

KLOWN KLATTER

Official Newsletter of the Western Region Clown Association

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January 2009

Newsstand price \$852.12, A lot less with WRCA membership

From the President

Jay Anthony

Hello and Happy New Year.

I'll start off by thanking everyone for making our 2008 convention a success. Everyone did a fantastic job. I couldn't ask for more; it was a job well done.

Our education people have already signed our head liners for 2009. Wow, David Ginn, Steve Kissell, Jody Carr, and that's just for starters. Lea and Yvonne have said this is just the beginning.

I had a ball giving out beaded necklaces and chocolate coins at the theme party. I've never seen so many pirates in one place. If you had fun at this year's theme party, wait till November and see how Sherry takes us over the rainbow. I'm wondering if Toto will show up. The important thing will be me in my ruby red slippers.

Once again the late night balloon jams were terrific. The twisters keep getting better every year. (I go down for the ice cream.) I saw Don Laughlin down there one night. I left early so I don't know if he did any twisting!!!

We rode The Polar Express on the Grand Canyon Railroad this past December. Joel and his family were there. I didn't know it was that cold at the Grand Canyon at 7 am.

For those who don't know, Lea Wheeler is now our area rep. for Oregon.

See you soon
And be happy,

Jay Anthony
jayanthony3@cox.net

From the Vice President

Matt Akers

Well, another convention well done! Thank you again for the re-election to Vice President. The 2008 convention was way fun and exhausting. On Sunday night I helped lead guided tours for new clowns. I've written about them before, but they're a lot of fun. The theme party was "Pirates". Our theme chair Sherry was hard at work. I'd like to see how she's going to top it. I know what's coming for the next convention, so watch out.

I'd like to take some time to say thanks to all who came to open mic. This has been a huge honor to MC this event. This year we had over 110 people show up and more than 23 acts. This event is a result of the critique sheets, as they're all read and valued. Please, everybody is invited to do something at open mic. Whether it's part of your birthday party show or tell a silly joke, this time is for us all. Next year's theme is "Over the Rainbow" because, well, our convention is our somewhere over the rainbow. Time to get those ruby slippers and click your heels together for "there's no place like..." Hope the New Year finds you all well!

Sincerely,

your V.P., Matthew "Dynamoe" Akers



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The KLOWN KLATTER is published for the education and enjoyment of the Western Region Clown Association membership. Editorial policy is to avoid any negative statements or personal attacks on or about any member or officer of ANY clown organization.

You can email your notices and comments to the Editor at jayanthony3@cox.net. Or go to the website <http://westregionclowns.org> and send a message from there.



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Registration News
Judy Anthony

The more time passes, the more varied our convention has become. "Registration" night is so much more than just registration. It is a fun part of the convention. Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with stuffing goodie bags, cutting string for neck badges, giving out packets, cashiering, helping with the Banquet seating chart, giving tours of the hotel, answering questions and making everyone feel at home. Thanks to State and Area Reps for showing off your territories. Thank YOU for being there!

One of my favorite duties at the convention is providing drawing numbers for various door prizes. This year's grand prize winners (drawn at the Banquet) were:

Free 2009 Registration and Free Room –

Esther Silverberg

Free 2009 Registration –

Judy Kregness and Jessica Fox

You three are already registered for 2009!

If I seemed distant or confused on Sunday, I might have been out of my mind. HA! Email or call me (judyanthony3@cox.net or 602-279-8008) if you have any thoughts (any at all ... Hmm ...what shall we give away in next year goodie bags?)

Judy "Penelope Peanutbutter" Anthony

Utah Rep
Tom Butte

WOW!

What a great convention we had. I've never seen so many sober pirates before. With the ups and downs of the convention it was wonderful. Congratulations to all of you for coming and learning and meeting new friends. And a big thanks for your concern and prayers for the Ramirez family.

May all of you have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and plan your schedule for next November 8-12th for another fun-filled week of learning and meeting new and old friends.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Bump a nose and stay green.

Your friend in clowning and life,

Tom "Sammy T" Butte



From the Editor

Merrily we roll along, roll along from 2008 right into preparation for the 2009 WRCA convention. As has been said by many "bigger and better...."

I want to thank everyone for their help and suggestions on improving the Klatter. The late-breaking news can be found on your web site. <http://westregionclowns.org>.

Send me email at jayanthony3@cox.net. Call me at (602) 279-0888. If you just want to talk, use the same email and telephone number. The next Klatter should be in the mail by early June.

