

3-Ring News

Volume V, Issue 1

January 15, 2024

THERE TRULY WAS “NO PLACE LIKE HOME” AT THIS YEAR’S ROUND-UP!!



We may have been limited in numbers again, but 2023’s Round-Up truly felt like “home.” There are folks at this convention that I only see once a year, but man, there’s something about being a part of this great “clown community” that always feels like home to me! Not only did I get to see folks that I’ve come to know well over the years and always enjoy spending time with, but I met some new friends that I’m sure will also be “friends for life!” We had three first-timers, a couple who hadn’t been there in many years coming BACK, and a new Jr. Joey. We had some new lecturers, and some new class subjects we’ve never had before, and some excellent competition! (Shout out to Lucy and James for taking on a REALLY huge task and doing a great job!!) We also had a LOT of fun with The Really Big

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Show on Thursday night, where a lot of our members got to perform for the “love of clowning,” and weren’t constricted by competition rules and time limits. There’s really NO PLACE on earth like an MCA Round-UP!! And I’d go one step further and say there’s no group of more talented clowns and special people than our MCA’ers!! Although I wasn’t involved during it’s inception (I was only 6 at the time!), I’m proud to be a part of the Midwest Clown Association, one of the oldest organized clown associations in the country. And I’m excited and looking forward to our 50th Year Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2024! That’s right! Fifty years of spreading smiles, making memories, and serving the educational needs of clowns and alleys in a 7-state region, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. I, for one, am hoping for 50 MORE! So, come join us, as we kickstart the second half of a century of clowning, October 9-13, 2024 in Indianapolis!! See more information inside!



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MCA BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



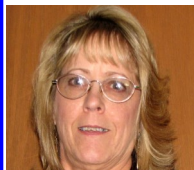
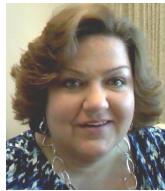
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angela.gonzalez@indy.gov



STANDING COMMITTEES/APPOINTEES:

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Nancy "Bubbles" Opatich
20169 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 426-0776
bubbles-the-clown@att.net

(Additional Co-Director Needed. If interested, please contact Chief Joey McDonald.)

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Webmaster and 3-Ring News Editor
Angie "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez
(see contact information under Secretary and Past Chief Joey)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (DUE March 1st)

Chair Lynda "Kremepuff" Hayhurst
23 Aster Street
Dyer, IN 46311
(219) 743-5278
haylyn2004@yahoo.com

HALL OF FAME (DUE May 1st)

INTERIM Chair Angie "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez
(see contact information under Secretary)

HISTORIAN

Nancy "Bubbles" Opatich
20169 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 426-0776
bubbles-the-clown@att.net

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

INTERIM Angie "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez
(see contact information under Secretary)

JR. JOEY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Patti "Jazzi" Ummel
225 John Drive
Bartlett, IL 60103
(630) 817-2019
jazziummel@yahoo.com

(If interested in helping with this committee, please contact the chair.)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (DUE April 1st)

John "Luther" Hanewall
2829 Regent Street
Janesville, WI 53546
608-436-3445
jhanewall@yahoo.com



Volunteers are needed!!! As you can see in the above contact lists, we have people doing double, triple and quadruple duty on our board and committees. We have had some positions become open due to folks stepping down and are in search of individuals ready and willing to fill in the gaps. If you are interested in any of the "INTERIM" areas above, or serving in any capacity with the "red print items for help," please contact the chair or Chief Joey McDonald. We can't do this without YOU!!! **Also, 2024 is an Election Year! Learn more about it on page 7!**



**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

Midwest Clown Association strives to recognize and reward not only those individuals who compete and win at conventions; but also those individuals, living and deceased, who have contributed time, effort and dedication to the Midwest Clown Association and the clowning profession in general. Since this is an MCA award, special attention is paid to those persons who promote clowning at the local level in the midwest, and particularly with regard to the MCA in its perpetuation and growth.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
Terry "Jinx" Awald-Sherwood and Lynette
"Nettie Belle" McDonald on receiving the MCA
Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Know someone who is deserving of the LAA? Check out the website for details and get your nominations in by March 1, 2024!



