

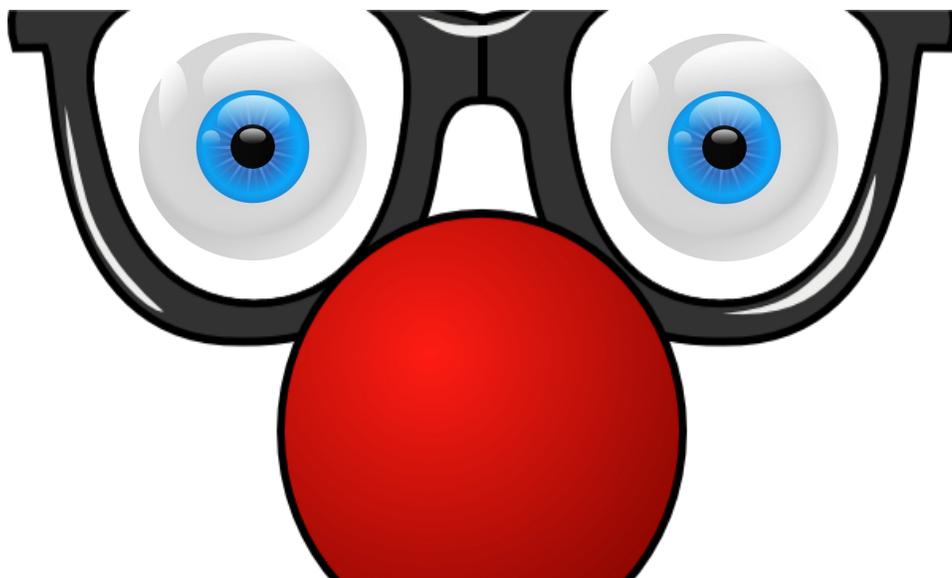
# THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

MIDATLANTIC CLOWN ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
November 8 - 12, 2023

Registration Now Open  
see page 5

It's a special Birthday Party!



## In This Issue

- Chaplain's Message (page 2)
- Education Update (page 3)
- MACA Convention 2022 (page 5)
- Registration Form (page 7)
- Clown Alley News (page 9)
- MACA Information Center (page 10)
- 2021 Officers and Directors Listing (page 14)

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# CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

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By Tina Coleman

It's a busy time of the year for clowns. Festivals, parties, parades: oh my! For many of you, there are more opportunities now than at any other time in the year to share your talents and to bring the smiles that God placed you on this earth to grow. (For those of you who are Santas, I'll grant that your yearly schedule may look a bit different.) As Ecclesiastes says "A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil." (Eccl 2:4)

But how do we find satisfaction in our toil? Some days the lines are long or the kids are rude or the jokes, well, they just ain't landing with your audience. How do we find satisfaction in those days?

Turn your work over to the Master. Seek to please Him. In every interaction, show love and grace and humor. Always seek to grow your craft, as well, and find the clown within you that was uniquely fashioned by the Maker for its specific time and place on Earth.

If you're looking forward to November like I am and would like to be part of bringing Sunday's worship service forward, email [clowningclementine@gmail.com](mailto:clowningclementine@gmail.com). If you have prayer requests, email [clowningclementine@gmail.com](mailto:clowningclementine@gmail.com). If you have an itch, scratch it! If you didn't have an itch before, now that I mentioned it, I bet you have one now. Give me grief about it in November!

