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Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter



MACA's 2022 Clownatarian - Steve Carder

Presented by President John Kral and Vice-President Pat Stevenson

1ST Quarter 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MID-ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION



The 2023 Convention will be celebrating our

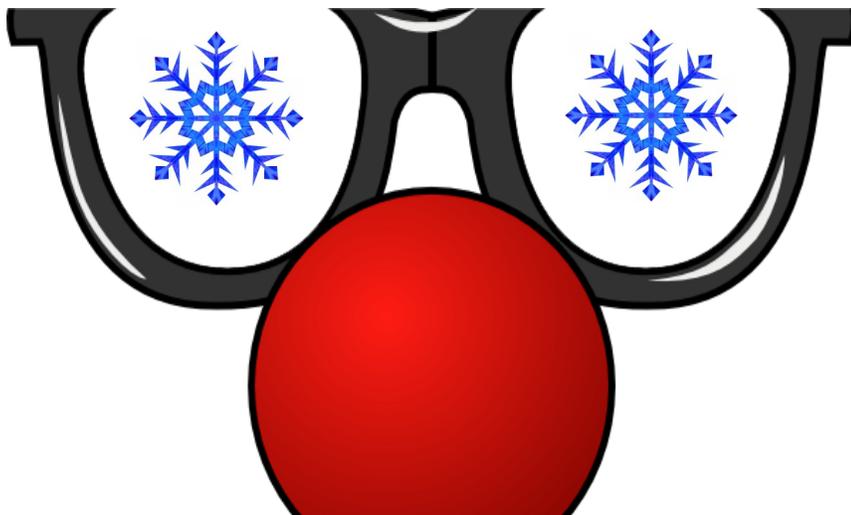
40th

Years of providing education in, and the preservation of, the
art of clowning.

Come join us at this year's 2023 MACA CONVENTION
November 10 - 12
In Harrisburg, PA.

In This Issue

- President's Message (page 3)
- Chaplain's Corner (page 4)
- Education Update (page 5)
- MACA Convention 2023 (page 6)
- MACA Convention 2022 Revisit (page 8)
- Clown Alley News (page 10)
- MACA Information Center (page 15)
- 2023 Officers and Directors Listing (page 19)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Kral

Hello MACA Clowns,

I hope you all have a Great Christmas, Holiday season.

I can't believe it is the end of January. Pretty soon we will be planning for our summer events if not already some have planned for their clown summer events.

The 2023 (40th) MACA convention is in the works, and I hope you are planning on going.

It is November 9 to November 12, 2023.

It is planning on being a "**BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY**".

The vendors and lectures have been approached and I believe they all have agreed to attend. A big "Thank You" is extended to Alene "Ruffles" Kraus and "Patty Cake" Stevenson for again pulling this year's convention together. Pat has taken the time to work with the hotel to make this another great MACA convention at the hotel.

Information and registration forms can be found in our newsletter and on our web site www.midatlanticclownassociation.com.

Also, keep an eye opened for the dates when the discounted early registration will be.

Just a reminder that I put in my message that elections will be held at the General Meeting. There are positions being vacated this year and the organization needs a board of directors. Please consider a position on the board to keep MACA going on to "Promote the art of Clowning". If you are interested please let anyone on the MACA board know.

If any of you would write a brief bio about how you got into the art of clowning, any tips you have learned on your clown journey I think the newsletter editor, Thom "Skootchee The Clown" Stevenson would appreciate it very much as he is always looking for articles for the newsletter.

Again, thank you all for being members of MACA and clowns to bringing smiles to the world.

Take care and Keep e'm laff'n.

See you down the road

John 'Kris Krunch" Kral

"I love being a Clown" Willie from Philly

Life feels a little topsy-turvy for me as I sit down to write this. On the heels of our MACA convention, the pastor at our church took a call at a new church and I was asked to deliver a sermon to help fill out our pulpit supply. Given my experiences with y'all, I happen to know it takes me a month or more to shape something - shout out to the hotel's business center being open 24 hours, as this year's message was wrapped up in the wee hours of Sunday morning. Well, THIS upcoming Sunday is the date I agreed to take my turn, and y'all and our conference are mentioned, as well as juggling clubs, rubber chickens, and ukuleles. First time I've ever heard a clown convention referenced from the pulpit, but I firmly believe the paths God has had us tread and the people He's had walk with us are for reasons that He can use to His glory.