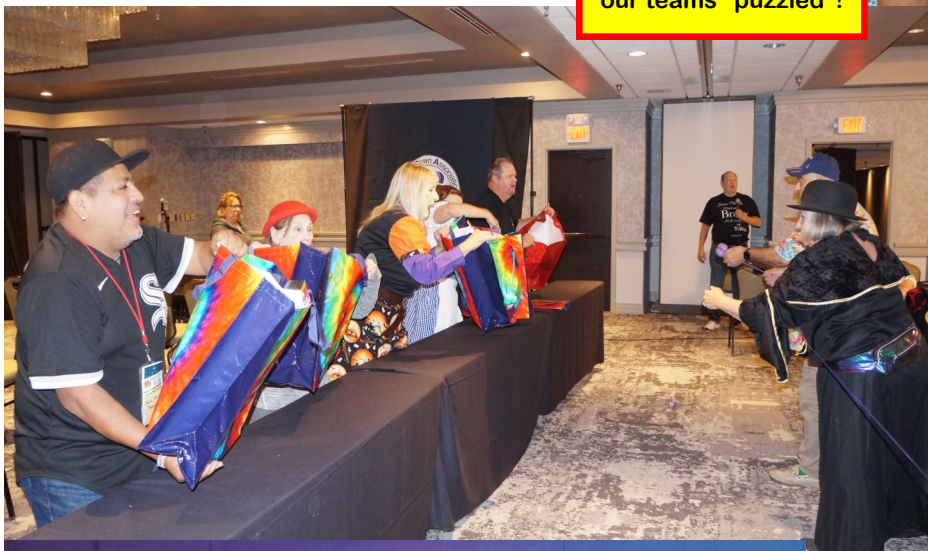
THERE'S NO PARTY LIKE AN MCA THEME PARTY!!!

My apologies to Coolio for stealing his lyrics, but there's really not much more fun you can have than at an MCA Round-Up Theme Party! It began with a tornado sighting that started it all! Dorothy was a popular costume choice, as was fitting. A couple of trips down the yellow brick road brought out the Scarecrows in abundance (some scarier than others....you know who you are Juan!). The Tin Man was a sight to see, and although we saw a couple of lion sightings later in the week, the Cowardly Lion was nowhere to be found at the theme party (he was probably still "working up the courage" to show his whiskers!!). We had good witches and bad ones; munchkins and mayors; Winkie guards and flying monkeys; and so much more!!! The competition was fierce, yet fun! It was a bang-up way to start off the week! How could it not be with the "hosts with the most" planning the party again this year, Jesters, Jokers and Joey's!! Thank you, John, Luan, Wayne & Jolene for making our theme parties extra special these last few years!!! Everyone had a twister of a good time!!





This challenge left all our teams "puzzled"!



WINNERS, WINNERS, EVERYWHERE!!

MAKE-UP COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
Roberto Ramirez



SECOND PLACE (TIE)
Irene Spudic



THIRD PLACE
Kristine Dietrich

HALL OF FAME

The Midwest Clown Association Hall of Fame is for those individuals living in the 7-state region of MCA or belonging to a dues-paying MCA Alley who have consistently competed and won competitions, accumulating point totals in several different categories to qualify for the recognition. If you think you might qualify, contact our Interim Hall of Fame Chair Angie Gonzalez at 317-840-1583 or angela.gonzalez@indy.gov for more information. Or visit our website for an application!



SECOND PLACE (TIE)
Dorine Thibideau



The Board is busy planning a very special MEMORABLE 50th Year Celebration Round-Up with lots of surprises in store. We are reaching out to old and new members to increase our attendance at this special event. Plan NOW to attend, and BRING A FRIEND!!!

Celebrate 50 years with us—October 9-13, 2024

SHOWING THEIR SKILLS!!

BALLOON & FACE PAINTING COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
Kate Chard

SECOND PLACE
Gloria Sterrett



FIRST PLACE
Gloria Sterrett

Each balloon competitor must submit two sculptures: a single balloon sculpture and a multiple/combo sculpture.

NOTE: Even though there was only one competitor in Balloons and two in Face Painting, contestants must still receive the required percentage of points from the judges to receive a first or second place finish.



2024 IS AN ELECTION YEAR! WE NEED YOU FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS!

OOPS! No! You don't have to commit to 50 years!!! JUST TWO WILL DO!!!

That's right! Our board positions only serve for 2-year terms, so would you be willing to commit to serving for a couple of years? Getting volunteers to serve is **CRUCIAL** to our association's survival. We used to have elections where 4 or 5 people were running against each other for each position. Now, we have to **BEG** people to fill a position, because no one is willing to step up!

