

# THE BIG TOP

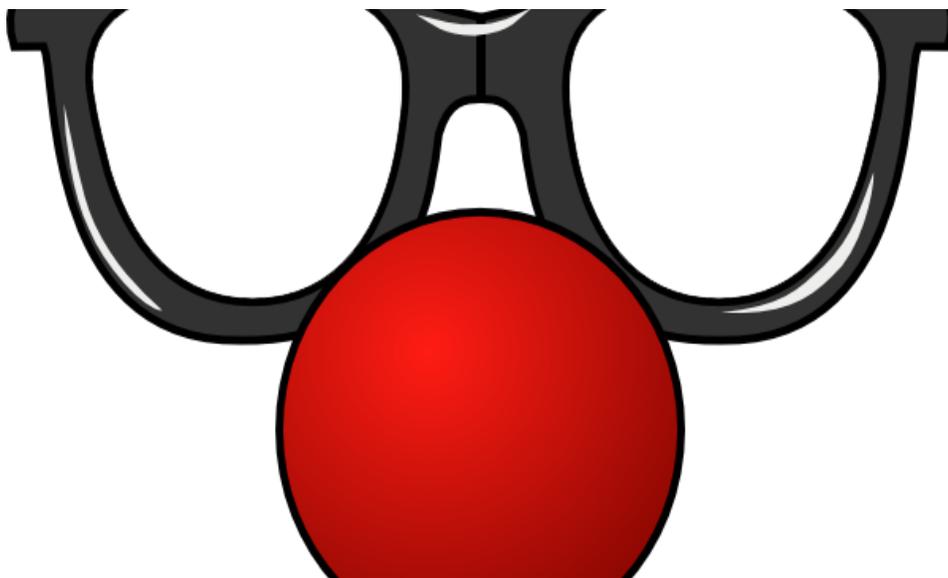
Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

Mar/Apr 2016



“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

Christopher Reeves



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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By John "Kris Krunch" Kral  
MACA President

Hello Fellow Joeys,

Well, this is the second issue of "The Big Top" electronic issue. I do hope that you who are receiving it and find it more convenient receiving it electronically.

I have no words of wisdom to put forth in this letter so I will ramble.

A few people on the board have been trying very hard to pull the 2016 MACA convention together. It will, at this point in time, be a little smaller than those in the past years but still a lot of fun.

As all organization members get older, there aren't many younger people interested in things other than computer games, social media and just hanging out looking at the computer screen, it has been difficult to reach the younger generation. Even the circus' have changed and have gotten smaller because of a lack of interest.

These are my feelings so if you want to comment, please send them to "The Big Top" editor so he can put your thoughts in "The Big Top".

Sandi and Annette have tried to put together a good lecture and vendor line up for this year's convention. From what they told me it will be another great

convention. Convention dates are November 9th to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Please refer to the registration form in "The Big Top" for more information.

Please feel free to get in touch with your state director if you have any questions or suggestions for the good of our organization.

As I keep saying "this is your organization" and your help and involvement are important to keep MACA alive and growing.

I will keep reminding you all that **all** of the boards of director positions are open for election this year. If you would like to be put on the ballot for election, please let the trustees of MACA know or get in touch with your State Director.

It seems we are always looking for nominees at the last minute at the convention.

I will keep reminding you in the future months letter from the President.

Another thing would be your help by sending some articles to the editor for publishing in "The Big Top". An article, about you or your clown alley would be interesting reading.

It may help one of your fellow joeys "Promote the art of clowning" in a world which needs to laugh.

I hope you all have a good

spring, when it gets here.

Take care and "Keep em laff'n".

See you down the road.



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# CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

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By Bill "SHOBO" Schober  
MACA Chaplain

## Did ya Notice?

Did ya ever notice that today's society seems to be into themselves? Do people seem to be addicted to their cell phone or I-pad? Do people know how to make small talk with people they don't know?

Our Church runs a "Turkey Bucks" program at the local Acme Markets. Customers have the option to donating money for families who are in need. As a congregation we only need to stand at the booth and ask people walking by to donate. I thought I would bring my balloons and make different figures to attract the consumer's attention. Maybe it was the time of day or my figures were really weird looking, but I got little to no reactions to the balloons. Most looked the other way or were on their cell phones talking. I was floored by the reaction. No, I wasn't "in clown" but I tried to make eye contact with each person who came in and had a ton of balloons on the table.

