

THE NEW CALLIÖPE

Clowns of America International

May / June 2022

Volume 39 • Number 3



BONITA LOVE
Lifetime
Achievement
Award



From the President

Adam Schill

Hello, COAI! I hope you're settled in finally after the convention! I know after being at the convention for a week and then going straight into another business trip the following week, it took me almost a month to get caught up and back in the swing of normal life!

I hope you take the time to read all that this issue has to offer. We had a great time at the convention and met a lot of great new friends! Misha Usov was a treat, and even though he clowns in a different style than most of our membership does, as long as you went in with an open mind and a willingness to learn, there were a ton of invaluable lessons to be had about character development and stage presence that are useful everywhere from the big stage to the living room birthday party, or one-on-one in a hospital.

A couple of personal highlights for myself were meeting the Bozo crew and getting to know them. They all came with such a great thirst for knowledge and willingness to get to know our side of the industry. Gabe (NüNü) and Jessica (Jozo) were who I talked with the most and got to know the best, and they were both so genuine and just plain good people.

If you haven't caught it, make sure you look up the episode of the popular YouTube show *Excuse Me, What?* that was filmed at the convention. It's entitled "I Went to the Biggest Clown Party in America – Excuse Me, What?" Jack and Dane were great for the couple of days that they were at the convention. They came with the intention of observing and grabbing a couple of interviews, but both of them told me before they left that they had the best time, were surprisingly impressed, and even took some valuable lessons away from the convention that they'll be able to use in their own standup comedy.

If you missed out this year, I hope to see you next time! **TNC**

COAI Awards



The following awards were announced at the
2022 COAI Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 26–30.

Best in Press

Alley #369, Albany, New York
– *Capital Region Clown Arts
Festival News & Notes*

Paul Kleinberger, newsletter
editor

Editor's Choice

Beth "Pickles" Cedarholm

CHARLIE Award, Alley

San Diego All Stars

CHARLIE Award, Individual

Jackie "BeeBee" Reynolds

Excellence in Clowning

Kynisha "Daisy" Ducre

Convention Clown of Excellence

Matty "Soda Pop" Spraggins

Lifetime Achievement Award

Bonita "Bon Bon" Love

Tim "Sawdust" Laynor

Ring of Honor

Glenn "Clyde D. Scope"
Kohlberger

Regina "Girlfriend" Onley

Dorothy "Smiley" Petty

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**COAI BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION
AVAILABLE AT WWW.MYCOAI.COM.**

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

2 From the President Adam Schill



Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!

Billy Vaughn Clifton Park, NY	Sarah “Daizy” Kinison Mount Vernon, IL	Jac “Blip” Pratt Westminster, CO
Byron “Barney Google” Piercy Cofax, IN	Barbara “Msjazee” Montez Oakdale, MN	Sandra “Violet” Vasquez Norwalk, CT
Barry “BB” Long Davenport, FL	Michael “Pockets” Moyer Overland Park, KS	Graham “Kappy” Putnam Dexter, MI
Sachin Kumar Pehowa, Kurukshetra, HR India	Ian “Mr. Tater” Lee Rainbow City, AL	Joseph “Jozo” Klein North Caldwell, NJ
Yoganand Malik Quepem, GA India	Connie “Daisy the Clown” Davis Doraville, GA	Sandra “Sandy the clown” Gutierrez Porter, TX
Florence “Daffie” Baumgardner Middleburg, FL	Julia “Lolalina” Rosado Holyoke, MA	Clayton Mastaw Chicago, IL
Jim “Jimbo” Murray Dayton, OH	The Clown School Altadena, CA	Pete “Doc Petey” Mitchell Marietta, GA
Monty Dale Goodrum Houston, TX	Janet “Melody” Stefano Michigan City, IN	John Louis Owensville, OH
Karan Robins Powhatan, VA	George Dean Hammonton, NJ	Mygnon “Clementine the Clown” Walters Forest Park, GA
James “JimBob” Boswell Huntsville, TX	Cynthia “Merry Weather” Walker St Petersburg, FL	
Emma “Giggles” Schneck Ostrander, OH	Christopher O’Hara Chandler, AZ	
Macie “Sprinkles” Scott Plattsouth, NE	Lars “Dolphin Boy” Adams Los Angeles, CA	
Kathryn “Kiki” Porter Houston, TX	Ruth “Rudi Patudi” Merwald Plattsouth, NE	
Sam Priest Flat Rock, MI	Emily “Bella Rouge” Bartlett Shreveport, LA	
Steven Priest Flat Rock, MI	Maryann “Wackadoo” Weed Boise, ID	
Shane Priest Flat Rock, MI	Rebecca Kline Macungie, PA	