The best clowns I've met in my travels so far have brought their whole self and the paths they've walked in them to their clowning. We don't get to see many of our compatriots in their regular workaday worlds - the 9-5 day jobs or the family caretaker roles, the things that bring delight and the things that bring drudgery. But the daily life we don't see shapes what they find personally funny, what calls to them in their chance to interact with the world as clowns, and what refreshes them as we interact with them through MACA. We have a chance to uplift our fellow clowns or bring them down, just as we do the other people we interact with in our daily lives. When we're "in grease" we generally seek to bring delight and joy. Let the clown paint be wiped away and it's altogether too easy to fall into a different character: someone too busy to be bothered with someone else when not "on stage". But we never really leave the stage as humans, or at least, not till the great Ringmaster has us take our final walkaround.

2022's convention had a great mix of long-time comers and fresh faces. As we look ahead to this year's anniversary celebration, your convention team is making plans to encourage folks who haven't attended recently to dip their clown toe back into the convention pond. I encourage you to look beyond the character your fellow clown presents. Listen and look for the clues of the life they lead. Assume that they're there for a reason, and that at least one of those reasons, whether they intend it or not, is to impact you and be impacted by you. My sermon this Sunday contains evidence of y'all's impact on me and I thank you for it! May MACA continue to be a community that brings positive impacts to each other, both in your local alleys and as we gather together in Harrisburg again next November.

MACA Education Director Update

Ready, Set, GO!

Happy New Year to Everyone! It's going to be a superb 2023.

MACA celebrates 40 Years uplifting clowns through education, collaboration, and good old fun! Our 2023 Convention, November 8th -12th , is poised to Celebrate All Clowns. Your Board of Directors are Ready. The Instructors are Set. And, our members are ready to **GO!**

Our headliner is a MACA favorite, Bob Abdou! Bob brings years of professional, successful and fun entertainment to our classroom and to our stage. Another MACA favorite, Kevin Brown returns to share his humor and his circus skills with us in class, and Kevin is our Friday night show.

Open Mic continues to be our Thursday night show. Start practicing your skits and bits. Last years open mic show was a welcomed addition to our convention. We will continue with the same format as last year. Practice, Register and Perform and bask in the applause!

We are adding a Wednesday night show that will be a very unique and enjoyable experience for all. I'll have more information on Wednesday's Extravaganza a bit later in the year.

This is a "**Not to Miss**" Convention. The MACA family is a special group. Consider bringing a friend. All are welcome to the party!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. My information can be found below.

Alene "Rufflez" Kraus
Director of Education
610-864-5969
srateach@gmail.com

Please read!



Happy Almost 40th Birthday to the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association!

Thanks to the Officers and the Board of Directors, your convention has been arranged for a captivating time by everyone! The instructors/vendors and entertainers are all preparing for their classes and shows. The excitement is growing!

The board continues to receive positive reviews. A few notes/comments/opinions, however, were regarding a lack of professionalism, respect and even kindness. We just want to express our expectations for all who attend.

MACA has always been family and we really want that to continue. **With that in mind:**

Please exercise good judgement and awareness in all comments, jokes, actions, etc. Your words and actions should be acceptable for your child and your grandmother to hear and see. We do expect a few children and lots of grannies to be in attendance.

Keep it squeaky clean!

Please do not talk over, call out or bellow at the instructors or entertainers in a class or at a show. When trying to resolve an issue with the hotel staff, remain calm and do not scream at the staff. Challenges (as the hotel calls them) will be settled promptly. These behaviors are not very clown like and they make *you* look bad.

Be aware that we don't all think alike and that makes us stronger. Stay positive, respect others' beliefs and talents and have an awesome convention!

MACA 2023 CONVENTION NEWS



Back by popular demand, our Saturday evening Headliner “Mr. Puppet” **Bob Abdou**”.

