

## **MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF FALL GENERAL MEETING – OCT. 7, 2017 – GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

At 3:13 p.m. on October 7, 2017, the Fall General Meeting of the Midwest Clown Association was convened and Sergeant-at-Arms Patti Ummel 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 Jim Caffrey at 3:13 p.m. Board members present included Chief Joey Jim Caffrey, Assistant Chief Joey Mark Ovanin, Secretary Angie Gonzalez, Treasurer Wayne Rongholt, and Sergeant-at-Arms Patti Ummel. Past Chief Joey Lucy Mahoney was absent.

Chief Joey Caffrey 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, emergency personnel who put their lives on the line every day, and fallen clowns who had gone before and upheld this creative art form, teaching us to follow in their footsteps. He also included families and friends who are currently struggling and in need of prayers and support.

**ROLL CALL** was taken by Sergeant-at-Arms Ummel, who determined that we had a quorum to conduct business, as we had 13 paid member alleys present. Paid members present and their delegates were:

A-OK Alley – Maggie Diebel  
Calumet Clowns #78 – Jill Siddall  
Clown World 364 – Georgia Morris  
Clowns Around Redford – Jan Jepsen  
Cousin Otto's Alley #22 – Darlene Malkow  
Grand and Glorious Mid-Michigan Galaxy of Clowns #44 – Diane Cloutier  
Hoosier Clown Alley – Sandra Seymour  
Jesters, Jokers, and Joeys – Luan Hanewall  
Joyful Joeys 4 Jesus – Susie Baker  
Krazy Clown Klub – Lori Jacobs  
Michiana Clowns – Lynnette McDonald  
Quad City Clown Troupe – Jamie Caffrey  
Winners Circle Clown Alley #178 – Bill Young

{Secretary's Note: Delegates from the following paid alley arrived later in the meeting:}

Niarome Clown Troupe – Janice Rozhon

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the May 20, 2017 Spring Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, were made available to alleys and reviewed.

**M/S/P** - Moved by Darlene Malkow, Seconded by Sandra Seymour, to accept the minutes as presented – Motion Passed unanimously 13-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was available to alleys for review. Treasurer Rongholt provided a written treasurer's report showing the current General Fund balance at \$4,432.42, and the Junior Joey Fund balance at \$3,370.56.

**M/S/P** – Moved by Diane Cloutier, Seconded by Darlene Malkow, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented – Motion Passed unanimously 13-0.

Chief Joey Caffrey asked if there is any report on the profit from the auction. Treasurer Rongholt stated that the auction brought in \$1,160. Chief Joey Caffrey thanked everyone for their donations and for taking part in the auction. He said that he was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of items donated and he thanked members for supporting their organization.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Coloring Contest:** Chief Joey Caffrey said that Lucy Mahoney was not feeling well and needed to rest. He said that she will announce the winners of the coloring contest this evening before the awards ceremony begins.

**MCA Non-Profit Status Update:** Hazel Ovanin stated that MCA lost their tax exempt status before she took over as Treasurer, and she was asked to do some research on getting that status back. She said that she did some research and feared that they would not be able to get that status back because of the requirements and cost involved; but she tried it again, and filled out the paperwork and sent it in, and they now have a 501(c)(6) status.

Pat Roeser said that if they receive 501(c)(3) status, they can get money from corporations, but she thinks they can only receive money from individuals with a 501(c)(6) status. She said that she thinks in order to get tax exemption from organizations like a printer or hotel, they would need the (3) designation. Ms. Ovanin said that the hotel has given them tax exemption with the (6) designation, so she is not sure, but will do some further research to find out.

(Secretary's Note: Janice Rohzon, a representative of Niarome Clowns, arrived, resulting in 14 paid alleys in attendance.)

Diane Cloutier said that reading online, it looks as though a (6) status makes them exempt from state and local taxes on expenditures. Ms. Ovanin said that Treasurer Rongholt will file the proper tax paperwork to insure the organization does not lose their status again. Chief Joey Caffrey thanked Ms. Ovanin for her efforts to get this status reinstated.

