

MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF FALL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 21, 2016 – MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

At 10:01 a.m. on May 21, 2016, the Spring Meeting of the Midwest Clown Association was convened and Sergeant-at-Arms Kathy Herdegen passed out voting paddles, agendas, and miscellaneous reports and reviewed the roster for paid dues status.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chief Joey Lucy Mahoney at 10:09 a.m. Board members present included Chief Joey Lucy Mahoney, Assistant Chief Joey and Immediate Past Chief Joey Jim Caffrey, Secretary Angie Gonzalez, Treasurer Hazel Ovanin, and Sergeant-at-Arms Kathy Herdegen.

Chief Joey Mahoney requested a moment of silence to recognize those in the armed services who have made the ultimate sacrifice to allow for freedom and the ability to have this meeting, and fallen clowns who had gone before and upheld this creative art form, teaching us to follow in their footsteps. She also included families and friends who are currently struggling and in need of prayers and support. Robbie Levensbaum asked that police officers be added to that list, as this past week was National Police Week.

ROLL CALL was taken by Sergeant-at-Arms Herdegen, who determined that we had a quorum to conduct business, as we had 14 paid member alleys present. Paid members present and their delegates were:

Calumet Clowns #78 – Lynda Hayhurst
Clowns Around Redford – Jan Jepson
Cousin Otto's Alley #22 – Darlene Malkow
Funny Bone Alley – Ruth Kaluf
Grand and Glorious Mid-Michigan Galaxy of Clowns #44 – Diane Cloutier
Hall of Fame of Midwest Clown Association – John Hanewall
Hoosier Clown Alley – Sandra Seymour
Jesters, Jokers, and Joeys – Luan Hanewall
Joyful Joeys 4 Jesus – Cheryl Wolf
Krazy Clown Klub – Patti Ummel
Michiana Clowns – Pat Bowers
OOP Alley – Tom Cass
Quad City Clown Troupe – Jamie Caffrey
Winners Circle Clown Alley #178 – Bill Young

Secretary's Note: Delegates from the following paid alleys arrived after the meeting was called to order:

A-OK Alley of Clowns – John Joseph
Niarome Clown Troupe – Janice Rozhon

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 3, 2015 Fall General Meeting in Merrillville, IN, were made available to alleys and reviewed.

M/S/P - Moved by Darlene Malkow, Seconded by Bill Young, to accept the minutes as presented – Motion Passed unanimously 14-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was available to alleys for review. Treasurer Hazel Ovanin stated that a couple of the Junior Joey Dealer Room purchases need an adjustment, with a reimbursement to the General Fund from the Junior Joey Fund. She added that she has also received a few dues payments today, and therefore, the General Fund balance will be slightly higher after those are processed.

M/S/P – Moved by John Hanewall, Seconded by Sandra Seymour, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented – Motion Passed unanimously 15-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Curtains: Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey reported that he has had no luck regarding logo backdrop curtains with the original suppliers that were recommended to him. He said that he has had offers to help him work with the company from China who do not speak English, but he has not yet had time to pursue that option. He said that the logos provided by last year's host committee have been made available for this year's Round-Up hosts. Brian Waltman asked if the Michigan vendor suggested by Marilyn Barrett in her 3-Ring Report is still being considered. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that this is one of the vendors suggested. Marilyn uses them quite frequently ordering backdrops for her photo sessions, but she was not able to provide a definite quote in time for this meeting.

Round-Up Lighting: Patti Ummel stated that Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey sent her a quote from a company associated with the host hotel to provide lighting for the Round-Up, but that option is not feasible. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that this company quoted approximately \$600 for one day's usage. Ms. Ummel stated that purchasing does not make sense, because they would have to figure out how and where to store them, as well as transport them to and from each Round-Up. She said that they are looking into some other options, and Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey is also looking closer at the provided quote to see if it can be adjusted, as there are items included they may not need. She said they learned of another possible option late last night and will continue to research the issue.

Coloring Book Contest: Chief Joey Mahoney stated that the coloring book printing has become too costly for her to continue to fund, and she has 35 coloring books left. She is considering options for those books, such as donating them to MCA or auctioning them off, and she is open to suggestions. Jill Siddall said that they donated one to their local library. Luan Hanewall suggested that one be given to the historian to keep in the MCA archives. Sandra Seymour suggested they could still do the coloring contest, and have some of those books left at the registration booth. Those who wanted to participate in the contest could pick out one page from the book to take and color. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that they could still hold the contest that way and prizes would not be necessary, and the winners can simply be announced. He said that in order to prevent further additional cost, those wishing to participate can bring their own crayons.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEDIA COMMITTEE: Treasurer Ovanin stated that she has nothing to report regarding the Website from Mark, except that he asks for information to post, and still does not always receive it. She said that the day he receives information, he posts it the same evening. Preston Eakins stated that he sent Mark some photos of Junior Joeys and was told he could not post photos of the juniors on the website. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that they should have signed photo releases on file from all registrants at the Round-Up, including releases signed by the parent or guardian of Junior Joeys, to use those photos on the website and to promote MCA. Lynda Hayhurst said that she will check last year's signed releases to make sure all Junior Joeys have a signed release, and then let the board know.

