



3-Ring News

Volume III, Issue 1

February 21, 2020



21st Century...Here We Come (Only 10 years late!)

Many would argue that the greatest advancement in modern technology has been the invention of computers. Making information and collaboration more easily accessible and solutions and processes faster and more efficient. Well, we are excited as a board to announce that the Midwest Clown Association is finally moving into the 21st Century and taking advantage of technology that will help us to operate more effectively and efficiently, as we seek to grow our organization and promote the art of clowning.

I know, I know...many of you are saying "It's about time!!" Oth-

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ers of you who operate more "old school" are probably saying "Technology, schmology! All this change is confusing!" Whenever changes are made, some will think we aren't changing fast enough or far enough, and others will be overwhelmed by the changes and long for the "good ol' days." The truth of the matter is that we can't please everyone. But in this day and age when technology continues to advance so quickly that your I-Phone 5 can no longer be supported because existing parts only fit the I-Phone 11 XR Max, we have to find ways to "keep up." (Some of you are saying, "Wait! What happened to 6 through 10?") I am the first to admit that if it weren't for my son pushing me, I'd probably still have a flip phone.

Anyway, I digress. After several years of dwindling alley representation at the Spring Meeting, and after polling alley representatives, **the board has made the decision to hold our Annual Spring Meeting of the Midwest Clown Association ONLINE!**

Here are some reasons why the board felt this would be a good idea. First, depending on

the location of the spring meeting, some alleys feel it is not worth the cost and time of travel and lodging to attend a four-hour board meeting. So, their alley ends up having no voice because they make the decision not to attend. Second, even though each alley only has one vote apiece, we like to encourage other members who are not a part of an alley, or are not the designated representative, to attend the meetings and also offer input into their organization. They might be more inclined to do so if they can jump in online to see what's going on. Hopefully, you are as excited about this solution as we are. You will find more details about the spring meeting and how to connect on page 6.

Another exciting technology change is that we are now accepting payments for Alley Dues and for 2020 Round-Up registrations ONLINE. There is a minimal service fee charged by the processing company for using a credit card online; but hopefully, many of you will appreciate the convenience of this option. Instructions can be found on the website (see page 10 for site address) on how to utilize that payment option.



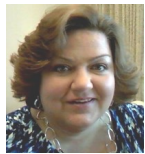
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MCA BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME

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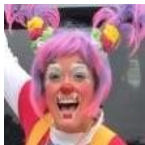
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5527 West 41st Avenue
Gary, IN 46408
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Directors Laura "Daizy Dee" and
Don "B. Wilder" Anderson
214 W. 14th Avenue
Coal Valley, IL 61240
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**The registration rate for the
2020 Round-Up increases
March 1st!! DON'T DELAY—
GET YOUR REGISTRATION
IN TODAY!**

(see page 7 for a registration form.)



DEADLINE IS NEXT WEEK—Send in your Nomination TODAY!!

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. **Know someone who is deserving of the LAA? Check out the website for details and get your nominations in for 2020 by March 1, 2020.**

2020 is an ELECTION YEAR!

Several of our positions will be vacant due to term limits, and ALL, except for Chief Joey, will be up for grabs!!

As the incoming Chief Joey, I'm excited about building a board that will be dedicated to GROWING the MCA. That will be my MAIN focus from day one! If you are passionate about that, as well, please consider joining me on the board! You don't have to be an alley representative or have experience as a board member. We will give you all the tools and training you need to succeed!! And if you don't have the time to volunteer, but know someone else who might be a GREAT FIT, please feel free to let me know. I will be ACTIVELY seeking team members in the coming months! NOW is the time to consider stepping up to serve. Besides board positions, there are also some appointed committee chair positions that MAY need filling. Interested? Contact Assistant Chief Joey, Angie Gonzalez (contact info on page 2), nomination chair. And if you're approached about serving, please carefully consider how you can help. We want to keep MCA alive and well, not just for current members, but for future generations of clowns! Won't you join us??



The MCA Hall of Fame Award recognizes those individuals in the Midwest who excel in competitions. For more information on Hall of Fame eligibility or requirements, contact Chair Sandi Christie (contact information on page 2) or visit our website. Think you have the points to be inducted next year?? Check your points and get your application in!! Deadline for application is May 1st.

