

3-Ring News

Volume IV, Issue 4
August 31, 2021



Indianapolis is Calling YOUR Name!!!

Well, it's just a little over a month, and we will **FINALLY** be together in person! That's IF you sign up to attend this year's 47th Annual MCA Round-Up! It's gonna be the "bee's knees!" I know a lot of you were in a "wait and see" mode before registering to make sure we were actually going to be holding this year's convention. That has made our registration numbers to-date very low, and we're hoping to get an influx of registrations and hotel reservations in the next couple of weeks, so

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that we can breathe a "sigh of relief" that we can break even with this year's convention costs. I know there is still some anxiety over the lingering pandemic and new virus variants. There is currently no mask mandate or social gathering restrictions in place in Indianapolis. However, the Marion County Health Department still "recommends" people practice social distancing or wear masks in large gatherings. I do not wear a mask in my office at work, but I do wear one when I go into common areas in my office building. Even though I've been vaccinated, I just feel it alleviates my anxiety, as well as makes others feel more comfortable around me. We are working closely with the hotel to insure that cleaning and sanitizing is being done more frequently, and that all city, state and federal guidelines are being followed to create a safe, clean and healthy environment. We will be providing personal hand sanitizers and masks in our goodie bags at registration, and will have extras on hand.

I know some will still be nervous about a large gathering, but rest assured, our Host Group is committed to doing whatever it

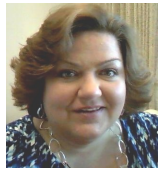
takes to conduct a **SAFE** and **HEALTHY** convention.

All that being said, we are **EXCITED** about reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones at this year's Round-Up! We have some great instructors, with classes in everything from make-up to magic, puppets to parades, storytelling to show development, music to movement, cane tricks to costuming, and **SO MUCH MORE!** Check out our website for a current schedule! There's something for everyone!

Of course, there's always our Theme Party, which is always a big hit! Start thinking of your costume to fit our "Don't Stop BEE-lievin'!" theme! And our Lifetime Achievement Award luncheon, with five deserving recipients being honored this year, due to previous year illnesses and cancellations. (Read more about our honorees on page 4.) And of course, competitions and the Awards Banquet are always fun for spectators and participants alike! So, won't you consider joining us for the 47th Annual Round-Up in Indianapolis! It's not too late to sign up! We think you'll find there is fun waiting there for everyone!!



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MCA BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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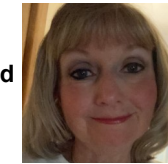


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NO PHOTO
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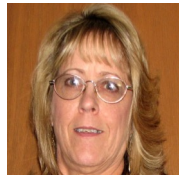


NO PHOTO
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AT THIS TIME

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214 W. 14th Avenue
Coal Valley, IL 61240
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2021 Midwest Clown Association 47th Annual Round-Up October 13-17, 2021; Indianapolis, IN



Questions? Call or E-Mail Angie "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez (317-840-1583; angela.gonzalez@indy.gov) or Lynda "Kremepuff" Hayhurst (219-743-5278; haylyn2004@yahoo.com)

2021 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



REGISTER TODAY!!

FULL REGISTRATION*:

EARLY BIRD til Oct. 30, 2020: \$145.00

Nov. 1, 2020-Feb. 28, 2021—\$155.00

Mar. 1, 2021-Aug. 31, 2021: \$165.00

Sept. 1, 2021 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 any meal tickets)

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

**FEATURING: Nicole
"Maggie the Clown"
Portwood
(Ringling Bros, Disney, Six**



Make checks payable to:

MCA 2021 Round Up**

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, 2021.

Make your hotel reservation directly:

INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST

7202 E. 21st Street

Indianapolis, IN 46219

Phone: (317) 352-1231

(\$109.00 per night plus applicable fees and taxes.)



Hotel rooms must be reserved before Sept. 1, 2021 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.

YOU CAN MAKE RESERVATIONS ONLINE WITH THE \$109 RATE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1606923250987&key=GRP&app=resvlink>



This year's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award winners are Dan "Fitzwilly" Langwell and Brian "Gunky" Waltman. Due to an unforeseen illness in 2019 and the 2020 Round-Up cancellation, there will actually be FIVE Lifetime Achievement Awards given out at this year's Luncheon, including Thomas "Cappy" Cass (2019), Angela "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez, and Suzy "Rusty" Levensbaum (2020). 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.



