

THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

Convention 2026

CELEBRATING THE MAGICAL TIMES OF THE USA

In Our New Location
Holiday Inn (Harrisburg-Hershey)
604 Station Rd, Grantsville, PA 17028
November 12–14, 2026



MACA President Message

Alene Kraus

Heading into the summer season always brings happy thoughts of sunny, warm weather, toes in the sand, ice cream in hand, lots of fairs and festivals and planning for MACA!

Pat has worked hard to find a great hotel for our convention. Bunky has an all star line up of instructors and vendors. We always work to honor the tried and true and add a few who are new! Don't miss the one day discount on June 1st!!

Quany will offer two classes, be a vendor and Quany is our Headliner. Bob Abdou will entertain us at the Friday night show, and teach two classes.

Start planning your MACA'S GOT TALENT ROUTINE for Thursday night.

See you in November! Until then, here's a little news about our headliner, QUANY!

A little bit about Philly born "Quany" aka Jaquan Fields.

Jaquan Fields, professionally known as "Quany the Clown", is a well-known Philadelphia-based entertainer and business owner. He is the lead clown and boss at PartyClown Entertainments, performing at various community events, birthday parties, and block parties across the city.

Fields has been a professional clown since his early teenage years and is actively seeking to launch a diverse, Philadelphia-based circus that would serve as a melting pot of different cultures in the region. He attended MACA as a teenage student.

To follow his entertainment career or book his services, check out his updates on [Instagram](#) or view his professional background on [LinkedIn](#).

MACA Chaplin Message

Tina Coleman

A few weekends ago, my church took part in a community festival in the middle of town. Our tent was placed amongst the kid activity area because the organizers wanted to have some family-friendly games and we of course said, yes, we're family friendly. We set up a few games made up mostly out of Solo cups and ping pong balls, had a basket of Oriental Trading prizes, and some coloring page placemats I'd found out on Etsy that let kids do mazes and word searches related to Bible verses. For one of the games, our Solo cups were decorated with felt and googly eyes to become lions so that the kids would bounce the ping pong balls to evade the lion's mouths like Daniel in the den of lions. I couldn't escape the thought that I was repurposing beer pong for good, made even more poignant as our tent was right across the field from the beer garden.

As it happened, I was double-dutying that day: setting up the tent and its activities in the morning, greasing up and off to a nearby birthday party as Clementine, and then rounding out the day still in grease back at the fair supporting the church tent. Trade secret for those of you who have a heart for serving in your churches: bring a clown with balloon supplies to your outreach event and suddenly those kids and parents will step right up!

A gentleman who was tasked with checking IDs at that beer garden wandered over. His grandson was with him that day and had spent a good portion of time at our tent, and he wanted to express his appreciation. The first thing I noticed was his Three Stooges t-shirt. We exchanged Nyuk, nyuk, nyuks, and he said he'd gotten to see them at one point and so loved to wear their t-shirt. He then said he had something to show me that he thought I'd like and pulled out his wallet. In it he'd tucked away a tattered card with the below prayer on it... I then explained that not only was I a clown for my church, but also the chaplain for the local clown organization, and I promised to pass it along to all of you. God used one Three Stooges id checker in Glen Burnie to bless all of you from a beer pong inspired church table: blessings in unusual ways.

A Prayer For Clowns

God bless all clowns

Who star the world with laughter

Who ring the rafters

With a flying jest,

Who make the world spin merry on its way

And somehow add more beauty to each day.

God bless all clowns

So poor the world would be

Lacking their piquant touch hilarity,

The belly-laughs, the ringing, lovely mirth

That makes a friendly place of this earth.

God bless all clowns --

Give them a long good life.

Make bright their way - They're a race apart

All comest most who turn their hearts' pain

Into a dazzling jest to lift the heart.

God bless all clowns.

-- UNKNOWN

2026 MACA Convention News

The 2026 MACA Convention, “CELEBRATING THE MAGICAL TIMES OF THE USA”, will be held at our new convention location in Grantsville, PA. (approximately 20 minutes from the Red Lion Hotel).

Although we enjoyed our 10 years at the Red Lion, the hotel is closing. Harrisburg is a central location for our MACA conventions and we will be remaining in the area.

We have selected the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, 604 Station Rd, Grantsville, PA 17028.



The Holiday Inn is in the Harrisburg-Hershey area. Only 22 miles from Harrisburg International Airport (MDT) and a short drive to the “Sweetest Place on Earth”, Hershey PA. You can easily access the hotel by traveling on major highway I-81 which links I-78, I-83 and the PA Turnpike.


There are plenty of nearby attractions within minutes from the hotel in Hershey. Visit Hersheypark, Hershey’s Chocolate World, Zoo America and the Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course. The hotel offers a 100% non-smoking stay plus Free Parking and Free Wi-Fi. Stay in shape at our 24-hour Fitness Center and swim a few laps in the pools. Each room is equipped with refrigerators, microwaves, Keurig's and upgraded linen packages on all beds. They are a pet friendly hotel. Enjoy a meal in the Great American Grille or experience a lively night of country western music and line dancing in the Winner’s Circle Saloon.


AMENITIES


 Internet Access

 Restaurant

 Meeting Facilities


 Smoke free


 Conference Center


 Swimming Pool

 Room Service

 Casino

 Smoking Areas

 Dry Cleaning

 Fitness Center

 Accessible

 Bar

 24 hour

 Laundry Facilities

2026 MACA Convention News

MARK Your Calendar so you can be at The Holiday Inn HOTEL November 12-14, 2026

The Theme for the MACA CONVENTION 2026 is “CELEBRATING THE MAGICAL TIMES OF THE USA”

Mark Your Calendar and Don't Miss This Convention

Your Themes and Entertainment

THURSDAY NIGHT BANQUET – Theme: 1920 Speak Easy

So put on your Great Gatsby Flapper Dresses with Necklace and Headband or Gangster Mobster Outfit for a fun night and lively music.