Robbie Levensbaum said that people have called him to tell him they cannot download the competition rules off the website. He said that he also tried to do so and could not open them. He said that they need to find a more user-friendly tool to post these documents so that everyone can open them or download them. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that the board will make a note of that and have Mark research what can be done.

Janet Tucker said that the 3-Ring News Report indicates a possible new website is being considered. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that Secretary Gonzalez will address that note when giving the 3-Ring report.

Kathy Herdegan stated that they got some of their information for the upcoming Round-Up to Mark late, but he has been very good at posting the information immediately.

Secretary Gonzalez provided a 3-Ring Report submitted by Marilyn Barrett, editor of the 3-Ring News (attached as Exhibit A). She stated that Marilyn is suggesting going completely digital, and profits from ads sold to conference vendors could go toward the Junior Joeys or a Gene Lee Scholarship. Secretary Gonzalez said that the 3-Ring has not met their deadlines for publication, and to date no hard copies have been mailed to paid subscribers. She said that the

post-Round-Up issue did not go out electronically until late January, a Gene Lee (the founder of the 3-Ring News) Commemorative issue went out early May, and another issue was just sent this past week, again electronically. She said that her concern is that those people who have paid subscriptions for hard copies of the newsletter are not receiving them, and she has no control over this distribution, but has to field those complaints because she is the one who distributes the electronic versions and solicits articles for the 3-Ring.

Secretary Gonzalez said that the board discussed the reference to a mock-up of a new website mentioned in Marilyn's report. Marilyn had reached out to Mark to offer her help with the website, but no one anticipated that her suggestion was to go with a completely different website vendor. Since the membership just approved a 3-year contract with our current web provider last year, it would not be fiscally prudent to consider a different site provider. The board, therefore, does not recommend a change in website provider at this time.

Janet Tucker stated that Marilyn mentions 100 subscribers, but the Treasurer's report only shows receipts for 38 paid subscriptions. She said that the digital blast of the newsletter was proposed in order to encourage vendors to take on sponsorships to reach more customers. However, the numbers and prices do not compute if there are only 38 hard copies that need to be printed and mailed. She said that she subscribes because she prefers a hard copy; and others who subscribe, do so because they do not use e-mail.

Treasurer Ovanin stated that as a vendor, she paid for a corporate sponsorship, but when she prepares a Halloween ad, and the paper does not go out until January, it is not really a good use of her time and money. She said that she, and the other corporate sponsor, did not renew this year; so the effort to try and gain corporate sponsors by reaching more people through distributing the newsletter digitally does not seem to be paying off. She added that if the newsletter goes completely digital, and there are no subscribers and no one is advertising, then MCA will end up having to pay if upgrades are needed in software or equipment to prepare the newsletter.

Luan Hanewall said that it is hard to sell subscriptions when people do not get what they are paying for. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that he and Secretary Gonzalez sat down with Marilyn in 2014 and set up a distribution schedule. At that time, Marilyn thanked them for holding her accountable. He said that MCA does not own the 3-Ring News, Marilyn does. That makes it difficult, because MCA solicits subscriptions, but they have no control over the product being delivered in a timely manner. He said that Secretary Gonzalez is soliciting quite a bit of information in her role as Secretary and in assisting Marilyn, and has offered to send out more frequent e-mail blasts to keep the lines of communication open and get information to members in a more timely manner, but MCA cannot use the 3-Ring name to do that, as they do not own it.

Janet Tucker asked if this would be a quarterly newsletter or more frequent, and if it would only include convention news and pertinent business, or if it could also include some educational articles and photos. Secretary Gonzalez said that she would be happy to send something out as often as monthly or every two months, and would be happy to include anything the members feel is important to include; information that they would like to see in a more timely manner. She said that she does not, however, always have access to photos. She said that she does order a personal copy of the Round-Up CD, so they would still be dependent on Marilyn to provide any photos. She said that she does not want to step on Marilyn's toes or make her feel she's trying to take over, when clearly Marilyn wants to continue handling the 3-Ring.

