



Thank you,  
WRCA members!

Thank you for coming to our new location and making our first year at Texas Station a success! The board and I know that we have a lot of things to

work on. The first time at any place is always a brand-new adventure, even if we put our proven ways into place. We learned a lot about what it means to work with a new group of people.

After the convention we found that everyone at Texas Station loved having the clowns and performers there. Registration at the Hotel was a bit confusing but we are working with the Hotel to help it run smoothly for this year. We are also working with the banquet coordinator for a better banquet meal for this year. With a little time and patience, we should be back to our old groove again.

This year's theme, Pirates, is one of my favorites! You can all bet that we are going to have a great theme party this year as always thanks to our committee chairs, board members and volunteers. I'm going to start pulling out all my Pirate stuff and start preparing for a great swashbucklin' time

Me Heartes! AAARRRGGGGHHH!

**Candy Butterscotch Will**

President WRCA

[www.butterscotchthec clown.com](http://www.butterscotchthec clown.com)

949 489-9971



**\$10 each**

and they will last for years.

## General Membership Badge

Order now, pick up at convention

They are color-coded to easily identify board members, committee members, vendors and general membership.

They also serve as good conversation starters!

You can order your badge online

Howdy Partners,

I am still in western swing. Last year's convention was so fun and educational that I am having a hard time moving on. But move on I must.

Your board has already started planning this year's convention. We have read your critique sheets and have taken to heart your suggestions and wishes. So this being said, know that we are working on changes and tweaking things for this upcoming convention.

Last year was our first at Texas Station and we knew it would be a learning experience. We realize that there were a few glitches, the stage lights, not having a monitor for the awards at the banquet, registration check in at the hotel, and so on. Overall it was a great convention. We are working closely with the hotel management to make this year even better. We have addressed the concerns of the membership with the hotel and they have assured us they are on board with making things right. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it AWESOME!

As we are still in the planning stages, it's not too late to volunteer. It takes a village to put on a great convention, and I know there is a place for everyone who is interested. This being said, you may contact anyone on the board to ask questions, or sign up for a job.

The Robert Ramirez Scholarship ended with last year's convention. It was a wonderful program and we will always be grateful to the Ramirez family for their generous donation to WRCA. Many families have benefited from this program. Our Junior Joey Scholarship fund is still ongoing, thanks to the generous donations and raffles being held at the theme party every year. Our Junior Joey scholarships are limited. If you

would like to apply, please go to the web-site and complete the form and submit to me, Candy "JellyBean" Kirkley.

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The Theme Party location changed just three weeks before the convention, and turned out to be in the big room with the stage. It was awesome to be able to have a much bigger room than I had planned on. I am thankful to all of you who helped decorate the room with me, and for all those who volunteered to decorate a table, too. The tables looked great, and it's fun to see what you all come up with. In 2017 the winner for the best table will be awarded a table up front for the closing evening banquet. Thanks again for helping me to make it a fun evening for all. A big thanks to Kathy and Russ who helped decorate and after, pack and load it all into my van. A special thanks to the live entertainment we had to start off the party as well. Thank you, Kyle and DJ friend for the music to dance to.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas for the Theme Party, please contact me. I appreciate your help and feedback. It is my desire to create a fun evening where you get to be the guests, and enjoy the party. My goal for the Theme Party is to give everyone a chance to: meet up with friends, make new friends, mingle, network, create fun new costumes to fit the theme, have a costume parade, get a little snack, have a few raffles and a little dancing.

The theme for 2017 is Pirates. Yeah, Matie! We are going to recycle some of the decorations from past years (since I have run out of room to store all this stuff!!!). I want the decorations to create an ambiance of fun, for another special evening.

We had great fun and success with the "Jail and Bail" in 2016. Throughout the night, friends were "arrested" and put in jail, and we raised money for the Junior Joeys when they were "bailed" out. We are trying to come up with a similar concept for this year's party- maybe involving a "walk the plank" idea. I'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions.