A big thank you
to Alene Kraus
for gifting
memberships!



By Rose Cardenas

Bonita “Bon Bon” Love can frequently be found with her giant bubbles sharing joy throughout San Diego. She says, “Clowning is essential to the wellbeing of the general public. If I can make one person smile, I have done my job.”

Bon Bon got her start in the art of clowning in 1986, when she turned a bad experience into one that brought joy to others. She was injured in a car accident and, for two months, was unable to return to her job at the phone company. During that time she found it hard to have nothing to do. When she happened to be at a friend’s house when her friend received a balloon delivery, and realized that was something she could do.

That’s when she had a helium tank delivered to her home and went into the balloon delivery business. Soon, people weren’t satisfied with just a balloon delivery—they wanted more! In addition to the balloons, Bon Bon started singing a little song based on the classic Eddie Arnold tune, “M-O-T-H-E-R.” She recalls, “I would sing a song for Tom with the words, ‘T is for the terrific teacher that you are, O is for the obvious delight you bring people, M is for the many lives you touch.’” Later, people wanted her to deliver helium balloons *and* clown. She bought hundreds of balloons and then sat on her couch, learning to twist.

Soon, Bon Bon went to clown school. She was motivated to get into clowning because she knew she’d be retiring from the phone company and wanted to have something to do during

retirement. She knew that San Diego State University was offering clown classes, but when she tried to register in 1987 and 1988, they didn’t have enough students to hold the class. In 1987 she was finally able to attend their Clownology course. It was not long before she became not only a member of the San Diego All Star Clown Club, but



Bon Bon strikes a pose at the 1990 Las Vegas COAI Convention.



one of the club's essential fixtures. She has held every board position, including president. She also teaches, submits press releases, and organizes National Clown Week activities, club events, social media, parades, and pandemic Zoom meetings—just about anything that is needed. Today she serves as the Alley's vice president and secretary, and oversees their education programs and National Clown Week participation. Rosemarie "Wower" Ballard, a fellow member of the San Diego All Star Clowns, wrote the following about Bon Bon, "Her name says it all: Love. Her love of clowning is infectious. Her promotion of clowning is all based on love. She is the most dedicated clown I have ever known. She is the glue that holds SDCAFE together."

Bon Bon has found many ways to remain involved in clowning, including passing on her knowledge by teaching. Her teaching focuses on paradeability because, as she says, "I didn't see many other people teaching it." She has often taught at her local alley, but enjoys teaching at the national level, too. Rosemary Ballard comments, "She is always ready



Bon Bon performs in Paradeability with her perfect Pomeranian, Magi.



Left: A checkered Bon Bon in April 2008. Above: Bon Bon as Coconuts performs Hanalei Moon with Gyzmo during a clown education trip to Tijuana.

to help anyone and share what she has learned as a clown. She lives and breathes clown-dom. She is faithful, kind, giving, and just amazing. All our members are on her team. We would do anything for her because she would do anything for us. She keeps us going."

In addition to her membership in the San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers (SDCAFE), Bon Bon is an active and lifetime member of the World Clown Association and COAI. She has served the COAI as Director of Membership in 2004 and Southwest Regional Vice President in 2010.