Our 47th Annual MCA Round-Up will be here before you know it! The 2020 Round-Up will be held again in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 7-11, 2020, and will be hosted by our executive board. We decided to carry on the Disney "dream" objective from last year's convention theme and encourage our members: "Don't Stop BEE-lievin'!" See page 7 for a registration form! Or visit our website where you can NOW pay for your registration online with a credit card!!! The board is working hard to make 2020 the BEST ROUND-UP EVER! We hope you can join us!! **SEE YOU IN GRAND RAPIDS!!**



SPRING ONLINE MEETING

Our Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, beginning at 9:30 a.m. As announced to all Alley Representatives in an e-mail communication from our Chief Joey, this meeting will be an ONLINE meeting. We will be using ZOOM technology to facilitate this meeting. If you are not familiar with Zoom, visit their tutorial page to see how it operates: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>. Prior to the Spring meeting, all alley representatives will receive an invitation to the meeting via e-mail, with a session ID number and other instructions to help you connect to the meeting. We will also

provide some protocols for the meeting, such as how voting will occur, how speakers are acknowledged/identified, etc. We are encouraging alleys to gather together in a common meeting place and “attend” the meeting together, where possible. It will allow alley members to confer amongst themselves in side conversations, as necessary, and then cast votes as one entity. It might also be helpful to alley members who maybe are not tech savvy or do not have a good internet connection. If you know of other individuals interested in “attending” the meeting who are not associated with an alley, but live in the 7-state region, please let Chief Joey Ovanin know to send them an invite (or you can pass along the information to them yourself). Our hope is that offering this meeting online will encourage more members to “attend.”



Since we will not be meeting in person, it will be mandatory for all alleys that wish to have voting privileges to have their 2020 dues paid **no later than April 2nd**, which is 30 days before the meeting date of May 2nd. **No exceptions.** Dues may be paid by check or now by credit card online. See Membership Information Page on our website. Our Treasurer and Sargeant-At-Arms will need this time to make sure the roster of paid alleys is up to date. As always, only one person from each alley in good standing will have voting privileges, casting a vote on behalf of their alley’s membership; but all members would be able to share their thoughts and are encouraged to participate.

Below are Proposals that have been submitted for consideration at our Spring Meeting. Please discuss these with your alley, and be prepared for your alley representative to cast a vote on behalf of your alley regarding these proposals.

REGARDING COMPETITION: Due to a reduction in attendance at recent MCA Round Ups, these are the FACTS: Each year the number of competitors in Make-up have drastically reduced. We need 12 judges to judge these competitions. We actually have more judges than competitors. Therefore, we propose that we combine ALL make-up categories into one. We will have 5 judges. These judges will each be well-versed in history, make-up application and overall appearance. Numbers are declining and we are getting as little as ONE competitor in any given category. Still, judges have to be secured for that ONE entry, and there is NO real competition and a medal is pretty much guaranteed. We realize most competitors are not open to pooling all types of clowns into one make-up category, and that this proposal has been turned down by the membership before. But it is time to seriously consider making this a REAL competition! *(Submitted by Competition Co-Directors Robbie Levensbaum and Annette Darragh)*

REGARDING COMMITTEES: Any committee (i.e LAA, Round-up, Jr. Joey, etc.) should not have authority to approve of their work. When a committee makes their final recommendations on their respective project, the executive committee members are the only group to approve or deny the recommendations. All recommendations should be submitted to the executive committee members for approval. *(Submitted by Darryn Chupp, Crazy Clown Klub)*



A REASON TO SMILE

By Mary "Petals" Ernst

Although it may be chilly outside, we need to continue to remember to warm others with our smiles and hugs. Clowns should smile all the time. It is in our hearts and genes to be that way. With all the crazy things going on all around us, at least we have control of that and we **MUST** share it. There are too many people going around with frowns on their faces. Let them know that it takes more muscles to frown than to smile! Frowns make yucky lines in your faces as you get older. Smiles make cute wrinkles! Smiles make your eyes sparkle and make your mouth turn up!



Calling ALL Jr. Joeys

Do you have any Jr. Joeys in your group (ages 8-15) that could benefit from

some additional training? Many clown conferences have dropped their Jr. Joey programs, but we don't want that to happen with MCA! We know our Jr. Joeys are our future, and so we are working to insure that the Jr. Joey program grows along with MCA's regular membership, as we reach out for new members.

Many of you have mentioned that it is just too hard for kids to get out of school for three days to attend our annual conference. We want to make it easier for you to get permission, and have created a "packet" with a letter to present to principals and teachers from our board explaining the educational opportunities available to our Jr. Joeys. See a sample letter on our website (Jr. Joey page) or contact J.J. Director Laura Anderson or Assistant Chief Joey Angela Gonzalez (contact info on page 2) for more information regarding this packet and how to get one!

- Even faking a smile will help you get in a better mood.
- Smiling slows the heart and relaxes the body.
- Smiling increases productivity.
- Around 50% of people will smile back if you smile at them.
- Smiling is a painkiller and can boost your mood.
- Smiling makes you seem more trustworthy.
- Smiling helps the body on a cellular level.
- Smiling makes you more creative.
- Smiling is free!
- Smiling is like medicine.
- People who smile consistently are more likely to have healthy marriages.
- People have difficulty frowning when they look at other subjects who are smiling.

There are loads more reasons to smile! Smile just because.
Mary "Petals" Ernst, Clowns of Waukesha Alley Pres.