The face painting competition went very well this year. I hope all who competed were happy as well. I will try to improve on the lighting for next year. Please let me know if you have any questions, or suggestions. I am sorry for those who were looking for me to teach the class with Rosemarie. I missed the class because I was ill that day. The class was rescheduled, and got a bit mixed up. So, sorry for anyone who may have wanted to see it and missed it. Hope you all have a great new year and get lots of work!!

[lollypopthec clown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lollypopthec clown@sbcglobal.net)

**Sherry "Lollypop" Ralston**, Theme



**Rosemarie "Wower" Ballard** I am starting off my year in good style. I have already done 6 gigs and have booked several Mime shows Woo Woo! I am grateful, happy, and ready to have my best year ever! Doesn't that sound fabulous? Now all I have to do is believe in me and my Creator.

Convention Chair - Sandra Farewell

Convention was great. Our new location was great. The people were great. The instructors and vendors were great. I had a wonderful time at convention and I hope you all did also. If you didn't get a chance to join us for 2016, I really hope you will make plans to come for 2017.

One wonderful blessing we had was the Dallas D. This is the room with the beautiful stage. I need you all to know that the Dallas D is not a part of our convention area. Texas Station let us use this room because they did not have another event booked during our convention. Sadly, we cannot afford to schedule Dallas D for this year. It's just not in our budget. But, if Texas Station does not book it, they will let us use it again for 2017, yeah!!! I know lighting on stage was not that great last year. Expect the stage lighting to be better if we get the stage this year.

So, please invite your friends, family and co-workers to join us for another wonderful convention at Texas Station, November 5 - 9, 2017.

**Sandra Farewell** WRCA's Convention Chair 760.868.8682 Office 909.262.5491 Mobile



## From your Registration Chair - Jan 2017

**November 5-9, 2017 – Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel  
in Las Vegas, NV**

Well, it's hard to believe that it's 2017. I hope the New Year will bring you love and health. This year's convention will celebrate our 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the **WRCA's Family Entertainers' Convention** at the Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. Even though our convention is 10 months away, it will be here before you know it. Some of the reasons I heard from those who did not make it to the convention this past year was that they could not afford to attend. One way to afford our convention is to plan for it now. You can put monthly contributions from your birthday party's entertainment show fees into a jar marked "**WRCA's Family Entertainer's 2017 Convention**". You can also contribute to the jar any loose change you find inside your pockets or purse or stuck between the seats in your car. You may even qualify for PayPal Credit where you can buy now and pay later.

WRCA has been happy to offer our members the lowest cost convention around, and we have done this without compromising the quality of our instructors, entertainment and added features. Over the years, however, the expense of producing the convention has outpaced our income, which comes primarily from registration fees. Several years ago we realized that we were running the risk of putting ourselves out of business by taking in less than we paid out. By cutting costs and raising the registration fee a little bit over the following years, we were able to reverse that situation and put ourselves back on the right track.

The board will be meeting later this to begin planning for the 2017 convention. Once again, we will be setting up price tiers so you can save money by registering early. So keep checking our website and Facebook page for the registration fees and for notification of when you can begin registering.

We will continue to strive to bring you a fantastic convention and are constantly working on how we can meet your constant and changing needs. Please remember that we are no longer offering buffet tickets. Texas Station has great food locations and you can visit our website for more information.

As soon as we have the hotel room reservation info ready, we will inform you on our website and on Facebook. Remember to book your hotel room early. If you are staying the whole time, remember to let the hotel know that you will be leaving on Friday morning. So mark your calendar and plan on attending the convention on November 5-9, 2017. Visit us on our website at [wrcaconvention.org](http://wrcaconvention.org). Well, that's it for now. Enjoy 2017 and I hope to see you in November in Las Vegas, NV at our new location.

**Dennis "DENO" Owens** [RegisterForWRCA@gmail.com](mailto:RegisterForWRCA@gmail.com) [WRCAConvention.org](http://WRCAConvention.org) 310 619-0677

## Want to Be a Part of a Great Convention

We want everyone to remember that this convention is put on by volunteers. We all invest a lot of time, effort and money into making this a great convention for all attendees. Sometimes we fall short but the board you have right now has worked very hard to make it the best they can. All the hard work of the Committee Chairs, Area Reps, instructors and helpers is what makes our convention great and we thank them.