Bon Bon has frequently competed at COAI Conventions, often placing in the top three for balloons, makeup, and paradeability. In 2004, she was awarded both the Individual CHARLIE Award and the COAI Clown of the Year Award—and says that she's still excited



What They're Saying About Bonita "Bon Bon" Love

Her last name says it all—Love. Her love of clowning is infectious. Bon Bon is the most dedicated clown I have ever known. I have been a member of the San Diego All Star Clowns since 2003 and have admired her ever since. She is the glue that hold us all together.



Top: Bon Bon and Ernie light up the lanes at the local bowling alley, 1992. Bottom: Bon Bon, circa 1992, relaxes in her tutu. Right: Bon Bon competes at the 2003 Western Region Clown Association convention.



She is always ready to help anyone and share what she has learned as a clown. She lives and breathes clowning. She is faithful, kind, and giving. All of the members of our alley would do anything for her, because she would do anything for us. We would not have achieved all we did during the pandemic without her. She kept us going. —**Rosemarie "Wower" Ballard**

Bon Bon has always been very dedicated to her clowning and to the clown organizations she has been a part of. She has served under many different officers' hats for both the San Diego All Star Clowns and for Clowns of America International. She is always making sure that information about upcoming events gets out to members and to the public if there is something the organizations are doing to entertain. Bon Bon never refuses any fellow clown if they need help. She likes to teach and share her ideas. She has always been a wealth of information.

—**Candy "Butterscotch" Will**

to have been selected as Clown of the Year. She also received the Excellence in Clowning Award in 2009. In addition to COAI competitions, Bon Bon has won many awards from the World Clown Association and the Western Region Clown Association (now known as the Family and Variety Entertainers or FAVE). After winning the COAI Clown of the Year Award, Bon Bon chose to stop competing and allow others to take her place.

Bon Bon's enthusiasm is unparalleled, and she is a shining example of Clowning from the Heart. She is unstoppable in every way and brings such joy to the masses wherever she goes. Bon Bon is an amazing face painter who loves to chat with the kids and talk to them about being a clown when they grow up. She still participates in parades with her Alley like she has done for the past thirty years. She goes to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to clown and bubble outside of patients' windows so they are able to smile again. She goes all over California with her bubbles, amazing everyone she meets. She opens her home to people when they are passing through town. I could go on and on about this woman and her sacrifices and the commitment she had made to the clown community. Once you meet Bon Bon you won't forget her. She is a one-of-a-kind lady and clown. —**Julie "Lovely Buttons" Varholdt**



Bon Bon with her sister, Thea Love, niece Malia Love, Princess, and Melody, 1992.

In all the years I have known Bon Bon I have seen nothing but excellence in her clowning, sharing and attitude. She is an excellent clown when entertaining, teaching or participating with others. She has held many positions within her alley. She has taken First of Mays under her wing. She has organized and created many clown events for her alley, and invited others to join in. Bon Bon gets it done and does it right. —**Candy "JellyBean" Kirkley**

Bonita “Bon Bon” Love

CLOWNING TIMELINE

- 1989** – Attended a Clownology class at San Diego State University and began clowning
- 2000** – Third Place Makeup, WRCA
 - Fourth Place Paradeability, COAI
 - First Place Paradeability
- 2001** – First Place Paradeability, WRCA
 - WRCA First Place Paradeability
- 2002** – WCA First Place Paradeability
 - First Place Balloons
 - Third Place Makeup, COAI
 - First Place Paradeability, World Clown Association
- 2004** – COAI Clown of the Year
 - Joined the COAI Board as Director of Membership
 - Individual CHARLIE Award
- 2008** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
- 2009** – Excellence in Clowning, COAI
- 2010** – Accepted position of Southwest Regional Vice President, COAI
- 2011** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
- 2013** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
- 2015** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
- 2016** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
 - SDCAFE named COAI Alley of the Year
- 2017** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
 - SDCAFE named WCA’s Alley of the Year
- 2018** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
 - SDCAFE named COAI Alley of the Year
 - SDCAFE named WCA’s Alley of the Year
- 2019** – Partnered with Dreamin’ Mimi
- 2020** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
- 2021** – National Clown Week chair for San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers
 - SDCAFE named WCA’s Alley of the Year
 - Documenting the minutes for both Zoom and in-person meetings
- 2022** – San Diego All Star Clown Club Acting Secretary



Top: A Yuletide Bon Bon flashes her inimitable smile at the 2011 Toyland Parade in North Park.