Professional Comedy Entertainer for Children & Adults. Bob has been entertaining since 1996.

Our Friday evening entertainment will be **Kevin Brown**. Kevin is a former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown and has been performing for many years.



Open Mic continues to be our Thursday night show. Start practicing your skits and bits.



Did you say MC? The funniest guy from the \$1.25 Store!



MACA 2022 CONVENTION WRAP-UP



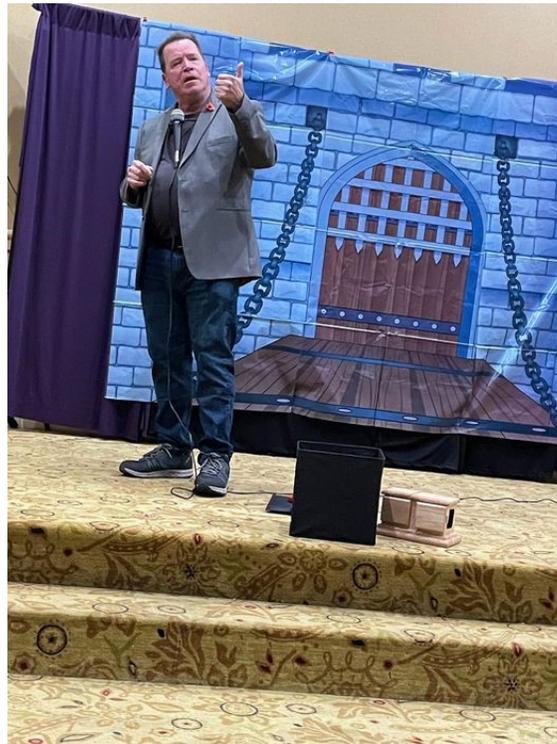
Thursday nights Open Mic skit



Looks like mischief a brewin'



Dinner dress for the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Clowns of the Roundtable



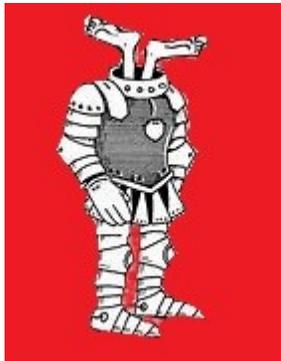
Dave Hill performs for us on Friday night



The Round Table Meeting Is Over



Previous Clownatarians welcome Steve to



Had fun at Mid-Atlantic clown association.



Open Mic Performer take a Bow



What you need to do to get a group photo when its raining balloons cats and dogs outside

Steel City Clown Brigade Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The winter has been lots of fun for us. We are very close to starting out our apprenticeship program. We have the Brigade's House very close to being ready to host guests. We hope to have 2 to 4 people a weekend join us for clown training. We will start with the basics in juggling, balloon sculpting, persona, pantomime and all those fun things.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice with the Brigade at our regular meetings. There will be extra classes in the aforementioned subjects. We used to do weekends like this in the off season. They were great fun and the elephants liked the extra visitors when they were not performing. We don't have elephants but we will have Buddy there for people to pet.

There are lots of things we still need to figure out. We are looking at furniture for the rooms. We hope to be ready for our first weekend by the spring.

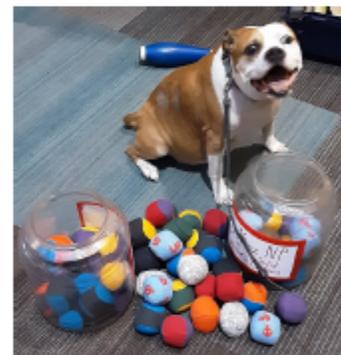
The Brigade continues to run three classes a week. It has been a great summer for teaching circus skills. One of our favorite classes is on Sundays in Oakland. If you would like you can join us online at 4:00 PM at: <https://meet.goto.com/189934429>



Our newest member Rob is sewing something under the watchful supervision of Buddy the Wonder Dog, the Brigade's Mascot. Buddy may not look like it but he is a fairly good tailor.