Several of you have volunteered to help us for 2017, thank you. If you also have a skill you would like to share with us, or you're just a novice and want to help on a committee please send us an email to [VolunteerForWRCA@gmail.com](mailto:VolunteerForWRCA@gmail.com) or visit the website and let the board know. We would love to have your assistance and expertise.

## ATTENTION FLYER CONTEST FOR THE WRCA CONVENTION

Deadline Feb. 15, 2017 prize \$25 gift card



### MUST HAVE INFORMATION



Date of convention Nov. 5-10

Name: Western Region Clown and Family Entertainers Convention

Place Texas Station Casino Las Vegas, CA

Theme: Pirate

Phone: call or text 310-619-0677

[WRCAconvention.org](http://WRCAconvention.org)

Can add design factors, information such as classes, theme party, award ceremony, junior joe program, hotel accommodations etc.

Hello again my wonderful family of entertainers!

I'm happy to be able to say that the competitions I chaired all went fairly smoothly, however with so few competitors it made it easy. BUT I DON'T WANT EASY! I want so many competitors I don't know what to do with you all. I want to be challenged (as if I'm not challenged enough just being me!!)

In 2015 in the Starview room I went around asking if you would compete if the wardrobe competitions came back and just about everybody said yes! The competitions came back, and we only had a handful of competitors?! What happened? I can't help but think you are all pretty honest people, so I just can't believe you were lying to me. Were you not well? Should we be worried about you??

Well never mind, you have another chance. Start planning now and you'll have plenty of time to put together that winning look. I promise to keep it fun and friendly, but we really do need YOU to participate. We just can't have make-up competitions without competitors now can we? If you have any challenges keeping you from competing, please let me know and we'll try to figure out how to overcome them. [303-798-9933](tel:303-798-9933) or [skiddlesshoesmart@gmail.com](mailto:skiddlesshoesmart@gmail.com)

Please, please compete. I look forward to seeing you in November!

Your Pal, **Molly "SKIDDLES" Kleeman** Competition Chair Colorado/New Mexico Rep



I find that coming to convention renews and refreshes me as a performer in a way that doesn't happen the rest of the year. There's something about being surrounded by all that creativity and talent that inspires me to keep growing even after sixteen years of being a clown. Since we are in somewhat uncommon professions or avocations, it can feel a little isolated at times, unless we live close enough to other entertainers/performers/ to get together at a meeting or a jam or just to connect as friends. Convention allows me to be with my "tribe", and I love that. There are no constraints or constructs that hem us in as they might in the "outside"

world. When Tim Simpson made music on a turkey baster while spitting out rapid-fire jokes, we laughed and applauded. It's normal in our tribe and that's so freeing. If you haven't experienced the convention dynamic yet, I urge you to come this year. At the very least, you'll laugh more in five days than many people will in a month, and that's healthy and good for you. And at best, you'll leave with new skills, new friends, and a new appreciation for what you bring to the world.

**Cheryl Wagner (Budderball the Clown)**

Web Designer for WRCA





In my January 2016 Klatter article I share this "Bucket List" of things to do to prepare for a successful year. Well I did not get to implement any of them because, to my surprise, 2016 was a year of personal health problems for me! This year, I am both thankful for better health and looking forward to putting every healthy day to its best use. So I am reprinting this list with today. I will be using it for the first time, with emphasis on item #1. If you are reading it for the first time, I hope it serves you well. If any of you used it last year I hope this reprint will serve as an auditing tool for you to gauge your progress from last year to now.

### A PERFORMERS BUCKET LIST FOR 2017

**Update your appearance:** Keeping yourself healthy, new hair style, lose some weight, get regular checkups and build a stronger mind, body and spirit.

**Develop new materials and new presentations:** New music and get new equipment cases or at the least, change those old casters on that old equipment.