Bottom: Bon Bon swaps out her bright, signature print for stars and stripes at a 1997 Memorial Day parade in Kensington, California.

Candy “Butterscotch” Will is among those who nominated Bon Bon. Candy states, “Bon Bon has always been very dedicated to her clowning and the clown organizations of which she is a member. She never refuses any fellow clown if they need help. She likes to teach and share her ideas. She has always been a wealth of information. For the many



Clockwise from top left: Bon Bon (left) and Princess (right) at the World Clown Convention in Southport England pose for a newspaper photo, 1990. PHOTO BY HOWARD BARLOW With Gery Cohn and Princess. At the 1990 World Clown Convention in Southport, England, Bon Bon takes a break from a packed schedule to enjoy a carousel spin with her best friend, Princess. Bon Bon sparkles with pride as she shows off her Clown of the Year Award, April 2004.

years she has been clowning, Bon Bon has truly dedicated her heart and soul.”

Past Clown of the Year and former COAI President Julie “Lovely Buttons” Varholdt says, “Bon Bon is a perfect candidate for the COAI Lifetime Achievement Award. Her enthusiasm is unparalleled, and she is a shining example of clowning from the heart. She is unstoppable in every way and brings such joy to the masses wherever she goes.” She goes on to add, “Once you meet her, you don’t forget her. She deserves this award, and she deserves a thank you for her dedication to this art form.” Candy “JellyBean” Kirkley writes, “Bon Bon is

a clown inside and out. She exemplifies what being a clown is all about.” She recalls when Bon Bon helped organize the Celebration of Life for Wanda Boyce, also known as Buddy, Wicked Wand, and Fargo. Bon Bon wrote a skit for the club to perform at the service, in which everyone wore butterfly wings.

Bon Bon is an active clown whose goal is to bring joy to those in her community. She has been participating in her club’s parades for over thirty years—and is an amazing face painter, to boot. One of her favorite clowning experiences was at a convention she attended in Southport, England. She was a brand new clown at

the time. The mayor of Southport chose Bon Bon and her best friend, Princess, to pose for a picture. The photo was published in the Southport newspaper.

Now, Bon Bon clowns at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, where she even blows bubbles outside the windows to bring smiles to patients. She serves meals to veterans throughout the community and travels around California, bringing bubbles and smiles wherever she goes.

Bon Bon says, “I try to wear something silly on my head, make bubbles, and do something to make people smile every day.” **TNC**

COAI Convention Knocks It Outta the Park!

A Special Report by the Roving Reporter



Promotion for the 2022 COAI Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, promised an event that would “Knock It Outta the Park!” Did the convention team succeed? Our two-word review: “Home run!”

After two long pandemic years, hoping for an in-person gathering, COAI members were eager to ditch virtual life for five days of fun and fellowship. In addition to the sheer excitement of coming together, the convention itself was packed with great education and entertainment.

Special guest Misha Usov delighted attendees with three teaching sessions and an evening show, which included previews of his hilarious film, *Milk*. A unique combination of Charlie Chaplin and Mr. Bean, Misha proved to be the world-class entertainer we had hoped for. Adding to our delight was his humble and approachable demeanor.

Actor and producer David Arquette was another convention highlight, and like Misha Usov, his kindness and availability impressed this reporter. He enthusiastically participated in classes, learning along with other registrants. David’s creative partner, Gabe “Nü Nü” Dell, and Jessica “Jozo Bozo” Harrison were also delightful participants in the convention.

