

THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

Feb/Mar 2019

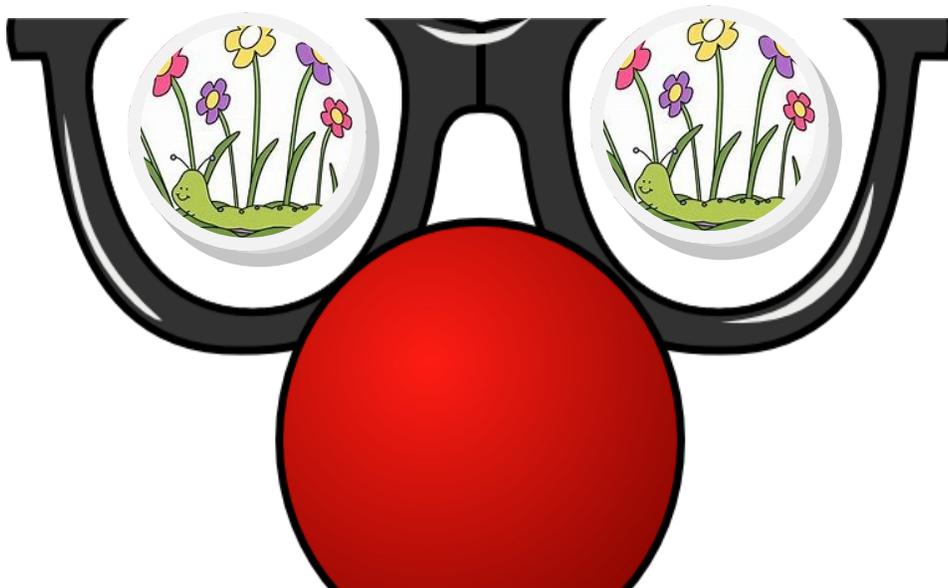
He Just Asked Me To The

MID-ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION

SENIOR
Prom

November 7-10

Red Lion Hotel
Harrisburg, PA



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Pat Stevenson
MACA President

Message from the President...

Spring has SPRUNG! Say goodbye to winter, enjoy your summer vacation but continue to think about all the cool things you will be doing at MACA this Fall!

Part of moving forward is continuing education and exposure to new and exciting things.

No matter how you classify your clown self, we will have classes, interactive sessions, pie throwing, jams, hospitality room, great vendors, large basket raffles, rotating circus model set ups and a commencement event fit for the king and queen of the senior class.

Our 36th Annual Convention will continue the education theme. How can you add, beef up, or just tweak (not twerk) your show or presentation. We are still the “cheapest” most valuable high class venue you can attend! Check out the schedule in the newsletter.

Themes: Thursday will be our Reunion—skits and some music. (Bring your dancing shoes)! Friday is the Pep Rally—join the marching band and shake your pom-poms! Saturday, is the our Senior Prom and commencement! (you may interrupt “Senior” any way you wish) Gowns, tux, graduation gowns...you design it!

Instructors/lecturers are convention tested from Kidvention, WCA , COAI and other professional programs.

Top notch entertainment—Friday is the renowned Blues Brothers!

Saturday—Elmo Gibbs former RBBB clown and owner of the Teeny Weeny Circus.

The Circus Fans of America Association and the Circus Model Builders will be joining us this year. We will have rotating circus models in the hotel for most of the convention. Please welcome these folks as they are making concessions to be with us. Registration forms will be available very soon! Watch carefully all our social media for updates!

Bob, Susan, Jim, Thom and I meet to make sure this year's schedule is what YOU want. Bring your canvass tennis shoes to decorate. Bring a kazoo or get one in class and design an instrument for the band!

If you still want a copy of the cd with all the 2018 convention pictures, send \$5 PayPal to skootchee3419@gmail.com and one will go in the mail promptly. (no waiting—promise)

Bump a nose and see you down the road,

Pat Stevenson

Patty Cake

Clowning is Not dead. Keep the world laughing!

Be the person who makes someone smile today!