ACCEPTING PAYMENTS ONLINE



Did you know that you can now pay your alley's dues or register for convention and pay online with a credit/debit card or a PayPal account? Starting February 23rd, we can now accept payments online. Visit the membership page to pay dues (make sure you get them in early to make sure your alley gets a vote at the ONLINE Spring meeting) or the 2020 Round-Up page to register for convention! **Please note that there is a minimal fee for the convenience of submitting payments online (charged by the credit card company) and that cost has already been added into the subscription/registration prices shown on our site.



SUNSHINE CORNER

Please keep the following members and their families in your thoughts and your prayers:

Continue your prayers for:
Lonna "Chips" Temkin
431 Barker Road
Michigan City, IN 46360

Still dealing with ongoing health issues:

Michelle "Shellie Belle" Lindy
4510 Flint Lake Gateway
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Recovering from a nasty fall:

Susie "Gramma" Baker
8419 Bermuda Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Recovering from knee replacement surgery:

Lynette "Nettie Belle" McDonald
3014 Hollywood Ave.
Michigan City, IN 46360

Please let us know if you have others in your alley or the association who would like a card and need our thoughts and prayers.

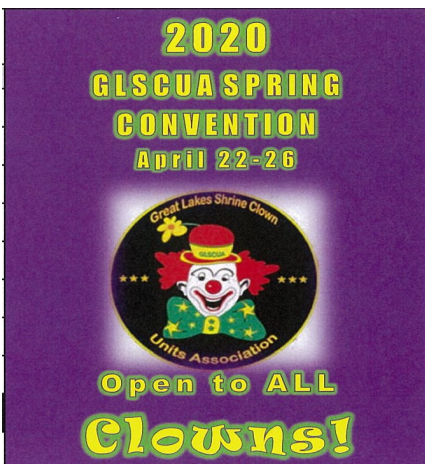
Check out these other Clown Training Opportunities for you and your alley members!!



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.worldclown.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.coaicongvention.squarespace.com



Detroit Marriott Southfield
27033 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, MI 48034
888-519-6568
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.glscua.net
Facebook: Great Lakes Shrine Clowns 2020
Rick "Shifty" Gaines
586-779-7449
shrinergaines@yahoo.com

Take time to help support and promote the activities of other organizations in your area that promote the art of clowning! We're all in this together, and as the art of clowning grows, we ALL grow!
Keep on clowning!!



2020 Midwest Clown Association 47th Annual Round-Up October 7-11, 2020; Grand Rapids, MI



Questions? Call or E-Mail Mark "Neon" Ovanin (248-431-5768; movanin@comcast.net) or Wayne "Wink" Rongholt (262-694-6143); wayne.rongholt@abbott.com

REGISTER TODAY!!

FULL REGISTRATION*:

Oct. 13, 2019-Feb. 29, 2020: \$150.00

Mar. 1, 2020-Aug. 31, 2020: \$165.00

Sept. 1, 2020 and at the door: \$175.00

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

ONE DAY REGISTRATION: \$45.00 (does not include meals)

EXTRA MEAL TICKETS: Theme Party—\$25;

Lifetime Achievement Luncheon—\$30;

Awards Banquet—\$40

FEATURING: Nicole "Maggie the Clown" Portwood
(Ringling Bros, Disney, Six Flags, International Circus/India)



Make checks payable to:

Midwest Clown Association**

Mail to: Wayne Rongholt

7719 34th Avenue

Kenosha, WI 53142

**Returned Checks will be assessed a fee of \$45.00.

No Refunds after September 6, 2020.

2020 Midwest Clown Association Round-Up Registration

(Separate registration must accompany each individual registering)

Name Check here if you're a Jr. Joey

Clown Name

Address (include City, State, Zip)

Phone

E-mail First Time at an MCA Round-Up?
 Yes No

Alley Affiliation (if applicable)

Banquet Meal Options

Meat Vegetarian Gluten-Free



Make your hotel reservation directly:

Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids-Airport

5700 East 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 957-1770

(\$92.00 per night plus applicable fees and taxes.)



Hotel rooms must be reserved before Sept. 2, 2020 to get the discounted rate. Mention MCA for discount.

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



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, 2020—Lifetime Achievement Nominations Due
March 1, 2020—Round-Up Registration Rate increases
May 1, 2020—Hall of Fame Applications Due
May 2, 2020—MCA ONLINE Spring Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 1, 2020—2nd Round-Up Registration Rate increase
Oct. 7-11, 2020—47th Annual MCA Round-Up

3-RING NEWS UPCOMING DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
April 24, 2020	April 17, 2020
June 26, 2020	June 19, 2020
August 28, 2020	August 21, 2020
October 30, 2020	October 23, 2020
December 18, 2020	December 11, 2020

IF UNDELIVERABLE, PLEASE RETURN TO:

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

Place Postage Here

Visit us on FACEBOOK:
Midwest Clown Association