**MCA Awards Trophy House Versus The Trophy King report:** Chief Joey Caffrey said that at the Spring Meeting, the membership was in agreement to go with The Trophy King as the new vendor if the Trophy House could not meet their prices. He said that the best Trophy House could offer was a 15% discount for this year, which they took advantage of. He said that they said they could not meet The Trophy King's quoted prices, however, going forward.

Diane Cloutier asked if there is a substantial difference. Chief Joey Caffrey said that The Trophy King's prices were half the price of the Trophy House for medallions, and they are very similar in quality. Most in attendance at the Spring Meeting even liked The Trophy King's samples more. Ms. Cloutier asked if there is any downside to going with Trophy King. Chief Joey Caffrey said that there is none.

**M/S/P** – Sandra Seymour moved, seconded by Janice Rohzon, to buy from The Trophy King for future awards. Motion passed unanimously 14-0.

Chief Joey Caffrey said that he will make arrangements to make that transfer, as he made the initial contact with the vendors and asked for price quotes. The treasurer will continue to order the awards, as before, with the new vendor.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COMPETITION:** Co-Directors Annette Darragh and Robbie Levensbaum

Co-Director Darragh stated that they used a total of 25 individuals to run the 13 competitions: 19 judges, three talliers, two runners, and one timer. She said that they also had four individuals who helped as a stage crew. She said that there were four competitors in Whiteface Competition, six in Auguste, two in Character, and three in Tramp. There were six competitors each in balloons and face painting, and the face painting subject drawn was sugar skulls. There were four alley skits, six single skits, and five group skits. There were eight single paradeability competitors and two groups. There were four Junior Joeys in Make-up competition and two in paradeability.

Co-Director Darragh said that there were some problems this year resulting in disqualifications due to late arrivals and prior year 1<sup>st</sup> place placements. She said that it is unfair to other competitors who show up 15 minutes early in order to make sure they can compete; to allow others to break the rules and arrive late and expect to still compete. She said that there are also some problems with the forms contestants fill out, and people do not follow the instructions and fill them

out properly. She said that they did not disqualify for that this year, but they will be sticklers next year and disqualify those who do not follow the instructions. She said that when they do not fill them out completely, especially with regard to multiple individuals' names in a group skit or paradeability, it makes it hard to find participants. She said that they will not bend the rules anymore, and there will be no exceptions. Those who do not follow the rules will be disqualified.

Co-Director Darragh said that the revised balloon competition went really well, and they had more participants than they had total in all three categories last year. She said that all of the judges were fully competent; and after discussion, there were some suggestions about changing the judges' scoresheets to separate ratings for each sculpture, so contestants will know if one sculpture was done well, but the other score pulled their overall score down. She said that they also felt that there needed to be a rating category for whether or not the sculpture was readily identifiable. She said that after quite a bit of discussion, they felt it would be a good addition. There are currently only three areas: uniformity, creativity, and appearance, and they will now add identifiability. She said that each area will be worth 25 points with a total of 100 points available for each sculpture and an overall total of 200 for the two sculptures combined.

Darryn Chupp asked if they could make one category score less, such as be scored from 1-5 points instead of 1-25. He asked if the new category has to be 25 points. Sgt. At Arms Ummel said that the wider range actually helps in judging, as someone could think they know what the object is, but could be wrong. Chief Joey Caffrey said that the larger range of numbers also helps with scoring, as there is less chance of a tie with the larger range. Co-Director Levensbaum said that all the score sheets are set up from 1-25, so that there is wiggle room in each section, and there are ranges from poor to excellent. He said that a point spread of 1-5 does not give that needed wiggle room.

Co-Director Darragh said that this year she came to convention still in need of filling judges' spots, and she does not like to be in that position. She said that she does not want to nag and hound people to get them to serve, but would appreciate hearing back from those who are certified with a yes or no, so that she can move on to someone else. She said that she appreciates all her judges, and this is the first year she actually had people calling her in advance and offering her their services.