John Hanewall stated that Marilyn does a great job with photos and also with the 3-Ring News, but for people to pay for something and get nothing, that is not acceptable. He added that it is not fair for Secretary Gonzalez to have to apologize to people and field complaints when she has no control over the situation. He said that they had a similar situation back when Gene Lee was doing the newsletter. He asked if the MCA pays Marilyn for her photography services at the Round-Ups. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that she receives her hotel room free of charge and a free registration with all meal tickets included. He added that when he was in charge of the Round-Up, at the end of the convention, Marilyn provided him with a flash drive with all the pictures she had taken throughout the event. He said that it is his understanding that she does this at every Round-Up. Janet Tucker added that this is how it works with the World Clown Association (WCA) convention, as Marilyn also provides a flash drive to the board before leaving the convention. This is her trade-off for a room.

Cheryl Wolf asked if someone has offered to help Marilyn make the deadlines or take some of the load off. Secretary Gonzalez stated that she has. She said that she solicits articles and sends Marilyn content every quarter to include in the newsletter. She added that she also solicits and collects subscriptions to the newsletter and forwards that money to the Treasurer and keeps an updated Excel spreadsheet and sends new addresses to Marilyn as they come in. She said that she has also offered to print off labels for mailings to send to Marilyn, but Marilyn said she could run them from the Excel spreadsheet she received.

Sandra Seymour stated that with prior vendors at the Round-Ups, if those vendors failed to deliver product or do not follow-through, then they are simply not asked back. She said that a couple of years ago, those who paid for a photo CD did not receive them until the after the next year's Round-Up.

Tom Cass said that technically, Marilyn is a vendor, because she sells prints of the photos she takes, as well as CDs; and she takes in money for those sales. Other vendors have to pay for space in the dealer room to sell their wares, and they do not receive free rooms or registrations.

Secretary Gonzalez clarified that the 3-Ring News is a separate issue from the hiring of Marilyn to do photos for a Round-Up. She said that the host alleys negotiate with Marilyn directly regarding her services in that area, and although Marilyn uses her photos in the 3-Ring News, those are two separate issues. She said that Marilyn does not receive a room or free registration because she is the editor of the 3-Ring News. She said that she receives it as a part of her contract to take photos, and that is something each host alley handles. With regard to the CDs, that is something Marilyn does completely on her own. The money is collected directly by her and does not funnel through the MCA, and therefore, those who do not receive that product should contact Marilyn directly.

Janet Tucker said that she did receive several e-mails from people who had not received their CDs and she stayed on Marilyn to make sure CDs were sent out in a more timely fashion for last year's Round-Up. She said that as secretary, Angie has the right to send an e-mail blast as often as she wants, and she would suggest they start doing some type of electronic newsletter or communication with the information Angie collects until the 3-Ring is distributed in a more timely manner.

John Hanewall stated that in the meantime, the board should again meet with Marilyn and put their expectations in writing regarding the distribution of the 3-Ring News and request access to a flash drive of photos by the end of the Round-Up. He said that if a year passes, and those expectations are not met, then the membership can decide where to go from there; but if there is nothing in writing, it is hard to really make any kind of decision regarding the future of the 3-Ring from MCA's standpoint.

Jill Siddall asked if anyone has spoken to Marilyn and asked if she might want to give up the 3-Ring News. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that they did, and she provided a letter from Gene Lee indicating that he had turned the ownership of the 3-Ring News over to Marilyn Barrett until such time that she wishes to give it up and turn it over to MCA. Marilyn has not expressed a desire to give it up.

Luan Hanewall noted that if the host alley were to look into hiring a photographer to do all that Marilyn does at the Round-Up, they would not be able to afford it. She said that the cost of a free room and registration is tiny compared to what paying a full-time photographer would cost to cover the event as thoroughly as Marilyn does.

Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that he believes they have received ample input for he and other board members to move forward in sending out some timely reports and discuss the matter of the 3-Ring News with Marilyn. They will report back at the General Meeting at the fall Round-Up.

FACILITY TOUR: Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that a tour of the facility has been scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and now might be a good time to take a break. John Hanewall said that since the convention was held in this location last year, a tour seems to be a waste of time, especially if nothing has changed. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that the only

changes that have been made is a possible different room for the Junior Joeys, and switching the competition/stage/banquet area with the dealer room. Consent was given by the membership to forego the facility tour.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: John Joseph reported that there were three nominations for Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) submitted on time: Barb “Barboo” Syler, Freeman “Smitty” Smith, and Patti “Jazzi” Ummel. He said that all three were good candidates and fit the criteria for nomination. He said that there was a small glitch in that the newest version of the application forms were not online, and two of the three had submitted the older version of the forms. He sent these individuals the new forms to complete and allowed them seven days to return the correct forms, which they did. He said that all of the applications were then sent to the five judges he had secured, and the scores and vote results were then submitted to the board. He clarified that he, as chairman, does not have a vote, except in the case of a tie, which was not the case this year. He said that based on the judges’ scores, Barb “Barboo” Syler and Freeman “Smitty” Smith are the winners of this year’s LAA.

