

KLOWN KLATTER

Official Newsletter of the Western Region Clown Association

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June 2009

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

From the President

Jay Anthony

Hello and A Happy Summer Day.

As you sit down to read this "Klown Klatter," Judy and my very own person will be in Mooseburger country. I know it'll be cooler. I wonder if we'll be rained on.

All the pieces seem to be falling into place for the coming convention. Everyone's doing what they do best, which means the 2009 convention is just about ready to go. I am excited to have David Ginn, Steve Kissell and Jodi Carr on our schedule. But wait, there's more. To tell the truth there are too many names for me to list in this short article, so stay tuned - more to come at another time.

Judy is looking for someone to start training to take her place as registration chair. It's not an easy job. There's a lot to do. If you're ready to work, this would be a great job for you. Get in touch with Judy at judyanthony3@cox.net. She'll be able to answer all your questions and be able to give you the low down on everything she does.

See you soon
And be happy,

Jay Anthony
jayanthony3@cox.net



Theme Party Chair

Sherry Ralston

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all planning to come to the convention this year. Start saving a few dollars from each of your gigs now. Put a little away from each event this summer, and you won't feel the big pinch later. You deserve to come to the convention to see all your friends and have a great time. Maybe in these tight times it is time to broaden your skills, learn a new skill, and have more to offer your clients. If you have never done balloons, face painting, magic, juggling, or story telling, maybe now is the time to learn. You will not find a better convention to learn as much as WRCA has to offer in a week!! Want to make more money and book more parties? Then maybe it is time to learn something new, or learn more to expand the skills you already have.

Networking is one of the best ways you can expand your business. There are usually at least 250 clowns and entertainers who come to WRCA. All of those people are potential word of mouth for your business. The more people you network with, the more referrals you can get. So, if you think the convention is an expense you can't afford this year, think of it as an expense you need to keep your business going. Come out of your comfort zone and learn something new, meet and mingle with more people, bring your business cards and any information about the services you offer to share with others. Someone from another area may not service the area you do, and they will have information on you that they can give to a client who may call them to work your area.

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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**

Sherry Ralston, Continued from page 1

Our early-bird convention price is still under \$100, and hotel rooms are probably the best price in the country for a clown convention. Here are more details:

Full Convention registration price includes WRCA membership, classes, competitions, shopping at our vendors, activities, parties, awards banquet with entertainment and Klown Klatter newsletter (3 issues per year). Adult pre-registration discount is \$95 per adult if postmarked on or before 9/1/09. After 9/1/09 and at the door, full registration is \$120. Registration for Juniors and Teens (age 6-17 by 11/8/09) is \$50. This price is based on age, not classes taken. Some experienced young'uns choose to attend adult classes, which is OK with us. All Juniors and Teens need to check in with Gerrie, our Junior Program Director, regardless of which classes they choose to attend.

Buffet tickets are a discount price for the hotel Riverside Buffet Restaurant.

Day passes are available; however, people attending on a day pass are not eligible for door prizes or to compete. We offer Banquet tickets for guests not attending the convention for \$35 each. Our banquet features your choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Wellington, or Vegetarian Lasagna (served by waiters), plus entertainment and awards. Day passes and guest Banquet tickets can be prepaid using the Registration form on our website (also best for family sign-up).

FYI - REFUND POLICY for early registrations:

1. To get a refund, you must make a request in writing or by mail.
2. All refunds are subject to a refund fee.
3. Refund fee is \$25 per PERSON if request is RECEIVED BEFORE the first day of the convention.
4. On or after the first day of the convention, the refund fee is 50% of the amount paid. Requests must be received by 11/30/09.

If you are new, or think you don't know anyone, then meet and mingle. There are some of the nicest people at WRCA, and we are all like family. If you want to feel like part of the family, then come get involved. We won't know that you feel alone if you sit in your room or stay to yourself. Come to the balloon jams and sit and talk to people, mingle in the Hospitality Room, and by all means let people know that you are new. Many people would love to include you if they know you want to be a part of their group. Yes, group, this is just normal for people to gather in groups, but don't feel like you can't join them. I have seen so many new people in the past make the effort to let others know they are new and want to join in, and then become like one of the family. This is the best Family Reunion you will ever come to – just ask Carol Butte.