**JR. JOEYS:** Co-Director Preston Eakins

Co-Director Eakins said that they had four Junior Joeys this year, and two of them had to leave early and already received their awards and certificates. He asked for prayers and thoughts for the youngest, as she had to leave early because her sister was admitted to the hospital. He said thanked Patti Ummel and Darryn Chupp for their help in getting the kids prepared for skits in their showcase. He said that they were a bit quiet at the beginning, but then came alive in Angel Contreras' class, and really came out of their shell. They presented one of the best showcases they've had in a long time. He said that he has been working with the Jr. Joeys for six conventions, and this is his last year, as he and Anne are stepping down. He thanked everyone for their help, mentorship, encouragement and donations. Chief Joey Caffrey stated that Laura Anderson has been shadowing Preston this Round-Up and will be taking over the Jr. Joey program. He said that they are still looking for a male volunteer to serve as co-director. Mr. Eakins said that he believes the program is in good hands, and thanked everyone for their support over the past years. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that there will be a 50/50 raffle at the Awards Banquet and the proceeds from that will go to MCA; as the Jr. Joey fund balance is healthy, and there would be no Jr. Joey program without the MCA organization.

Tom Cass asked why they don't go back to \$50 for the Jr. Joeys in the dealer room from the Jr. Joey account. Mr. Eakins said that \$35 is more than enough and is working out well, and anything in addition to that would just be for frivolous buys. Chief Joey Caffrey added that the MCA has been paying 50% of all Jr. Joey registrations, but now that cost will be coming out of the Jr. Joey fund. He thanked Mr. Eakins and Ms. Meyer for all their hard work with the Jr. Joey program.

## **MEDIA COMMITTEE**

**Website:** Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that the MCA site is still operational and they just renewed the site hosting for an additional two years. He said that because he will be accepting a larger role in leadership when he becomes Chief Joey next year, he is looking for someone to replace him as webmaster. Because of this, they only renewed the site for

two years, in case the new webmaster wants to move to a different host in order to have more control or options. He said that if any alleys have a website, he would love to have a link, so that they can link them to the MCA site. That way, if someone is looking for information about clowning on MCA's site, they can find a local alley where they could get plugged in. He said that they need to work together to keep this clowning community alive and promote new interest in the art of clowning. Brian Waltman asked if they ever got any alley spotlight material from any of the alleys. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that he only received some pictures from Crazy Clown Klub. He said that he would love to have highlights of local alleys to add a highlights page, and provide free advertisement for local groups. Nancy Opatich asked if Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin could send them reminders to provide him with information from time to time. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that he would be happy to do so.

**3-Ring News & MCA Funny Papers:** Secretary Gonzalez reported that the *Midwest Funny Papers* has been going out regularly every two months, as promised, since the first edition, with a special Round-Up edition for one final push before the convention. She stated that she has hard copies available of the newsletter if anyone wishes to have a hard copy. She added that if representatives know of alley members who do not have access to electronic information, if they send her 12 stamps and their address, she will mail out hard copies of the newsletter to those individuals. She said that in light of discussion about contacting the Sunshine Committee, she will add other contacts on the back page, for easier contact of Committee chairs.

Secretary Gonzalez said that as the membership knows, the *3-Ring News* has not been published regularly for some time. A lot of that was due to the rising cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter, less interest once the newsletter went to a strictly electronic format, and life issues getting in the way for the current editor who no longer lives in the midwest. She said that she had a conversation with Marilyn Barrett, the editor of the *3-Ring News*, and Ms. Barrett has decided to turn the *3-Ring News* over to the MCA, as she no longer lives in the region and is finding it harder to keep up with all that is going on in this area. Ms. Gonzalez said that she would like the membership's guidance on how to handle newsletters going forward. The *Midwest Funny Papers* was something that the board initiated in order to get more information out to members regarding the organization and to promote the Round-Up, in the absence of *3-Ring* publications. The board newsletter is much smaller (only 4 8 x10 pages), whereas the *3-Ring News* usually had over 10 pages or more, depending on the content. She said that she is willing to continue creating and publishing a newsletter in whatever form the membership feels is most appropriate.