Tom Cass asked if the nominators of those who do not qualify for the award are given a reason as to why their candidate was denied. John Joseph said that a letter is sent. He said that points are awarded based on judges’ ranking, and a nominee must receive 60% of available points in order to receive the award. He said that when more than one qualified individual is submitted, it becomes tougher to secure the 60% total needed. He said that Ms. Ummel was one point short of the 60%, so if any of the judges had flip-flopped her rank with one of the others, she would have qualified. He said that he has a copy of the scoring results if anyone would like to see them. He added that she can be nominated again next year.

Brian Waltman asked if only two individuals can receive the award per year. John Joseph stated that according to the rules, there can be up to three inductees in each category every year. The categories are Living and Deceased. He said that judges can also disqualify a candidate and award them zero points if the criteria is not met. He said that the judges this year came from different areas; one from Wisconsin, two from Indiana, one from Illinois and one from Michigan. He said that the criteria for the LAA is different from Hall of Fame, in that this award seeks to recognize and reward individuals living and deceased for their contributions in promoting the clowning profession in general primarily at the Midwest Clown Association level and the local level. He said that specific criteria mentioned for consideration are MCA offices held, teaching experience, educational articles, clown publications, awards, recognitions, achievements, community service and circus participation.

MIDWEST HALL OF FAME: Bill Young stated that Brian “Gunky” Waltman met all qualifications to be inducted this year in the MCA Hall of Fame. Chief Joey Mahoney congratulated Mr. Waltman on his induction.

COMPETITION:

Robbie Levensbaum said that the only change in the competition rules was allowing for two-person Alley Skit entries, instead of the required four members in the past. Secretary Gonzalez stated that this motion was made at the Fall General meeting, but it was actually tabled to be voted on at this meeting, and will therefore need a vote in order to become effective.

Robbie Levensbaum announced the face painting subjects for the 2016 Round-Up Face Painting competition: Fish, Tribal and Zombies. He said that one of these three categories will be pulled out of the hat right before the competition begins, and all entrants must paint their model based on that subject matter. He said that another idea to consider is having a random assignment of models, as well, since some competitors practice regularly on the same model to get ready for competition, while others do not find a model until reaching the convention. Since most face painters at an event do not have the luxury of choosing a familiar face to paint, it might be a greater challenge to put all the models in a pool, and randomly assign those to each competitor as well. Sandra Seymour said that she loves that idea and would gladly make a motion to that end. Mr. Levensbaum stated that, to be fair, they should probably take it back to their alley members first before voting on it to implement this year. Cheryl Wolf stated that they will probably need to make sure their models are okay with being painted on by someone they do not know.

Preston Eakins asked that members again keep in mind that Junior Joeys are in class during face painting competition and should not be taken out in order to be a face paint model.

Secretary Gonzalez read the pending tabled motion to amend rule #6 (i) Section E – Alley Competition to read: “Each alley must have a minimum of two (2) on stage participants” instead of the current requirement of four (4). Robbie Levensbaum clarified that the second sentence in that same sub-object will remain unchanged regarding the ratio of adults to Junior Joeys.

M/S/P– Moved by John Hanewall, Seconded by Darlene Malkow, to consider amending rule #6 (i) Section E – Alley Competition to read: “Each alley must have a minimum of two (2) on stage participants” instead of the current requirement of four (4). Motion Passed unanimously 16-0.

M/S/T – Moved by John Hanewall, Seconded by Luan Hanewall, that the proposed changes (as printed, distributed, and attached as Exhibit B) for the “All Around Clown Competition Rules” be accepted and implemented at the 2016 MCA Round-Up. After discussion, since these changes were only received electronically this week; and delegates have not had sufficient time allowed by the rules (60 days) to consult with alley members regarding such a change, the Motion was Tabled unanimously 16-0.

M/S/T – Moved by Sandra Seymour, Seconded by Janice Rohzon, to “randomly assign models for face painting competition via a model sign up sheet. Each competitor MUST bring a model with them to contribute to the model pool.” After discussion based on the criteria mentioned in the previous motion, the Motion was Tabled unanimously 16-0.