We've had vacancies crop up in the last several years due to health reasons, retirement from clowning, family and work obligations, and many other reasons. Our committee chair positions are also crucial to insuring the association, and particularly, the Round-Ups flow smoothly. If you've ever thought you might like to serve, **NOW** is the time to step up. It doesn't necessarily mean a huge time commitment, and the time required comes in spurts and is not **YEAR-ROUND!**

If you think you might be interested in running for a board position beginning at the end of the 2024 Round-Up, or being appointed as a Committee chair (see page 2 for all the positions), please contact Assistant Chief Joey Jim Caffrey at 309-314-6026 or jclownus@yahoo.com.

SINGLE SKIT COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
Jackie Newton



SECOND PLACE
Gloria Sterrett



THIRD PLACE
Kate Chard

GROUP SKIT COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
Jill Lindsay/Kristine Dietrich



SECOND PLACE
Lee Craver/Jon Keck



THIRD PLACE
Juan Reyes/John Joseph

SINGLE PARADEABILITY COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
Dorine Thibideau



SECOND PLACE
Jon Keck

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We had some great competitors this year, but Competitions could not take place if it weren't for many people behind the scenes. There were 10 judges, 2 runners, 1 timer, 2 talliers, 1 sound man, 3 stage hands, and 2 co-directors making it all happen. A big thank you to James Kuhn and Lucy Mahoney and their team: Lynda Hayhurst, Wayne Rongholt, Ric Edwards, Lynette McDonald, Peggy Walker, Dorine Thibideau, John Hanewall, Lori Jacobs, Pat Bowers, Angie Gonzalez, Jackie Newton, Jim Caffrey, Patti Umel, Terry Sherwood, Dan Langwell, Tom Cass and Barney Awald. (I apologize if we missed anyone!) Thank you to all of these folks for giving of their time to make our competitions all that they can be! Hope to see you all next year...whether competing or judging!!



THIRD PLACE
Gloria Sterrett



FIRST PLACE
Juan Reyes/Nancy Opatich



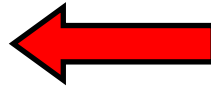
SECOND PLACE
Lee Craver/Jon Keck

GROUP PARADEABILITY COMPETITION

JUNIOR JOEY PARADEABILITY



JR. JOEY GOLD
Eva Powers



NOTE: Jr. Joeys are judged individually, and not competitively against each other for 1st-3rd Place. Instead, the judges' point totals determine a Gold, Silver or Bronze Placement



Any individual who competes in Make-Up, Single Skits, and Single Paradeability is eligible to receive the All-Around Clown award. To receive the award, the individual does not have to win 1st place in all three categories, or even place in the top three. It all depends on total points from the judges in all three. Placing first in each of these categories pretty much insures a "win," however! Which is what this year's recipient did! Congratulations, Brian! Check out the competition rules online for more information about this award.

ALL-AROUND CLOWN Jackie Newton



ALLEY SKIT COMPETITION



FIRST PLACE
"A Bunch of Ding-A-Lings"
Krazy Clown Klub



SECOND PLACE
"Yellow Brick Road Trip"
Michiana Clowns



2024 Midwest Clown Association 50th Annual Round-Up—Golden Jubilee October 9-13, 2024; Indianapolis, IN

REGISTER TODAY!!

FULL REGISTRATION*:

Dec. 1, 2024-April 31, 2024: \$240.00
May 1, 2024-Aug. 31, 2024: \$250.00
Sept. 1, 2024-at the door: \$260.00

(*Full registration covers all classes, theme party, lifetime achievement luncheon, awards banquet, Sunday brunch, competitions and access to dealer's room.)

ONE DAY REGISTRATION: \$75.00
(does not include any meal tickets)

EXTRA MEAL TICKETS: Theme Party—\$30; Lifetime Achievement Luncheon —\$35; Awards Banquet—\$45; Sunday Brunch—\$25

Make checks payable to:
Midwest Clown Association

Mail to: Lynda Hayhurst
23 Aster Street
Dyer, IN 46311

**Returned Checks will be assessed a fee of \$45.00.
No Refunds after September 5, 2024.

***Any special needs must be made known to the Registrar 60 days prior to the start of the Round-Up.



Questions? Call or E-Mail:
Lynda "Kremepuff" Hayhurst (219-743-5278); haylyn2004@yahoo.com
-OR-
Peggy "Pepper" Walker (262-577-5251); clownpepper@aol.com

Make your hotel reservation directly:
CROWNE PLAZA INDIANAPOLIS-AIRPORT
2501 S. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Phone: (317) 244-6861
(\$119.00 per night plus applicable fees and taxes.)
Hotel rooms must be reserved before Sept. 15, 2024 to get the discounted rate. Mention MCA for discount.

