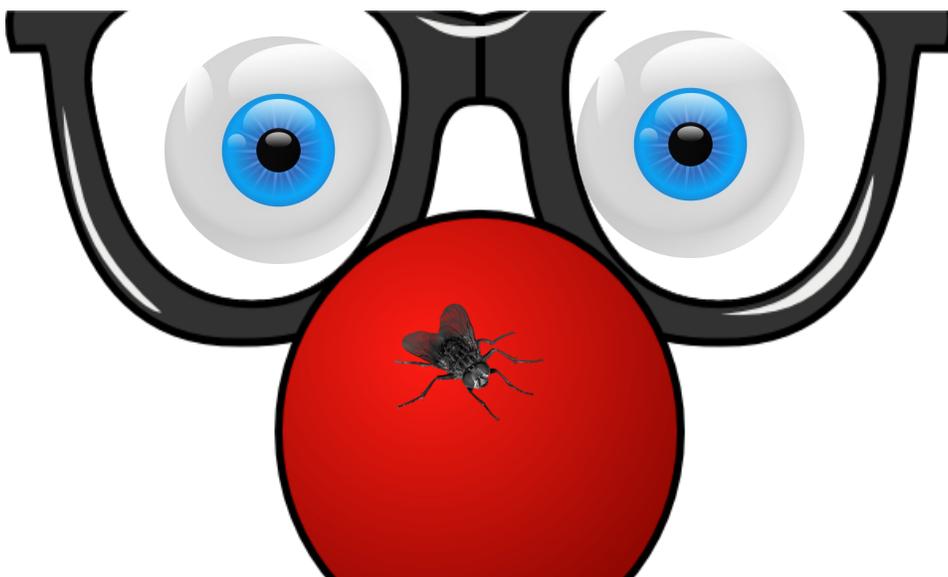


THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Saunders
MACA President

Happy New Year! I am hoping that everyone had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend it with family. We are hopeful that 2021 will be a much better year for everyone.

Despite the numbers, I believe that our convention was a huge success! Thank you to all that attended this year's event with all of the challenges. A huge thank you goes out to Bob Gretton, Thom and Pat Stevenson, Larry Etchison, Alene Kraus and all of the other board members who worked hard behind the scenes to make sure of the convention was a huge success.

We have already started gearing up for the 2021 convention. The dates are November 11-14 and the theme is the "Rootin' Tootin' Wild West". So put it on your calendar now and be sure to be there for a "Rootin Tootin" great time!

MACA Secretary Letter

Hi Everyone, I hope everybody's holidays went well and the new year is better than the last one. Even though it was smaller than usual we had a great convention. Hopefully, next year is even better.

The following are the best ways to contact me:

Email – clickerclown@yahoo.com

Cell #- 302-230-1393 text is best, if no answer please leave a message. I check these everyday. The previous phone # is no longer in service.

Anyone who has paid their dues and did not receive their membership card please contact me and I will send one out.

Bump a Nose, Dave Myers

A CHAT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

By Tina Coleman
MACA Chaplain

Happy New Year to MACA! I was glad to get to spend time with many of you at MACA in November, and counted it a blessing to be able to spend a weekend with my fellow clowns. In true clown fashion, I went to the election meeting, fell asleep, and woke up to find myself an officer! Uh, well, that's not exactly what happened, but it sure would make a fun clown bit!

For those of you who I haven't met or chatted with in a while, my name is Tina Coleman. I had the honor to stand in as chaplain for this year's convention, as COVID scrambled more than a few folks' plans. I'm a member of FreeState Clown Alley, but a relatively new one: I've only been clowning for a few years now. I had had a desire to be a clown for many years, but had never acted upon it. A few years ago, I was at a Presbyterian Pilgrimage and we were talking about ministries we'd love to see in our churches. I shared my thoughts with my table of how I thought clowning would allow people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds to all serve together in a fun way, and my table challenged me to get off my duff and figure something out about getting it started. I found FreeState's info online, and began to learn.

Since those first humble steps into an alley meeting, I've learned a few things. I'm still learning, as I hope you all are, too. My first makeup applications were awful, as my alley members can attest, and I'd say they've improved, but could still use work. My pastor, who'd been on that retreat and heard my desire to serve as a clown, gave me the opportunity to perform a skit as Clementine as part of a Christmas family worship service. I was already a leader for our children's worship, so we decided to try having Clementine be part of the regular worship service about once a month. I know y'all already know this, but sharing a lesson of any type as a clown can reach well beyond just the children... Clementine started getting compliments from the church members about how she shared a message. I haven't convinced anyone yet to start a clown ministry at our church, but I know they didn't fall asleep during Clementine's "sermon". I keep working on clown material and still serve about once a month as Clementine for children's worship, though it's all online for now.