Diane Cloutier stated that she misses all the pictures from convention that were featured in the *3-Ring News* after a Round-Up and asked if they would still have those photos without Ms. Barrett producing the *3-Ring*. Chief Joey Caffrey said that Ms. Barrett provides MCA with a flash drive of pictures following the convention as part of her "official photographer" status. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that these pictures are still posted online. Ms. Cloutier said that she would like to see the bigger *3-Ring News* be revived, to go out every three months or so, and then maybe use the *Midwest Funny Papers* as a filler to send out when extra information needs to be shared in between.

**M/S/F** – Moved by Diane Cloutier, Seconded by Janice Rohzon, to send out a *3-Ring News* quarterly, with *Midwest Funny Papers* sent out in between.

John Hanewall said that he thought the goal was to combine the two, and asked what they gain by doing two separate papers. Chief Joey Caffrey said that they would be putting twice as much work on Ms. Gonzalez by doing the newsletters separately.

Darryn Chupp said that he agrees this would just be doubling duties for Ms. Gonzalez and could be a bit confusing as to what the official correspondence is from the MCA. He said that it does not make sense to have two separate newsletters.

Luan Hanewall said that Ms. Gonzalez is doing a great job with the *Funny Papers*, and it is consistent, entertaining and educational. She said that the *3-Ring* has not always been a positive experience, and maybe it is time to let it go and move forward with the *Funny Papers* in the future.

Tom Cass stated that the *Calliope*, the newsletter for Clowns of America International (COAI), is 33 years old. At one time, the *3-Ring News* was the premiere newsletter for clowning and even more well-known than the *Calliope*, and it started with this organization. Chief Joey Caffrey said that the *3-Ring News* has never been the newsletter of the Midwest Clown Association, and this organization has never had a say in what is published in that newsletter. They are just now receiving ownership of it. Mr. Cass asked why they are so upset about it, then. Chief Joey Caffrey said that MCA never owned it and never controlled its content, and it is not a matter of being upset about it. Marilyn Barrett was given all rights to that publication by Gene Lee, to do with as she saw fit. She did use it most regularly to promote MCA, but it was never technically an MCA publication. Mr. Cass said that this was a mistake of past officers that they did not secure that ownership.

Nancy Opatich said that if Ms. Gonzalez is the person behind it, then it does not seem there would be a problem changing to the *3-Ring News*, because she would still be producing it and she believes she would continue to provide a quality and timely newsletter. She said that because there was no *3-Ring* going out, Ms. Gonzalez stepped up and produced a newsletter, which was something they were also attempting to do as last year's convention host committee. She said that she thinks it is just a matter of a title and thinks it is an honor to carry on that name.

**M/S/F** –The motion to send out a *3-Ring News* quarterly, with *Midwest Funny Papers* sent out in between failed by a vote of 4-9.

**M/F** – John Hanewall moved to continue with the *Midwest Funny Papers*, expanding to a larger size, continuing with seven issues, and making the post-Round-Up issue a larger issue to include photos. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Tom Cass said that there is a strong history with the *3-Ring News* and he would like to see it become an official part of the MCA. Maggie Diebel agreed and said that it has long been associated with the MCA, even if they did not have ownership.

Chief Joey Caffery said that he sees this only as a matter of a name transfer. He said that he is in favor of hanging onto history, and this is the first time in history that the *3-Ring News* actually belongs to MCA. He said that he would defer to Ms. Gonzalez to handle it the way she sees fit, and if she does not handle it the way the body feels it should be handled, they could then address it.

Darryn Chupp asked Ms. Gonzalez how she feels about it and if she has a preference. Ms. Gonzalez said that she can certainly understand the passion many have regarding holding onto the *3-Ring* name. Even though the newsletter has never belonged to MCA, it was initiated by one of MCA's founding fathers, Gene Lee; and he, along with Ms. Barrett, after it was handed over to her, used it to promote clowning in the midwest, and specifically MCA. Now that the name DOES belong to MCA, she can see the merit in holding onto that history and tradition. She said that even the *Calliope* has had a makeover, as it is now officially *The New Calliope*. She said that she has no strong feelings about the name *Midwest Funny Papers*, as the *Funny Papers* was suggested to her by Robbie Levensbaum. At the suggestion of Janet Tucker, because there was a newsletter in this area several years ago that was published under that name, she added "Midwest" in order to distinguish the MCA's newsletter from that publication. She said that she does not feel any ownership or slight if the membership wishes to go with the *3-Ring News*, and she will be happy to produce under either name in the format and frequency the membership prefers.