I saw a recent news cast story of how people don't know how to make "small talk", even though social media is so popular. Most people think they are very social and know how to interact with others but most of the time, it's behind a screen. Just do a quick Google search on making small talk and find a ton of books written on this subject. As a clown, we have an advantage on making small talk. We can break that barrier most people have to talking to strangers just by being a clown. We just walk up and interact. Of course, we shouldn't just walk up but should survey the situation prior to interact, but we do have an advantage while wearing a red nose.

Shady (aka Ron Mount) and I

clowned at a Holiday Party at a local Hospital but later came back in the same room, not "in clown", to eat some dinner. It was odd to see the same people who we interacted with, not give us the time of day when not "in clown". And it was even odder not wanting to go up to those same people. This further evidence why you can't be "on" as a clown, all the time, otherwise you will be thought of a weirdo. There is a balanced line of interaction. I get reminded of this fact by my wife all the time...Just Saying!!

The Balanced line is important for our society. We need to be more interactive with each other and be more compassionate with others needs. With today's bells and whistles of communications, it appears we are more into ourselves than ever before. I believe, the more you clown, the more you feel more comfortable walking that balanced line. I know I've seen a difference in my personal life. "In Clown" you tend to notice things differently. Just the other day, while crossing a busy New York city street I noticed a blind man walking across. He had another much younger man by his side helping him navigate the area. Once they got to the other side, the young man left to go back to the side we came from, and got back with his group of guys he was standing with. Who would have "thunk it", this young guy was one of those guys who has his pants hanging from his butt area. My point is, this young man, who I assumed was more of a thug, noticed the blind man crossing and helped.

When your on you phone checking your Facebook status, your email or the score for the game last night, your

not paying attention to the person in front of you. That's the main reason for the law not allowing texting and driving in the US ..Your not paying attention to what your suppose to. We would never talk on our phone during a performance in clown, nor do we want our audience. We need that personal interaction.

I can remember knowing all my neighbors when I grew up. Today? I'm lucky to know a few. I can remember sitting at a dinner having a conversation... Today? You can see four people at a table at a restaurant, each with their phones out and communicating that way with the world. Maybe we live in a fast pace world and don't have time to talk. Maybe we think we are communicating with the world and don't really get to see what's really going on.

The beauty of being a clown is you get to communicate on a whole different level. We communicate with our eyes, or body movement and what actually comes out of your mouth. The power of a clown breaks through barriers, no matter what age. So why can't we do that "out of Clown"? Communicate to someone, "I see you", with a nod of a head, holding a door going into a store, or a friendly hello. Wouldn't the world be a nicer place if more of us acted like clowns and "Noticed" each other??

Bump a nose,  
Shobo

## MACA Information Center

or Things you may not know about MACA

### CLOWN SEARCH

Did you know that the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association provides a way for people to contact it's MACA clowns on our website?

We have a link on the site menu "**Clown Search**" where anyone accessing the site can find a clown in their area to perform. Your listing as a member is free BUT... You need to provide your information. We do not act as a booking agency. The information is there for contact purposes only.

If you would like your contact information to be published on the website, please send your information :

Clown name

Email address

City

State

Phone Number

to the webmaster,

Terry Slaymaker

[buttonstclown@yahoo.com](mailto:buttonstclown@yahoo.com)



### Clownatarian

The MACA is the only clown organization that gives a Clownatarian award every year and that's because, we made it up! Way back, when the MACA was being formed 30+ years ago, The Keystone Klowns, made up of several clowns that many of you don't know and most of whom are no longer with us on earth, decided they wanted to give an award to a clown for just being a great person. There was a gentleman who worked with new clowns and who on several occasions paid for registration fees, hotel rooms, etc. for clowns who were just starting out and did not have money to come to a convention. It was decided this fellow was a Humanitarian and hence the name Clownatarian.

This award was never intended as a Clown of the Year type award but as a thank you to a good human being who was always there to lend a helping hand in any way they could to other clowns. For the first, at least 15 years (I am guessing on that number) the trophy award was purchased and given to a person chosen by the Keystone Klowns, but eventually as many of them passed away or left the clown world for various reasons, the MACA decided to take over the presentation of the award.

Over the past several years, the selection committee has consisted of Nellie "Muffin" May (a founding member of the Keystone Klowns and the MACA), Darlene "Daisy" Morgan and George "Porgie" Caban. To be selected as a Clownatarian, a clown is nominated by a member of MACA by submitting a letter to the selection committee stating why this person should be considered for this award. These letters are reviewed without names of the person being nominated or the person nominating them being noted so that the nomination is based on good deeds only.