A year or two ago, I resolved to start making a bit of money as a clown, mostly to feed my habit of conventions and props. When I'm not clowning, I'm a software developer, and a mom for 3 kids, where "kid" ranges from middle school to high school to just entered college. For me clowning has to be a very part-time gig for now. My prayers go out to those of you who do this more full-time and whose livelihood has been severely hampered in the last year by the virus. This is a different sort of year to be a clown. May God bless our efforts.

Speaking of prayers: whether or not you and I share the same faith background, I'm happy to pray for you or those you care for. I'm findable on Facebook and reachable by email at colemanserious@gmail.com.

Would love to hear from you! Until then, bump a nose!

MACA Education Director Update

We Kept Our Promise by Bob “Bunky” Gretton Education Director

The MACA Board promised a Safe and Fun Filled Convention and that is what we delivered. It appeared that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Even with masks on, you could see the smiling faces through their sparkling eyes. Red Lion Hotel was spotless from top to bottom. The three dinner meals were served with care. Thursday and Friday nights buffets were served to us by the hotel staff, keeping everything safe. Saturday Dinner was also presented within safety standards. The classrooms were set up with the chairs far apart. The lectures were informative and provided a great way to learn and grow. With the crazy times we are in and the unknown future ahead, it was nice to be together. We set up the Dealer Room with plenty of room for Social Distancing. The Hotel gave us the large room by the lobby for our Hospitality Event each evening. As always, Larry did a wonderful job with all the snacks and goodies. As you can see, Safety First was our Top Priority. The two stage shows were top notch. Friday night’s entertainment featured the Comedy Magic of MACA’s own Alene Kraus and Steve Hart. The Convention ended with the Saturday night performance, showcasing our Headliners, Duane and Mary Laflin. These international performing stars gave us an extra added treat to their show. Mary combined with Duane in a singing duet as he accompanied on a guitar and of course their magical touch kept attendees totally engaged for the entire evening.

Now Let’s talk about MACA 2021...It’s going to be a **“Rootin Tootin Clown Convention” Nov 11-14** Harrisburg, PA. Y’all need to gallup over to the Red Lion Hotel for a *Rip Roaring Time*. Thursday Night is a *“Chuck wagon” theme*. Dust off all your cowboy duds and head over for some good Vittles. Thursday Night is also going to be “Open Mike” with coaching or critiquing from a selected panel. Everyone participating will receive written feedback. Friday Night Theme is *“Dress like Your Favorite Western Movie Character.”* Put a big lasso around the date on your 2021 calendars. YE HA!



BALLOON ARTIST

SPLASHING AROUND, AND TWISTING AWAY

With each twist of his balloons, clown John Sullivan brings smiles to kids of all ages

By **Johnathan B. Paroby**
South Schuylkill News

At 8 a.m. Saturday morning, retired state worker John Sullivan of Pottsville started putting on his makeup.

"I'm going to start with a white makeup and create what is called a lighted goose effect that shows more skin," said Sullivan. "Putting on the face takes me about 15 minutes. I learned how to do this going to several different clown school workshops in different states over the past 35 years."

That's right. John Sullivan, 71, is Splash the Clown.

"Way back when in 1978 I was a young Jaycee and there was an air show at the Schuylkill County Airport, they needed someone to sell balloons," Sullivan said. "So I put an outfit together, put on the makeup and sold balloons. It was fun and I never stopped having fun with it since that day."

Sullivan didn't know it back then, but what he found holding those balloons behind the makeup would grow into something embraced by the Schuylkill County community with an almost celebrity-like status. If you're out with the kids at a community event, there is a good chance you will have a Splash the Clown experience.

Kids of all ages

At a recent downtown Pottsville event, Tracey Holden, Auburn, was with her two children and they found Splash making balloon art.

"He's great with the kids and you can just tell he finds something special in doing what he does," Holden said.

Kids, it seems, can be found at any age.

"Look at this balloon sword he made me," Holden said with a laugh. "I'm 38 and he asked me



JOHNATHAN B. PAROBY — SPECIAL TO SOUTH SCHUYLKILL NEWS

It's 8 a.m., and John Sullivan of Pottsville begins his transformation by putting on powderless makeup. Sullivan, 71, is well-known as Splash The Clown throughout the Schuylkill County area.

what I wanted. I wasn't sure so he made me a sword. It's great!"

'Splashing around'

Sullivan said the name Splash originated when he was in the tub splashing around, though he admits his wife back then may have helped him come up with the name.