With over 40 years of clowning under his belt, Tom "Cappy" Cass, a retired firefighter and current funeral home director, has attended all but 5 of the annual MCA Round-Ups. He is active as a volunteer in his community and has served MCA in numerous ways over the years: Treasurer, Lecturer, Judge, Jr. Joey Co-Chair, Round-Up Host Chair, Competitor, Show Emcee, Hospitality Room Host, and is a member of the MCA Hall of Fame.

Angela "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez has been clowning in the Indianapolis area since 1989. While she didn't "find" MCA until 2005, she has been attending and serving the organization faithfully since then, serving as: all Board positions except for Treasurer, Editor of the 3-Ring News and Funny Papers, Round-Up Host Committee and Chair, Competitor, Lecturer, Judge and Webmaster.



Dan "Fitzwilly" Langwell has been clowning in the Midwest for decades, mentoring several other MCA attendees over the years. He initiated and ran the annual "Spring Fling" weekend mini-conference for several years in northern Indiana. He has been actively involved with MCA over the years as: Competitor, Judge, Lecturer, Jr. Joey Co-Director, Assistant Chief Joey, Chief Joey, and Round-Up Host Committee.

Suzy "Rusty" Levensbaum caught the clowning bug from her father Russell "HoHo" Gadeke when she was only 12 years old. She and clown hubby, Robbie "Robo" Levensbaum were married at City Hall, but then had a full wedding in Clown at the Medinah Shrine Circus with 4,500 witnesses and an elephant as the maid of honor. Suzy has been active with MCA since 1984 and served faithfully as: Competitor, Judge, Co-Lecturer, Jr. Joey Co-Instructor, and as the behind-the-scenes glue that holds the Competition Committee together for the past several years.



You could say the red nose runs in Brian "Gunky" Waltman's family, as his dad, David "Poppers" Waltman, and sister Shari were also clowns. Brian initially trained with Janet "Jelly Bean" Tucker and the Calumet Clowns, and then joined Krazy Clown Klub in 2012, where he has served as an officer every year since. He started attending MCA in 2001, and has been involved as: Competitor, Judge, Contributor to the 3-Ring News (awarded Editor's Choice Award in 2019), Lecturer this year, Round-Up Host Committee, and has been awarded the All-Around Clown award, as well as being inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame.

COMPETITION 2021 TWEAKS

Due to anxiety regarding the lingering pandemic and COVID variants; our alley representatives met in a ZOOM meeting on Tuesday, August 17th, and voted on the following items regarding this year's competition. Please keep in mind that these "tweaks" **ONLY** affect **THIS YEAR'S** Round-Up competitions and will not be incorporated into our official competition rules.

1) Face Painting. It was suggested we limit face-painting to arm and hand painting only this year due to COVID. The members voted **AGAINST** that suggestion. Competitors must choose their own models and provide the model's name when they sign up to compete. Competitors are also limited to a last-minute drawing of one of three subjects they must paint. (This year's categories are: Tribal, Halloween, and Insects.) Therefore, we decided to give competitors the opportunity to work out their "canvas" with their model on an individual basis, to decide whether the competitor will paint on the face or on the hand/arm.

2) Balloons. It was suggested all balloon competitors use a pump and that no balloons be mouth-blown. While judges don't normally pick up the balloon sculptures or handle the nozzle in any way, if a balloon bursts in the room during competition, there is no way to insure any bacteria from a mouth-blown balloon is not sprayed into the atmosphere of the room. Therefore, the membership voted that, for 2021, pumps must be used to inflate all balloons in the balloon competition, and no balloons are to be inflated by mouth.

3) Residency/Alley Membership. Our rules require that all competitors must have paid for a full conference registration and must either reside within the 7-state region of the MCA (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio or Wisconsin) or belong to an alley that is a dues-paying member of MCA. For **THIS YEAR ONLY**, in order to encourage more registrations (drawing from other states), our alleys voted that non-7-state residents and non-alley members can compete as long as they pay for a full conference registration. While these competitors **ARE** eligible to receive a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place medal at the 2021 Round-Up based on the judges' point totals; their points can**NOT** be used toward an induction into the Midwest Clown Association Hall of Fame. The MCA Alley membership felt that the Hall of Fame award should be reserved for those who live and clown in the Midwest region on a regular basis, either based on residency or membership in a Midwest alley.

