

COAI AWARDS

Convention Clown of Excellence

By Glenn “Clyde D. Scope” Kohlberger

The local newspaper report read: “History was made again by Tempe’s own Julie “Lovely Buttons” Varholdt the week of May 6–9, 2019 in Las Vegas, when she was awarded the first **Convention Clown of Excellence** award—also bringing home eight medals and three beautiful plaques from Clowns of America International.”

In 2010 Julie was the first person to win COAI’s **Convention Best in Clown** award while competing at the COAI Convention in Houston, Texas. This year after, receiving medals in seven out of eight categories in COAI competition in Las Vegas, she then was qualified to win the **Convention Clown of Excellence** award.

Nothing slows this woman down when it comes to entertaining. She stilt-walks at dozens of events each year in her incredible one-of-a-kind costumes that she creates. She can be found at libraries and schools all over the great state of Arizona entertaining



Julie with her husband, Vance, after the awards banquet.



Left to right:: Stilt-walking Julie Varholdt, as the Queen of all the Insects, the monarch butterfly. Julie catches forty winks with her competition awards and Clown of the Year plaque.

with her hand-painted backdrops and crazy props. Her greatest dreams are fulfilled each year when she travels the globe to entertain and teach at events in amazing areas she never thought she would see. Julie is an unstoppable force in the world of clowning.

When asked, “What does it mean to you to have won these awards and bring home so many medals during one

convention?” she humbly replied, “I was honored to be the first Convention Best in Clown winner and more humbled to have won the first Convention Clown of Excellence award. I worked very hard and put in many hours preparing for this convention and all of the competitions. In 2008 Leon McBryde told me to go out there and show them the right way to clown. I have tried to uphold my

promise to him every time I go out and entertain. I love what I do, and I do what I love.”

Is there anything she would like to share with fellow COAI members and future joeys of the world? “Take the time each day to smile, laugh and enjoy your life,” she says. “Education is a must in this business we call clowning. Learn as much as you can from those you look up to and those who inspire you. Have fun with everyone you entertain and bring as many smiles to the masses as you can. My daddy told me to always strive to give 110% of yourself, and if you’re going to do it, do it right, and do it right the first time!”

Julie now jokingly tells her friends to call her “Your Excellency.” What’s next on her plate? Anything she wants!



Left: The beautiful plaques and medals Julie won at this year’s COAI Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Right: Julie delivers her hilarious acceptance speech as Clown of the Year, as Carrie Ray, Merrily Schultz, and Mike Cox look on.

Classical Whiteface

Awards were presented in sixteen categories during the 34th Annual COAI Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Recipients were recognized at the banquet on Thursday, May 9, held at the Texas Station Hotel.

**ALL COMPETITION PHOTOS
BY MERILYN BARRETT**

1st



Iliana Mojica Fajardo

2nd



Hector Batista

Comedy Whiteface

2nd



Julie Varholdt

1st



Jesse Recker

3rd



Sarah Smith

Lite Auguste

1st



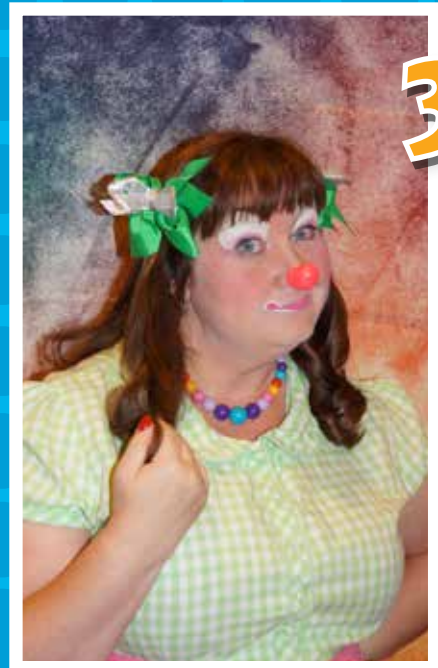
Larry Klobertanz

2nd



Andrew Davis

3rd



Jessica King



3rd

Esthefany Perez



5th

John Joseph



6th

Lori Swink

**Register today for the
2020 COAI Convention
in Niagara Falls, New
York! www.mycoai.com.**

Auguste

1st



Jennifer Galvez

3rd



Maureen Yalenezian

COAI COMPETITION SCORING

Awards are made for the top ten contestants in each category; however, scoring does not always result in awards for all ten positions.