"That was about 20 years ago," Sullivan said while in his home summoning his clown persona.

Sullivan's Pottsville home, dubbed Splash Headquarters, is almost like moving around a mad scientist's laboratory inside a clown museum. Dozens of Splash outfit parts are organized ready to be chosen to perform together. A room upstairs is where Splash

practices twisting, the art of making balloon art and animals using long stringy balloons of silver, red, green — every color imaginable.

Professional grade makeup in the bathroom is ready to be put to use in front of a large mirror. Piece by piece, orchestrated by Sullivan, this is where Splash the Clown comes to life.

The Charlie Award

Among his greatest achievements was being honored with the Charlie Award in 2011 by the international organization, Clowns of America International. The award was bestowed upon Sullivan for his efforts to celebrate International Clown Week throughout the Schuylkill County area.

According to the website, inter-

nationalclownweek.org, the purpose of the organization is to celebrate, promote and inform during International Clown Week, which is the first week in August. Jugglers have a day. Balloon twisters have a day and magicians have a day. But clowns have a seven-day stretch.

"That was quite an honor. I still remember receiving that letter in the mail," Sullivan said. "I still have the award plaque hanging on the wall."

While Sullivan said that was his greatest achievement, his greatest recognition happens each and every time he hands a child a balloon he has created just for them.

A busy, full life

These days Sullivan contin-

ues those efforts to celebrate everything about being a clown by keeping busy performing at 10-15 events a year.

On a recent Saturday Sullivan was up early packing his clown-mobile with supplies for a performance at the Pottsville Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt Small Business Saturday event held Nov. 30. Performing inside the Majestic Theater on North Centre Street, he took requests for balloon animals and performed several magic tricks for the crowds of children.

On a typical outing Sullivan says he makes about 150 balloon art animals. A menu-type board at the front of Splash's table helps the kids decide which creation they would like.

"I want something blue. A flower," a young voice says. Splash offers the child a few blues to choose from and goes to work twisting away. Minutes later the child reacts — visibly excited seeing what Splash created for her. Other children start cheering out requests — a dinosaur, a train, a fish.

Splash chuckles.

"My pleasure," he says with a smile and goes to work with the next balloon.

"I've been fortunate enough to have had some really great people teach me how to do this," Sullivan said. "Doing this makes me feel good. Being able to share smiles with others and the children. I love the children's faces while I perform. And I kind of feel that I'm led by the Holy Spirit to share my gifts being Splash. I just feel blessed that I'm able to do this."

For more about Splash the Clown, visit him on Facebook.

Contact **Johnathan Paroby**:
570-385-7358 or news@southschuylkillnews.com.

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS



JOHNATHAN B. PAROBY — SPECIAL TO SOUTH SCHUYLKILL NEWS

John Sullivan as Splash The Clown makes balloon art animals for a group of children during this year's Schuylkill Haven Borough Day.



Kapo's gang (South Jersey) has not met nor is planning to until the pandemic is better..all of our fundraiser gigs we have gone to in the past have been canceled or postponed so far this year

Shobo

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS



*Santa Willie
At Camp
GLOW
Zoom*

*Christmas 2020 Zoom performance
Toodles as Mrs. Claus reading
Twas the Night before Christmas*



*Christmas gift
Deliveries!*

Santa and Rudolf at ARC Metro

*Keith with his Veterans plaque
From MACA*



BE THE REASON
SOMEONE SMILES

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Do you need an Alley?

Carletta and Gerald Yourich

By Pat Stevenson

It is getting harder to find an active Clown Alley. During the pandemic, even active alleys are not meeting. There are plenty of Zoom meetings, but this doesn't help the in-person networking .

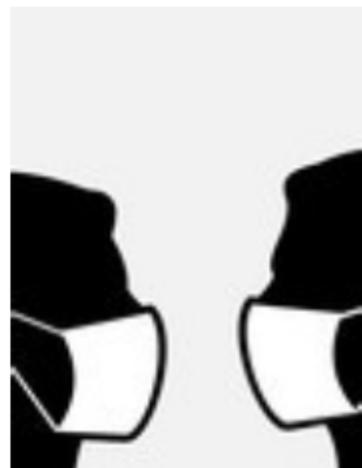
So what happens when you can't find an active Alley? You do what Carletta and Gerald Yourich do... You Razzle and Dazzle them!

...You hook up with your local Fire Department in Boswell PA! The Yourichs' organize and plan picnics with kids zones, providing Sparky, the Easter Bunny and all the usual clown stuff a whole Alley would provide!