We'll have Open Mike, games and other surprises!

FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET – Theme: Colonial America

Celebrating the great pioneering contribution that make America such a great country.

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET – Theme: The American Circus

Celebrating the great circus history and the circus personnel that performed and brought joy to their American Audiences.

Our headliner will be Jaquan Fields, aka Quany the Clown.

As always, we'll honor our veterans and have the annual installation of MACA officers.

[Schedule](#), [Registration](#), and [Hotel Registration Information](#) will be available soon.

Registration for the convention and hotel can be found in our MACA website.

[Mid Atlantic Clown Association – Mid Atlantic Clown Association: Growing and supporting clowns in the MidAtlantic region](#)

Check the website for registration and hotel information.

Early Bird on-line registration will be on JUNE1. Early registration fee is just \$190.00

One day only

2026 MACA Convention News

Our List of vendors include:

Clown Supplies, Wes Whiteside will have for us, Makeup and Face Paint

Mingus Magic - Wayne Shifflet is bringing the Best in Magic from Mingus Magic



Our Entertainers:

The Friday Night Stage Show features



Bob Abdou
“Mr. Puppet”

His Stage Show is a fast pace, laugh out loud adventure featuring a cast of hilarious puppet characters and rapid fire comedy.

The
Saturday Night Show is

Jaquan “Quany” Fields

An award-winning entertainer who guarantees smiles, gasps, and nonstop excitement.



2026 MACA Convention News

OUR INSTRUCTORS

Bob “Mr. Puppet” Abdou

Is presenting two lectures

“It’s Alive” Teaching puppet basics to become professional puppet performer plus One/One teaching to show the class how to polish a puppet act. Bring your puppet and let’s get better!!!!

AND

“Joke Writing” Learn how experts write jokes and funny lines. This is a all group involvement. You won’t wanna miss.

Jaquan “Qunay” Fields will be presenting 2 Lectures

Willy McGinnis

will present a lecture on Balloons.

“Your Imagination is your only Limitation”

Erick Hershey

Is offering the Lecture...

“ Speak Softy, but carry a Big Schtick”

How a gentle character can create Big Fun! Learn how to read an audience and hold attention with a quieter character. Create a comfortable atmosphere for silliness.

Steve Kissell

“50 Performance Tips”

Everything from audience involvement to zany introductions will be discussed in this session. Learn to be a better performer with attention to details.

“Making Paper Magic”

This class has 20 easy to perform and make routines that will WOW the audience from 1 to 100. Learn how to make your own paper hat tear and even create your own cut and restore newspaper.

George Caban

“What do you have in Your Tool Belt”

Bob & Teresa Gretton

Sharing their thoughts on

“All the Worlds a Stage” Once You Step Out your Front Door- Your On Stage

43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Convention

Convention November 12-14, 2026

“CELEBRATING THE MAGICAL TIMES OF THE USA”



Holiday Inn (Harrisburg-Hershey)
604 Station Rd, Grantsville, PA 17028

To register, use website and Ticketspice or complete the form below, print out the form and send, with check made payable to MACA Convention, to: Dave Myers, 318 S Cleveland Ave, Wilmington, DE 19805 or Dave's email: clickerclown@yahoo.com. To use credit cards, go to Ticketspice.

Full registration fee includes dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Special Early Bird Registration “June 1” \$190.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full - \$215.00 thru 6/30/26 | Daily Rates: | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$65.00 -Thurs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full- \$230.00 thru 10/31/26 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$65.00 - Fri |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full—\$250 after 11/01/26 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50.00 Sat. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full - \$275.00 at the door | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50.00 Buffet * Thur |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50.00 Buffet * Fri |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MACA dues \$20 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$55.00 Buffet * Sat |

Total Registration

Please complete on Ticketspice.

Hotel room rate :

\$119.00 single per night includes breakfast.

\$129.00 double per night includes breakfast for two.

\$134.00 triple per night includes breakfast for three. Additional guest allowed in room, however, there are only three breakfast tickets.

Breakfast can be purchased in the restaurant.

RESERVATIONS MADE ON 3RD PARTY SITES, DO NOT RECEIVE BREAKFAST TICKETS!

Additional persons in room do not get breakfast tickets. You must reserve before 10/31/2026 to be assured this rate. If you make reservations thru Sunday and check out earlier, you will be charged a \$50 fee. (717) 469-0661. Easy on-line registration available. Holiday Inn chain 800 number may not have convention rates.

*******Please note*******

\$25 processing fee for cancellations before 10/01/26. No refunds after that date.

Face painting supplies and latex products will be used and sold at this convention.

All are welcome to attend, however, you must be an MACA member and have paid registration to participant in any special giveaways or awards. Paid members will be invited to annual meeting.

Name:

Clown Name:

Address:

E-mail:

City:

Phone:

State:

First MACA convention?: No Yes

MACA Information Center

or Things you may not know about MACA



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

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, 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 George Caban, Bob Gretton, Pat Stevenson, Larry Etchison, Steve Carter, Karan Roberts, Carletta and Gerald Yourich, Theresa Gretton and Thom Stevenson.

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 2026 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.





Willy 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 'Willy' was a gift that we were lucky to share.

'Willy'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. 'Willy' 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 'Willy's' memory and pass on his passion and sharing. The board decided to create the Willy from Philly Scholarship Fund. 'Willy' 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 Week** 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.

2025 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS

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