

THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter



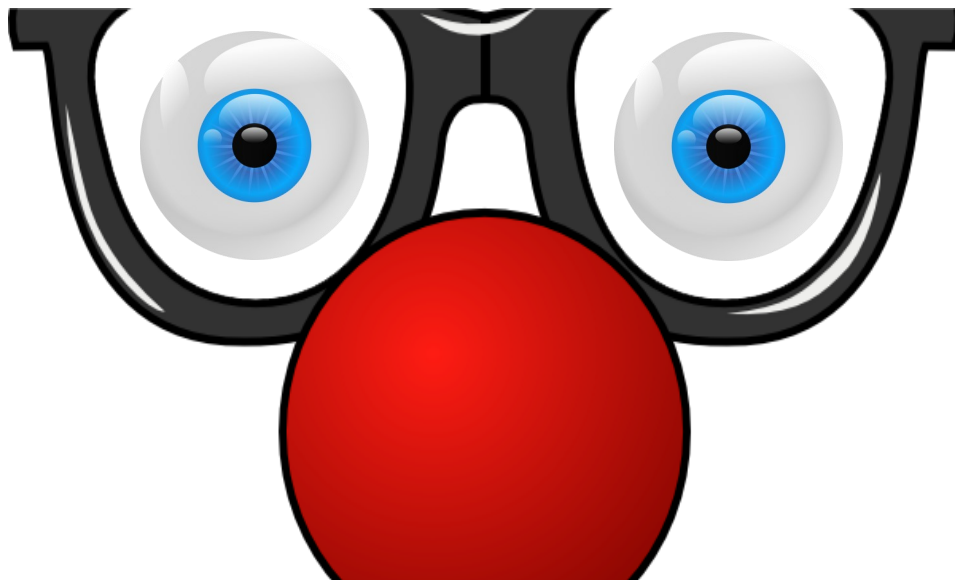
MIDATLANTIC CLOWN
ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION
November 7 - 10, 2024

Red Lion Hotel

4751 Lindle Road

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Registration and Hotel Details will be forthcoming



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MACA President Message

Hello MACA Clowns,

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

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

The 2024 MACA convention is in the works, and I hope you are planning on going.

It is November 7 to November 10, 2024.

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.

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.

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

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Tina Coleman

Sunday mornings at MACA, many of you are sleeping in after long nights jamming in the lobby or catching up in the hospitality lounge with dear friends. Some of you jumping into vehicles, trying to get a jump on long rides or beat the traffic to make it home with your family. But some of you come out to join us for the Sunday worship service. It's an all-faith affair, meant to allow us to worship together when we're too far from home to make it to our own worship service, and to join together as a body celebrating the gifts and experiences God gives us throughout the weekend.

At this past MACA, I sat down at lunch with someone I didn't know, as I often do. Conventions give us chances to meet new people and hear new perspectives. Eleahn and I talked about clowning, about what a chaplain does for MACA, and about how our respective faiths influenced our clowning journeys. In that conversation, Eleahn shared that she'd once had a class where she had an assignment to write what she calls her spiritual theology. We talked about what an interesting class that was, and I'd encourage you to talk with Eleahn about it at the next MACA. She was then able to quote it to me, as she'd written her assignment as a poem. It was beautiful! It was perfectly suited for our worship service on Sunday! I immediately asked her if she'd share it with our gathering.

I received Eleahn's permission to share it with you here, and thank her for sharing her poem as a wonderful closing for our worship service. She read stanzas 1-3 on Sunday; stanza 4 is a part of her original work that you didn't get to hear in the service. Any typos below are mine, though I vouch for 'heel holey soles' as correct. May every MACA find us with the opportunity to have these serendipitous (I might even say God-arranged) opportunities to share our faith and grow our connections in our MACA family.

COME BE A REAL CLOWN! by Eleahn Kahn, 1990

And God said,
"The people look so down.
Come be a clown."
And so I did.
And tears became laughter.
And hurt was but camouflage
Of souls filled with worth,
True value and mirth.
Their sparkle and shine
Polished by hands divine.

And God said,
"Dispel those frowns.
Come be a clown."
And so I am.
Inviting many of you to step away from the rat race
And frolic about with this greasepaint face.
We'll sing and we'll dance and be childlike too.
Perhaps even whisper "I love you."

And God said,
"Make happiness abound.
Come be a clown."
And so I will.
That others might get their fill
Of magic & smiles & sunshine & love
Radiating through me these gifts from above.
And the world will be a better place
Because of this amazing grace.

And God said,
"I need you to minister.
You have the wisdom of a fool.
This is a very useful tool.
To 'heel holey soles'
Shall be one of your goals.
Now come be a real clown.