They make all the hand made ham "pot pies" with slippery noodles for the dinners.

Then they call Bingo. (No they don't sing B I N GO—those little blue haired serious as a heart attack little ladies playing bingo would have none of that craziness!)

As of November 2020, they had made over 2000 masks and over \$3000 for the Fire Department. What an awesome clown couple!





Out Of This World Aliens take Center Stage



Clownatarian Award went to Larry Etchison



Headliner Duane Laflin performs as Elvis



Entertainment from the Gerry Giovinco's Flea Circus



John Crul helps steady Marvin after his long space flight



Zany Friday Night Entertainment

MACA 2021 CONVENTION NEWS



**Rootin'
Tootin'**

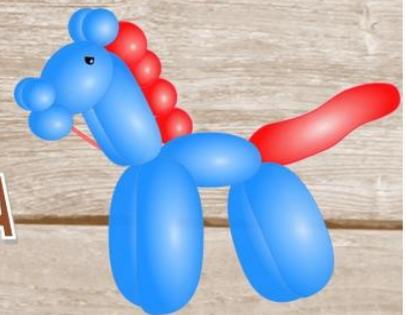
Wild West

**Mid-Atlantic Clown
Convention #38**

November 11-14, 2021

Red Lion Hotel

4751 Lindle Rd. Harrisburg, PA



MACA 2021 CONVENTION NEWS

Howdy partners!

All you clowns who want a hog-killing time*—no airin' the lungs#—don't miss this one!

The Auger% promises a rip roaring, rootin' tootin' time!

The 38th Annual MACA Convention is goint to be an Ace-High@ event!

The newest Clownatarian (2020) Larry Etchison and his sidekick Mark are getting ready to

“BEE”!



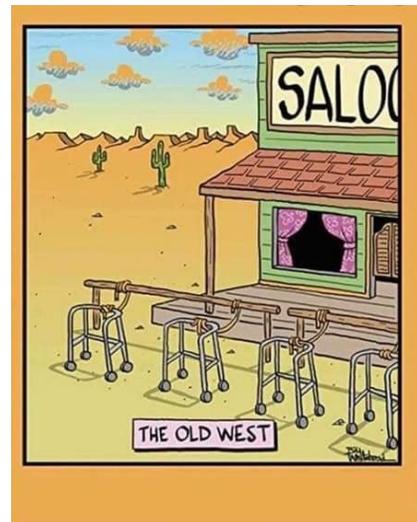
*great

#no cussing

%Big Boss/President

@first class

“have a gathering of friends, family and neighbors to get the job done”



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 ?

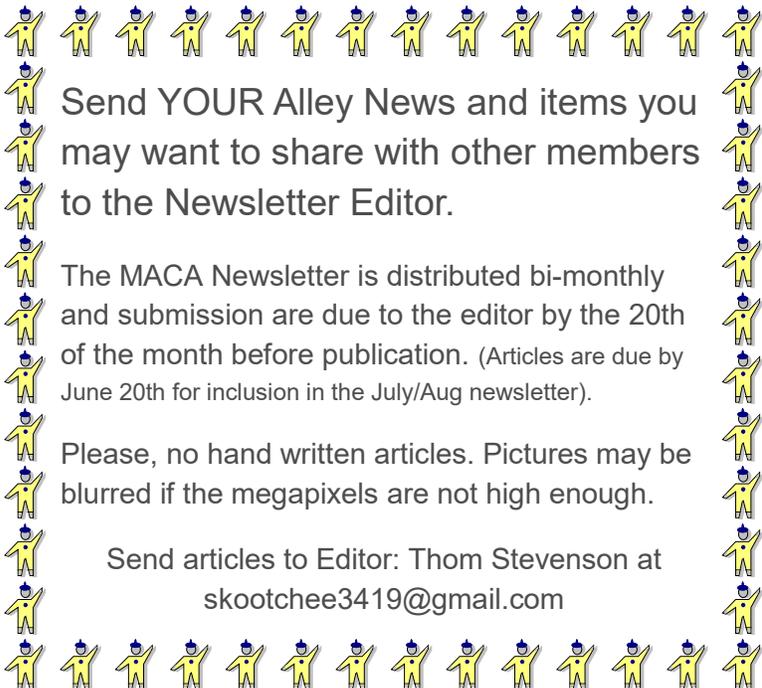
Looking to meet some new and some well established clown ?

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 30+ 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 and Larry Etchison.

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 2021 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

"Anyone who has paid their dues for 2021/2022 and has not received a membership card please contact Dave Myers at 320-230-1393 or clickerclown@yahoo.com"

MID_ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION INC.

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