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Bill "SHOBO" Schober
MACA Chaplain

Since Easter is right around the corner I thought I'd re-write this article from a Lenten devotions I was involved in at my home church:

Laughter

Psalm 126:2-3 New International Version (NIV) ²Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." ³The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

One of my favorite scenes in a movie is when Mary Poppins tries to bring Uncle Albert down from the ceiling because he is laughing too much. The song "I love to laugh" is one of those songs that stays with you all day long if you hear it in the morning. I especially like the lines of "*We love to laugh Loud and long and clear...We love to laugh. So everybody can hear The more you laugh...The more you fill with glee...And the more the glee The more we're a merrier we.*"

I've always believed that the name Isaac means laughter and recently we were going over the story of Abraham and Isaac at Kid's alley. We helped the kids draw the correlation with the story of Jesus being obedient to God just as Isaac was to his father. We all remember the story of how Abraham was asked to sacrifice his Son. (Gen:22) As Isaac carried the wood toward the altar, it took three, in Abrahams' mind, agonizing days to get to the altar. Once they got to the place, Isaac wondered "where was the lamb" to be sacrificed. Before Abraham laid a hand on Isaac, God called out to Abraham and his response was "Here I am", giving God a listening ear. Can you imagine the Joy and Laughter the both of them had once they knew God had provided. That trip back home must have been a blast. Like in this story, God has provided a way for us, and I'm afraid not all of us show that knowledge of the Gospel with others with our face and actions.

I love to laugh, not only because I love being a clown, but because it's more that just a little smile or a giggle. It comes from your belly out your mouth for all to hear. It not only helps you express your feelings but there is a physical benefit to laughing. Sometimes when you "laugh out loud", people look at you funny. In my Faith, I like to think the Christ Resurrection was a "LOL" in the Devil's face. People thought it was crazy to follow Christ and the crucifixion was the end. Easter is a laugh out loud kind of day. That joy should never be held in as just a smile and kept to yourself.

Father God, Thank you for Laughter and the Joy that comes from the knowledge that you provide for our every need. Let us not keep that knowledge to our selves but to Laugh out loud to all to hear that you are the Christ, our savior and redeemer...

Bump a nose and God Bless,
Bill Schober aka Shobo Da Clown

Last Walkaround ...



Darlene "Daisy" Morgan has passed away. Daisy was a member of the MACA for at least 30 years and served as president, chaplain, historian and I don't remember all what else over the years. She was awarded the Clownatarian Award many many years ago. For the past several years she has been in very bad health and was in a nursing care facility for the past two years and passed away yesterday, February 25th, from complications of diabetes & heart related problems. I will pass along her sister's address for condolences once I get it from Geroge "Porgie" Caban who will attend her service along with Nellie "Muffin" May at the end of this week. Our clown world has lost another "Original" ! RIP dear friend....Sandi "Dot" Smith

MACA Education Director Message

As your Education Director for the 2019 MACA Convention, we have already started working on building a Great staff. Some of the topics so far being offered at this year's convention are "Wacky Walkarounds" "Approachability" and "Time to get Physical". The theme of the MACA 2019 Convention is "Senior Prom." Dust off your Letter Sweater, Saddle shoes, and Blue Jeans. The Red Lion Hotel will be jumping with Jocks, Cheerleaders, Pom-Pom Girls, Band Nerds, Science Club Geeks, all the gang from High School & the Malt Shop!!! How about everyone digging out their Senior Class picture!



Clown Creed by Dave "Mr. Rainbow" Bartlett

In 1999 when I wrote this, it was a bold and controversial statement. Over time it has become a philosophical guide for the modern clown entertainer who is the natural heir to hundreds of years of evolutionary development. Basically, if anybody ever tells you that you have to look, dress or act in any specific way to be a clown... run, don't walk away from them! Don't know what a clown is? Don't know what a clown needs to be prepared to do in this modern era? Read on!

CLOWN CREED 2000

Clowning is a performance art. We exist to perform. Our obligation is to prepare ourselves for effective and entertaining performances.

The primary expectation of our audiences is that we will bring humor into their lives. While delivering humor we can also do many important things such as teach lessons, praise God, help heal troubled souls, and many other worthwhile things. We do these things within the context of our art form and with the understanding that our primary purpose as clowns is to comically entertain.

Clowns are of human nature. Clowns are not representations of fictional characters. Clowns are not figments of the imagination. We are human, we are real and we are alive. The clown is an essential part of our human soul. We nurture and care for the clown in us so that it always continues to grow.

We respect and learn from clowning's rich past. We also understand that clowning has always changed and grown to adapt to the society of its day. We must not force artificial constrictions on the development and advancement of clowning simply in the name of tradition. Conversely we must not abandon tradition for the mere sake of change. Change should come as natural extensions and adaptations of our tradition.