2024 Midwest Clown Association Round-Up Registration

(Separate registration must accompany each individual registering)

OR REGISTER ONLINE:

<http://www.midwestclownassociation.org/2024-round-up.html> (Still must fill our registration form and send to haylyn2004@yahoo.com)

Check here if you're a Jr. Joey

First Time at an MCA Round-Up? Yes No

Name _____

Clown Name _____

Address (include City, State, Zip) _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Banquet Meal Options

Meat Vegetarian Gluten-Free

Alley Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Check here if you're taking advantage of payment program

MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION
Bill "Bibo" Young Memorial Registration Scholarship
Program Description/Guidelines

ESTABLISHMENT:

The Midwest Clown Association (MCA) Registration Scholarship Program was established by a unanimous vote of Member Alley Representatives at the Spring Membership Meeting on May 6, 2023.

PURPOSE:

In the wake of the pandemic, as hotel and registration costs increased and attendance at annual clown gatherings decreased, the scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to individuals wishing to attend the Annual MCA Round-up.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Scholarship Program is available to:

- Any clown living in one of the seven MCA defined states of: Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and/or Ohio.
- Any clown that is a member of an active alley in good standing (defined as current with annual dues) that is based in one of the above states, but lives outside the Midwest and is in good standing with the Alley to which they belong.

NAME:

The Midwest Clown Association Registration Scholarship shall be known as the Bill "BIBO" Young Memorial Registration Scholarship in honor of the years of service and dedication that Bill provided to the MCA and his devotion to the art of clowning.

AMOUNT:

A minimum of two (2) scholarships will be awarded annually, contingent upon the amount of monies raised by the annual MCA Auction held during the Annual MCA Round-up. The amount of the scholarship shall be equal to one half the annual registration fee set by the hosting alley or Board. The Scholarship will be for one half the amount of which the "Early Bird" registration was initialized.

TIMELINE:

Determination of the amount of the scholarship (registration fee) and the number of scholarships shall be determined at the MCA Fall Meeting following the annual Auction of the year prior. (At the Fall General Meeting it was announced that 5 Scholarships will be awarded in 2024.) Deadline for application shall be no later than **April 1st** of that year's Round-up. Scholarship recipients shall be announced at the Spring Meeting. The Scholarship Committee will notify the MCA Executive Board and hosting Alley with the names of the recipients so funds may be distributed to cover the registration fees.

REQUIREMENTS OF RECIPIENTS:

Scholarship recipients shall be required to register for the upcoming Annual MCA Round-up by August 31, so that the scholarship can be applied to their registration fee.

Recipients shall be required to write an article for the MCA 3 Ring News within 6 months of attending the Round-up detailing their experience at the Round Up and what they learned.

Anyone who has been a recipient of the Bill "BIBO" Young scholarship will not be eligible to submit another scholarship application for 3 years.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Scholarships shall be awarded by the Scholarship Committee (designated by the Chief Joey). The Scholarship Committee shall utilize the following criteria for selection:

Timeliness of application (April 1st deadline as determined by date of postmark or date of being received by email by the designated recipient).

Thoroughness of the application process (was it complete?)

Essay on the application detailing why the applicant would like to attend to the Annual Round-up and what they hope to learn or gain from the experience.

Note: Priority may be given to those individuals who are first-time Round-Up attendees, in order to encourage new members, as long as all criteria are met.