Sherry Ralston



From the Editor

Merrily we roll along, roll along and pack our bags 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 October.

Here I am! What are your other two wishes?

From the Secretary
Kathy Cornell

I'm extremely excited about our upcoming convention. I've talked to Sherry Ralston, our theme party chair person, and as usual this year's party is sure to be a five-star event. You are so creative Sherry! I know that Lea Wheeler and Yvonne Brogdon are lining up some fantastic classes for us and the headliners are awesome. You go, girls! Suds always finds the very best vendors for us, don't you think? Thanks, Suds! The Arizona clowns are planning an over the top "Over The Rainbow" hospitality room on Sunday, November 8th. So be sure to stop by for some refreshments after you've registered for convention and visited your state tables.

Speaking of registration, I want to remind everyone that we do not take credit cards for registration and also if you pre-register, you can save a little money and help keep our beautiful Treasurer Candy Will from pulling all of her hair out. You have such pretty hair, Candy! Judy Anthony can always use help with registration, so please let her know if you can help her out. Thank you, Judy. This will be her 7th year of loyal service as our registration chair person.

Our President Jay Anthony did a heroic job of keeping us out of trouble with the fire marshal last year, and so I would like to remind everyone that when a class room is full, we cannot stand in the doorways or exceed the capacity limits of the room. Willie also helped us to divert another violation when we, myself included, were lining up in front of the escalators early for the theme party. This is literally against the law, so please tell any one of the officers or founders if you observe this happening. Willie can use our help entertaining the school children before the parade begins, so if you are not competing, please feel free to participate in this way.

I also need to remind you that the chairs at the parade are reserved for the school children that we invited. Please wait until they have all been seated and then you may use whatever chairs are left. I was so pleased to see such a great turnout to open mic night last year, but I know that there are still many more of you who can "strut their happy stuff." Open mic night is in the Starview room immediately following the

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Two rights do not make a wrong, they make an airplane.

Utah Rep
Tom Butte

Wow, what a winter – cold, snow, inversion. Enough of that. It's time to think about our annual WRCA convention. Yeh, I know it's only 168 days away or a couple hundred hours and a couple of thousand seconds. But hey, who's counting? Take a look at the web site and see who the great headliners are, and we all know that there are always fantastic dealers. No, not the ones in the gambling area. The ones that "Suds" brings in from all over the country. So bring a friend or 3 and have them bring 9 friends. And we should enjoy the festivities of the week. Balloons, face painting, seminars on everything possible. And lastly the Great Hobo Stew. WOW! T minus and 3 min or so have passed, so get ready and start packing your funny bone, balloons, face paints, humor and of course yourself.

Your friend in clowning,
Tom "Sammy T" Butte

From the Treasurer
Candy Will

Hi WRCA members!

I'm really looking forward to being your treasurer again this year and coming to the next convention and going "Over the Rainbow." Yep, it's time for a clown jail break from all the rainbow colors....OH sorry, I mean it's going to be some fun, and the committee for the theme party is well under way with all the wonderful ideas that Sherry "Lollipop" Ralston has in mind to make it fantastic, as she always does. I have got lots of neat ideas rolling around in my mind too (and that's a lot of room to roll around in). So get your ideas together and meet us there in November!

Candy "Butterscotch" Will
Treasurer

Tri State Shuttle

Tri State Shuttle again is giving WRCA a nice group discount for ground transportation between Laughlin and the McCarran International Airport, for those who fly to our convention via Las Vegas, NV. Their regular price is \$49.95 each way. Their special rate for us is \$36.95 each way. Reservations are required. Ask for the Clown Convention rate when you call: Phone 1-800-801-8687, (928) 704-9000; website: www.tristateairportshuttle.com

Northern California Rep
Kelly Martinez

I hope everyone flies over the Rainbow and follows the yellow brick road to the WRCA convention! The theme party is going to be incredible!