JR. JOEYS: Co-Director Preston Eakins stated that he is still working on the Junior Joey schedule and hopes to have it finalized very soon. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that Preston and Ann will be stepping down as Junior Joey Directors after the 2016 Round-Up. He said that as incoming Chief Joey, he will be appointing new co-directors, ideally a male and a female, for 2017. He said that he has not yet targeted anyone for this position, and it is a “love of labor” type of position. The office holders are responsible for their own motel room charges, but do receive a free full registration to the Round-Up. He added that the Junior Joey account is very solvent right now, so any expenses could easily be reimbursed. He asked anyone interested in this position to contact him and thanked Preston and Anne for their service.

HISTORIAN: Chief Joey Mahoney stated that Historian Nancy Opatich’s brother passed away this week and she was not able to attend.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Ruth Kaluf thanked those who have supplied her with names and addresses to send out cards. She said that she will send one to Nancy on the passing of her brother. John Joseph stated that John “Irish” McDonough is in hospice due to brain cancer, and he asked everyone to keep him in their thoughts. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey added that Harlen “Rollo” Pierson is also facing an inoperable brain tumor and could use any and all thoughts and prayers. He asked that the members also keep the family and friends of former MCA vendor and instructor Nancy “Dotsie” Sims in their thoughts, as she passed away earlier this year. (Note: We are sad to report that since this meeting, Harlen Pierson passed away. Addresses will be sent out with the distribution of minutes for those wishing to send personal cards.)

Chief Joey Mahoney called for a brief recess at 11:52 a.m. The meeting was re-convened at 12:07 p.m.

2015 ROUND UP: Janet Tucker provided the board with a final 2015 Round-Up Report. She thanked the members of the Michiana, Calumet and Funny Bones alleys for making this Round-Up a success. She said that they had 114 full registrations, 18 partial, 6 Junior Joeys, and 6 comped registrations for the competition directors, Jr. Joey Directors, Featured Performer and Photographer. After all the bills were paid, they were able out of their profits to host WCA Regional Director Ben Christensen for a workshop, repay registrations for 27 of their members who registered early to provide seed money, and distribute \$377 to each of the three alleys.

NEW BUSINESS:

2016 ROUND-UP: Diane Cloutier reported that the “Purely Michigan Clowns” will be hosting the 2016 Round-Up here in Merrillville, September 27 – October 2, 2016. The theme is “Motoring Back in Clown History.” Their headliners are Bruce “Charlie” Johnson and Sue “Squeeze” Marranconi. She stated that a tentative schedule is now available, and three newsletters have gone out. They have also created a Purely Michigan Facebook page in addition to information being posted to the MCA website. She said that the \$150 Registration rate has been continued through the end of May for those who wish to take advantage of the extended discounted price. She said that they would still appreciate any donations for the auction, goodie bags or door prizes. She added that a Judges Seminar will be added to the schedule from 4:00-8:00pm on Tuesday and 8:00am-12:00pm on Wednesday here in the Green Room for those interested in being certified to judge.

2017 ROUND UP: Hazel Ovanin reported that a group of Indiana and Michigan Clowns, nicknamed the “Mich-In Possible” Clowns will be hosting the 2017 Round-Up in Merrillville, Indiana, October 3-8, 2017. She said that she met with the hotel yesterday, who offered them the 2016 prices on food if they made the food choices this weekend, which they have done. She said that the featured performer will be David Ginn (and included in that contract will be an addition of Ken Johanson for a couple of classes). The theme will be “Hillbilly Holler.”

RADISSON CONTRACT EXTENSION: Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey stated that when he signed the 3-year contract with this hotel, he thought he had until December 2016 to make a decision on accepting the option of the 2-year extension. However, the representative he worked with has been replaced, and when he sent the new representative a copy of the contract, because she was not aware of the 2-year extension option, the decision was supposed to have been made in December 2015. He said that after discussion, that deadline was extended until after this year’s convention. He said that the extended contract insures no greater than a 3% increase, which is very manageable. However, it really depends on the number of registrations, and the decline in registrations can make it difficult when the host has to pay for a certain amount of rooms.

Jill Siddall asked how many rooms are needed to break even. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that at least 100 are needed to break even, and the current Round-Up registrations stand at 59, which is below average for this time of year. He encouraged members to start advertising with their alley members and in their areas to encourage more registrations. He said that Bill Young gave him a list of people who have attended prior conventions who have fallen off because they do not have any access to electronic communication. He said that he is guilty of relying too heavily on electronic communication, but there are 125 people on this list, and he encouraged members to let him know of others who also fall into this category. Alane Walk of Funny Bones Alley has agreed to send snail mail to these individuals to encourage their attendance. He said that there will not be a 2018 or 2019 convention if they do not do something to grow these numbers.

Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey asked for comments regarding the pros and cons of this location and facility to keep in mind in extending the contract. He said that they will re-address this issue at the General Meeting in the Fall and give the hotel their answer following that Round-Up. Some of the cons included: expensive rooms without added amenities like hot tubs; pool area very cold and small; only one way to cut through the hotel to the convention area and some rooms were very far away and guests got lost; expensive meals; and temperature too cold inside the building. Some of the pros mentioned were: easy for host alley planning; consistent staff that is wonderful to work with; meals in hotel restaurant may be expensive but there is a huge variety of fast food locations nearby; great central location; the negotiated price of the rooms is almost half what the rooms normally are in a hotel of this caliber; food is very high quality; very clean; staff attends to needs very quickly and requests feedback; free rooms for meetings for the planning host alley; and good handicapped accessibility.

Diane Cloutier asked if it is possible to renew for one year. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that the extension is written as a 2-year option. He said that another thing to keep in mind is that if a convention has to be cancelled, then MCA would owe the hotel a lot of money.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that two people have inquired about running for board positions, but because he still wants people to step forward and serve, he will not disclose which positions or individuals so that no one is discouraged from running. He added that Treasurer Ovanin is no longer eligible to serve in that position due to term limits.

AZZ REBATE PROGRAM: Secretary Gonzalez stated that one of the vendors at the upcoming Round-Up has offered a rebate program to the MCA members. However, they are requesting e-mail addresses for our members to use in the rebate offer, and Secretary Gonzalez stated that she is not comfortable making that information available to a for-profit retailer. She said that she would bring it before the membership and let them decide, but she does not recommend it. Much discussion followed, and it was suggested that the vendor put a sign-up sheet at their dealer booth for those who want to be included in a rebate program, or provide information for the goodie bag for attendees to sign up individually if they so wish. Secretary Gonzalez stated that she will relay this information to the vendor.

MISCELLANEOUS/THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF MCA:

Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that there is a hodge podge of e-mail address lists that have been collected over the years for the sole use of MCA, and he would like to combine all of these lists and cross-reference them, including physical addresses, so that those without access to electronic communication do not fall through the cracks. He said that this would be used for communication purposes only and would not be sold or used by anyone else. He asked that anyone with a list make sure the board gets a copy so that they can work on creating a combined master list.

Chief Joey Mahoney stated that it has been a lifelong dream of hers to serve as MCA Chief Joey and she thanked the members for entrusting the position to her. She encouraged others to step up and run for offices and help insure the future of MCA.

M/S/T – Moved by Patti Ummel, Seconded by John Hanewall, that the competition directors and the Junior Joey directors also receive the same compensation as the convention photographer: a free room and registration.

Ms. Ummel stated that these positions require an enormous amount of time at each MCA, and without these individuals, they could not have a successful Round-Up. She said that these individuals spend countless of hours all year long working, and do not get the benefit of taking classes, socializing, enjoying and relaxing at the Round-Up as others do. She said that they also need to have their supplies paid for by MCA. Based on what MCA does for Marilyn Barrett, as photographer, paying for her room and registration, and allowing her to also sell her wares, it would only seem fair.

Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that he does not disagree that these people work very hard and deserve this, but he is concerned about where the money will come from. He said that when he served as Junior Joey Director, he knew coming in that he would have to pay for his own room. He said that the host alley usually trades out a certain number of rooms, and one of those is the one they use for Marilyn, and therefore, the cost never comes out of pocket. MCA also already pays for an extra room for the competition directors to house their paperwork and to manage the competition process. If they agree to pay for all of these rooms, it could potentially be four rooms if the new Junior Joey Directors do not share a room, and that is another \$1,000 or more. He said that he does not know where that money will come from, as MCA is not flush with money right now.

Janet Tucker said that the Junior Joey expenses could possibly come from the Junior Joey account, which is in better shape right now, but over time, might not be so. She agreed that these individuals work hard and deserve some compensation, but also understands the budget is tight.

John Hanewall asked what the current MCA balance is. Treasurer Ovanin said that it is a little over \$4,000. She said that awards alone each year cost MCA over \$600. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that the auction has not brought in much money in the past few years and there are no other real revenue streams. John Hanewall asked if some of the 50/50 raffle money could help offset the room cost for the directors of the Junior Joey program. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that it could, but then in three years, if they keep taking money from that account, the balance they have will be

gone. Preston Eakins said that the most the 50/50 raffle has ever brought in was \$600, and the fund only gets half of that. Treasurer Ovanin said that the deposits the last few years for the 50/50 raffle have all been less than \$200.

Patti Ummel said maybe they could offer them at least half of their room rate or at least something for the amount of time and money they put into these jobs. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that he knew of the cost before going into the position when he directed Junior Joeyes, and he was okay with that. He said that they do receive free registrations with the meals included in that. He said that he is not saying the suggestion is wrong, just that they run the danger of bankrupting themselves if they do.

