A MESSAGE FOR VETERAN JOEYS  
“BECOME A MENTOR”  
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This is a message for all of the veteran clowns of the world. When we lived the life as a working clown, we enjoyed the opportunity to share smiles and laughs with our audiences of children of all ages. We learned the tricks of our trade from trial and error, practicing balloon sculpting, magic, pantomime, comedy, props, skit creations and all sorts of entertaining and communicating skills. Think about it. Usually, there comes a time when you feel like you might be ready to hang up your clown shoes and retire from active clowning. If you feel that point coming, it’s time to become a mentor.

What is a mentor?  **Webster’s defines a mentor as a trusted councilor or guide.**

As a mentor, you may make your best contribution yet to the clowning world. It’s really amazing just how much an experienced joey has to offer to rookie clowns. There are several ways of mentoring and these might give you some food for thought:

**AS A TEACHER** – it’s your opportunity to share your experiences as a seasoned joey. You don’t have to be the “expert” on all things pertaining to clowning, but rather a knowledgeable and helpful resource.

**AS A GUIDE** – it’s your opportunity to help the next generation of clowns decipher the unwritten rules and traditions of our clowning fraternity. It’s important for the newer clowns to understand the expectations. There are generally accepted codes of conduct. There are rules which govern various clowning organizations and traditions which are extremely important to maintain the integrity of our craft. A guide will help Brothers to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings.

**AS A COUNSELOR** – it’s your opportunity to establish a working relationship with newer clowns, promoting confidentiality and trust.

**AS A MOTIVATOR** – it’s your opportunity to help your new clown brothers succeed, especially if he has chosen challenging clowning goals. A motivator will build self-esteem and foster successes and accomplishments.

**AS AN ADVISOR** – it’s your opportunity to inspire clowns to set realistic goals and help them to achieve them. This is how you may offer your experiences with your own successes and failures, serving your clown brothers in ways you may remember from your early days as a “First-of-May Clown.”

My fellow clowns, I ask each of you to consider the opportunities you have now to serve again as Mentors. I respectfully suggest to you that when you first applied your own red nose and took your first steps as a clown, you stood tall and proud representing our great and glorious fraternity of clowns. In particular, you became a symbol of our International Shrine Clowns Association. Now, as a veteran joey, I charge you again to ever walk and act as such. Here’s your chance. Be a Mentor. It’s a noble thing to do. And, as always, keep smiling !!!

Do-No