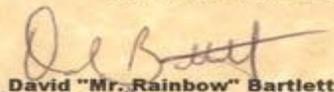
Makeup and costume are merely two of the many tools we use in our clowning. They are not what define us. Costume and makeup styles do change and evolve over the years and will continue to do so. This is a sign of dynamic progress in our art form. No style of makeup or costume is ultimately right or wrong (except in a historical context). Its ultimate criteria today is its effectiveness in helping the clown comically entertain.

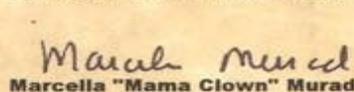
Character development, thought patterns and styles of action are no longer predetermined by any particular makeup or costume design. Character development determines makeup and costume choices that highlight and augment character. Character development determines thought patterns and range of action appropriate to each situation.

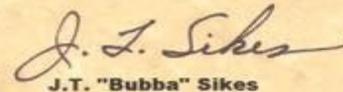
Individuals, alleys or clown organizations may freely choose to impose upon themselves restrictions concerning costume, makeup or action. Failure to adhere to these self imposed restrictions, however, does not preclude anyone from the enjoyment of participation in the art of clowning. Alley and organizational rules are applicable only to those who want to belong to that specific alley or organization and do not speak for the entire clowning world.

Clowning is one of the most free and open art forms. It can incorporate aspects of all other art forms. Clowns are free to show expertise or feign incompetence. Clowns are free to explore. Clowns are free to succeed or fail in their endeavors. Clowns are free to laugh and cry. Clowns are free to relate to young and old.

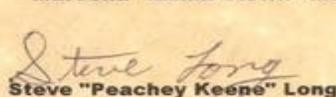
Clowning is, and ought to be, inclusive and not restrictive.


David "Mr. Rainbow" Bartlett


Marcella "Mama Clown" Murad

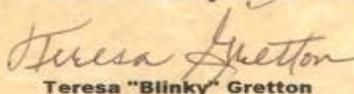

J.T. "Bubba" Sikes


Carol "CLarOL" Crooks


Steve "Peachey Keene" Long


Bruce "Charlie" Johnson


Bob "Bunky" Gretton


Teresa "Blinky" Gretton


Randy "Simon de Clown" Christensen

Convention 2019

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Will You Be There?



The illustration shows a clown on the right wearing a yellow hat with a blue flower, a yellow bow tie with red polka dots, a white tuxedo jacket, blue pants, and red shoes. He has blue hair and a red nose. To his left is a woman with green curly hair, a red ruffled collar, and a pink ruffled dress. The background features a circular logo with the text 'MID-ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION' and 'SENIOR Prom' in a stylized font. A small registered trademark symbol is in the bottom right corner of the poster.

If you follow face book, you will see that so many clowns and Alleys are very busy during the holiday season. Between performing, being an elf helping Santa or actually being Santa, our profession provides entertainment to those corporate sponsors right on down to the hospitals with children's parties, assisted living residents, and everyone else in between.

If you were at the convention this year, you heard about hospital clowning. You heard about ministry clowning. You heard about the Santa Character. You heard about balloons, face painting, and how to generally be the best clown you can be!

You can get most of this information from fb, you tube and other sites on line, but there is no better place to learn and grow than net working with others. As you sit in the sessions and see the reactions of others, you will know what little pieces you can adapt to your character or what you might want to change. Not every class is for you. But even if you think you will never use a skill being taught; artistry, technic, finesse and confidence can be gained.

Please consider the convention in November 2019.

Convention 2019

This is a list of some of the lectures/topics at this year's MACA Convention.

Clown Games
I've got Your Back
Face Painting Bling & Unicorn
Create your own Clown Shoes & More
Wacky Walk Arouns
First Tie a Knot
Kazoo-Kazoo
Laughter Yoga
Doing Ministry
Unbelievable Magical Miracles
Funny Prop Shop
Beginning Juggling
Business of Children's Parties
Taking Your Clown Show from "Meh" to "Wow"
Time to get Physical
"CSP" (Close Up, Stage, Parlor)
Balloons They will Love
Magic So Easy
"YMCA" (You Make Clowning Awesome)
Working a Parade
Approachability

Dave & Dana Hill
Thom Stevenson
Keith Karas
Mary Ann Ross
Scott Correll
Teresa & Bob Gretton
Larry Etchison
Bill Schober
Alene Kraus
John Kral
Connie Morrow
Jim Donoghue
Susan Sanders

It's not too early to get the word out. Spread the word to local Alleys, Face Painters, Balloon Artists. Put the info on your Facebook page, Social Media.