AGAIN....these provisions will only be in place for the 2021 Round-Up, and will not be a part of our official competition Rules. For a full copy of our competition rules, visit our website:

www.midwestclownassociation.org



If you have gently used clown items (costumes, accessories, props, books, videos, memorabilia) and want to sell them without dealing with online shipping costs; bring them to the Round-Up to the Rummage Room. Contact Angie Gonzalez (angela.gonzalez@indy.gov) for more information and instructions on how to sell your items in the Rummage Room.



GOODIE BAG DONATIONS

If you have items you would like to donate for the Round-Up Goodie

Bags each attendee receives at registration, contact Angie Gonzalez (angela.gonzalez@indy.gov) or send donations to her at: 8419 Bermuda Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

MENTORS NEEDED

We're looking for folks willing to pair up with First-Timers at



this year's Round-Up to help answer questions, introduce them to others, and share tips and tricks to get the most out of the Round-Up experience. If you'd be willing to be a mentor, contact Angie Gonzalez at angela.gonzalez@indy.gov.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

By Brian "Gunky" Waltman

It's been a while since I wrote an article for the 3 Ring News. Relax...I am certainly not going to write a review about 2020. We all went through it together! I trust this article finds you well and looking FORWARD. Forward to getting out, forward to performing and most importantly forward to bringing smiles and laughter. After last year, THAT is the exact medicine the world NEEDS right now!

Which brings me to the topic of this article. As we venture out and start to perform again, I thought it might be a good time to "tune up" our clown *character*.

Recently, I was having a conversation with a clown after an event. He relayed a series of stories about kids asking about his clown's wardrobe. Specifically, his shoes and why are they so long? He had a wonderful answer prepared about his overgrown toenails. It was hysterical!

It made me think: Often, we just think about our look: how is my make up, how does my wardrobe look, are my props in good shape? But how often do we consider our response to children when they ask us specific questions about our clown?

A quick side note here: my father was a clown and also portrayed Santa in the local mall. I loved to hear the stories he would tell about children AND adults who would share parts of their life during the time they sat on his lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas. He would also tell stories of how he had to "think on his feet" and come up with an answer to a child's question about Santa's life, his reindeer, Mrs. Claus, how he enters their house without a chimney, what he likes to eat. You get the picture. Those who portray Santa are some of the BEST at having a "backstory." Another Santa I know has some of these "answers" printed as trivia questions on cards he gives to children. Now that's preparation!

These conversations got me to think a bit deeper about my own clown. When we first start clowning, it's usually all about learning! We often rush into the how to's. How to make our wardrobe, how to put on makeup, how to perform a trick or perform in a skit, how to work a parade. But, the one "how to" we often forget is: How to be *relatable*. The moments shared in the paragraphs above, show moments where Santa or the Clown were able to interact with kids in a smaller, more intimate environment ranging from a small group setting to a one to one setting. Those are the moments that will truly stick with a child for their entire lifetime. Did you, as a clown, relate to them on a human level and show them another layer of your clown character?

A seasoned clown, whom I respect greatly, suggested having a fully developed backstory for your clown.

What were your clown's parents like? How did they grow up? What foods do they like? What foods taste "FUNNY?"

As we venture out to perform again, it might be a good time to examine the character of our clown and answer some of these questions children might ask about our clown.

I suggest before you go to bed some evening, take a few minutes and think like a child. Ask these types of questions of your clown, then come up with some answers to those questions! Make them as funny as possible, but also, make some of the answers relatable and believable. If you think of these things ahead of time, you will be ready in those "off the cuff" moments. Of course, you can still "ad lib" answers, but try to remember what you said in case that same child shows up at a later show and quizzes you. Trying to create your story helps eliminate possible "gotcha" moments.

Here's an example to prove my point....Quick...what is your favorite TV show?! Now, who is your favor-

ite character on that show!?? Why do you like those characters? It's because you are INVESTED in them. You have an idea of who they are and what makes them tick! You WANT to see how they will respond in any given situation.

The same with your clown!! Your character will act certain ways based on their *character*. Maybe your clown is a cop and he doesn't take any guff from hobo clowns. But, give him a soft side....maybe he can't pass by a dog or cat on the street without stopping to pet them or give them a treat. It shows, while he may mean business when chasing off the Hobos, he is a person deep down and has feelings, too. Then, you can incorporate some of this character into how your clown will perform in a skit or along a parade route.

Show your audience clowns are people too! ...complete with extreme hopes, dreams, flaws, successes and disappointments.

