1. Make sure you include your proclamations.
2. Include as many pictures as you can that show the alley or individual promoting International Clown Week.
3. Make sure you advise your clients to send a thank-you card and let them know you are going after an award for promoting International Clown Week, then include them in the scrapbook.
4. Organize the scrapbook as if you're telling a story; the more details the better.
5. Make sure you include who participated each day at each event. Add dates when you did the event.
6. If you're going after the Alley Award, assign a project team to help put the scrapbook together. Please don't put all the work on one person. Before sending it in, have several people review it to make sure you didn't forget anything.
7. Try to attend the convention to accept the awards.

### My Junior Joey Champion

Finally, I would like to recognize Johnathan Fuentes, a Junior Joey from Wylie, Texas, who goes out into the community every week to make a difference in other kiddos' lives. I ran a contest on my Facebook page: Clowns Supporting International Clown Week. His mom submitted his nomination and he met all the requirements for winning. His love for clowning has taken him from being a quiet and shy boy to an amazing clown entertainer. I see great things for Johnathan, who lives and breathes clowning and knows the importance of making a difference in people's lives.



# OPEN THE VAULT

By Kent Sheets

Have you checked out COAI's Vault? This is one of the best gifts COAI has provided its members, a treasure chest of valuable articles on every topic you might be interested in. It is especially beneficial to those who have only been a COAI member for five or ten years. I have spent hundreds of dollars on dozens of books that have much less information than the Vault. I've been a COAI member for twenty-five years and I saved all my New Calliope issue. My wife will be happy to know I'm clearing out several file drawers since all that information is on the Vault.



Between 2011 and 2015, I wrote a column called My Favorite Magic. Most of those articles were about self-working, easy, and inexpensive magic. Below is a list of those articles, with the year and issue number.

**2011-03 Rubber Bands**

**2011-05 Business Cards**

**2011-07 Playing Cards**

**2012-01 Mental Math Magic**

**2012-07 Direction Arrow**

**2012-11 Mental Math**

**2013-07 Zippy**

**2013-11 Clown Nose**

**2014-11 Alley Skits**

**2015-07 Spot, Fingers**

Over the years, many members have submitted articles on all kinds of topics, a from balloons, to magic, to makeup, to skits, and it's all on the Vault. Were you one of those writers? Share information about those articles so we can find you. **TNC**



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

# CLOWN COMICS



# YOU CAN BE A KID-SHOW CELEBRITY!

SPS MAGIC MAKES COLORFUL, HIGH-QUALITY, PROFESSIONALLY TESTED MAGIC PROPS FOR CHILDREN'S SHOWS. UPGRADE YOUR ACT WITH SOME OF THESE FUN-TASTIC TRICKS!



## DAVID GARRARD'S SKETCH-O-MAGIC

Show a sketch pad of a dozen different faces. The pages are cut into three segments—forehead, eyes and nose, and mouth. Show the audience how you can create a variety of funny faces by flipping to different segments of the pages.



Ask three spectators make random selections as you flip through the book, stopping at the top of a head from one picture, eyes and a nose from another picture, and a mouth from another. Another spectator opens an envelope you previously gave him. He pulls out a picture—and it matches perfectly the audience's selection!

Strong, visual magic that gets the audience involved. Great for close-up or stage. You'll flip over it! **\$25**

## SAMMY SMITH'S SUPER FROG

Show a picture of Super Frog wearing his hero cape. Slide him into an envelope, and give it to a magic helper for safekeeping. Then display an empty envelope and give it to another helper. Say the magic words, and Super Frog will jump from one envelope to the other ... or will he?

This cute and highly visual trick with a twist ending is easy to perform, and printed in three colors on high-quality materials. Made to last! **\$20**



## SAMMY SMITH'S DEJA ZOO



A completely baffling trick for kid shows or grown-up audiences! No skill required!

Show a set of animal flash cards, each with a different zoo animal—Zebra, Kangaroo, Giraffe, Elephant, Lion, Tiger, Panda Bear, Snake, etc. The cards are large enough to be seen from a distance.

Two people in the audience THINK of an animal. You pick up two blank cards and make a quick sketch of the animals you believe they have thought about.

Your predictions are placed on a wooden display stand. When you turn the stand around, you have correctly guessed the two animals. You're a genius!

Absolutely no artistic skill is required! You never actually have to draw anything. The trick is gimmicked and ready to use right out of the package!

Everything is supplied: gimmicked cards, marker, card stand, and a routine by Samuel Patrick Smith. **\$35**

## SAMMY SMITH'S PUFF THE MAGIC RABBIT

One of our most-requested items, this is part of our "Sammy Signature" series, and comes complete with a quality hand puppet and Sammy Smith's original "Puff the Magic Rabbit" routine word-for-word. **\$40**



## SILLY BILLY'S MAGIC PARTY PICTURE

Turn any child in your audience into a magical artist! Show a simple, black-and-white drawing of a room set up for a birthday party, except there are no balloons, decorations, presents, or birthday candles. Have your volunteer write his name across the cake, draw candles on it, and write his age on a party hat in the crayon colors of his choice. Then he holds the picture facing away from the audience while they all say the magic words. When he turns the picture around, balloons, presents, and decorations have appeared in full color in the drawing! **\$20**



**24-Hour Order Line 352-357-2665**

SPS Magic • Post Office Box 787 • Eustis, FL 32727

Make checks payable to SPS Magic.

Please add \$7 shipping per order