Convention 2019

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Subject to change

Thurs 10:00		Vendor Set Up @ 9:30
Registration Open Lobby		Vendors Open @noon
Flea Market-Gently Used Items		
12:00	LUNCH BREAK – Buffet in Hotel at Season’s Restaurant OYO	
	CAPITOL WEST LECTURE ROOM	CAPITOL EAST LECTURE ROOM
12:30	Welcome Meeting for First Timers	
1:00		1:00 Magic So Easy
2:00		2:00 Dave Hill
2:15	Clowning for People with Disabilities	2:15 Makeup/Critique
3:15	Thom Stevenson	3:15 Mary Ann Ross
3:30	Create Your Own Clown Shoes & More	3:30 Funny Prop Shop
4:30	Connie Morrow	4:30 Scott Correll
		4:45 Working A Parade
		5:45 Teresa & Bob Gretton
6:30	Buffet Dinner in Ballroom	
	Home Coming/Reunion Theme	
	Hospitality Room and Jams follow	
<hr/>		
Friday		
	CAPITOL WEST LECTURE ROOM	CAPITOL EAST LECTURE ROOM
9:00	Doing Ministry	9:00 TBA
10:00	Bill Schober	10:00 Susan Sander
		10:15 YMCA
		11:15 Dave Hill
11:30	Clown Games	11:30 Time to Get Physical
12:00	Larry Etchison	12:45 Keith Karas &
		Thom Stevenson
12:15	Laughter Yoga	
12:45	Bill Schober	
12:30	GROUP PICTURE	
	PIE THROWING	
	LUNCH BREAK – Hot Dogs in the Hospitality Room! \$5	
	Or Hotel buffet in Season’s OYO	

Convention 2019

2:00	Balloons They will Like	2:00	Face Painting Bling
3:00	Dana Hill	3:00	Susan Sanders
3:15	Approachability	3:15	First, Tie a Knot
4:15	Teresa Gretton	4:15	John Kral
4:30	Unbelievable Magic	4:30	Kazoo-Kazoo
5:30	Scott Correll	5:30	Alene Kraus
6:30	Buffet Dinner in Ballroom Pep Rally Theme – Join the Band! <i>Entertainment by Dave & Dana Hill</i> <i>Blues Bros/Comedy Magic</i> Hospitality Room and Jams follow		

Saturday

<u>CAPITOL WEST LECTURE ROOM</u>		<u>CAPITOL EAST LECTURE ROOM</u>	
9:00	Business of Children's Parties	9:00	Wacky Walk Arouds
10:00	Mary Ann Ross	10:00	Connie & Jim
		10:15	CSP (Close Up, Stage, Parlor)
		11:15	Dana Hill
11:30	I've Got Your Back	11:30	Beginning Juggling
12:30	Teresa & Bob Gretton	12:30	Mary Ann Ross
12:30	LUNCH BREAK – Buffet in Season's OYO		
1:30	Elmo Gibb	1:30	From "Meh" to "WOW"
2:30	Former RBBB Clown Teeny Weeny Circus	2:30	Keith Karas
3:00	General Membership Meeting		
6:00	Senior Prom Banquet Sit Down Dinner Dress Formal/Semi Formal/Business Casual Elmo Gibb – Commencement Speaker		

Sunday Capitol West

9:00am Sunday Service Bill Shoher and others

Safe travels, see you down the road and bump a nose!

Convention 2019



The convention is being held at the Red Line Hotel In Harrisburg, PA

4751 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA, 17111

Below is the links to make your hotel Reservations

[MACA CONFERENCE SINGLE](#)

[MACA CONFERENCE DOUBLE](#)

The convention reservation form will be available shortly.

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

A Shared Experience

I would like to share a recent experience, not to boast, but perhaps to inspire and to know that “Clowns Really Do Matter!”

I was hired for a three day President’s Day/Grand Opening gig to entertain and twist balloons. This type of gig is a favorite of mine. There is no script and I play off of the people who choose to show up.

