

MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

# 3-Ring News

Volume II, Issue 2

April 18, 2019

# Spring has sprung

**FINALLY! MAYBE. HOPEFULLY?**

## SPRING MEETING DETAILS

That's right! Spring is **FINALLY** here! Maybe? Hopefully? (No telling in the Midwest!) That means it's time for our Midwest Clown Association **Spring Membership Meeting!!!** Don't forget that the date for the Spring Meeting was changed by an online vote of Alley Representatives back in December, 2018! The official date of this year's meeting is now set

for **Saturday, May 4, 2019** at 9:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids-Airport, 5700 East 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, in Salon E/F. *(The board will meet at 8:30 a.m.)*

There is a block of rooms set aside at the hotel at the Round-Up discounted rate of \$89/night. Call now to reserve your room: 616-957-1770.



## DUES ARE OVERDUE



Make sure to get your 2019 alley dues paid in time to have a representative vote at the Spring meeting!! Mail your alley's \$50 dues to:

**Midwest Clown Association  
Wayne Rongholt, Treasurer  
7719 34th Avenue  
Kenosha, WI 53142**

Or bring them with you to the Spring Meeting! Questions? Contact Wayne: 262-694-6143  
[jrongholt03@yahoo.com](mailto:jrongholt03@yahoo.com)

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If your alley (or group of friends) has ever considered hosting a Round-Up, NOW's the time! We're still looking for a 2020 Host Alley, and have all the tools and help you need to make the convention a success. Contact Chief Joey Mark Ovanin with interest or questions!



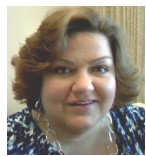
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NO PHOTO  
AVAILABLE  
AT THIS TIME

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AT THIS TIME

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# HALL OF FAME

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. We have two applications in so far for 2019...will you be joining them? Check your points and get your application in!! Deadline for application is **May 1st**.

## Clowning in the Classroom

By John "Luther" Hanewall

Parades, Birthday parties, Company picnics, Church services, and special holiday functions. All great venues for clowning, but have you ever given thought to going into the classroom and "teaching" about a specific subject while in clown?

I happen to have the advantage of being a Visiting Instructor with Beloit College this year in their Psychology Department. (Ok, hold all the wise cracks and jokes about a clown in the Psych Department for another time.) Anyway, while developing the syllabus for the term, I happened to notice that there was a chapter on Stress. Now you may be thinking, what's funny about Stress and where does the "clowning" come in? Well, after getting an okay from the Head of the Psych Department, which is the third step (I'll come back to the rest of the steps), I took the time to develop a "program/lesson" built around the topic of stress, incorporating both the textbook and clowning skills. I titled the program, "A Humorous Look at

Stress" (subtitled) "Why do I say I feel Funny?"

Without getting into the specific details of the program, it consisted of balloon twisting, a significant amount of classroom interaction, a PowerPoint presentation, accompanied by numerous humorous props, and fortunately, a lot of laughter. All the time, while the focus was on the topic of stress in a learning



## NO...YOU ARE NOT DREAMING!!

Due to some changes at our Host Hotel, the dates for the 2019 Round-Up were changed to **October 8-13, 2019**. Same location and same alley hosts.

So, mark your calendars with our new dates: **OCTOBER 8-13, 2019;**

and make plans to join Sneezel and the rest of your clown friends for a great



time of fun and fellowship! Registration rates increase September 1st, so get your registrations in today!

Get ready to live the "Disney Dream!" Join us Oct. 8-13, 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan! You don't wanna miss it!!

# LAST WALKAROUND

## Earl "Orky" Temkin—Michiana Clowns



Earl "Orky the Clown" Temkin, age 81, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, at his home in Michigan City, Indiana. He and Lonna "Chips" Temkin, married for 57 years, have been faithful members/attenders of the Midwest Clown Association for MANY years, serving in many different roles, and helping to host/plan several Round-Ups. Earl was also a faithful member of the World Clown Association, and served as President of WCA from

2004-2005, and was named the 2012 Clown of the Year by that organization. He also was a faithful member of the Michiana Clowns, serving terms in various board positions, including president, and he helped teach their clown classes to train and coach future clowns. Earl received the Midwest Clown Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, for his efforts to keep the art of clowning alive and MCA a growing, thriving organization. He often mentored other clowns in and outside of his alley, and especially loved encouraging Junior Joeys.