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

I just got lost in thought, and it was unfamiliar territory.

Would a wingless fly be called a walk?

Forgive and forget, but keep a list of names just in case.

Time is just nature's way to keep everything from happening at once

From the Secretary

Kathy Cornell

Howdy Fellow Fun Coordinators,

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas was a joyful one. It was so fantastic seeing you all in November. I was extremely pleased to see so much participation in all the events. You guys rock! I know it was difficult saying goodbye to some of our dear clowns this last year. I suspect that if we go outside at night and very quietly look up at the stars, we will be able to hear laughter coming from heaven. The ultimate gig, eh?

I want to take this opportunity to thank our WRCA President Jay Anthony and WRCA Founder Lamar Williams for their diligent action regarding the overcapacity and fire safety issues. This organization is truly blessed to have such exceptional leadership. Wasn't it great to see Joel so soon after his surgery? Wasn't Suds an awesome M.C.? I can go on and on, but this is a newsletter and not a book.

I already miss you all and can hardly wait till this coming November. Our theme, in case you didn't know already, is "Over the Rainbow". I've always wondered what actually was over the rainbow. I'm guessing it's a pot of gold called WRCA and a world of beautifully bright colored happy clowns. So start planning now to attend this year's convention, because you know how these things sneak up on us. I'm really counting on each and every one of you being there, because if you're not, I'll get you, my pretties, and your little clowns, too!

Your sister in clowning and WRCA Secretary
Kathy "Dusti" Cornell

Never go to bed angry, stay awake and plot your revenge.

I don't want buns of steel. I want buns of cinnamon.

If your feet smell and your nose runs, you're built upside down.

Southern California Rep

Ann Larson

As expected, a lot of us from S. California attended the convention this November. It was so nice seeing everyone again and lots of new people. I had a terrific time all week, especially competing in single skits for the first time!

We all missed Smiley and Wendy so much. Such a tragedy brought many of us together. I also noticed that the absence of the balloon vendor led to much sharing of balloons. Everything else went well this year and the pirate theme was a success. Happy New Year to everyone. May you and your alley prosper and grow, and may you give away WAY too many smiles all year long.

Ann "Ana-Banana" Larson

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Merchandise Chairman

Carol Butte

I thought the merchandise sales went really well this year. We sold out of almost all of the black sizes. Some sizes were gone the first night. I had a few requests for black again next year. I have also had requests for yellow or blue. It might be possible to do a few special orders. For example, if I knew someone wanted a pink shirt in large, we could order just one of that size and color. The logo colors would have to stay the same. I am also planning on ordering a few in 3x and also a few children's sizes. Please email me utahclown@aol.com and let me know your preferences. I have some people who want a nice jacket. They would have to be pre-ordered. We are also checking on other things such as key chains, clipboards, pins, magnets or patches.

At our general meeting someone suggested we put a link to merchandise on the webpage. I think this would be a great idea.

Hope that everyone has a great Holiday season.

Carol "Sunshine" Butte

Arizona Rep
Russell Cornell

Hi yah Jesters,

I trust that your holidays were blessed and that you have a very joyous New Year. Now that we have crossed the Colorado River and gotten ARRRRR last year's treasure, it's time to look over the rainbow to the land of OZ.

Thanks to all the Arizona clowns for allowing me to be their rep. Oh, about those pictures I took for our photo album and our web page. I'm sorry to say they got deleted. Next time I take your pictures I will put them on a CD. So if any AZ clowns have a photo please send them to my **email:** cornell84@hotmail.com and I will put them on the new **web page:** www.clownsaz.itgo.com. Also if you have any news or other photos of your alley or activities please send them as well. Keep checking the web site for upcoming events.

See you in November.
Your Navigator of Nonsense,
Russ "Wing-Nut" Cornell

Northern California Rep
Kelly Martinez

The Holidays are over and if you are like me, these next couple of months are slow. I use this quiet time for re-inventing my upcoming spring shows, catching up on paperwork and creating skits. I plan out my yearly calendar, making sure to reserve time to attend the WRCA convention in November.

I like to take some time and look at the pictures and class notes from the WRCA conventions from the years before. I learn so many wonderful clown skills, and this is a great time to try them out on family and friends.