As described in the March/April issue of *The New Calliope*, David recently acquired the rights to Bozo, “The World’s Most Famous Clown,” and has aspirations of building upon the public’s positive perception of clowning. David gladly autographed printed copies of the magazine that were provided to everyone at the convention. One time we saw him on the way out of a meeting room, looking tired from a long day. A COAI member with a *Calliope* in hand stood to the side waiting for an autograph. David passed by and then realized he had missed someone holding a magazine and a pen. Immediately, he turned back. “Would you like me to sign that?” he asked. The man, seeing that David was on his way out, said, “Yes, but I can catch you tomorrow.” David replied, “I’ll be glad to do it right now” and spent several minutes chatting with him and writing a personal inscription.

Other high points included the full roster of classes, which provided ample learning opportunities. The auction was a huge success, well attended and enthusiastically supported.

Alene Kraus significantly improved the process of picking up purchased items. Food at the theme party and banquet was excellent, notches above the typical rubber chicken hotel meals.

Competitions, of course, were high-lights for many people. COAI’s photographer, Merylyn Barrett, was seemingly everywhere at once. In addition to taking competition photos, she set up a background outside of the main meeting room where people could have their photos taken by her, or others, throughout the convention. The Annual Business Meeting was well attended and informative. Even potentially contentious topics were discussed in an



Top: Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe and Jessica “Jozo Bozo” Harrison get a kick out of poolside clowning. Bottom, left to right: Adam and Lorraine Schill prior to the awards banquet. Teresa Gretton enjoys a laugh from a running gag at the awards banquet, as Adam Schill and Sammy Smith assist, with Kesha Beckley looking on. David Arquette writes a personal inscription on *The New Calliope* for a COAI member. Bozo and NüNü enjoy bumper cars at a local theme park. PHOTO BY MERILYN BARRETT



Top, left to to right: Dave Hill presides at the auction. COAI Board members strike a pose in clown. Left to right: Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe, Kesha “LayDee” Beckley, Frank “Buff Phoon” Bunton, Gloria “Heyseed But You Can Call Me Dollie” Sterrett, Dan “Fitzwilly” Langwell, Alene “Rufflez” Kraus, Adam Schill, and Beth “Pickles” Cedarholm. Bob Gretton offers advice and inspiration at the Mentorship Meeting. Colonel Bob Gretton (right) keeps Lorraine Schill and Teresa Gretton laughing at the theme party. Bottom: Misha Usov with student Jackie Reynolds. The only known photograph of convention photographer Marilyn Barrett not holding a camera. Julia Swanson and Tricia Manuel getting smiles at the dealers’ show.

orderly way, thanks to President Adam Schill, who adhered to the rules he laid out at the beginning. Vice President Dan Langwell kept an eye on the stopwatch and informed speakers in a truly kind manner when their time was up. The meeting concluded in less than an hour.

We won't mention everyone involved in making this convention a success—the list is long—but we saw Director of Conventions Frank Bunton generously

supporting COAI during the auction, Lorraine Schill running credit cards like crazy, Vice President Dan Langwell helping with the sound system and stage set-up, Director of Education Alene Kraus organizing the abundance of auction items, Dave Hill volunteering as auctioneer (hilarious!), Teresa Gretton helping first-time attendees through her mentorship program, Sammy Smith herding clowns in costume toward the empty pool for the group photo taken

by Marilyn Barrett, and every board member in attendance—including Kesha Beckley, Frank Bunton, Beth Cedarholm, Alene Kraus, Dan Langwell, Adam Schill, Kornpop McCullough, Gloria Sterrett, and Regina Wollrabe—entering into the fun and excitement of this convention and helping others have a wonderful time.

Something else we noticed. David Arquette’s film crew (for a documentary



Gabe Dell, David Arquette, Misha Usov, and Sammy Smith confer over recent issues of *The New Calliope*.