MACA Education Director Update

We celebrate our 41st year with the convention theme of **Under The Sea**. We have our headliners, our instructors and now we need **you!** Look for information about registration coming very soon!

We will again offer, courtesy of Steve Gailey and Brigade Members, a show on Wednesday evening. Plan to arrive Wednesday, November 6th so you don't miss the fun or the camaraderie. We start early Thursday morning!

Keith Karas will be our Friday night Headliner. Keith has been a crowd favorite at every open mic and it is time he had his own show! He is dedicated, professional and entertaining. We can't wait to see his show and to cheer him on his clown journey!

KOOKOO The Cartoon Magician is our Saturday night headliner. Though he is new to MACA, he has appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and on America's Got Talent. KooKoo, Brandon Baglivo, entertains at Sesame Place, Boscov's Department Stores, Fairs, Festivals, Schools, Universities, Retirement Homes, The Water Works in Wyomissing, PA and too many other places to mention here. He is local to Pennsylvania and resides with his family in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He is wonderfully entertaining and promises fun, laughter, smiles and even a few totally awesome moments!

Prepare to Be Amazed!

Our instructors and vendors are a combination of our favorites and our soon to be favorites. I'll let you in on a few names: Dave Hill, KooKoo, Steve Kissel, Victor Thomas, Jill and Prince Puppets, Wes Whiteside, Bob & Teresa Gretton, Jackie Reynolds, Steve Gailey...more names coming very soon. Let me know, please, if you know someone that makes clown/entertainer's wardrobes and wants to be a vendor at MACA

Start planning for Under The Sea theme nights:

Thursday A Day at The Beach

Friday Ocean Themed Movie/Characters

Saturday Mystical Ocean Creatures or Business Casual (Banquet)

MACA 2024 CONVENTION NEWS



KOOKOO The Cartoon Magician is our Saturday night headliner



Kookoo, Brandon Baglivo

MACA 2024 CONVENTION



Kaspar Karasov “Keith Karas” will be our Friday night Headliner.

Last Walk-A Round



Connie M. Morrow, Recording Secretary for MACA

The MACA family is sad to announce that on April 28, 2024, Connie M. Morrow of Orchard Park, New York passed away.

AKA – Punkin The Clown for 25+ years, has made her last balloon and entertained her last child after a short battle with Cancer. The 2020 COAI Clown of the Year and well known throughout WNY.



Looking for Recording Secretary

Membership Chairman

Trustee

The above offices are vacant and we would like to fill them.

If you are interested in these offices, Please let John Kral or Pat Stevenson know.





ROSEFEST

**DISCIPLES
OF JOY**



**CLOWN WEEK AT
THE CUP**

**BETHLEHEM
MOUTED POLICE**



LUKIE'S FALL FESTIVAL





Flossie /Steffie Rau,Mimmie/Pam Sanderson, and Dazzleberry/Jan Lewis from the Disciples of Joy Clown Alley attended the 2023 MACA convention.

Mimmie is new to the alley and qualified for the Willie from Philly scholarship.

We had a wonderful time meeting up with clown friends from the past and met some new clown friends.

Highlights of convention week were many. Bob Abdou is so friendly and helpful. His show was hysterical. Was really great seeing him again.

We had a chance to talk to Bunky/Bob Gretton. He is a wealth of knowledge and very generous in sharing his stories, jokes and tips.

Also, a favorite clown of mine Georgie Porgie/George Caban,always outgoing and helpful.

It takes a village to pull off a successful convention. And yet, with how busy they had to be with details and running around making sure everything was good..still took the time to chat and help out.

That is one thing that is so great about convention. It is like a family reunion.

Everyone is friendly and so willing to help us become the best clowns we can be.

Looking forward to 2024 MACA Convention.

“Please Don’t Stand Facing Each Other”

by Bob “Bunky” Gretton

When you are performing in a skit with someone, use the principal Mr. Puppet talked about in his lecture. “Left Eye-Right Eye”. It’s using a tool from your tool box, Your Face. Instead of facing each other, stand side-by-side. Let the audience see your face, see your expressions. You are Working to the Fourth Wall. Connecting with your audience. It also helps with projecting your Voice.

Facing the audience helps in all phases of the skit. Especially the Blow Off. It’s a simple principal. A puppeteer and his puppet always work side-by-side, never face-to-face. Please give it a try. That’s how we have done it forever and it works.

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 2024 award to Pat at pat_stevenson@verizon.net or to my home 3419 Northwind Rd Baltimore, MD 21234 and she 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.

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