As an added benefit to being relatable, we can also reduce the social response to "scary clowns." People will defend a clown they know! They will say things like: He/she is not a scary clown....they are funny, they are silly, they have a pet bunny, or that clown let me hold their special hat during a show. They might even feel privileged to know "inside information" about your clown character, like: that clown told me they have to sleep upside down to get their hair to look like that!

You've invested in the tools to be a clown. Why not use a little personality chisel and chip away at the exterior of your clown and sculpt the soul of your clown into someone every child wants to be with and hang your coloring page in their room.

Bedtime is not the only time for a good story....every moment you are in makeup is an opportunity to write your story for an audience...be it many or even just an audience of ONE. So, what's your story?

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, RECOGNIZE YOUR ALLEY, CONGRATULATE AN
AWARD-WINNING MEMBER or PROMOTE AN UPCOMING EVENT in the 2021
MCA Round-Up Program Book!!!**



Indiana Alleys Joyful Joeys 4 Jesus, Calumet Clowns, and Winner's Circle are hosting the 47th annual convention of the Midwest Clown Association this year. It will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indianapolis Marriott East hotel. One to two hundred entertainers from the Midwest and elsewhere are expected to attend. The convention will take place October 13-17, 2021.

Your advertising presence in the program book would be greatly appreciated.



**Program Book
advertising rates**

Full Page (7.5" x 10") \$100

Half Page (3.5" x 10" or 7.5" x 5") \$75

Quarter Page (3.5" x 5") \$50

Eighth Page (business card size) \$25

Back Cover \$200

Inside Back Cover \$150

Inside Front Cover \$150

All ads must be camera ready or a set-up fee of \$30 will be charged, and your ad must be postmarked by September 1, 2021. Returned checks will be assessed a fee of \$45.

Make all checks/money orders payable to "MCA 2021 Round Up" and mail to: Angela Gonzalez, 8419 Bermuda Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46219. E-mail camera-ready ad as an Adobe (*.pdf) attachment to: angela.gonzalez@indy.gov.

Questions? Contact Angie at 317.840.1583.



THE "BUZZ" CONTINUES FOR THE 2021 MCA ROUND-UP!

Turns out that "Don't Stop BEE-lievin'!" is an appropriate theme for this year's Annual Round-Up Conference. It has been a difficult year, and way too many have lost hope and are starting to give up. But MCA members are known for their perseverance and finding ways around obstacles!! If you haven't registered, you don't wanna miss out on our featured instructor (see below) and all the other fun activities we have planned! Our 2021 Host committee consists of members from Indiana alleys Joyful Joys 4 Jesus, Calumet Clowns, and Winner's Circle Alley. Special hotel rate is available through September 13th! And the \$165 registration rate is extended through Labor Day....get those postmarked by September 5th!

FEATURED LECTURES by MAGGIE the CLOWN!

"Learn to Make BEE-autiful Music on Your Ukulele!" This class is perfect for the beginner but folks who can already play can come and have some fun too! Bring a ukulele and a tuner! Participation is much easier that way, but if you do not have one, know you are welcome anyway! Ukes are amazingly cheap, small and fit in a carry-on, and are so easy to learn! With just 5 minutes a day, you can be playing in no time at all! Covered in this class are the basics, including 2-3 note songs. If advanced players are present, we will learn Daydream BEE-believer! NOTE! You can purchase ukulele sets that include a ukulele, tuner, storage bag etc. on amazon for as little as \$30! These are PERFECT beginner ukuleles and I have been using them for years! And they come in fun colors!

"BEE-ginning Cane Tricks!" Canes are an awesome way to "BEEf" up your clown act! Canes are rarely used by clowns so they are a great way to stand out in a crowd! Lightweight, portable, and airline friendly! You will learn over a dozen moves! Class will include canes, so no need to bring one unless you use one and would like to see if you can learn the tricks with your own! We will use simple canes with no hook but I will be demonstrating my cane act which does utilize the hook style.

"BEEdazzle That Show!" Writing/putting together a themed show is fun and easier than you think! I will give you tools, tricks and tips to customize any show! Clients love to see you have taken a little extra time to make your presentation unique and special for their event. This class will focus specifically on the "BEE" themed show I put together for my presentation that you will have seen!