Clockwise from top left: Mary “Spunky the Clown” Langwell and Dan “Fitzwilly” Langwell enjoy some springtime sunshine following the group photo. Beth “Pickles” Cedarholm and Alene “Rufflz” Kraus proudly display their favorite chickens. Gloria “Heyseed But You Can Call Me Dollie” Sterrett and Kesha “LayDee” Beckley. Tee-time for Frank Bunton at the theme party.

he is producing) never intruded and yet their presence only added to the fun. One day they asked a handful of clowns to be filmed at a local amusement park going on rides and having fun—a great opportunity! Our President, Adam, was

invited, too. Did he go and have a fantastic time? No. He knew chairs had to be set up for the evening show and other responsibilities could pop up at any time, so he stayed behind to help keep the convention running smoothly. That’s

why he got this reporter’s vote in the recent election. Well, that and the fact that no one was running against him!

In all seriousness, those who came to this convention wanting to have a good time had a great time. Positive people know that such events have too many moving parts for everything to work perfectly, so they just go with the flow. The staff, in our experience, was friendly and helpful. Did room keys need to be reset every day or two? Who cares! Hotels are physical facilities run by human beings. We were there to have fun, so trips to see our friends at the front desk were not an inconvenience—they were exercise!

If this year was any indication of the fun that lies ahead at the 2023 COAI Convention, get ready for an event that is not to be missed.

Batter up! **TNC**

Classical Whiteface

Competition Awards were presented during the 2022 COAI Convention at Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta. Recipients were recognized at the banquet on Saturday, April 30.

**ALL COMPETITION PHOTOS
BY MERILYN BARRETT**



1st

Heather McFall

Auguste

1st

Irene Spudic



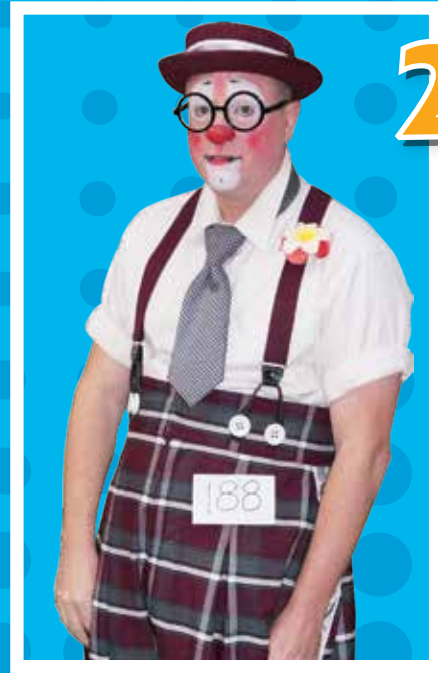
Lite Auguste

1st



Jessica King

2nd



Matty Spraggins

3rd



Jackie Reynolds

Tramp

1st

2nd



William Craver



Tom King

CLOWNS OF AMERICA I

Atlanta



INTERNATIONAL 2022

Ma, GA



Character

1st



Nancy Opatich



2nd

Kynisha Ducre



3rd

Beth Cedarholm

Senior

1st



Ann Sanders

2nd



Kent Sheets

3rd



Barb Mamrod

★ Single Skit



1st

Louise Carnesale
"Heaven Under Construction"



2nd

Jackie Reynolds
"Ice Fishing"



3rd

Barb Mamrod
"World's Largest Cauliflower"



4th

Barbara Foristall
"Try Outs"



5th

Matty Spraggins
"Clown Spelling Bee"



Ann Sanders
"Truth and Consequences"



Nancy Opatich
"Chicken CPR"



Heather McFall
"Supercute Daredevil"



Zoilo Melendez
"My Favorite"



Kent Sheets
"The Magic Show"