Brian Waltman said that the Junior Joey program is the future of the organization, and many members only attend the convention in order to compete and challenge themselves, so it is critical to keep these positions filled. Offering some kind of incentive could insure that quality people stay in those positions. Sandra Seymour said that it could also, however, lead to the someone taking one of these positions for the wrong reason. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey agreed, and said that if they start the practice, and then take it away, it may cause some people to quit running for office.

Treasurer Ovanin said that the Dues were raised last year to \$50, and many complained about that increased cost, but with only 18 alley members, they are not even bringing in \$1,000 a year in dues, even with the increase. She added that paying out an additional \$1,000 to \$1,500 is just not feasible.

John Hanewall asked if the motion could be amended to provide a \$250 stipend to help offset costs for these positions. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey said that this would still mean an additional \$1,000 in cost to the MCA General Fund. He said that last year's host alley did not charge MCA for the comped registrations for those four positions, and they were able to be successful and still had a profit. He said that volunteer board members get nothing, and while offering some payment for some of these positions might entice more people to get involved, he wants them to volunteer for the right reasons. He said that he believes this is something that should be taken before the full General membership in the fall for further discussion.

The Motion was tabled unanimously 16-0 until the Fall General Meeting at the 2016 Round-Up.

Janet Tucker stated that WCA is looking into holding a Junior Joey camp in the summer, as it has been harder and harder for parents to get their children out of school in order to attend. The registrations would then self-support the entire program, including the staff. She said that every organization is having to address this issue. Assistant Chief Joey Caffrey agreed and said that they may be able to do it much cheaper, as ski resorts are typically really cheap in the summer months. Sandra Seymour said that summer months are also the busiest time for most clowns with paying gigs, and they may not get the adult volunteers they need for a summer program.

Motion to Adjourn by John Hanewall, seconded by Pat Bowers, at 1:13 p.m. Meeting Adjourned by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie "Q.T. Pie" Gonzalez, Secretary
Midwest Clown Association

EXHIBIT A

3 Ring News:

It's been a rough year for the 3RN and trying to get the publications out in a timely fashion has been a struggle. Some of you are aware that in December I had taken a fall and cut the top of my finger off of my left hand. Yes I am left handed! In falling I also smashed the hard drive of the computer which even Best Buy had never seen happen before. In early March, I opened an email from a trusted Indiana source that had a link to a clown in Wisconsin, who had received some positive press.

I clicked on it and my computer was held ransom. Luckily, I do back up my files on a regular basis and chose to purchase a new computer and restore it.

For those that paid their subscriptions last year that money has been collected by MCA and is with the treasurer. No money was withdrawn for the publication. I have \$75 that was given to me at last year's roundup. It is difficult trying to budget when I do not control the money collected. I don't want control, but access is difficult with the situation we currently have. If we could either set up a checking account or get a debit card that could solve the problem. This is NOT a reflection on the treasurer at all. It's simply logistics! Previously Pat Roeser collected and deposited the monies into a checking account. Because Pat was not the treasurer, and we didn't have to change signature authorizations every two years, it worked for us. She would receive monthly statements and forward the info to me so we could budget accordingly. I had access to the checking account, so we didn't have to wait for authorization. We had 2 people verifying the paper trail but instant access to the funds.

That being said, I have another proposal to continue the 3 Ring News. I would like to go completely digital! This would alleviate any costs. My suggestion is we offer vendors a \$100 fee for 4 (full page) ads. This could be income that could be used for Jr. Joeys or maybe even a Gene Lee Scholarship.

Prices to print the paper have risen ridiculously and between postage, envelopes and report covers the cost is not conducive.

The December issue would have been 20 pages @ a discounted price of .49 would have been \$9.80 per copy not including .40 for a report cover, .20 per envelope, .10 address labels and return address labels and \$1.76 in stamps for a total of \$12.26 per copy. 100 subscribers \$1,226

March issue was 12 pages at a discounted price of .49 per page for 6 colored pages and .14 per page for 6 B&W page. No report covers but \$1.20 in postage for a total of \$5.28 per copy.
100 subscribers \$528

May Issue 16 pages (2 colored pages .98) 14 B&W pages \$1.96) \$4.44 per copy.
100 subscribers \$444

I don't know what we currently have put aside for 3RN, but it would have run \$2198.

I believe we should present this to the membership, and see how the money collected could be used. If they totally reject the idea, I would be willing to burn a CD with the December 2015, March 2016, May 2016, July 2016 and September 2016 issues and provide it at this year's roundup.

Let me know your thoughts.