**Update your advertisement/promotional material:** Business cards/flyers, photos, videos and websites/FB.

**Continue to build the show/service that you want and that works:** Cut out weak areas by videotaping, reviewing and having someone other than your friends critique it!

**Marketing:** Establish new clients and re-established ties with past clients.

**Raise your fees!** You can't grow if you are still charging the same fee for your work as you did years ago. The market will bear based on the quality and demand of your performance.

Above all, make your performance relevant to today's audiences.

As I am writing this I am reeling from the news of the impending closing of the Greatest Show on Earth, Ringling Brothers and Barman & Bailey Circus. It is my hope that each of us continue to carry the torch of traditional clowning, keeping our art alive.

Your Clown, Forever, *Joy*

**Submitted by Joyce "JOY" Payne**

I hope all of my WRCA family had a great holiday season. I miss you and think of you often. We have been coming to WRCA since a friend named Willie encouraged us to come to the very first one at the Frontier Hotel 32 years ago. In those 32 years we only missed one convention.

I have been in charge of the WRCA merchandise for a long time and enjoy doing it, and thank you for your support. The profit from the merchandise helps our organization. I do feel we need to go in a different direction. I talked to several people at convention. I would like your input on what you would like to see us carry. What would you like to see us offer? Do you have sources to get it? Please contact me my cell number is [\(801\) 298-0860](tel:8012980860) my email is [utahclown@aol.com](mailto:utahclown@aol.com) or [wrcamerchandise@gmail.com](mailto:wrcamerchandise@gmail.com). Texts are also welcome or contact me on Facebook. I need your input.  
Carol "Sunshine" Butte



Do not fail to sign up for our convention! The Red Hot Clown Alley is out in the community doing their thing. They have partnered with the Surprise Pops band which includes playing with the crowd of people attending each concert. They are also preparing for a new clown class and will start out with a big sale of all the props we have bought and never found time to learn. Does that sound familiar? Have fun and be safe. Happy clowning.

**Becky Wells**

[zippie58@gmail.com](mailto:zippie58@gmail.com)

From **David Keenan**, Photographer

I would like to start off by saying thanks to Dennis and the board for letting me take over as photographer. The 2016 convention rocked, and I heard some good feedback on the galleries on the WRCA website. Next year we might have a video setup like in the past for the Winners Medals Presentation and for the pre-banquet slideshow. Even without the video this year, I had a lot of fun and took hundreds of pictures — anyone is invited to send in photos of their own, too, via e-mail (please, no CDs since it takes hooking up a second computer that has a CD/DVD drive and transferring). On a personal note, I see the Theme Party as a major component of clown conventions, and no other convention has ever come close to Team WRCA. I'm already cooking up an idea for the Pirates Theme Party this November (no strings attached )

Greetings to one and all. I hope that all of you enjoyed Thanksgiving, Christmas and of course the WRCA Family Entertainer's Convention at the Texas Station in Vegas.

Wow, great classes as usual and the competitions were fantastic. Our leaders did a great job in making sure everything went as planned. The theme party was excellent. Thank you all who came and made it a success. We even had some people from Chicago attend our convention. The theme party next year is "Pirates" RRRRRRRRR! Fun time be had for all, RRRR! Whether you're in the deep freeze of Utah or the warmth of Arizona or California, you might start planning now for Convention 2017. Tell your friends to come and have fun. We have a great balloon jam room and face painting area. I repeat, come and have fun! Make sure you book your rooms early so we can fill all the rooms at Texas Station with great clowns and entertainers! All of us have been blessed with a special gift. I call it sharing our skills with each another as well as loving each other. They say spring is just around the corner but they didn't say which corner! It will be here fast. Our convention is just around the corner too and it will be here before you know it. See you all in a couple of months.

Your friend in clowning and in life Tom [Sammy T]



I trust everyone enjoyed the last convention at our new location. We are now putting together the vendor list for this year. If you would like to be a vendor or have a suggestion for a vendor you would like to see, please let me know at [vendor4wrca@gmail.com](mailto:vendor4wrca@gmail.com).