He made such an impact on his community that the local cable access channel (Channel 99) featured footage of him during two "News and Views" segments after his passing. Who can forget the last performance of Orky at a Round-Up, complete with pink tutu, acting out with the Michiana Clowns in 2017's "Looking for Work" Circus skit, where the alley took home the coveted Alley Skit 1st Place Trophy?

Earl was always seeking ways to make people smile and laugh. Upon his passing, his wife Lonna passed on information to fellow alley members regarding the funeral and cable programming, requesting that they show up to pay their respects in full clown. She ended by saying, "Let's spread laughter, not tears. Orky wants it that way!" A clear tribute to the kind of life lived by the man many of us called friend: Earl "Orky" Temkin.



# Let's Paint the Midwest.....RED!!

By Brian "Gunky" Waltman

(additional photos contributed by Irene "SlugBugz" Spudic)

*"If by chance some day you're not feeling well and you should remember some silly thing I've said or done and it brings back a smile to your face or a chuckle to your heart, then my purpose as your clown has been fulfilled." - Red Skelton*

This quote by Red Skelton is one of my favorites! We, as clowns, do our best to help others smile! Red Skelton has long been remembered as "one of America's clowns." Red was on television in the 1950s, 60s & 70s. Since then, an entire generation has grown up and never saw him perform. He created some of the most memorable characters on Television. No one will ever forget his Freddie the Freeloader tramp character! ....or *WILL* they!? Thankfully, his films live on, and episodes of his TV show are available on DVD. But, generally, only people who remember him would pursue finding those mediums.

So how do you keep his type of good clean comedy alive? How do you endear one of the funniest, most talented men in America to people young and old? Answer: A *MUSEUM* and *Festival* to honor his legacy in comedy! That is just what the Red Skelton Museum Foundation has done!

For those who may not know, "Red" Skelton was born Richard Bernard Skelton on July 18, 1913 in Vincennes, Indiana. **THAT'S RIGHT!! Red Skelton was a MIDWEST BOY!** The Red Skelton Museum Foundation opened the Red Skelton Museum of American

Comedy in 2013 on the 100th anniversary of his birth and added a festival and parade to commemorate the legacy of this truly funny man. With the benevolence of Red's wife Lothian, the museum wants to share their favorite son's funny legacy with the rest of the world. The festival is always the weekend nearest his birthday.

Ok, that's great, BUT what does that have to do with CLOWNS!?!? Well, that is the point of my article. RED grew up *LOVING* the circus and CLOWNS!! In fact, Red's father, who passed away before Red was born, was a CLOWN on the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. Red had such an affinity for clowns, he became an entertainer and started working on medicine shows around the age of 10. He also *LOVED* CLOWNS so much he painted them on canvas as a hobby. Eventually, his ex-wife convinced him to display his clown art at a Las Vegas show. The art was so popular, his clown paintings and



lithographs became a revenue stream for Red.

Another monument to his influence on comedy is the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center, constructed by Vincennes University in Vincennes, IN. Each year around his birthday in July, the Museum hosts a parade and festival to honor Red's Legacy. During the short-lived Red Skelton



# Painting the Midwest...RED

(Continued from page 5)

Clown School, the parade had been billed as the “*parade of a thousand clowns.*” Unfortunately, the clown school is no longer in existence, but they still have the parade and festival. Although, sadly, the number of participating clowns has dwindled.

The last few years, a hand full of clowns from the Midwest Clown Association and I have participated in the parade and festival. Being a part of the parade is a volunteer opportunity.

With other events as part of the festival, it is more of a destination type of parade--go for the parade,

stay for the fun. Since Red loved clowns so much, they are a featured part of the parade and secondary stars of the activities. The small town parade usually ends on the Museum grounds.

As I said, the clowns are highlighted and encouraged to par-

ticipate in the other events during the entire festival weekend. The weekend really is a very nice experience. Friday night there is usually a comedy show offered for a reason-

able price of around \$10. In years past, a wonderful Red Skelton impersonator named Brian “Red Skelton” Hoffman has performed. If you have never seen him, he does a spot-on

impression of Red. His show alone is worth the travel. Clowns also get free admission to the Red Skelton Museum during the festival, and a green

room is also provided for the clowns to cool off. If you participate in the parade, you can even relive those college days and live in a dorm for **one night free** (there is a nominal fee for an additional night). And since you share the dorm and a room with other clowns...you never know when a balloon jam may break out.