The convention is going to be here before you know it. Each year I think the WRCA convention cannot get any better, and then-----the next year arrives and sure enough, it is better than the year before. This year's event will be full of educational classes, great entertainment, helpful vendors and caring teachers. I encourage everyone to become involved with the event by dressing up for the theme party, joining in at the jams late in the evenings, surprising us with a secret talent at open mike, and sharing a meal with new and old friends.

You may NOT want to bring your Ruby red slippers, as you will never want to go home after all the fun we will be having!

Kelly



RV Park Group rate

For the first time, people asked and we got a discounted group rate for staying in the Riverside Hotel RV Park (across the street from the hotel). The special rate for our group is \$22 / night + tax (regardless of amps or size or location or extra nights before or after). Standard rates vary from about \$23 to \$29 + tax based on amps, day of the week and "pull through" space.

There are lots of advantages of staying on the same property where our convention is. It is so much easier to be comfortable and participate in all the events of our convention. You can easily stash the treasures you buy, take a quick rest (before the late night balloon and face paint jams), change into or out of costume, grab something you forgot -- plus, you don't have to find another parking place.

To make reservations for the RV Park and qualify for the special rate, call 1-800-227-3849, option 5, and **give them our Group Code: CLOWN9**. Reservations must be made before 10/8/09. Changes or cancellations must be called in at least 48 hours prior to arrival.



Energizer Bunny arrested and charged with battery. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead. Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains?

I'm not a complete idiot - some parts are missing!

Los Angeles Rep
Joyce Payne

Hello Fellow WRCA-ers,

I am really looking forward to Laughlin and our "Convention/Family Reunion."

On top of the theme party and all the other wonderful activities to anticipate, we also have the one and only DAVID GINN. Nobody does family entertainment better!!!

Although I have been "entertained" by David for years, it was not until I actually began to utilize what he "**teaches**" that my enjoyment and success as a performer increased exponentially. His style and persona are uniquely his own, yet it is easy to adapt his material to your personal style and performance.

PERFORMANCE TIP: If the only instructions you have on performing a routine are in writing, read the instructions into a tape recorder. You will be amazed at how clear and lucid the instructions are as you play them back. Of course the next step in practicing or rehearsing is to video tape your performance. In my summer show, I am returning to one of David's old routines, Super Bunny (or Roper Rabbit). The only instructions I have on performing this routine are in writing. I learned the routine much faster and easier by first recording the instructions and playing them back.

So....mark your calendars and tell all your friends. If you learn one iota of information from David, it can virtually change your clowning life.

Stay well.
Sincerely & *Magically* Yours,

Joyce "JOY" Payne
JoyTClown@sbcglobal.net
JOYtheMagicClown.com

Love may be blind but marriage is a real eye-opener.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

Education Chair & Oregon Rep
Lea Wheeler

Hidee Ho fellow clowns,

The convention is just around the corner and it should be one of the best. We are so fortunate to have the finest teachers loyal to WRCA in which all our members are able to walk away from the experience with a wealth of knowledge.

David Ginn is returning to us after many years of absence. He offers years of experience in entertaining children. This should be an exciting convention.

On a more personal note, we have adjusted to the climate in Oregon rather nicely....definitely different from the desert. I am the only clown in our little town of Roseburg and I have not traveled enough to get acquainted with any clowns of Oregon, so as a newly appointed area rep, I have nothing to report. Maybe by the next convention, I will be able to report on clowns in the state of Oregon.

Clown hugs and kisses to all. See you in November,
Lea "Cupcake" Wheeler

Robert Ramirez Scholarship Fund

This brand new scholarship fund will help WRCA member(s) who need financial assistance, starting with the 2010 Convention. The WRCA Board will select recipient(s).

Donations are encouraged. If you would like to contribute, write your check to **WRCA** and put "Robert Ramirez Scholarship Fund" on the memo line or an attachment.