Thanks  
**Crickit**



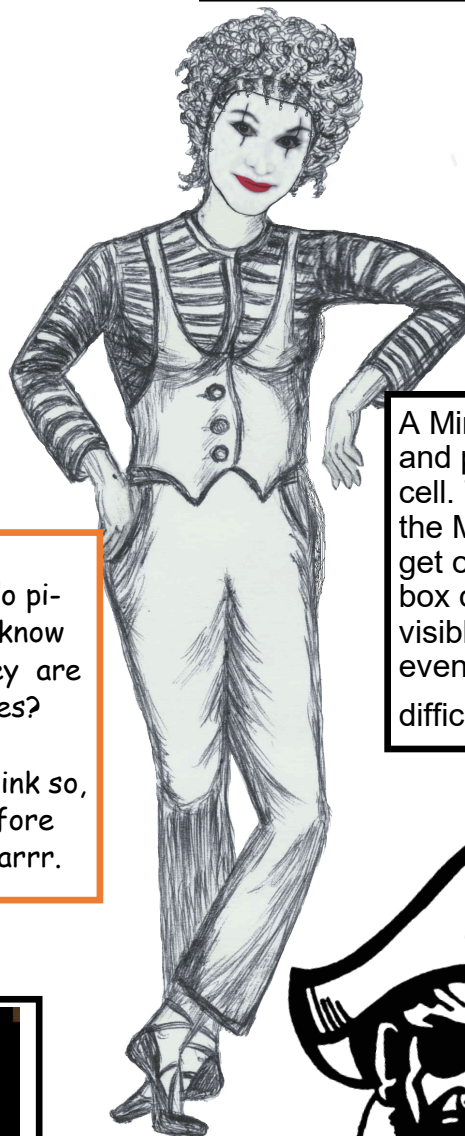
How did the pirate become a boxing champion so fast?

Nobody was ready to take on his right hook.

How do pirates know that they are pirates?

They think so, therefore they arrr.

A Mime was arrested and put in a invisible cell. They figured if the Mime could not get out of invisible box on stage an invisible cell would be even more difficult... **SUDS**



## 2016 WRCA Officers and Board

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It is never too early to apply. You will be notified by email if you have been selected by August 1, 2017 so that you have time to make your plans. Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2017. We have a wonderful Junior Joey program run by Geri and Kathryn.

Last but not least, thank you Area Reps for sharing information about WRCA. To all our members, please notify your Area Rep of any upcoming events in your area. Reach out to your Area Rep if you need any information regarding the upcoming convention. All of the current Area Rep's are listed on our website.

FYI, when making hotel reservations for this year's convention, remember that the convention ends on Thursday night after the banquet. You will most likely want to spend the night at the hotel and check out on Friday morning.

I will be updating you all on this year's Education in the next Klatter. I am in the process of obtaining our instructors for this year's convention as we go to press.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again this year!!



Bump a Nose, **Candy "JellyBean" Kirkley** Vice President Education Chair-

We welcome input for the newsletter from our members. If you have something you would like to share please send it to me at [pro4u@cox.net](mailto:pro4u@cox.net). If space allows I will be glad to use it.

Why do we do it? Why do we take our time and energy to be entertainers? Some do it for the recognition, some for the fun, some for the money, some to use their creative energy, some because they love people, some want to make others forget their troubles and some want to connect with others in a special way.

I have asked myself this question many times. Why do I do it? The answer is, because I have too. If I don't get enough outlet for my need then I am just not happy. My work feeds me and if I do not work I feel like I am starving. I think the thing I love the best is the connection with others.

I realized this connection at a gig for IBM. I noticed that if I tipped my head to the right the entire audience tipped their heads as well. I tipped to the left and so did they. This was a fun and enlightening experience.

Lets' face it a lot goes into what we do. Sometimes when getting ready for work for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> day in a row I just don't want to do it, but I am always so happy and satisfied when I do. What about you?

Keep learning and using your creative gifts.

Conventions are awesome and will "Fill You Up Buttercup"

**Wowzer  
Rosemarie**



Dr. Pokonose San Diego All Star Clown sent Just words:

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. .

A backward poet writes inverse.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.