Midwest Clown Association Registration Payment Plan Information and Agreement

Your MCA Board knows times are tough all 'round for the entertainment/performance industry. And we also have felt the "pinch" of increased costs from the hospitality industry hosting the last two years of our annual conference. After careful consideration, and to be good stewards of our dues and MCA organization, we have made the hard decision to raise registration fees for the annual Round-Up in order to make ends meet, and not deplete the organization's entire General Fund supplementing the conference. We had already transitioned to ZOOM Spring meetings to cut down on travel costs for our board members and alley representatives, and many of our host committee members "supplemented" items we would normally pay for out of registrations. But we must be frugal going forward, and although it's painful to increase registration rates, we have to do so in order to make ends meet. BUT...with that being said, again, this year, we are offering a payment plan for registrations. That way, you can pay a downpayment to get one of the early registration rates, and pay it off in instalments, while still maintaining that earlier discounted rate.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- **Check the box on your registration form that says "Check here if you're taking advantage of payment program." (Yellow box in lower right hand corner of registration.)**
- **Pay \$70 as a downpayment toward the total registration amount at time of registration.**
- **You can send it in the mail to the Registrar or there is a Downpayment box to check online to pay the designated amount (remember a small processing fee will be added if paying online).**
- **Fill out the form below and return it via e-mail (angela.gonzalez@indy.gov) or regular mail to Angie Gonzalez, 8419 Bermuda Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46219.**
- **You will be contacted by Angie to set up payments and will be instructed where to send the remaining payment checks or how to make payments with a credit/debit card online via PayPal.**
- **Your registration must be fully paid within one month of the start of the Round-Up. *Your downpayment is non-refundable in the event you must cancel, unless faced with an uncontrollable emergency before the cancellation cut-off date.***

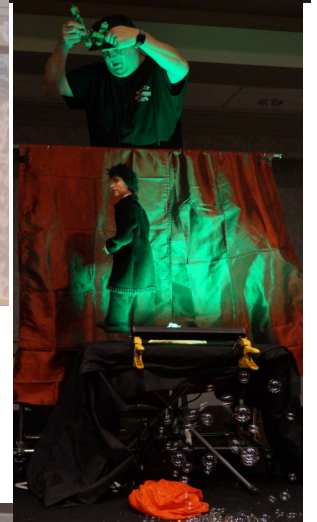
FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information on the Scholarship Program and Payment Plan on our Website (www.midwestclownassociation.com), and can download applications for those there (as well as information and applications for Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame). You can also contact the Scholarship Fund Committee Chair John Hanewall with any other questions about the scholarship (his contact information is on page 2 of this 3-Ring News). For more information on the Payment Plan, contact Angie Gonzalez (contact information also on page 2). If you have other ideas on how your board can make attending the Round-Up easier and more accessible for you, please don't hesitate to let us know. Any one of us would be glad to listen to your suggestions and try to find solutions. All contact information is on Page 2 of the Newsletter for board members and Committee chairs.



WAS A REALLY BIG HIT!!!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who gave of their time and talents to MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH...and CRY (tears of laughter, we hope!)..and maybe even PEE their pants a little!! It was ALL IN GOOD FUN, and we had a BLAST!!!



Was the \$3.17 and extra dessert worth it?



YOU WERE ALL WINNERS!!!



SHARING, SERVING, LEARNING, GROWING!!



Lots of great instructors and some new class subjects!! Fun times of fellowship and sharing, making friends, sharing ideas, smiles and laughter, and making memories to last a lifetime!!!



The Midwest Clown Association is one of the oldest organized clown associations in the country. The MCA serves the educational needs of clowns and alleys in a 7-state region, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Each fall, one of our member alleys serves as host for a five-day convention, called the "Round-Up," where clowns from all over the Midwest (and some from outside the Midwest) gather to learn, educate, compete, share, socialize, energize, and promote the art of clowning. The 3-Ring News is now the official newsletter of the Midwest Clown Association and all rights and responsibilities belong to the organization.



Visit our Website at:
www.midwestclownassociation.org

For questions about the 3-Ring News, to submit an article, or to submit other information for publication, please contact the editor, Angie Gonzalez, at angela.gonzalez@indy.gov or 317-840-1583. See below for submission deadlines.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 1, 2024—Lifetime Achievement Nominations Due
April 1, 2024—Scholarship Applications Due
May 1, 2024—Hall of Fame Applications Due
May 1, 2024—Round-Up Registration Rate increase
May 4, 2024 —MCA Spring Meeting via ZOOM 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 1, 2024—Round-Up Registration Rate increase
Sept. 1, 2024—Last Day to get the MCA Hotel Room Rate
Sept. 5, 2024—Last Day to request Registration Refund
Oct. 9-13, 2024—50th MCA Golden Jubilee Round-Up

IF UNDELIVERABLE, PLEASE RETURN TO:

Midwest Clown Association
c/o Angela Gonzalez
8419 Bermuda Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46219

3-RING NEWS UPCOMING DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE

March 22, 2024
April 26, 2024
June 14, 2024
August 9, 2024
Sept. 20, 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

March 13, 2024
April 17, 2024
June 5, 2024
August 1, 2024
Sept. 11, 2024

Place Postage Here

Visit us on FACEBOOK:
Midwest Clown Association