Buddy also has duties as our inspector of the clothing and juggling equipment we make for other clowns. He is pictured to the left checking our newest

Batch of juggling balls. He makes sure they are round and well sewn. Actually I am not sure what his inspection criteria are. He is a dog and lives in our office. We have not gotten around to figuring what he actually does.

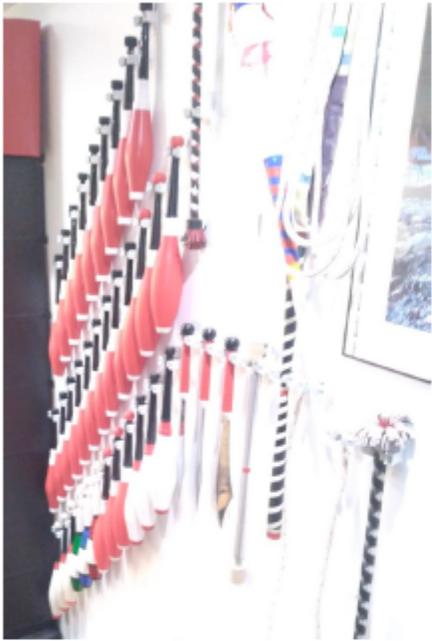


You can visit our Etsy Shop at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/ClownSupplyDepot>

www.steelcityclownbrigade.org

Dave Harmon is working on juggling odd sized objects. Actually the various things are the correct size and weight for the objects they are. They are just different from each other. I am not sure why we call is juggling odd sized objects.

Anyway here he is at our Sunday Practice juggling various things. He is juggling a bowling ball, standard 5.5 oz. Juggling ball and I think a golf ball. You cannot see the golf ball in the picture.



We have also been fortunate to get a bunch of new clubs for our juggling classes. The good folks at Dubé have been kind enough to make them in various sizes. Finding clubs that are short enough for young people has been a constant challenge. This spring will be the first time we get to start new classes with enough equipment for everyone.

Before I go, I would like to invite you to join us for online classes on basic clowning. We are starting classes online starting February 21st. Classes will cover the basic clown types and where they evolved from. It is more interesting than it sounds.



Rev. SR Gailey Chief Clown of the Steel City Clown Brigade

Please join us for our Basic Clowning Classes on line.
Tuesdays starting February 14th 6:00 PM online at [gotomeeting](https://meet.goto.com/189934429).
<https://meet.goto.com/189934429>

We are trying to resurrect the clown forum. So come on by and give the new website a try.
Join: www.clownforum.org



FREESTATE CLOWN ALLEY #30



Est. 1972
Baltimore Maryland

Convention 2022...Steve
"T-Bone" Carder is
Clownatarian of the Year!



Just Keith



For Bobby



*Off with his head
Let's register*

Memories

BE THE REASON
SOMEONE SMILES



Clown Family?? by Jim "Donuts" Donoughe

I've always heard the term Clown Family and I used to laugh at the idea of clowns having me as a family member. My own family was stuck with the weirdo that loves clowning, they're my blood, they have no choice. But a group of friends as a family "a second family" that would love my Weirdness was something I never imagined. A group of good friends yeah! I had that after my stroke. A group of ladies took me under their motherly wings and watched over me while we went to American Clown Academy knowing I couldn't drive. They looked after me to watch that I didn't overdo it just a week after my stroke. That was until I had a problem at another convention that wasn't expected. I fell ill at the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association convention in Harrisburg PA.

You see I had some bouts of vertigo before but nothing like what hit me there. I went to breakfast dismissing the dizziness as nothing till it wasn't. This time it worried me. I stumbled out of breakfast feeling like I was very, very, drunk trying to get to the men's room thinking, no, hoping that no one noticed. I made it as far as the men's room sink. There I was in the men's room holding my head on the marble sink so I knew I wouldn't fall. The cold marble slab felt good against my forehead, I didn't think I could move any further so there I stayed. That's when I felt a cold wet paper towel being placed on my neck and a kind man's voice ask if I was ok. At that point I didn't know who this person was, I just was relieved that someone was there just in case I did fall. He rubbed my back and kept saying "he was there if I needed him, it would be ok!"