If you are thinking of competing in the 2009 skits, start now! I have so much fun getting

Colorado Rep
Molly Kleeman

Wow did this convention fly by! It MUST have been great because time flies when you're having fun! I was an instructor or helped to instruct a total of 5 class periods! Did you enjoy my classes? I sure enjoyed teaching you! I hope that you got even just one thing that you can use from one of my classes.

Aaarrghhh, Matey! Have you ever seen so many costumes at our theme party? It sure was a fab party this year, wasn't it?

I always enjoy judging and I was very impressed with the high quality of the competitions this year, particularly the skits. Congratulations to EVERYONE who participated! VERY Well Done!

Are you coming to see me in Denver this March? You could take part in the Largest St. Patrick's Day Parade West of the Mississippi on Saturday the 14th. I have already signed up for a position in the parade for any of you who would like to come. Many people coming from all around the world will be staying at the Renaissance Hotel Denver. Also, the following weekend, Sunday the 22nd of March, I will be taking a group of people on the Ski Train to Winter Park Ski Area. Even if you don't ski, this is a fantastic one day train trip that goes up a canyon without any roads or other man made distractions, thru several tunnels, right to the base of Winter Park Ski Area, where you can shop, eat, take snowcat or dogsled tours or enjoy one of many other winter activities. Contact me at 303-798-9933 or TheClown@skiddles.com for further information on either of these events or other events also happening at the same time!

Your Pal,
SKIDDLES

New Mexico Rep
Denise Bachis

As I sat down to write this, contemplating what to say, I realized how lucky I am. I've been clowning since Nick and I married, almost 23 years ago, and I have had such great experiences and met such wonderful people. Some have become great friends; they have shared their experiences and knowledge and encouraged me. I am truly blessed! I hope all of you have experienced the same and have passed your knowledge on to others.

Mentoring is so rewarding for those you're helping and for yourself. WRCA is certainly a form of mentoring. Look at the wonderful contacts you make, the education, the encouragement and most important the lifelong friends. I hope you are passing on your experiences and encouraging others to attend WRCA.

Hope you had a wonderful holiday and a great New Year!!!

Denise "Nee Cee" Bachis
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Kelly Martinez - Continued from page 5

together with my "group" once a month. We write, rewrite, practice, build props and perform new skits. We join together for dinner, and start by talking our new skit through, as we enjoy the fellowship of other clowns in our area. If you start now, by November your hard work and practice will pay off. I encourage everyone to perform either by competing or you may choose to perform at the open mic, or both!

I hope 2009 brings you lots of laughter!

Kelly Martinez
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(707) 447-9326

Past President
Lea Wheeler

Hidee Ho, fellow glee makers!

Hope your holidays were the best. Didn't we have a fabulous convention? Jay did a great job. (Actually we need to credit Judy, but officially it is Jay.) We all have to acknowledge our great loss of Robert and his folks, but their smiles will forever live in our hearts. And I understand that Matt Akers is working with Jay and the Ramirez family on a special scholarship in Robert's name. Awesome.

Yvonne and I are already working on the 2009 class schedule. Since we are having David Ginn, there will be some classes blocked out so everyone will have the opportunity to hear this talented teacher. But we listened to all your remarks on the critique sheets and will provide you with the best classes possible.

It won't be long.

Yours in smiles,
Lea Wheeler, Education Director
[and new Oregon Rep]



Birthdays are good for you - the more you have, the longer you live.

Los Angeles Rep
Joyce Payne

Hello Fellow WRCA-ers,

We have ended another year with another great convention! It was wonderful seeing so many people I only get to see once a year, yet still think of them as friends and family.

I would like to extend special congratulations to this year's competition winners. I know that several of the winners have competed in previous years and have not "won" the plaque in the past, but kept on growing and evolving into the shining clowns we saw this year. Their resilience and tenacity serves as an example to those who are still working and evolving in their clowning and, hopefully, an inspiration to those who have not yet experienced the fun and benefits of competition.

I am beginning this New Year with a fresh and broadened outlook on what I will be doing with my clowning as well as possibly collaborating with fellow clowns in the Los Angeles area. At this point, I do not know where that outlook will lead me, but I do promise to bring everyone along on the journey! Additionally, if any of you LA area clowns has anything going on that you would like to share or discuss, please feel free to contact me!

This past year, so many things have happened that I do not understand, yet in my heart, I do trust and have faith in their being the right and proper things. That is the heart of a clown.

In closing, I must say that I am genuinely grateful and feel blessed to be a member of this big, "blended" family, the WRCA.