**M/S/P** – Moved by Diane Cloutier, Seconded by Jill Siddall, to allow Ms. Gonzalez to create an official newsletter of the MCA using the name of the *3-Ring News* to put out as often as she feels is necessary. Darryn Chupp suggested a friendly amendment to the motion to suggest a minimum publication of an issue every quarter, with the editor's discretion for additional issues. Ms. Cloutier agreed to this change. Pat Roeser added that it might be beneficial to record the motion by removing Ms. Gonzalez's name and changing the verbiage to "editor" to allow for changes in editorship in the future should Ms. Gonzalez not always wish to serve in this capacity, and so as not to run into the same problem of ambiguous ownership. Ms. Cloutier agreed and changed her motion to allow the MCA-appointed editor to create an official newsletter of the MCA using the name *3-Ring News*, to be published on a quarterly basis, at minimum, with additional issues at the editor's discretion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 14-0.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked Ms. Barrett for the gift of the *3-Ring News* and for voluntarily, and sometimes at her own cost, creating and distributing the publication for so many years. She said that she greatly appreciates all her hard work.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:** Chief Joey Caffrey said that he was not able to connect with Lifetime Achievement Chairman John Joseph regarding the language he would like to see incorporated as to the 20-year clowning requirement in the midwest. He said that Mr. Joseph had to leave early, and he will contact him and report back to the alley representatives with clarification on this matter, should a motion need to be circulated before the Spring meeting. He said that Lori "Lorelei" Jacobs, Hazel "Gertie" Ovanin, and Patti "Jazzi" Ummel all received the Lifetime Achievement Award at Friday's luncheon.

**MIDWEST HALL OF FAME:** Chairman Bill Young said that, as everyone knows by now, the 2017 HOF Inductees are: Pam "Snickers" Turpin, Michael "Mickey" Spudic and Irene "SlugBugZ" Spudic. He said that they will all be inducted this evening during the Awards Banquet. He added that the website has many answers to questions about Hall of Fame, and while he can verify point totals, it is up to the individuals to check their own scores and medals to insure that they qualify. He said that applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>, and it is up to the individual to make sure they get those forms in on time.

**HISTORIAN:** Historian Nancy Opatich stated that next year is MCA's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and she is working with Ms. Barrett to get highlight pictures from the past Round-Ups to create a CD that can be sold as a fundraiser, with the profits going to benefit MCA.

Mr. Cass asked if there will be displays put up, like with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ms. Opatich said that there will. Chief Joey Caffrey asked Ms. Opatich to get with Bill Young, host chair for next year's Round-Up, to make sure they have a place to showcase the displays at the hotel.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Ruth Kaluf was not in attendance for a report. Chief Joey Caffrey stated that one of the biggest problems in the past has been that an illness or death has been announced, but Ms. Kaluf does not get an adequate address in order to send a card. He asked members to make sure an accurate address is supplied when making a request of the Sunshine Committee. Secretary Gonzalez added that she will put Ms. Kaluf's contact information in the *3-Ring News* regularly, so that people know where to send information. Her contact information is as follows: Ruth Kaluf, 536 Birtch Parkway, Westville, IL 46391, [ruthkaluf@aol.com](mailto:ruthkaluf@aol.com), 219-616-9230.