On the second day a customer approached and waited until I had made a balloon and told a story about the balloon I was creating for a young boy. I turned to the man and thanked him for his patience and asked if I could make something for him. We agreed I’d make a flower for his wife. As I began he said, “You know, I was watching you make those balloons and every person you spoke with and made a balloon for, left you smiling. That’s a real gift you have. The way you share it is a blessing for you and for the person who gets the balloon. I really just came over to tell you that”. WOW!

I thanked him, we hugged and I thanked him again! Then I fixed my teary eyes! People do watch us and form an opinion about all clowns based on what they perceive. It mattered to him. The clown matters!

The second heartwarming compliment I received at this gig is, “You are an amazing clown who twists balloons.” I expressed my gratitude and I know I had a huge smile on my face. (The little kid in me was jumping up and down) I thought YES!!! I am first a clown who also happens to twist balloons and does silly things enthusiastically. I don’t act as a clown. What I do is clown and it is totally congruent with how I think, move and how I feel. I feel centered when I clown and aside from being with my family, it is my best self.

I know I am not the most talented or the best clown. I have no circus skills. I don’t face paint, or juggle or spin plates. I don’t create huge or wearable balloon sculptures. What I am is a clown who matters to those I happen upon.

My hope is that it will always be so for me and for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Alene Kraus

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS



The boys are back!



Cupid Thom (Skootchee) at assisted Living
^

Hamid Circus in Hamburg, PA >



Garden Brothers Circus >



Skootchee after a gig!

Freestate Alley #30

BE THE REASON
SOMEONE SMILES



<Alley meeting dedi-
cated to Walt Lee
and Jackie LeClaire



Thom and Jim

< Big Apple Circus!



MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Kapo's gang is looking forward to another fun and informative year. Our 1st meeting of the year was more of Dinner "get together" as a family. When we normally hold meetings, we always have an educational section. The February meeting we invited a "kid" magician from a local high school who holds a yearly fundraiser magic show for make a wish program. Jake Strong is now a senior In High school and aspires to be a full time magician. Last year we learned some simple sign language to better communicate to the deaf. A year ago we had a local Police officer to take to us about the recent clown scare. Last year got an up close and personal tour of the Big Apple Circus.



We look forward to again helping out at the Dolan Fund Family boat ride in Philly for Special needs children and their families with other clowns in the area. Other fun events we are involved in is IHOC Walk (Interfaith Homeless outreach Council) and Kate's Crusader Bowl a thon for Childhood Cancer. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at Maple Shade Municipal Building at 7pm...Come join us

Bill Schober
aka Shobo
President of Kapo's gang

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS



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 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 clown 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. 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, John Kral, Sandi Smith, Bill Schober, Bob Gretton, Ron Mount and Ryan Schwendel.

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 2019 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

Scholarships

Scholarships are important!

Not only for the recipient for financial reasons but for the learning experiences.

We do not just “give it away”! We ask each applicant to provide information about their current abilities, their performance jobs, their clown group participation and their clowning goals. The application for the Willy from Philly Scholarship is attached.



We ask the individual to pay the fees upfront to show their dedication to learning and the art of clowning. We expect each to attend as many classes at the convention as possible and prepare for a lifetime of laughter.

There is also an interview. Just a sit down talk about why you want to clown and to go over all that you have presented on your application. If you have any recommendations from other MACA members or the clowning community, make sure you attached the items to your application.

MACA wants to help as many new attendees as they can. Some years there have been no scholarships...some years several. We also realize that the tuition/ registration and the trip is sometimes just too much for a new clown.

If you know someone who really wants to come, but can't afford the whole package, please contact Pat Stevenson.

Be the person who makes someone smile today! **Keep the world laughing!**

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?

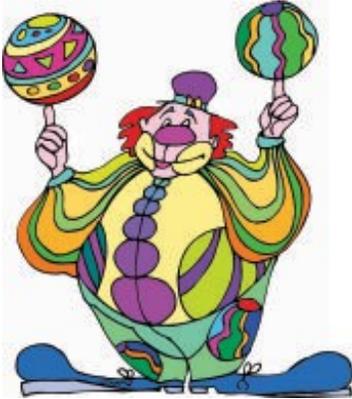
5. How are you hoping to expand your clown experience?

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? _____



Moving?

Send both your new and old address to:

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

"Anyone who has paid their dues for 2018/2019 and has not received a membership card please contact Dave Myers at 320-691-5804 or clickerclown@yahoo.com"

MID_ATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION INC.

2019 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS

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