Nominations have declined significantly in the past several years but the MACA board and officers hope to rearrange this selection committee within the next year to make it easier for you all to make nominations. In the meantime, please send any nominations you have for the 2016 award to me at [dottheclown@comcast.net](mailto:dottheclown@comcast.net) or to my home 169 Buckingham Dr., Southampton, NJ 08088 and I will see to it that the current selection committee receives your nominations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and I will try to answer.

Sandi "Dot" Smith



## Do you want to know a secret?



Did you ever want to join a group of like minded people? It's no secret that you can look at the MACA website <http://midatlanticclownassociation.com/>

and find an Alley close to you. No, not that pathway behind a bunch of houses, but a group of clowns! When circuses were under tents, the clowns had to get dressed in an area they called "Clown Alley". Today, there is usually a room or area in the performance arena where the clowns get into grease and wardrobe. It is where the First of Mays learn from the other clowns.

Well, today an Alley is a local group of artists and performers who meet to exchange ideas, hone their skills and share their talents.

One simply email to the contact person can open a whole new world of clowning!

If you are not already part of an established alley, considering going to the website and see if there are a bunch of clowns in your neighborhood! If your alley is listed on the website, please check to see if the information is still correct. Send any changes to the webmaster: Terry Slaymaker [buttonstclown@yahoo.com](mailto:buttonstclown@yahoo.com)



A Poem  
By Splash the Clown

### Clown

C clever, L laughable O others W waggle N nice  
I love the word waggle.

(Definitely move from side to side repeatedly)

Perfect.



SUPERMAN  
An American Hero

# MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

## Kapo's gang



At Kapo's ...We also have fun....we are coming into our busy time of year with many request from different charities.

February was the IHOC Walk ( Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council)

March brings the Kate's Krusaders Bowl a thon for childhood Cancer

April is the Dolan Fund Family boat ride for the children of the Philadelphia Area with Special Needs on the Sprit of Philadelphia.

May is the Philly Cancer walk on Mothers Day and the Ronald McDonald house Plane Pull Fundraiser event at Philly Airport

June is an Alex's lemonade stand for our little buddy Mario...

I'm getting tired writing this down...

We really enjoyed out time at the MACA convention this past Nov, especially during the gong show and really enjoyed some of the pictures that were taken



Bump a nose,  
Kapo's gang



Freestate Clown Alley  
Presents:



Circus Season is upon us in the Mid-Atlantic!

If you follow the circus, you know Ringling Elephants will be off the show beginning May 1st.



Elephant brunch at Lexington Market



Looking forward to MACA's 2016 convention. Patriotic Clowns with a salute to our Military



< Valentine's Day at Nursing home!

Welcoming new members >



<Clowning with the doggies at PetValu

Meeting fell on "National Drink Wine Day" so we Did!



Convention news



33rd Annual Convention November 9—13, 2016

The contract is signed! Dealers and Lecturers are committed!

It is time to register for the most “Xtreme” Convention ever!

The Mid-Atlantic Clowns will be gathering for seminars, competitions, sales, jams, buffets and awards beginning November 9, 2016 at the Red Lion Hotel 4751 Lindle Road Harrisburg, PA 17111. 717-939-7841.

The hotel is a large older resort type hotel with many different types of meeting and conference rooms. We will have access to a ballroom with a built in stage, a large vendor room, a lecture room and a double suite hospitality room which will also house the photographer. Guest rooms are oversized and comfortable. Many open onto the court yard.

The hotel is accessible and pet friendly. There is a restaurant and a bar along with billiards, ping-pong, game room, business office, indoor and outdoor swimming, hot tub and plenty of room for jamming.

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You can call the hotel for reservations and tell them you are with MACA or you can use the following links to go immediately to the website and register.  
(control + click to go to website)

Click here to book: [MACA Conference DBL Occupancy](#)

Click here to book: [MACA Conference SGL Occupancy](#)



<Your President signing the contract!



Check out the hot tub Sweetie!>



<Dive right in!

Or just snooze!>



Convention registration—download the form and mail to Sandi—address and details on the form!

Thursday night Theme Buffet —American Heroes— and Gong Show!  
Friday night Theme Buffet —M\*A\*S\*H and Honoring the Military— and Dancing!  
Saturday Awards Banquet - Red, White and Blue!



<Hotel restaurant!