God Bless,  
Tina

# MACA Convention Schedule

Day and Date	Time	Class Title and Description			Instructor
Wednesday, November 8th		Evening Palooza Fire Juggling Outdoors	7:00 PM	Presenting::	Steve Gailey & The Brigade
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Thursday		REGISTER FOR OPEN MIC! PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED			
November 9th	8AM-9:15	Flea Market ends 9:15	Registration begins 9AM in the lobby.		
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	9:30-10:30	Fun With Balloons			Jim Fearn
		Make balloons with which you and your audience can play!			
		Bring balloons and a pump!			
	10:45-11:45	Becoming and Performing as Mrs. Claus	Using accepted folklore to create a believable		Alene Kraus
		backstory, which includes props, photos, costuming, never breaking character and all sprinkled with an attitude of kindness.			
	12:00-1:00	LUNCH			
	1:00-2:00	Make-up Tips and Tricks How To Make The Most Of Your Make-up	This course is designed to take your make-up to the next level. Learn about prep, accenting, use of color, powders, live eye, glitter, and much more!		Wes Whiteside
	2:15-3:15	Joke Writing	This class will give the tools to write your own jokes with a tried and true method.		Bob Abdou
	3:30-4:30	Beginner Juggling	By the end of this class each participant should have the basics of the 3 Ball Cascade Anyone that can juggle will be able to move onto the next level to enhance their juggling experience.		Steve Gailey
	4:45-5:15	Clowning On The Move	We often entertain at large events in which attendees are spread out over a large area. Learn bits of fun and interaction to bring smiles to all age groups and get you booked more often as an All Around Clown.		Dave Hill
~~~~~					
Friday,					
Nov. 9th	8:30-9:30	Storytelling	Developing, writing, and presenting stories for magic and more		Roy Stone
	9:45-10:45	Super Easy and Impressive Magic for Clowns	Add a Fantastic Magic Show to your next appearance! Tricks taught in class will enable you to bolster your performance resume and get you called more often as you perform as an ALL AROUND CLOWN!		Dave Hill
	11:00-12:00	Feeling Good On Stage	What is stage presence, voice projection, working to the 4th wall? This is a fun and interactive class. You will be performing skits, bits and gags		Bob & Teresa Gretton
	12:05-1:45	40TH ANNIVERSARY GROUP PHOTO AND LUNCH			
	1:45-2:45	Every Puppet Needs A Hand!	Learn basic puppet manipulation utilizing wide-mouth puppets, mop and broom puppets, props, storytelling, audience participation, music and more. Designed for the beginner. Participants will enjoy a "hands-on" fun-filled experience!		Jill Darlington
	3:00-4:00	Acting	How to act and how to interact with your puppet.		Bob Abdou
	4:15-5:15	Making Magic Your Own	Learn ways to theme magic to your act		Erick Hershey
	6:15	Theme Dinner "Everything Clown"	SHOW by Kevin Brown		
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Saturday,					
Nov. 11th	8:30-9:30	Fake It Til You Make It-	A primer in circus skills and other assorted chicanery!		Kevin Brown

# MACA Education Director Update

	9:45-10:45	Character Development-	Developing Personalities and believability in multiple characters	Roy Stone	
	11:00-12:00		Introduction to Airbrush- You will learn the basics of airbrushing, types of needed equipment, including costs, set-up, types of paint and clean-up. You'll learn basic skills and be able to try products and ask questions! Maybe this will take your business to	Susan Crenshaw	
	12:00-1:00		LUNCH TIME		
	1:15-2:15	Adjust Your Clown Seasonally	Easy ways to adjust your clown seasonally, including your balloon twists, walkarounds and face painting.	Jim Donoughe & Connie Morrow	
	2:30-3:30	It's Party Time	Join Jackie for her "Best & Brightest" ideas about family party entertainment and kid show content. You will take away tips for organization, performance skills, and record keeping.	Jackie "Bee Bee" Reynolds	
	3:45-5:00		GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING		DEALER ROOM CLOSED
	6:15	BANQUET DINNER	HEADLINER IS BOB "MR. PUPPET" ABDOU		
		DRESS IS BUSINESS CASUAL	Awards, etc		
			BOARD MEETING AFTER THE AWARDS		
Sunday, Nov. 12th	9:00 AM	Sunday Service	Officiated by Chaplain Tina Coleman		
			Wishing Everyone a Beautiful Holiday season.May All Your Days Be Filled With Smies!		
			Safe Travels!		

Alene "Rufflez" Kraus  
Director of Education

# MACA 2023 CONVENTION NEWS



Our Friday evening entertainment will be **Kevin Brown**. Kevin is a former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown and has been performing for many years.



Back by popular demand, our Saturday evening Headliner **“Mr. Puppet” Bob Abdou**”.

Professional Comedy Entertainer for Children & Adults. Bob has been entertaining since 1996.



Open Mic continues to be our Thursday night show. Start practicing your skits and bits.



Did you say MC? The funniest guy from the \$1.25 Store!

# MACA 2023 CONVENTION

## Quality Vendors:

Roy Stone

Dave Hill

Wes Whiteside

Jill Darlington