In categories with five or fewer competitors, placement is based on percentile achievements. Contestants may also tie for placement.

Senior

2nd



Tom King

3rd



Gus Lamond



Contestants who are sixty-five years of age or older may elect to be judged in the Senior Division rather than other makeup and costume categories. All types of clowns will be judged in this category using the criteria set for the various types of clowns. Contestants who elect to be judged in the Senior Division may only enter one category.

★ Single Skit



Julie Varholdt
Brahm's Lullaby



Jessica King
Weather Forecast



Fran Etzkorn
Fastest Pancake Eater



Gloria Sterrett
I Gotto Think

Group Skit

2nd



Something Fishy

Annemarie Prioriello, Nyoka Nixon, Janet Comesky, Denise Lyonnais

5th



John Joseph
411

6th



Kent Sheets
Winner

Single Performance

1st



The Mouse
Sergio Sanchez

4th



The Ditz
Gus Lamond

5th

The Flowers
Zoilo Melendez





2nd

Hydrophobic Shielding unit
Jesse Recker



3rd

Teapot
Maureen Yalenezian



5th

Crazy Hat
Iliana Mojica Fajardo

CLOWNS OF AMERICA

Las Vegas



INTERNATIONAL 2019

gas, NV



Group Performance

1st



The Seashore

Terry Cormier, Donald Cormier, Pennie Smith, Lawrence Cruz, Louis Kerr, Gayle Lindeblom, Danny Riggs

2nd



The Love is Clean

Esthefany Perez, Hector Batista

3rd



Sister Act

Nicholas Reed, Richard Smith, Roger Lutham, Robert Ratajczak, Deborah Ratajczak, Charlene Link, Dianna Hale, Gus Lamond, Patti Gaudreau

