

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

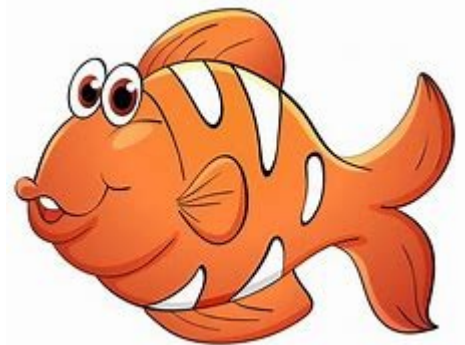
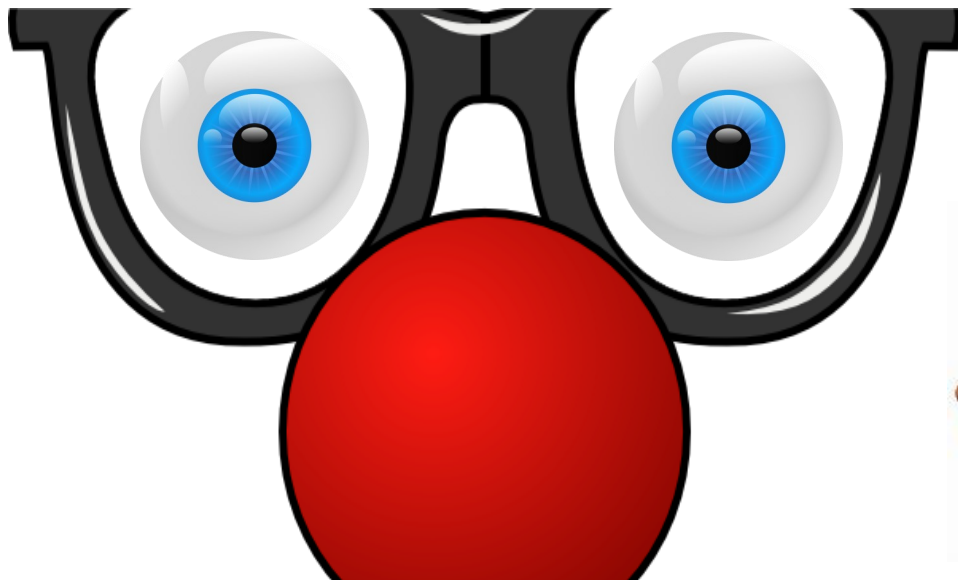
Registration and Hotel links are on our website

<http://www.midatlanticclownassociation.com>

EARLY BIRD Registration Dates
June 10 - 14, 2024

Receive a \$25.00 discount if you register
during that week

Mail-ins must be postmarked by the June 14th
Use website link to register online



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

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.

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)

Outstanding Vendors

Dave Hill

Wes Whiteside

Steven Gailey

Jill Harrington

Albert Rotto

Robbie Furman

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.



Steel City Clown Brigade

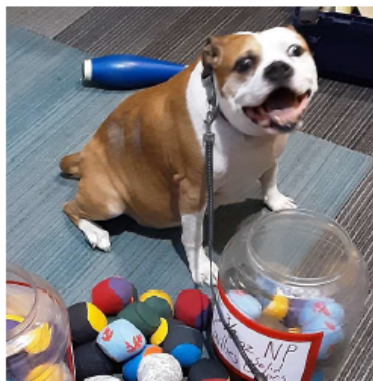
www.steelcityclownbrigade.org

Buddy the Best Dog

Buddy passed away this December due to complications from his Cushing's Disease. He was not just a good dog and a therapy animal, he was a good soul.



He spent most of his life locked in a box in a subpar puppy mill. Our best guess was that he spent 8 to 10 years there. He broke out by forcing his way through a cage causing himself terrible injuries. He showed up at the Brigade's House thirty pounds underweight, and barely able to walk. I called animal control, and they told me he was so injured that they would have to put him down.



We took him to our vet, and he mostly recovered from his injuries. His presence did alert the police to the terrible conditions of the puppy mill. His former owner claimed Buddy was not his dog, to avoid additional charges, nor did he want to pay the vet bills. Thus, we got to keep him.

We tried naming him Neal, but the only thing he would respond to was Buddy. He didn't bark, he didn't bite. If ever there was a dog that should be mad at Humans, it was him. For reasons I do not understand, he loved everyone he met. He was the best example of unconditional love I have ever personally known.

He really enjoyed attending the MACA Conventions. I am personally grateful for him being allowed to attend. He was so happy to come to the hotel because he knew a bunch would love him there. After we let him go, my wife and I sat and went through our last pictures of him. They were all of him being happy at the convention.

I have worked with elephants, parrots, horses, and cats from tigers to house cats. Buddy was the best. Buddy loved being around people more than any of the others. I only wish he had more time to do the work that he loved.

A New Clown Brigade

June 6th will be the first meeting of the Old Line Clown Brigade. They will be meeting at the Temple Hills Community Center in Temple Hills Maryland at 5300 Temple Hills Drive. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM. And yes that was was entirely too many Temple Hills in one sentence.

The Brigade had it's first recruiting event at The Congress of Jugglers on the University of Maryland.