"Dance to the BEEt!" Do you incorporate any dancing in your show? Do you think you cannot dance? Do you think you look silly when you dance? Well, that should work just fine for this class! Sneaking in a few dance moves can really make for a fun show! Whether you start with a jig, end with a



Nicole "Maggie the Clown" Portwood, our 2021 Round-Up Featured Performer/Lecturer, has over 30 years of clowning, at more than 4,000 events, both nationally and internationally, under her belt. For more information about our 2021 guest, check out her website here: www.maggiethelclown.com/

jig, or teach the kids a jig in the middle of your show as a "seventh inning stretch", dancing is a great way to make everyone smile. We will warm up with some fan favorites like YMCA, Macarena, Hokey Pokey, all of which you may already know but once you're loosened up, we will move on to some steps you can build a routine with! We will end the class with a routine worthy of "Dancing with the Stars"! Ok, maybe we won't look that good, but we will give it our BEEst!



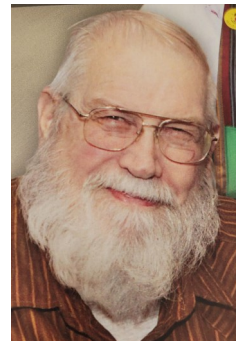
Larry "Slowpoke" Tucker was born in Arkansas in February, 1943, and passed from this life on December 25, 2020. Larry and his wife, Janet "Jelly Bean" Tucker were permanent fixtures at Midwest Clown Association Round-Ups, and were active members of the Calumet and Michiana Clowns Alleys. I first thought Larry's clown name was "Diddly-Squat" because he was wearing a name badge with that name. But there was Janet with her accompanying badge reading "I'm in charge of Diddly Squat!" Larry was known for his balloon sculptures and his "Donald Duck

voice." He was a true clown at heart and always had a joke or punch line ready to make you smile or laugh. Larry served in the Army, where he met his wife Janet at a USO event 54 years ago. Together they had three children and four grandchildren. He retired after 37 1/2 years working at Ford Motor Company. Besides clowning, Larry enjoyed cowboy movies, collecting guns as a lifetime member of the NRA, and fellowship with the Seniors' Ministry group at his church.

Greg Chalmers, who worked with Larry and Janet for many years with the kids' program at the Fellowship of Christian Magician's conventions, summed up the special quality that was Larry "Slowpoke" Tucker. "Larry always had this twinkle

in his eye, a twinkle that kids responded to and understood. Larry's quiet way when working with kids and that twinkle in his eye, that

spirit he had, that was what I always wanted to learn from Larry. It was the spirit of a gentle clown. Because of that spirit, Larry inspired my kids' clowning as much as anyone has, and for that I will forever be grateful." May his legacy of love and laughter live on in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him!



DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR \$165 REGISTRATION RATE!! Get your registration in the mail postmarked by **September 5th**, or paid online by midnight on the 5th, and you can pay the August 31st Rate. Rate WILL increase on Labor Day, September 6th!

Deadline to insure you get the **HOTEL CONFERENCE RATE** is **Monday, September 13th**, so reserve your room today to insure availability and the discounted conference rate.



If you have alley members who are ill, hospitalized, have lost a loved one, or otherwise need a few extra thoughts and prayers coming their way; send their name and address along to the Sunshine Committee Chair and 3-Ring News Editor.

Sunshine Chair: Ruth "Poppyseed" Scheeringa, 5527 West 41st Avenue, Gary, IN 46408 (219) 616-9230
ruthscheeringa@aol.com

Watch for more
LAST WALKAROUND tributes in
upcoming 3-Ring News.

John "Luther" Hanewall's (Jesters, Jokers & Joeys) mother Peggy "P. Mima" Hanewall (former member of Cousin Otto's Alley) passed away on 07-18-21. Cards can be sent to:

John and Luan Hanewall
2829 Regent Street
Janesville, WI 53546

Jack "O'Hanse" Martin of Cousin Otto's Alley passed away 06-26-21. Please keep Marilyn "KLYPR" and Melissa "Twinkles" in your prayers, as Marilyn is also facing some health issues.

Cards can be sent to:

Marilyn and Melissa Martin
N5325 County Hwy D
Helenville, WI 53137



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

Sept. 1, 2021—Round-Up Registration Rate increases
Oct. 13-17, 2021—47th Annual MCA Round-Up—Indpls.

3-RING NEWS UPCOMING DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE

August 31, 2021
September 30, 2021
October 29, 2021
December 17, 2021

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

August 23 2021
September 23, 2021
October 22, 2021
December 10, 2021

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