



THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

Convention 2025 we will fall down the rabbit hole and join

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Red Lion Inn Harrisburg, PA November 13 - 15, 2025





MACA President Message

Happy New Year to each of you!

As 2025 rolls along think about your plans for this year. Plans are different from resolutions. Plans can change without remorse! Perhaps it is a better way to frame what we would like to **be**. I plan to **be** a better person each day. I plan to learn more about MACA because I want to **be** a very good president for the members of this wonderful organization. I want to **be** a better clown than I was yesterday. I believe by reframing the words we say and how we say them, we can pave our way to be positively creative.

The 2024 convention was terrific! We had great instructors and vendors. We added breakout classes that received very good feedback, and those sessions added four more educational opportunities. MACA has always been about the education we provide. We plan to keep it that way! It was a good mix of tried and true and somethings new!

We also welcomed twelve (12) new clowns! What a joy they are to see! I want to extend an invitation to each of the twelve (12) new clowns to email me or to call me so we can have a chat about how MACA can help you to **BE** the best clown you can **BE**. Email me at <u>srateach@gmail.com</u> or phone me at 610-864-5969.

The 2025 MACA Convention is being planned for your education and for your entertainment. Your Education Director is Bob Gretton. Let him know what you liked last year! The theme is Alice in Wonderland, and we are planning a heartfelt cup of fun! Watch for registration information and unlike Alice's rabbit, Don't Be Late!



MACA 2025 CONVENTION NEWS



MACA CONVENTION 2025

MARK Your Calendar so you can be at The RED LION HOTEL November 13 – 15, 2025

The Theme for the MACA CONVENTION 2025 is Alice In Wonderland

Final Details are being worked out

Mark Your Calendar and Don't Miss This Convention











2024 Clownatarian - Karan "Huggs" Roberts







Interesting Classes





Lively Banquets with evening entertainment



KingTitan and Ursula



Dazzleberry Flossie and Tootle lu









Recognizing our first time attendees



Hospitality Room gatherings with Balloon Jams



2025 MACA Officers and Directors



Last Walk Around



Sandra Lee Smith Of Voorhees, NJ, passed away on November 22, 2024.

Sandra's professional life was spent giving joy to others as a professional clown. For many years, she and a partner operated Spots Before Your Eyes Entertainment in Mt. Laurel, NJ. After retirement, she was Mrs. Claus at Great Adventure and at DiDonato's Christmas display in Hammonton. She was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association and a founding member of KAPO's Gang.

MACA Information Center

or Things you may not know about MACA



مخ مخ مخ مخ مخ مخ مخ مخ مخ **MACA MEMBERSHIP** Looking for some help in your clowning career ? Looking to meet some new and some well established clowns? 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

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Send YOUR Alley News and items you والك والك والح والح والح والح والح والح والح 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).

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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, Bob Gretton, Pat Stevenson, Larry Etchison, Steve Carter and Karan Roberts.

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.







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.

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.





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