Group Paradeability

1st



Storytime
Kent Sheets and Dianna Hale



Best Catch
Jessica King and Tom King



Look for Santa
Esthefany Perez, Hector Batista, Iliana Mojica Fajardo

Single Paradeability



1st

Tall Queen of the Butterflies
Julie Varholdt



5th

The Zoo
Jessica King



6th

Search Injun
Tom King



7th

Fit in My Backpack
Maureen Yalenezian

2nd



Monkey Bar
Sergio Sanchez

3rd



Pulled Pork
Deborah Ratajczak

4th



Frown Detector
John Joseph

8th



Energetic Bunny
Fran Etkorn

9th



Butterflies
Nancy Opatich

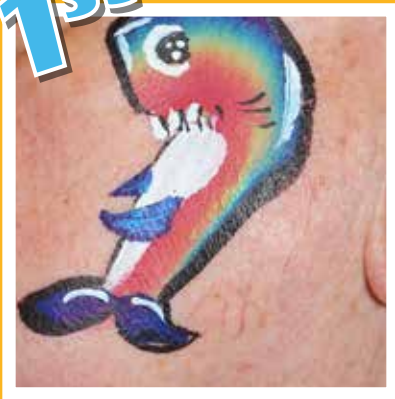
10th



COAI P.D.
Jesse Recker

Facepainting cheek

1st



Jessica King

2nd



Amanda Wisley

3rd



Sergio Sanchez

4th



Julie Varholdt

5th



Jennifer Galvez

6th



Sarah Smith

7th



Maureen Yalenezian

8th



John Joseph

9th



Iliana Mojica Fajardo

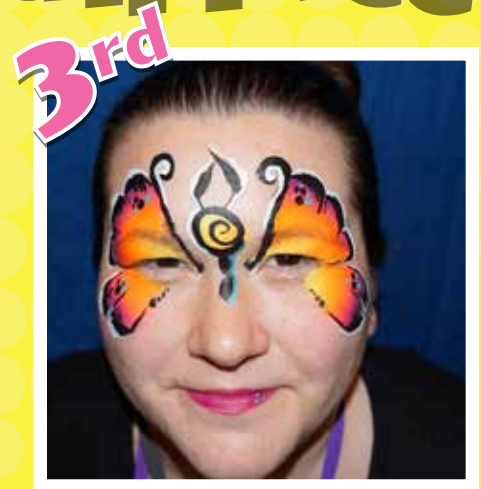
Facepainting full face



Amanda Wisley



Julie Varholdt



Jessica King



Sarah Smith



Jesse Recker



Jennifer Galvez



Iliana Mojica Fajardo



Sergio Sanchez



John Joseph

Single BALLOON



1st

John Joseph

2nd



Julie Varholdt

3rd



Phillip Wolfe

4th



Iliana Mojica Fajardo



5th

Zoilo Melendez

6th



Sarah Smith

7th



Jessica King

8th



Jennifer Galvez

9th



Tom Cass

10th

Lawrence Cruz



BALLOON Arrangement

1st



Phillip Wolfe

2nd



Julie Varholdt

4th



Iliana Mojica Fajardo

3rd



Jennifer Galvez

5th



Sarah Smith

6th



Jessica King

7th



Tom Cass

Multiple BALLOON

1st



Phillip Wolfe

2nd



Jesse Recker

3rd



Julie Varholdt

4th



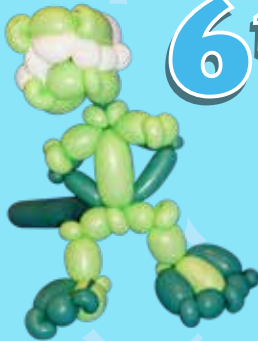
John Joseph

5th



Sarah Smith

6th



Jennifer Galvez

7th



Tom Cass

8th



Maureen Yalenezian

8th



Jessica King

10th



Iliana Mojica Fajardo



JUNIOR JOEYS

By Regina "Cha Cha" Wollrabe, Junior Joeys Director



Hello, fellow Joeys and followers of the Junior Joey program!

I'm so thankful for the space that is given to me in each issue to share ideas, education, and news. If you are reading this, I believe it's because you care about the future of clowning, and you want to see it continue as much as the COAI Board and I do.

I'd like to thank all the participants from the 2019 COAI Convention who graciously gave to the Junior Joey program during the auction and the convention banquet. We raised over \$1,600 for Junior Joeys! This money will assist kids who need help paying for their memberships, and it will also fund our Pin Program as it begins to take shape.

We want to give a great big shout out to Richard Smith for donating his dazzlingly gorgeous vest right off his back during our banquet. That got a crazy bidding war going between two people, and people started throwing money into the bids so that one of them could win. I was blown away by everyone's generosity, knowing they had so much fun in giving because it was for the Junior Joeys.

Junior Joeys of all ages—and parents, if you are reading this—the people in our organization believe in the benefits that clowning gives to young people, and we are here to help you. If you want to find a mentor or attend an online meeting or class, or if you need help with your membership fees, please contact me or your Regional Vice President. Our information is on the inside front cover of every issue of *The New Calliope*.

Mentoring Junior Joeys and having programs for preschoolers, grade-schoolers, teens, and young adults is what the future of clowning depends on. Clowning will never die, because comedy is essential for humans to survive. As clowns who are passionate about our art form, we know that there is a history and a standard that we strive for. Yet at the same time we are involved in a growing, evolving art form. Theater, circus, street clowning, carpet clowning, and hospital clowning are some of the many different forms of our art. They help people forget their problems for a moment and even



Junior Joeys Director Regina Wollrabe and President Mike Cox watch the fast and furious bidding as Richard Smith conducts an impromptu auction for his dazzling vest, with proceeds going to Junior Joeys.

help us deal with the tragedies we face in our crazy, hurtful world of pain and sorrow.

We also know that kids and adults need an outlet to play and have fun. We bring all of this and more to people who seek education from COAI. To those of you who have the desire to teach and pass on this art form to the next generation, I take my hat off to you. I would also ask you to join me in creating a unified effort in helping kids learn about the art of clowning.

We had a meeting at the convention with Junior Joey leaders and decided as a group that we needed to meet at a monthly Zoom meeting online with as many other leaders and parents as we can find who want to discuss the future of clowning and how to pass it on. We would like to meet on the first Monday on August 5 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. I would also like to have leaders connect with me on our Junior Joey Facebook group so that we can share the link and dates for future Zoom meetings. For this I will need your Facebook first and last name.

E-mail me at coaijrjoeys@gmail.com. Tell me your COAI number, full name and clown name if you have one, what state you are in, and if you have a Jr. Joey Program or if you are a parent of a child who is clowning. Please share what year you started clowning, attach a photo of your clown character, and if you would like to be a Junior Joey mentor or just want to gain more skills in teaching Jr. Joeys so that you can start a program in your area. Lets connect, share, and grow. I can't wait to meet you. **TNC**