## Outstanding Instructors

Jim Fearn

Alene Kraus

Eric Hershey

Jackie Reynolds

Susan Saunders

Steve Gailey

Bob Gretton

Teresa Gretton

Wes Whiteside

Dave Hill

Jill Darlington

Roy Stone

Steve Gailey

Kevin Brown



Look Blondi, this is what we are doing at the MACA Convention.

Teresa & Bob Gretton will be sharing their 40 plus years of performing on stage with a Interaction class on “Feeling Good on Stage.” Doing Skits, Bits, & Gags. We will work on Stage Presence, Projecting your Voice, and Working to the 4th Wall.

Click here for [Online Registration](#)

Mail in Registration, see next page

Click here for Online [Hotel Registration](#)



# 40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Convention



Convention November 8-12, 2023  
 Banquet November 11, 2022  
**Red Lion Hotel**  
 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg PA 17111



To register, use website and Eventbrite 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](mailto:clickerclown@yahoo.com). To **use credit cards, go to Ticketspice.**

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

**Special May early bird \$165.**

**Please complete on Ticketspice.**

- |                          |  |              |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full - \$190.00 thru 9/30/23<br>Disc \$165 May | Daily Rates: | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$60.00 per day -Thurs or Fri<br>\$35.00 Sat  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full - \$200.00 thru 10/31/22                  |              | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$40.00 Buffet *<br>Thurs. or Fri. each night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full—\$210 after 10/31/22                      |              | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$45.00 Saturday night*                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full - \$225.00 at the door                    |              |                          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MACA dues \$20                                 |              |                          |   |

\*includes entertainment

Total registration : \$

Hotel room rate - \$105.00 single per night includes breakfast.

\$115.00 double per night includes breakfast for two.

\$119.00 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 10/31/20223 to be assured this rate. If you make reservations thru Sunday and check out earlier, you will be charged a \$50 fee. (717) 939-7841. Easy on-line registration available. Red Line chain 800 number may not have convention rates.

### \*\*\*\*\*Please note\*\*\*\*\*

\$25 processing fee for cancellations before 10/01/22. 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

[www.midatlanticclownassociation.com](http://www.midatlanticclownassociation.com)

It's a special Birthday Party!



FREESTATE CLOWN ALLEY No. 30



4th of July Parade—Towson, MD

Alley's Busy circus schedule  
this year



Do Portugal



Royal Hanneford



Zerbini



Garden Bros



Hamid



Cirque Italia

Fun Fact from  
Bob "Bunky" Gretton

When I started out clowning in the late 1970's, if you wanted to do Balloons.... You had to get them from the Ashland Rubber Company. You could only get 260A and 260Q. They came in a Cigar Box and cost \$1.00 a Gross. Back then, there were no such things like Bee Bodies or Hearts. Just 260.

# 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 ?

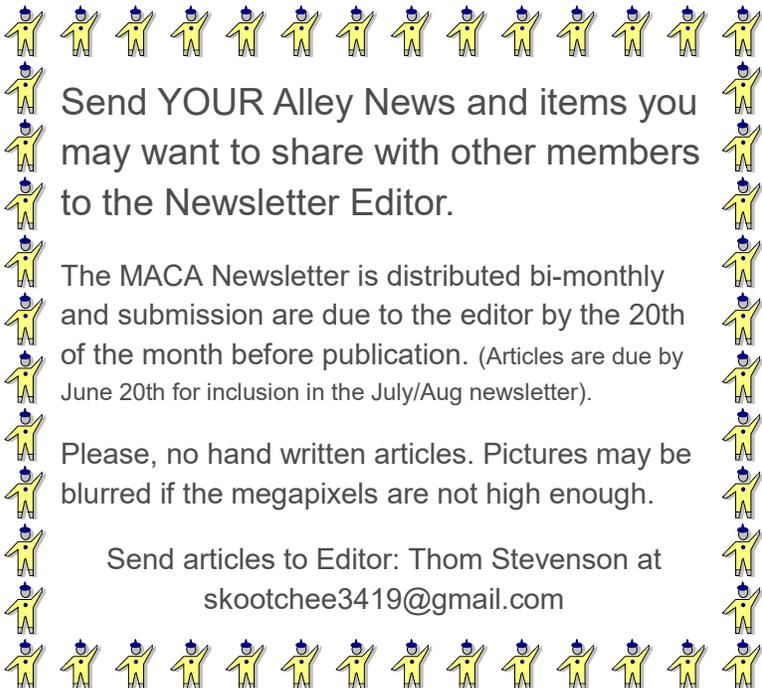
Looking to meet some new and some well established clown ?

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](mailto: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 2023 award to me at [dotthec clown@comcast.net](mailto: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





## **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.

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2. How long have you been a clown? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What kind of clowning do you do? (hospital clown, caring clown, party clown, etc)

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4. What is your favorite thing about clowning?

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

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6. Are there any special skills you would like to learn?

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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.**

**2023 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS**

President	John Kral	(302) 593-5377	k1lown@aol.com
Vice President	Pat Stevenson	(410) 256-8862	pat_stevenson@verizon.net
Secretary	Dave Myers	(302) 230-1393	clickerclown@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Connie Morrow		punkin@punkintheclown.com
Treasurer	Dennis Gesel	(716) 449-3165	djgesel@yahoo.com
Officer Emeritus	Nelle May	(412) 654-4158	
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	Kim Smith-Cossia	(540) 429-4315	knsinfo0s@aol.com
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