Arizona Rep
Russell Cornell

Hey all you sad clowns and even you happy ones,

I know this has been a difficult year for many of us, but even in a sluggish economy, we shouldn't let our funny bone get rusty. Clowns are basically the morale officers of the world and the world needs us now more than ever. So, if your gigs are far, few and in between, consider volunteering somewhere. Schools, libraries, churches, nursing homes and boys and girls clubs are always grateful for volunteers. It's good for business to be out where people can see you. Just make sure that you have a handful of business cards to hand out when your show is done. If you're making people happy, you'll feel better, and you might just pick up a gig or two in the process. While you're all dressed up, stop by a few businesses, introduce yourself and drop off a business card. You'll brighten up somebody's workday and get a little free advertising in while you're at it. It is also good business to be a caring community clown. Your good reputation and ethics are important to people who hire you to entertain their precious little ones.

While we are on the subject of volunteering, the Arizona clowns were chosen to host the "Over The Rainbow" hospitality room on Sunday November 8th. So if you have any ideas, decorations or if you can help out, please call or e-mail me. We have a planning meeting set up for sometime in October. I will notify you as soon as we have more details. I'm already working on your Arizona goodie bags, so be sure to stop by the Arizona state table on Sunday November 8th, after registration. I will also have my camera to re-take the pictures of you that I lost last year because of computer problems. Also if you are interested in performing in an Arizona state skit for open mic night, please contact me and let me know and I'll sign us up. You can e-mail me at cornell84@hotmail.com or call me at (928) 775-0532. I've got to go help Kathy start packing. Can anyone say hernia?

Your Navigator Of Nonsense
Russell "Wing-Nut" Cornell

Money isn't everything but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

Suicidal twin kills sister by mistake!

Southern Nevada Rep
Dollie Circle

Greetings Fellow clowns in So. Nevada!

Our summer is approaching and it's getting a bit warm here in the desert. So find some air conditioning, stay inside and dream dreams of what you might be at our theme party. This year our theme is "Over the Rainbow." I'm hoping everyone is finding some good ideas for their costumes this year. As for me, I don't have a clue yet, but I hope to give you some good ideas in the next newsletter. If you have some great ideas to pass on (for one or a group), please let me know.

In the meantime, let's not forget National Clown Week the first week of August and National Night Out in September. We can find something good to do for one or all the good people that need some laughter in their lives. We are always rewarded in kind for our efforts.

Till next time, Smiles,

Dollie-Wollie

Don Fetherston
Jr. Joey Scholarship

This is for all Junior Joeys ages 7 to 15. We have scholarships available. All you have to do is fill out a scholarship form get it in the mail before September 15th and you may receive a scholarship for the next WRCA Convention. There's a scholarship form in this newsletter or you can print one from the internet at:

<http://westregionsclowns.org/sclorform.pdf>.

If you have any questions, call Matt Akers at (916) 247- 6600 or e-mail him at matt@anytimebouncers.com.

We're looking forward to seeing you in November.

**WRCA
P.O. BOX 7656
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Kathy Cornell, Continued from page 4

Hobo Stew. If you're interested, see our talented Vice President Matt Akers just before the show and he will sign you up. Matt will also be our Master of Chaos, I mean Ceremonies that night. Don't forget your whip, Matt! I understand that Joel is back at work, so I assume that he got thru his surgery ok. OK? OK! But be sure to ask him if he's ok. OK? OK! If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at kathycornell@hotmail.com or you can call me at (928) 533-0246. I suppose I'll have to wait 5 months to see those beautiful funny faces. FIVE MONTHS? I better go start packing. Where did I leave my spare nose?

Giggles and Grins
Until then,
Kathy "Dusti" Cornell

All I ask is a chance to prove money can't make me happy.

Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

THEME PARTY

Are you ready to go Over The Rainbow?! Do you have your costume ready, or are you thinking about what to wear? Be an OZ character, a Care Bear, or whatever you dream of that is over your rainbow. The sky is really the limit on this one. We will be having a ball dancing, a costume contest, and just having a great time with all our crazy friends. This is our chance to be the party guest, so come to have a great time. See you down the Yellow Brick Road.

Sherry Ralston