Then it hit me, this was the president of MACA, John Kral. He had seen my stumble, was told the rest and came to help me out. I was embarrassed but thankful. He stood with me for a minute then in comes a booming take charge kind of voice. Wait that's a lady's voice. Ooh god did I go into the wrong bathroom? Were we in the lady's room? I thought ooh this went from bad to worse. No! I was in the right bathroom, she wasn't, but there she was, Lorice Bolde. Her military Coast Guard training had kicked in she was there taking charge and barking orders too. She had come to help. All to make sure I was ok and being taken care of. And that wasn't the only woman who came into that small men's room. My partner in crime, Connie Morrow, was there as well. I guess she thought if Lorice could be in there, she was going in also. This left Tina VanWormer and Patty Docker Ford outside to get a wheelchair as they were told.

Besides being so dizzy, I wanted the world to stop so I could get off, now I was in the men's room with 2 ladies and the president of MACA, with me at my worst. I looked over to the next sink and I felt bad for this older man that was just there to use the facilities. There was nothing I could do at this point to ease our embarrassment at this whole situation.

By now my chariot awaited to take me to my room. As I had requested much to the annoyance to the crew that wanted me to go to the hospital by ambulance to boot. There was no way I was going to a hospital and wasting any ones time for this. I was dizzy not dying. I knew I just needed to sleep till it passed. Thankfully it was just the dizziness I was dealing with at this point.

These ladies rushed me to my room. Where I had crawled into bed thinking that was the end of it. I'd sleep it off like the other times vertigo hit me.

Not far from it. As I laid there, someone was tucking blankets around me to keep me warm another was tearing off my shoes. I tried to make them leave as I was fine now!

Eventually, the others left except for Connie even after I threatened her saying "I was going to kick her butt if she didn't go to class." She stayed and fielded phone calls and visits from others that heard what had happened and tracked down my room number. Alene Kraus brought Ginger ale for my now very upset stomach. I slept through it all.

I was humbled and in awe of the caring this group had shown me. I slept for about 7 hours all while the calls and visits kept coming. Others came to see what they could do. I would hear the voices and thought I was dreaming but when I awoke it was like that scene from the Wizard of OZ when Dorothy was telling a tale of what she thought her adventures, were only a dream. I hoped all mine were really just a bad dream. I asked if I really heard the voices? And yes! It was true, the sheer number of people that were coming or calling was true. That meant me yelling every time I heard Punkin's voice say "go to class!" was true even though she wouldn't. I had ginger ale waiting for me when I woke. The visitors brought food for Connie because she wouldn't leave. These people gave up time and classes for which they had paid to care for and check in on me. When I was better and was able to return to the group the love that was shown was overwhelming.

It was then I realized these friends were truly family not just friends. I can't thank them enough for all they sacrificed and treated me like a true member of the family not just a friend. So, when you are with your tribe, your second family, I hope you celebrate the love you feel. I know now no other family would have your back more than my clown family. We all belong to the same crazy weird family and I wouldn't have it any other way.

And yes, if you're reading this you are part of my family, please know I love you all.

Jest For Clowns Summit 2023, (on ZOOM, March 6-7)

Mark your calendars! The Jest for Clowns Summit is happening online March 6 and 7 from 1pm to 7pm each day. Replays will be available for two weeks on the private Facebook page in case you can't attend in person.

Jest For Clowns Summit 2023, (on ZOOM, March 6-7) can help you achieve more than you can on your own. Our own Jackie 'Bee Bee' Reynolds will be teaching a class on ventriloquism.

Find out about other classes and instructors here: <https://tinyurl.com/JFCSummit2023>

In JEST 2 days you'll experience world-class professional instructors, offering their shortcuts to success, so you won't have to learn the hard way. You'll tap into your creativity during the sessions and enjoy extra camaraderie in our private Facebook group.

