



The Midwest Clown Association is one of the oldest organized clown associations in the country. The MCA serves the educational needs of clowns and alleys in a 7-state region, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Each fall, one of our member alleys serves as host for a five-day convention, called the "Round-Up," where clowns from all over the Midwest (and some from outside the Midwest) gather to learn, educate, compete, share, socialize, energize, and promote the art of clowning.



2017-2018 MCA BOARD MEMBERS

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SPRING IN THE CLOWNS!!

April 1, 2017
 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Maple Lake, Minnesota

Workshops, Labs, and a whole lot more: \$75 Registration

For more information:
<https://www.mooseburgeronline.com/products/Spring-in-the-Clowns-2017.html>

Place Postage Here

IF UNDELIVERABLE, PLEASE RETURN TO:

Midwest Clown Association
 c/o Angela Gonzalez
 116 S. Audubon Rd, #4
 Indianapolis, IN 46219

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 2017 Convention

MIDWEST CLOWN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Midwest Funny Papers

Volume II, Issue 1

February 27, 2017

HILLBILLY HOLLER

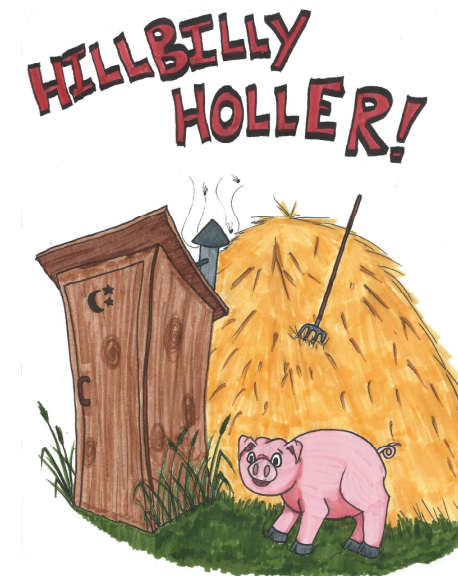
Whose ready to head on over to HILLBILLY HOLLER (AKA Grand Rapids, Michigan), October 3-8, 2017?? This here Mich-IN Possible group's got some right near knee-slappin', partner-twirlin', hair-raisin' shenanigans planned...heard rumors of a hog-callin' contest and some pig wrestlin', but y'all didna hear tha' from me!! One thing's fer sure...they up 'n found us a right nice place ta bed down fer the night wit indoor plumbin' an' sum mighty fine store-bought mattresses! So, reckon y'all better git y'selves registered afore'n it's too late!

Registration Increases March 1st

Get your registrations POST-MARKED by February 28th to get the \$150.00 registration rate!! Price increases to \$165 beginning March 1, 2017. Make checks payable to "Mich-In-Possible" and send check or money order to: Mark Ovanin, 5344 Seminole Court, Commerce Township, MI 48382.

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OTHER GRAND RAPIDS, MI ATTRACTIONS!!!

While we are **SURE** there will be plenty of **FUN** attractions to keep your attention **INSIDE** the hotel during the upcoming Round-Up; Grand Rapids has many other area attractions to offer. Plan on coming a day early or staying an extra night to take advantage of what the city has to offer:

Peak Apple Harvest—Orchards, trails, farms, mazes, hay rides, hard cider sampling, apple picking

Beer City, USA! - Local craft breweries and cideries, tours available

Blandford Nature Center & Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens

John Ball Zoo and Aquarium

Covered Bridge Tours

Haunted Happenings—haunted downtown buildings history tour and Forest of Fear

The "Mich-IN Possible" Clowns will be hosting the 2017 Round-Up at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 3-8, 2017, with featured performers David Ginn and Ken Johanson. David Ginn is an internationally known author, magician, entertainer, and lecturer, performing 300-400 shows yearly at schools, libraries, conventions and churches. He's had 35 years of full-time performing and teaching others how to entertain children and family audiences. Ken Johanson performs as Magic Ken and KC the Clown and has been providing quality family entertainment for over 25 years. Many more lecturers are scheduled to offer classes in a variety of clowning and entertainment-related topics.

The Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids-Airport Hotel (5700 E. 28th Street, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546; 616-957-1770) provides a free shuttle to and from the airport and room rates are \$87 a night (plus applicable fees and taxes), and reservations **MUST** be received by September 4, 2017, and you **MUST** mention MCA/Hillbilly Holler, to guarantee that rate. Do not delay in reserving your room, as there is a large Art Prize event at that time in Grand Rapids, and rooms will be released after September 4th for other groups.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!
MCA SPRING MEETING
 Saturday,
 May 20, 2017
 10:00 a.m.



Crowne Plaza
 5700 E. 28th Street, SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546



If you know of someone who deserves to be nominated for this MCA award, nominations must be received by March 1, 2017. For questions or more information, contact Lifetime Achievement Award Chairperson John Joseph at jayjay360@hotmail.com or check out the MCA Website for nomination forms and other requirements.



Congratulations to those whose 2016 Competition Wins helped them reach their points for the Hall of Fame Award. Remember, though, you still have to get your applications in by May 1, 2017 in order to be inducted into next year's Hall of Fame. For questions or more information, contact Hall of Fame Chairperson Bill Young at bctyoung1@comcast.net or check out the MCA Website for application forms and other requirements.



Our current Jr. Joey co-directors will be stepping down after the 2017 Round-Up, and we're searching for the right fit to carry on our Jr. Joey program. Ideally, we would like one male and one female to work with our young clowns, age 8 to 15; giving them a foundation to build on. Don't worry! You are not alone in your efforts, and there are many MCAers who contribute to the education effort. If you let your Chief Joey know your interest before this year's Round-Up, you can shadow our current directors for a year to help prepare you for the job!

PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR SPRING MEETING CONSIDERATION

There were two motions made at the Fall Meeting that were tabled and will be re-considered at the Spring Meeting.

The first motion pertained to Competition Rules and it was proposed that the **Balloon Competition** consist of each participant making one single balloon and one combination or multiple balloon of their choice in a 30-minute time frame. Participants will be judged on their set of both balloons.

A second tabled motion pertained to **MCA Dues** and it was proposed to have individuals pay dues of \$20, as opposed to the current \$50 dues collected from each alley, as a suggestion to make the MCA more fiscally solvent. Much discussion took place regarding other solutions, and the motion was tabled.

Since the Fall Meeting, the Krazy Clown Klub has offered some additional motions to be considered at the Spring Meeting, and those motions were distributed to Alley Representatives 90 days prior to the Spring Meeting date (with reasoning, examples and explanation for the proposed changes), as our bylaws require for a vote. The motions include:

- 1) **Alley Skits:** A clown should be able to compete in any alley skit that s/he is a member of. (i.e. If a clown belongs to 2 alleys, they should be allowed to compete in both of their alley skits.)
- 2) **Group Skits:** Allow clowns to participate in up to (2) group skits.
- 3) **Hall of Fame** should not get a separate vote/paddle. (Currently, all HOF members are a part of an alley; hence, their vote is already counted as part of their alley vote. If membership still wants an HOF alley, then the voting paddle should be given to the alley in attendance with the most HOF members.)

4) **Face Painting competition:** We recommend to change the rule back to "All participants should be able to use the model that they bring." (Instead of having a model randomly selected from a pool.)

5) **People's Choice Award:** Recommend adding this new category for Single and Group skits. (Audience gets to vote on their favorite Single and Group skit of the competition. This award does not carry any point value; nor does it receive a medallion. Winners will be awarded a People's Choice Certificate.)

Please let your alley representative know how you feel about these changes!

SPRING MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

If you have any other items you would like to see added to the Spring Meeting Agenda for consideration or discussion, please contact Chief Joey Jim Caffrey at jclownus@yahoo.com.



PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW!

Using previous locations for Round-Ups as a starting point, here's how far you can expect to travel to enjoy all the FUN we have planned at Hill-billy Holler:

Lansing, MI	67 miles
Livonia, MI	144 miles
Merrillville, IN	151 miles
Chicago, IL	177 miles
Indianapolis, IN	264 miles
Oconomowoc, WI	306 miles
Davenport, IA	327 miles

WHAT EXACTLY IS A HILLBILLY?? ...and what makes 'em "holler?"