**2018 ROUND UP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Bill Young, Hall of Fame Alley representative and 2018 host chair, stated that the Best Western Convention Center in LaPorte, Indiana has provided an \$89.99 room rate, which includes a refrigerator and microwave in every room, as well as two free breakfast tickets per day per room. He said that because of that, no morning hospitality will be needed. Sandra Seymour added that they offer a hot breakfast and it is not just a continental pastry breakfast. Mr. Young said that registrations in the Hospitality Room this evening will be \$140, and the rate goes up to \$150 tomorrow. He said that the theme is "Pajama Party," and they do not have a headliner yet, but the schedule will be very educational-heavy, and will provide lots of entertainment. He said that the price of securing headliners increases the cost drastically, and headliners aren't always the drawing factor for registrants. He said that anyone with questions or suggestions should contact him. He added that he has copies of the contracts if anyone is interested in reviewing them.

Maggie Diebel said that the host alley often has a hard time getting folks to host a hospitality room. She encouraged small alleys to join with another small alley to volunteer and host. Mr. Young said that several have already offered to host, and since Saturday is reserved for the next year's host, he really only has one opening left to fill.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

***2019 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Round-Up Status Report for October 1-5, 2019:*** Chief Joey Caffrey said that no one has come forward to volunteer to host for 2019 yet, but he would appreciate those interested letting him know.

**Report from Mark Ovanin about MCA becoming a COAI Alley:** Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin stated that COAI provides grant money for alleys to use for educational purposes. It was discussed at the last meeting that MCA look into applying as an alley in order to be eligible for those funds. Now that they have secured COAI alley membership, they can apply for up to a \$500 grant to be used at the Round-Up for educational purposes. He said that Mr. Young will be submitting an application for next year's Round-Up.

Darryn Chupp asked about the details of the grant, and if it is first come-first served. He said that if the fund has \$1,000, does that mean that only the first two people that apply will receive grants. Chief Joey Caffrey said that this is a dedicated COAI fund, and it is nicely sewn up. There is not really a ceiling on the amount of grants that are awarded, and it is not necessarily first come-first served. Sandi Christie stated that the grants are up to \$500, and a committee reviews the applications and decides each year who will be awarded grants. She said that an alley can receive up to \$250 for a one-day seminar and up to \$500 for workshops or conventions lasting two or more days hosted by COAI 100% alleys.

Chief Joey Caffrey said that 100% alleys are alleys where all members are also individual members of COAI. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that COAI does do an audit, and an alley applicant must list all of their COAI members and their membership numbers. He said that the names of members that an alley reports to COAI in order to maintain alley status must have a COAI membership number.

John Hanewall asked if this means every MCA individual has to join COAI. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that the list they supply to COAI of their membership in order to qualify as an alley has to be composed of COAI members, but the alley (MCA) can have other members who are not COAI members, who are simply not reported or listed.

Brian Waltman asked if each of the alleys of MCA have to become members of COAI. Chief Joey Caffrey said that they do not, and only the listed members on the application have to be members of COAI. Mr. Waltman asked who the listed members are. Chief Joey Caffrey said that the current board members are the only ones listed at this time. Ms. Christie said that only five COAI members are needed to apply and qualify as an alley.

Mr. Hanewall asked if this means that any elected board member will have to join COAI, and he asked if MCA will therefore, cover the board members' membership fee. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that it would be up to the individual running for a spot on the board, as to whether they would like to become a member of COAI or not. Mr. Hanewall asked if they would still have enough members if all members of the board are not COAI members. Sgt. At Arms Ummel said that the current board members, even if not serving on the board, can continue to be listed as the qualifying members, as they are still a part of MCA. Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin said that this is correct, and they used current board members, because all of them are already members of COAI, just to get the ball rolling and get certified as an alley. He said he is sure they can always find at least five members of COAI among MCA's membership. He said that this is not criteria to run for a board position. Chief Joey Caffrey said that he has a lifetime membership, so can always be listed as a member. He thanked Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin for working to get that certification for MCA.

**2017 ROUND UP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mich-in Possible Alley representative and 2017 host committee chair Hazel Ovanin stated that they had 89 full registrations, with a total of 99 guests registered for dinner at this evening's Awards Banquet. She said that everything seemed to run well, and she did not have any complaints except for a small glitch with room keys not working. The hotel has been very gracious, and she has heard many compliments about the service and the food. She said that it is too early to gauge where they are with regard to finances, but she will be getting a report to the board soon. She said that she would appreciate any feedback members have to offer. Chief Joey Caffrey said that they will have a full report available in 60 days for alley representatives.