Regarding the Web site:

First off, I apologize to Mark Ovanin as I had offered my assistance and then could not fulfill my obligations. I have been looking into other websites and costs and have not had the opportunity to share with Mark prior to my report. I have looked into a company called Wix.com. Currently, I have initiated a trial website to see if it was something we (MCA) could use.

There are several advantages to using this site. The most significant improvement is if you buy the premium package \$550.08 for a 2 year subscription. It allows forms and subscriptions. This means you could register online for conventions as well as pick up subscribers world wide for the digital 3 Ring News. I suggest you also investigate this.

I have created a sample of how I envision the website minus the subscription list. It can be added once a premium package is purchased. I have only activated the first 3 pages as a sample. Of course there would be more detail if you decide to go with it. If you look at the 3 Ring News page, you can actually download back issues of the 3 Ring News.

As always, you get what you pay for, but what we currently have, in my opinion falls short. Mark has done a great job of keeping it updated but the site itself is very restrictive. I prefer pages to bookmarks. The site does not allow for much creativity. It also is not user friendly to members. I am unaware of current costs and maintenance so in effect you are getting an unbiased opinion.

The sample website is: <http://klownkop.wix.com/mysite-2>

Please check it out and let me know if it is an interest. I would be to happy help out.

Stage Backdrops:

I made my 3rd inquiry into a company located in Michigan regarding backdrops. I have requested 2 solid black color backdrops with the logo printed facing left and the other facing right. (Should be around \$220 including shipping). I am shooting for fabric but if all else fails I can get it in vinyl for less than \$120. If I get response before Saturday I will forward it directly.

Merilyn Barrett

EXHIBIT B

DRAFT

MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION ALL AROUND CLOWN COMPETITION RULES PROPOSED CHANGES (REVISED Spring meeting MAY 2016)

1. This competition was originally designed to get the MCA Hall of Fame members to compete.
2. This category is now open to ALL fully registered clowns.
3. This competition is tallied after the results of all individual competitions and does not change the rules or results of that category.
4. There will be a possibility of a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award in the All Around category.
5. Clowns must compete in the following three competition categories to be eligible for the All Around Clown award:
 - a. Make up; white face, Auguste, Tramp or Character.
 - b. Single Skit
 - c. Paradeability
 - d. Points will be awarded for the following finish in each individual category.
 - i. 1st place finish = 10 points
 - ii. 2nd place finish = 7 points
 - iii. 3rd place finish = 5 points
 - iv. 4th place finish = 3 points
 - v. 5th place finish = 1 point
 - e. Competitors with the most points will earn the awards.
6. How do we handle current competition rules?
 - a. It is not the intent to change the current competition rules.
 - b. If a clown competitor is not eligible to compete in a category because they took first place in a category the prior year, then they are not eligible to compete in that individual category.
 - c. However, the clown can compete in that category for All Around Clown points and not be eligible for the individual category awards.
 - d. **Side suggestion: we may want to reconsider allowing a clown to compete in single skit and paradeability as long as it is not the same skit or parade gimmick.**
7. The All Around Clown category is in addition to awards for the individual competition categories.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. If a clown takes first place in a makeup category that clown is awarded first place that category. The All Around Clown points are then applied for the final standing in winning the All Around Clown award.

- ii. Clown takes first place in Tramp. The clown is awarded first place in the Tramp category and is given 10 points toward the All Around Clown standings.
- iii. Clown takes first place in Tramp, but took first place in Tramp the prior year. The clown is not awarded first place (based on the current rules). However, the clown is awarded 10 points for the All Around clown standings.
- iv. Clown takes second place in individual skit competition. Clown is awarded second place award and is given 7 points in the All Around Clown standings.
- v. Clown takes second place in individual skit competition but took first place the prior year and was not eligible to compete in skits this year. No award for individual skit is awarded but 7 points are awarded toward All Around clown standings.
- vi. Clown takes third place in Individual Paradeability competition. Clown is awarded third place in Individual Paradeability and 5 points in the All Around Clown standings.

b. Scoring example

Competitor	Make up	Paradeability	Individual skit	Totals
#1	1 st = 10	5 th = 1	6 th = 0	11
#2	3 rd = 5	3 rd = 5	2 nd = 7	17
#3	4 th = 3	2 nd = 7	3 rd = 5	15
#4	2 nd = 7	1 st = 10	5 th = 1	18
#5	1 st = 10	4 th = 3	4 th = 3	16
#6	5 th = 1	6 th = 0	1 st = 10	11

Based on the above results 1st = #4, 2nd = #2, 3rd = #5

In the event of a tie, ties will be broken based on the clown with the highest scores in the following order; single skit, paradeability and make-up.