Group Skit

1st

Tim Laynor, Ann Sanders, John Kral



2nd



Chad Stender, William Craver

3rd



Kent Sheets, Dianna Hale, Diana Ciepiela, Phil Reigelsperger



Barb Gill, Jerry Gill



Barb Mamrod, John Sullivan

6th



Norman Holtzman, Eric Spiegel

7th



Jackie Reynolds, David Mendoza

Group Paradeability

1st



Tim Laynor, John Kral, Ann Sanders
Party Line



2nd

John Sullivan, Barb Mamrod
Pork Chop

Facepainting cheek



Kynisha Ducre



Ann Sanders

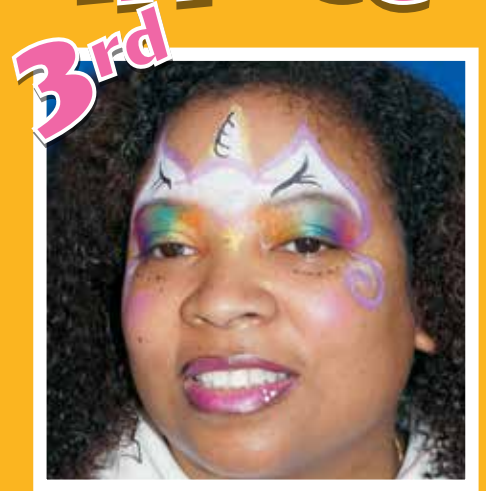
Facepainting full face



Barbara Carter



Ann Sanders



Kynisha Ducre

Single Paradeability



Irene Spudic
Fly Ball



Kent Sheets
The Big One



Nancy Opatich
Covid Test



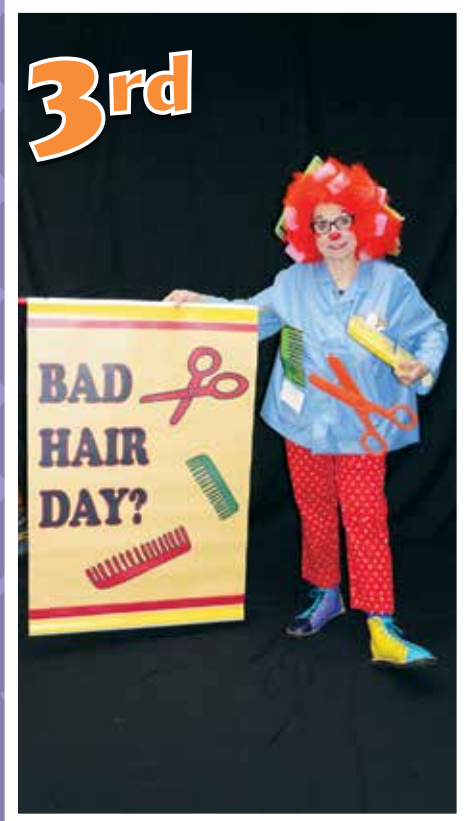
Matty Spraggins
Runaway Treasure



Jerry Gill
Stuck on Me



Kynisha Ducre
It's Raining Golf Balls



Jackie Reynolds
Bad Hair Day



Zoilo Melendez
I Love Fish



Tom King
For Sale



Barb Mamrod
World's Largest Cauliflower



Barbara Gill
Time Again

Single BALLOON



1st

Jill Schmidt

2nd



Ann Sanders

3rd



Beth Cederholm

3rd



Karan Robins



Barb Mamrod

6th



Matt Spraggins

5th

7th



Jackie Reynolds

8th



Tom King

9th

Zoilo Melendez



BALLOON Arrangement

4th

Jackie Reynolds

1st



Karan Robins

2nd



Ann Sanders

3rd



Matty Spraggins



7th

John Sullivan

5th



Kynisha Ducre

6th



Zoilo Melendez

8th



Tom King

Multiple BALLOON

1st



Matty Spraggins

2nd



Ann Sanders

3rd



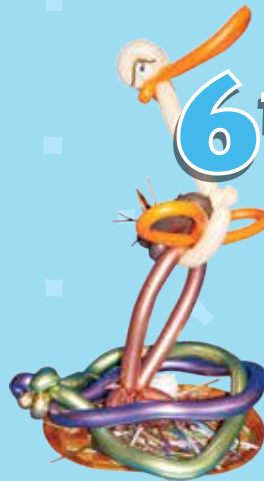
Kynisha Ducre

4th



Karan Robins

6th



Jackie Reynolds

7th



John Sullivan

2
5th



Zoilo Melendez

8th

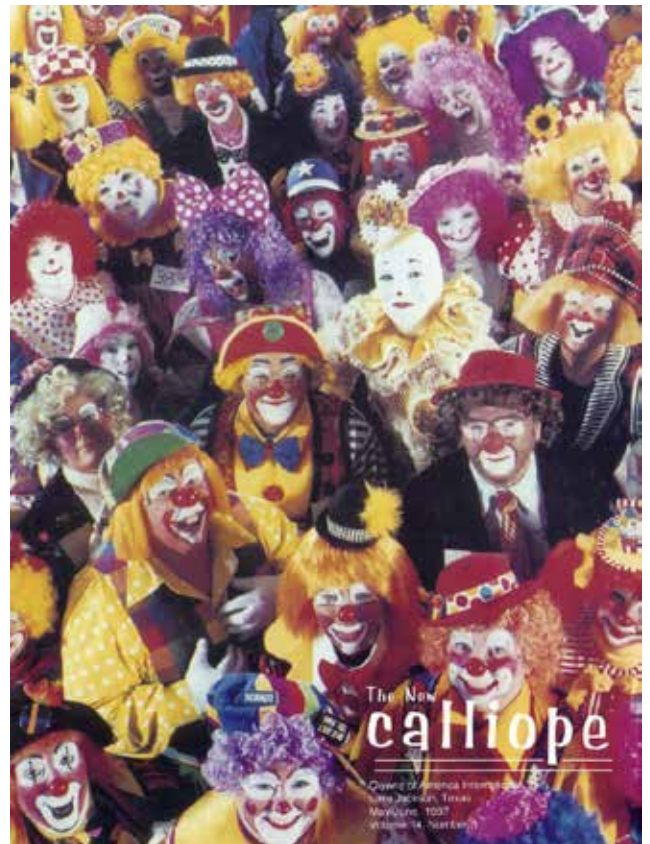


Tom King



25 Years go

By Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe



If you log on to your account on our website at www.mycoai.com, you can search The Vault to find the May/June 1997 issue of *The New Calliope*, which contains many wonderful clowns and articles. At the time, Brenda Marshall was our president. Skimming through this magazine again, I can see why I fell in love with clowning back in the 1990s. Clown education had become more accessible, which led to thousands of clowns popping out of the woodwork. Our organization experienced rapid growth thanks to a new interest in clowning—along with the need to have fun, laugh, and spread joy.