The brigade will be dedicated to teaching the six pillars of clowning and humor therapy. We will also be doing Humor Therapy at the National Children's Hospital in Washington DC.

Doriana King will be the Chieftain of the new Brigade and Willy the Pickled Herring Captain {Second in Command}. If you are interested in joining us you can reach me at 412 708-3638.



Join

www.clownforum.org

Give it a try. We rented the web address for another year.



The Grand Plan

The Assorted Brigades of Clowns was put together to continued the tradition of the 6 Pillars of Clowning. We also want to provide humor therapy to as many hospitals as we can. If we are going to do this we will need more than one group.

Members of our group are also aware of some uncomfortable truths of clowning in America. At the last WCA convention our members attended we did not meet any American People of Color. I asked the outgoing president of the WCA why they didn't do any outreach. They told me those people could find us if they want to. At that point we knew we had to do something. The thing we needed to do was do the outreach the big associations were not doing.

We decided on several criteria a city should meet for a new Brigade. The city should have a Children's Hospital. The city should be diverse. The city should not already have a MACA Troupe.

We also want each of the new Brigades to join MACA. We have come to the conclusion that MACA is the best association if we are interested in training the next generation of clowns. Frankly between COAI, WCA and MACA the Mid Atlantic Association has also been the most welcoming.

Akron, Buffalo, Cleveland and Philadelphia might be too close to existing MACA Troupes. Toronto would be nice to recruit new Master Clowns from our tradition of clowning. We have been teaching virtual classes in juggling and balloon animals to some folks in Accra, Ghana. Wouldn't that be fun to have a MACA Troupe in Africa? Neither COAI or WCA have attempted that.

All these cities meet our criteria. After talking to everyone we could, we settled on Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The new Brigade will be the Keystone Clown Brigade. We are still looking for a meeting place and opportunities to recruit new clowns.

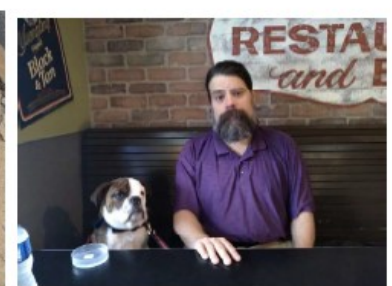
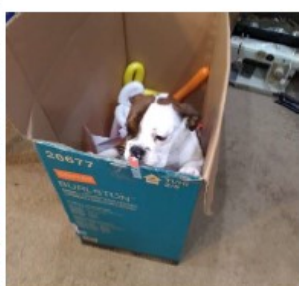
On the up side it will be easy for their members to commute to the convention.

Potential Brigades

- Accra, Ghana
- Akron, Ohio
- Albany, New York
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Buffalo, New York
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Columbus, Ohio
- Detroit, Michigan
- Dover, Delaware
- Flint, Michigan
- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- London, Ontario
- Newark, New Jersey
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Richmond, Virginia
- Roanoke, Virginia
- Toledo, Ohio
- Toronto, Ontario

Next Generation of Therapy Animals

Before we lost Buddy we had already started looking for another furry friend. We acquired Herman from a breeder we could trust and have been training him for the last four months. He gets into everything and will steal you hamburger if you are not paying attention. He should be lots of fun at the convention.



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 ?

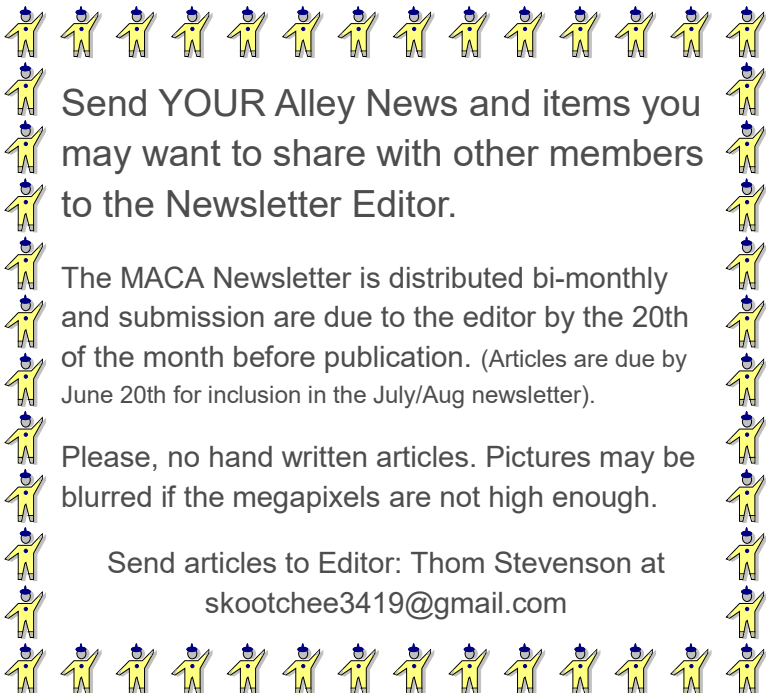
Looking to meet some new and some well established clown ?

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.

2024 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS

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	John Crull	(240) 762-0500	slapshotwizard@aol.com
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