Capital Diner right down the road!>



Not only educational lectures but exciting presentations by

<Barry Mitchell >



<Joe Barney>



<Mary Ann Ross >



<Cheri Venturi >



<Lee Andrews>



<Kitty Kuhr >



<Annette Darragh >



<Dealer—Terry Slaymaker >



And picture perfect photography  
by Merilyn Barrett

# 33rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Convention *American Heroes*

November 9-13, 2016

**Red Lion Hotel**

4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg PA 17111

To register, complete the form below by filling in the blocks on your computer, print out the form and send, with check made payable to MACA Convention, to: Sandi Smith 169 Buckingham Dr. Southampton, NJ 08088. Questions, call Sandi 609-801-2571 or email: [dotthec clown@comcast.net](mailto:dotthec clown@comcast.net).

*Full registration fee includes dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.*

*Thursday theme - 4th of July and honoring American Heroes - the Gong Show*

*Friday theme - M\*A\*S\*H and honoring our military - Dancing with Hot Lips*

*Saturday banquet - More RED, WHITE and BLUE - awards presentations*

*(Theme parties - award for best dressed for theme. Saturday banquet is business casual or dressy.)*

Registration Fees:	Full - \$185.00 thru 8/31/16	Daily Rates:	\$60.00 per day (no meals)
	Full - \$195.00 thru 10/31/16	Dinner Rates:	\$50.00 Thurs. and/or Fri. each night
	Full - \$210.00 after 10/31/16		\$60.00 Saturday night banquet

Total registration fees: \$

Hotel room rate - \$85.00 single per night includes breakfast. \$95 double per night includes breakfast for two. Additional persons in room do not get breakfast tickets. You must reserve before 10/26/2016 to be assured this rate. If you make reservations thru Sunday and check out earlier, you will be charged a \$50 fee. (717) 939-7841.

Easy on line check-in available - control + click to go to hotel website

.Control + Click here to book: [MACA Conference DBL Occupancy](#)

Control + Click here to book: [MACA Conference SGL Occupancy](#)

\*\*\*\*\*Please note\*\*\*\*\*

\$25 processing fee for cancellations before 10/01/13. No refunds after that date.

Face painting supplies and latex products will be used and sold at this convention.

All are welcome to attend, however, you must be an MACA member and have paid full registration to compete.

Name:  Clown Name:

Address:  E-mail:

City:  Phone:

State:  First MACA convention?:  No  Yes



**Moving?**

Send both your new and old address to:

Dave Myers  
202 N. Dupont Rd.  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
clickerclown@yahoo.com

**MID\_ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION INC.**

**2015-2016 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS**

**Contact Us**

President	John Kral	(302) 322-3773	K1LOWN@aol.com
Vice President	Pat Stevenson	(410) 256-8862	pat_stevenson@verizon.net
Secretary	Dave Myers	(302) 691-5804	clickerclown@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Nancy Gindlesperger	(814) 479-7458	gnancy43@aol.com
Treasurer	Sandy Smith	(856) 840-5022	dotthec clown@comcast.net
Officer Emeritus	Nelle May	(412) 654-4158	
Editor	Thom Stevenson	(410) 256-8862	tnpstevenson@verizon.net
Education	Annette Darragh	(610) 351-3717	clowncare@aol.com
Chaplain	Bill Schober	(856) 423-8214	shobodaclown@yahoo.com
Historian	Darlene Morgan	(724) 654-3307	DaisyDeeKlown@verizon.net
Trustees	Jim Shores	(410) 207-0444	jim_shores@msn.com
	John Crull		slapshotwizard@aol.com
	Mary Jo Noble	(610) 693-3450	tmjnoble@verizon.net
<u>State Directors</u>			
Delaware	Renata McIntoch	(302) 653-1658	renate@snippydoodles.com
Maryland	Diane Jones	(301) 947-0959	toodlestheclown@aol.com
Northern NJ	Meg Milligan	(732) 928-8117	clowningbymac@yahoo.com
Southern NJ	Ron Mount	(609) 859-3772	hoboshady@yahoo.com
New York	Cathy Mackey	(518) 784-2127	ctots@aol.com
Ohio	George Caban	(330) 750-1107	OneFunnyGuy@hotmail.com
Eastern PA	Mark St. Marie	(215) 537-8335	Bustert13@aol.com
Central PA	Susan Saunders	(717) 549-3320	gettysbear25@aol.com
Western PA	Gerald Yourich	(814) 629-5973	jyourich@comcast.net
Virginia	Paula Ward	(804) 276-5578	paulaaward@comcast.net
West Virginia	Jessica King	(304) 542-6046	gabbygayle2005@yahoo.com