On the cover you'll find a group of clowns preparing for a makeup competition in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The competition was held at the COAI Convention, and was put on by the South Shore Joys Alley 159A with a total of 467 attendees. Twelve full color pages showcase the top ten winners, among them many different types of clowns in full costume and makeup. It's a candy store for those who love colorful, beautiful, ornate costuming.

Titles of articles: “Changing Times” by Cal Olson, in which he talks through the changes that COAI was discussing at the time during board and other business meetings. Changing the competition style was a major focus of those meetings. Mike Bednarek proposed a new way to run competitions that would be explained in the next issue of the magazine. The board was overwhelmingly in favor of the changes, but the membership and competitors had concerns.

Other articles include Karen Reinholt's fifth installment on birthday parties titled “We're talking Bi-i-ig,” and a must-read Q&A by Stephanie Richardson concerning Clown Week and how it got started. There is a wonderful storyline magic article by Steven Bender, aka Mr. Pickle, who gives you patter for a pizza oven variation of the classic Die Box trick called Dizzy Donut. Meanwhile, Dr. Bugg shares ideas for hospital walk-arounds for adults.

There were eleven different educational opportunities advertised, including five regional conferences. One conference was hosted at my hometown Rose City Clown Alley 196 in Portland, Oregon. Other conferences included a Carnival Cruise international clown convention, a clown ministry conference, an advance study tour that went to fourteen different cities, a festival, and Moose Camp—which I finally get to attend this year, twenty-five years after the first time I saw the ad in this magazine! I hope you will take advantage of all the great articles in The Vault in the Clown Cloud on our website www.mycoai.com. Bump a nose! **TNC**

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Give an application
or gift a membership today!



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