Sincerely & *Magically* Yours,

Joyce "JOY" Payne
JoyTClown@sbcglobal.net
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Southern Nevada Rep
Dollie Circle

Season Greetings to all!

We had a great (yeah, another one!! Har, har!) convention again this year! And the theme party was wonderful (what about that stage display?), along with the Hobo Stew, balloon jams and competitions. I had a great time and hope everyone did too. Our great vendors really give us a chance to get stocked up for the coming year, don't they? And I sure hope everyone got oodles of new ideas from our lecturers. Kudos to our board and staff. We had a larger than usual attendance at our general meeting. Thanks to all who attended. It was terrific. I feel so inspired by meeting and chatting with old and new clown friends. It's a busy time of year now and I wish everyone the best of the holiday season, whatever your faith. Peace, health & prosperity to all.

If anyone has any questions, I'll surely try to get them answered asap for you. My phone number is: 702/434-6871 and my email is: dcircle@cox.net. Till next time...

Smiles, Dollie Circle aka Dollie-Wollie

From the Treasurer
Candy Will

Being a pirate is just my cup o' tea! I really enjoyed being a pirate for the theme party AND in competition!

It's always good to catch up with my clown friends that I haven't seen for a while and what a great turnout we had.

As your treasurer, there was a lot to learn this year, and I can't thank Judy Anthony enough for all her guidance. I couldn't have asked for a better board to work with also. Jay, Matt and Kathy, you are the best! Thank you all for voting me in again and I think next year I should have this WRCA treasurer thing down.

I hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday season and I want to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone!

Candy Will
WRCA Treasurer

2008 WRCA COMPETITION WINNERS

BALLOON COMPETITION

SINGLE BALLOON

1. Zach Jones, Murray, UT
2. Ryan Farewell, Phelan, CA.
3. Jasmine Ray, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

MASTER BALLOONS

1. David Keenan, San Diego, CA
2. Jennifer Pilcher, Winchester, CA
3. John Butte, North Salt Lake, UT

SINGLE BALLOONS

1. Jacqueline Garcia
2. Jason Garcia
3. Ryan Harshberger

VISUAL CLOWN

1. Alma Lemus, Gardena, CA
2. Karla Medeiros, San Juan Capistrano, CA.
3. Zach Jones, Murray, UT

SINGLE CLOWN

1. Erica Marie Pretzer, Chula Vista, CA
1. Ann Larson, Palm Springs, CA
2. Judah Buxton, San Diego, CA
3. Jesse Flores, Porterville, CA

JUNIOR JOEY

1. Sean Radar
2. Zac Beach
3. Jacqueline Garcia

AUGUSTE

1. Sharon Neilson, Kearns, UT
2. Nicole Thompson, Lomita, CA
3. Cheryl Wagner, Petaluma, CA

CHARACTER CLOWN

1. Mason Taylor, Salt Lake City, UT

FULL FACE

1. Sharon Neilson, Kearns, UT
2. Jasmine Ray, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
3. Liza Salvatore, Visalia, CA

MULTIPLE BALLOONS

1. Sharon Gohlke, Carson City, UT
2. Megan Murphy, Woodland, CA
3. Zach Jones, Murray, UT

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BALLOON AWARD

1. John Butte, North Salt Lake, UT

JUNIOR JOEYS

MULTIPLE BALLOONS

1. Jacqueline Garcia
2. Jason Garcia
3. Sean Radar

PARADEABILITY

WORKING CLOWN

1. William Pogue, La Mesa, CA
2. Dolly Jones, San Diego, CA
3. Sharon Hunt, Mayer, AZ

SKIT COMPETITION

MULTIPLE

1. Jimmy Lowe, San Diego, CA
2. Karla Medeiros, San Juan Capistrano, CA.
3. Betty Rubin, Laguna Woods, CA

MAKE-UP COMPETITION

SPECIAL JOEY

1. Andrew Neilson, Kearns, UT

SENIOR

1. Fran M Etzkorn, Blackhawk, CO
2. Gloria D Krueger, Laguna Woods, CA
3. Betty Rubin, Laguna Woods, CA

WHITE FACE

1. Ann Guenther, Laguna Woods, CA
2. Janet Bausman, Lafayette, NY
3. Charlene Hammons, Laguna Woods, CA

MASTER CLOWN

2. Candy Will, San Juan Capistrano, CA.

FACE PAINTING COMPETITION

TATTOO

1. Sharon Neilson, Kearns, UT
2. Jasmine Ray, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
3. Cheryl Wagner, Petaluma, CA