If you can't make the live sessions, you'll have 14 days to review the sessions in our private Facebook group. Attend at least 10 of the 12 sessions, and you'll receive a certificate of completion in your email. Here's the link for more details! <https://tinyurl.com/JFCSummit2023>

You won't have to leave home. Register here today for the best price and view the 2-day high impact schedule. Massive value for a ridiculously low cost!

All clowns play a role in shaping how we're perceived in the public. We need to show up, ready to perform at our peak. Let's collaborate to create positive and lasting change in our world. Imagine a world where clowns come together to learn how to step into that space beyond wonderful makeup and costumes? Let's do better.

Click here  [Jest For Clowns Summit - Jest for Clowns](#) for more information or to sign-up.



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, Thom Stevenson
Skootchee3419@gmail.com.



MACA MEMBERSHIP

Looking for some help in your clowning career ?

Looking to meet some new and some well established clown ?

Join the mid-Atlantic Clown Association (MACA)

Our purpose is to promote the education in and the preservation of the ancient art of clowning.

To become a member, click on this link to apply for [membership](#).

Changing the World One smile at a time

Send YOUR Alley News and items you may want to share with other members to the Newsletter Editor.

The MACA Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly and submission are due to the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. (Articles are due by June 20th for inclusion in the July/Aug newsletter).

Please, no hand written articles. Pictures may be blurred if the megapixels are not high enough.

Send articles to Editor: Thom Stevenson at skootchee3419@gmail.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 40+ years ago, The Keystone Klowns, made up of several clowns that many 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 clown person. There was a gentleman 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 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 MACA), Darlene "Daisy" Morgan and George "Porgie" Caban. We have re-organized the selection committee to include more currently active members and have decided this committee will be made up of previous Clownatarian award winners that are currently serving on the MACA Board of Directors. Therefore, this year's selection committee will include Nellie May, George Caban, Sandi Smith, Bill Schober, Bob Gretton, Ryan Schwendel, Pat Stevenson, Larry Etchison and Steve Carter.

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.

Please send any nominations you have for the 2023 award to me at dotthec clown@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





Willie from Philly Scholarship

William "Willy from Philly" Clegg was the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Education Director for many years and was a strong advocate for clown education. He strive to foster growth in other clowns and always had kind words and something new to show the clowns in the organization. He had a loving and giving spirit.

He was always the official greeter at every function. At conventions, you would find him roaming the halls introducing himself to all the new clowns and joking with those he knew. Knowing Willie was a gift that we were lucky to share.

Willie's motto was "I love being a clown" and he surely did. At the 2007 convention, he was "in clown" every day, caring and sharing his wonderful warmth with anyone willing to partake of his presence. Willie loved being a clown and he truly had the heart of a clown. It was who he was and he was proud to share his gifts with us.

The MACA Board wanted a special way to preserve Willie's memory and pass on his passion and sharing. The board decided to create the Willie from Philly Scholarship Fund. Willie was all about growth and learning. We feel this is an excellent way to carry on his memory.

The Scholarship is available to first time MACA attendees who are new clowns wishing to enhance their clown education.

The form MUST be completed and mailed to the scholarship committee at least two weeks before the convention. Your registration must be paid.

The scholarship winner may have to go through an interview process—format to be determined before the end of the convention.

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association
Willie from Philly Scholarship Application



1. Your full name, clown name, address and contact phone number.

2. How long have you been a clown? _____

3. What kind of clowning do you do? (hospital clown, caring clown, party clown, etc)

4. What is your favorite thing about clowning?

5. How are you hoping to expand your clown experience?

6. Are there any special skills you would like to learn?

7. Do you belong to an Alley? Which one? _____

8. Do you have a mentor? _____

9. Do you belong to any other clown organizations? _____

10. Are you a MACA member? Please enter your number. _____

Please submit your completed application to the MACA Scholarship Committee at least two weeks before the convention be eligible for the scholarship. You must have submitted your registration and fee for the full convention.

Also, membership in the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association is a requirement and will be confirmed before the scholarship is awarded.



Moving?

Send both your new and old address to:

Dave Myers
318 S. Cleveland Ave.
Wilmington, DE 19805
clickerclown@yahoo.com

MID_ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION INC.

2023 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS

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