Saturday is parade and festival day. There are various events in the morning, with the parade being the highlight around 11:00 a.m. Following the parade,



there is a small stage where you can perform anything you wish (—given that it is clean and appropriate for all ages, since that is the way Red performed...clean

wholesome material.) There is always a donut eating contest (an homage to one of Red’s classic routines) and a bathtub race, which is funny even without clowns; but a clown team is always a highlight with the crowd.

In 2017, “to bring awareness to a performer that represents Red Skelton’s humor,” the Museum started presenting the “America’s Clown” Award to recognize other American clowns. In fact, Dick Van Dyke and Carol Burnett were the first two recipients. The last few years, Red’s widow, Lothian, has also been in attendance.

She shares the same love for clowns and is a wonderfully warm and kind lady.

If It seems like I am trying to

sell you on the idea of being a part of this charming festival, well... I AM. This little town gave birth to one of the funniest *clean* comedians in the world. And since he is widely regarded



# Clowning in the Classroom

(Continued from page 3)

environment. In fact, one student, at the end of the program stated, "If all my classes were this fun, I'd probably make the Dean's list."

That being said, it goes without saying that there are hundreds of topics that could be presented in the classroom by a clown, which would be funny, yet educational in nature. And if you think about it, a lot of serious topics (bullying, stress, health topics, etc.) would lend themselves to some great opportunities for a clown, or two, to work up and present in a way that would grab your selected audience's attention, just by virtue of the novelty of having a clown teaching about the topic and having students learn about it in a fun manner.

So how does one go about doing this? Step One: Obviously, you need to come up with a topic of interest. Step Two: Select who your audience might be...grade school, middle school, high school, and yes, even college students. Step Three: Approach the person who is in charge (the principal, teacher, curriculum program developer, etc.) and let them know what you have in mind. Remember, you have to "sell" the idea. Step Four: Once you get the okay, design the program with your specific target audience in mind. This might mean tweaking your program if you use it for different groups. It might also mean changing your "normal" clown character. In this case, it allowed me to develop a new character,

"Professor Luther Von Fritzeneric." Step Five: As with anything, PRACTICE and refine the "program" (show). Finally, Step Six: Get feedback! This will allow you to decide if it is worth pursuing and doing again and/or perhaps give you ideas for other "programs."

This is just another way to introduce people to the "art of clowning" and step outside the traditional way people view clowns. Just think about this for a moment. Your child comes home from school and says, "Some clown came to my class today and taught us all about friendship." Your knee-jerk reaction might be, "that's no way to talk about your teachers!" On the other hand...what a unique educational experience for that child.

# Painting the Midwest...RED

as one of America's clowns and given his *love* of clowns: *it is compelling that a clown with a little availability might at least consider supporting his legacy and the museum.* In the opening quote of this article, Red identified himself as a clown, and moreover, set a standard for which all clowns should strive...bringing a smile to your face or a chuckle. After all...isn't that our purpose? What better motto for clowns to rally around and support.

Anne Pratt, Director of the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy, gave us a sneak peek into the upcoming festival:



*"This year we will have Brian Hoffman back again on Friday evening and JJ Jones, a world renowned mime from Kansas City, will*

*open for him and do street mime on Saturday. We also will be showing two of Red's films: "Merton of the Movies" hosted by Robert Strom (author of Virginia O'Brien biography) and "Du Barry Was A*

(Continued from page 6)

*Lady" with Red And Lucille Ball hosted by Annette Bochenic (a TCM Backlot columnist)."*



If you are interested in knowing more about The Red Skelton Museum, Festival & Parade, Anne is more than willing to answer any questions you might have and would love to have as many clowns involved as possible. You can reach her at [apratt@vinu.edu](mailto:apratt@vinu.edu) or 812-888-2105. For more information check out the museum webpage [redskeltonmuseum.org](http://redskeltonmuseum.org).



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](http://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](mailto:angela.gonzalez@indy.gov) or 317-840-1583. See below for submission deadlines.

### IMPORTANT DATES

May 1, 2019—Hall of Fame Applications Due

May 4, 2019—MCA Spring Meeting 9:00a.m. (Grand Rapids, MI)

Sept. 1, 2019—Round-Up Registration Rate increase

Oct. 8-13, 2019—46th Annual MCA Round-Up (Grand Rapids, MI)

### 3-RING NEWS UPCOMING DEADLINES

#### ISSUE DATE

June 21, 2019

August 23, 2019

October 25, 2019

December 20, 2019

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

June 13, 2019

August 15, 2019

October 17, 2019

December 12, 2019

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