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

**Pictures of Competition Winners can be viewed at:
<http://westregionclowns.org/winner4.html>**

Make-up Competition Winners

White Face 1st



Ann Guenther

White Face 2nd



Janet Bausman

White Face 3rd



Charlene Hammons

Senior 1st



Fran M. Etzkorn

Senior 2nd



Gloria D. Krueger

Senior 3rd



Betty Rubin

Junior 1st



Sean Rader

Junior 2nd



Zac Beach

Junior 3rd



Jacqueline Garcia

Auguste 1st



Sharon Neilson

Auguste 2nd



Nicole Thompson

Auguste 3rd



Cheryl Wagner

Special Joey 1st



Andrew Neilson

Master 2nd



Candy Will

Character 1st



Mason Taylor

Remembering Robert and Wendy



Robert

Wendy

**A Hockey Mom (no...not Governor Palin)
Yvonne Brogdon – Education**

I was recently at an event with four other clowns when a gentleman who was attending the event walked up to me and said "Ah, you're a *professional* clown! Not all too sure or clear what he meant by that, I said, "yessir....we're professionals..." He said, "no, I mean, you really look professional. You look great, and just how you are, I can tell you're the professional." He smiled and walked on. Well, I felt really bad because it was within earshot of other clowns. Some of them had been clowning for quite a few years, also. So I took a minute to look around and then really looked at them. Two of them were wearing "people" shoes. Two others were in thrift store looking clothing and one had a wig that had seen better years. I have nothing against thrift stores and certainly some are great sources for clown-wear. But one in particular looked like her outfit was worn, faded, and thrown together. Her make-up needed work and instead of looking clowny, had the "I'm-just-a-hockey-mom-clowning-for-extra-money-on-the-weekend" look. I think the way to achieve and maintain that level of professionalism lies in education.

At WRCA we provide you with over 40 classes a year to keep you evolving. Even if you're great at it, the best you've ever been, there is something you can learn. You must remain open to learning constantly. Make it your mission, when you attend convention next year, to learn at least one new thing. When building the class schedule, we try to include classes that will help you not only with skills (such as face painting, magic, and balloons), but with how to develop your presentation. While those skills are what you do, it's how you do them and how you act as a clown that will set you apart from the rest. Without the acting and humor foundation, you could perform as a twister or painter. I issue you this challenge: do what you can to develop yourself so that you could entertain with your clowning for an event....without the paint or balloons....and be a hit!

I remember something I overheard while watching skit competition many years ago at a national convention. The persons on stage had just finished performing an act that was simply not funny and poorly presented. There was little audience response. One person said to the other in the row in front of me, "That's what they get for not going to camp!" meaning that had they taken the lessons, they would have been better performers. None of us want to be in those shoes. None of us want to be the "hockey-mom-working-on-the-weekend." We really need to do what we can to continue to improve. How do we know how to act? How to look? What to say and do? We study. We commit. We work at it. We should never, NEVER forget that someone is watching. And that someone expects, and deserves, to see us at our best. See you in class!



NOTE: If you are reading "on-line," this is not the end. Go on to the bottom of Page 12.

WRCA
P.O. BOX 7656
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Northern Nevada Rep
Sharon Gohlke

Hello and Happy holidays.

Well, who can believe that 2008 is over? I had a great time at the convention. I hope or I know that everyone there had a great time, and if you did not, it's your own fault.

Once again the officers and all the volunteers made it the best convention. Every year it's better. Who would think that they could be able to improve, but they do. So a big congrats to everyone that took the time to help out with the convention. I learned a couple of new things at the convention. And I met some new people. I always say, I try to be a sponge and take in all the information from the convention, but there is so much, so now I try and just learn 1 or 2 things. I can't wait till next time, 2009: the theme is "Over the Rainbow".

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Start planning your costume for the theme party.

Well, time to say goodbye and everyone have a safe and happy holiday. See you next year.

Sharon "Sparkie the Clown" Gohlke

Robert William Flaherty Ramirez
Scholarship Fund
(aka Smiley Fund)

Robert, Wendy and Jose Ramirez's family generously started a scholarship fund within WRCA to honor them and help people needing financial assistance. If you would like to contribute, write your check to WRCA (or Western Region Clown Association) and write "Robert Ramirez Fund" or "Smiley Fund" on the memo line or an attachment. The WRCA Board will determine recipients.