John Hanewall asked how they can provide feedback. He asked if there will be a survey provided. Ms. Ovanin said that they did not do a survey, but individuals can send her an e-mail.

Ms. Ovanin said that there will be a cash bar open tonight at 6:30 p.m. before the Awards Banquet. Chief Joey Caffrey asked if there is a mandated minimum of sales so that the bar does not cost extra. Ms. Ovanin said that the minimum is \$100, which should not be a problem. She said that this hotel has been wonderful to work with.

## MISCELLANEOUS/THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF MCA:

Chief Joey Caffrey said that he would like for the membership to look into adjusting the length of terms for the board positions of Secretary and Sergeant At Arms. He said that there were only 84 individuals registered at the start of this convention, and they continue to have fewer members; and even fewer individuals willing to step up and serve on the board. He said that next year is an election year and Assistant Chief Joey Ovanin is already talking to people about filling positions. Individuals can only serve two consecutive terms, and then they have to step down. He said that the Assistant Chief Joey/Chief Joey positions are a little different and he understands the rotation there and the way those are structured. He also understands the rationale for a term limit for the Treasurer position to insure one individual isn't around forever, lining their pockets with MCA funds. However, he thinks Ms. Gonzalez does a wonderful job as Secretary, keeping everyone on schedule and informed and producing informative thorough minutes. According to MCA bylaws, she will have to step down after next year. The Sergeant At Arms position is a less stressful position, keeping track that alleys have paid, passing out voting paddles, taking attendance and insuring that they have a quorum to do business. He said that he does not see how having no term limits on these two positions, in particular, could hurt the organization in the long run, especially when they have folks in those positions already that do a good job and want to continue, when there is such a shortage of volunteers. He said that he cannot change the by-laws himself, but would like to work on addressing this to get a proposal before the membership to be voted on at the Spring Meeting.

Tom Cass stated that he believes the whole set of by-laws should be reviewed. Chief Joey Caffrey agreed.

John Hanewall said that if Chief Joey Caffrey would like to appoint him to get together a committee to review and propose revisions to the bylaws, he would be happy to do that. Chief Joey Caffrey accepted Mr. Hanewall's offer and appointed Mr. Hanewall to chair a By-Laws Review Committee. He asked that the committee be made up of an odd number of individuals so that there is not a "hung jury" without coming to a consensus on a recommendation. He said that he would like to have the committee's recommendations to the alley representatives by March 1, 2018, so that they can consult with their alley members and be prepared to vote on the matter at the Spring Meeting. Mr. Hanewall agreed and said that anyone interested in serving should contact him, and he will choose a limited number between 3 or 5 individuals to serve. He said that there is no guarantee he can use every single person who volunteers, because of a limited number on the committee; but in the meantime, folks can access the by-laws online and give him their suggestions and input.

Chief Joey Caffrey said that the date of the **Spring Meeting** will be **Saturday, May 19, 2018**, beginning at **10:00 a.m. (CMT)** at the Best Western in LaPorte, Indiana. He said that the hotel will again be allowing attendees to book rooms at the convention rate for that meeting. Mr. Young said that they have reserved a block of 15 rooms, but attendees should get reservations in early, because they will release the rooms about a month before the meeting if they are not reserved.

Tom Cass said that there was a motion tabled at the Spring Meeting to go to individual dues instead of alley dues, and he does not see it on the agenda. Secretary Gonzalez said that this motion was actually tabled at last year's Fall General Meeting and it was brought up again and discussed at the Spring Meeting and failed. Chief Joey Caffrey said that this organization is alley-based, not based on individual memberships, and it would be very difficult to go to individual membership dues. Mr. Cass said that they keep raising the alley dues back-to-back, and he cannot see any alley paying over \$50. Chief Joey Caffrey said that the dues have not gone up in back-to-back years and only went up to \$50 six years ago, after a long time remaining at \$35.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Darlene Malkow , seconded by Maggie Diebel, at 5:08 p.m. Meeting Adjourned by a unanimous vote.

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