A self-professed hillbilly describes himself as "a free citizen who lives in the hills, has no means to speak of, dresses as he can, talks as he pleases, drinks whiskey when he gets it, and fires off his shotgun as the fancy takes him." The actual word "hillbilly" may be a combination of "hill dwellers" - common reference to those residing in the region of Appalachia— along with the Scottish word, "billies," meaning a fine fellow.

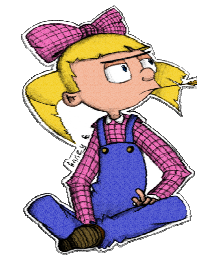
Hillbillies are stereotypically thought of as being poor and socially backward; a lower class of people. But a hillbilly's strength lies in their independence, self-reliance and pure "gumption" (also a Scottish word). They reject the city folks' attempts to refine or reform them. Many Appalachian residents embrace the word hillbilly to describe themselves and do not think of it as a put-down, even though it is meant as such.

Hillbillies are not to be confused with "Rednecks", although there

HOST ALLEYS STILL NEEDED—DIRECTOR OF CONVENTIONS NAMED

We are still looking for an alley (or group of clowns/alleys) to step up and volunteer to host future Round-Ups...starting with 2018! Your Chief Joey has appointed Bill Young to serve as Director of Conventions to help secure host alleys, act as their liaison with the board, and serve as a resource and point of contact for questions and help in running the Round-Up. We are still exploring a multiple-year hotel contract, but having hosts in place for future Round-Ups will help us know best how to proceed with regard to these efforts. If you have ever considered hosting, now is the time to STEP UP! We would love to have the 2018 Host and Location secured before the 2017 Round-Up!

can be some similarities. Both tend to be more common in the south and tend to be hard working and hard drinking. They like to sit around and "shoot the breeze," as well as shooting off their mouths and shooting their guns. Hillbillies might lack some of the social graces of "city folk," but they are a tight-knit group of kin-folk (even if they are not blood-related) who retain



the ways of their ancestors. They're tough, strong, and can easily "live off the land," as well as "off the grid." They tend to be poorer than the average American, but don't seem to mind. They have all they need, know how

to get what they want, and have a great sense of pride. During and after the Great Depression, social workers tried to "help civilize" the mountain people, and often found themselves chased off with a shotgun.

Hillbillies have a great regard for nature, God and the land. They tend to temper their speech with milder euphemisms to express anger, such as "tarnation," "gol darn it," and "dag nab it," avoiding strong profanity that might get them in trouble with the "Man upstairs."

When hillbillies get hawngree (hungry), they seek out some vittles (food), which might include maters n taters (tomatoes and potatoes), or "summa that there possum" or other available protein that can be trapped, caught, shot or run over with a four-runner.

In Appalachian territory, there are plenty of valleys between the mountains, which are called hollows; or, in hillbilly-speak, it's pronounced "holler." Most neighbors live "down the road apiece" or "up yonder aways." If you ask them for directions, they're likely to send you down by the "crick" (creek) straight as the "crow flies." And if you ask a hillbilly to come visit, he'll be there "dreckly" (directly, or right away).



Girls wear bloomers, boys wear britches. Their chittlins (children) get switches, and their ol' folks get "hitches" in their "get-alongs." Kinfolk with a poor work ethic might be labeled "lazy as a pet coon," "slower than molasses in January" or not worth a "hoot and a holler." Hillbillies often "reckon" those city folk don't understand, but they're usually "fixin' to help 'em do so.

So, I reckon it's time, fellow MCAers, fer you'ns to channel yer inner hillbilly jest in time fer the fall Round-Up! It's fixin' to be a "rootin', tootin', hootin' n' hollerin' good time!!

(resource: grammar.yourdictionary.com)



I want to thank all of my amazing clown family for the love and support shown to me and my family at the passing of my wife Cheryl. All of your cards, letters and phone calls, and the attendance of so many at the viewing and funeral meant so much to us, and I cannot thank you enough for helping us get through this very difficult time! Although Cheryl did not clown herself, she was so very supportive of clowning, and embraced all of you as family. Your expressions of love meant so very much. Thank you.

- Bill "Bibo" Young