



# Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2020 | Issue #5



**If you were hoping to be a part of this year's Parade, there's still time for you to sign up!!**

## The Parade is Marching On!!

By now you've heard the exciting news...the Parade is ON! This year's Parade will be a televised only production on November 26! There will be no spectators allowed onsite, but we will need the help of our wonderful volunteers in some areas.

We are in need of about 10 to 20 more balloon handlers and unit marshals. We also need a few more volunteers to help with Big Head support (non-marching).

To learn more and sign up for this year's Parade, go to:

<https://theparade.org/volunteer/>

Masks and social distancing are required.



## Parade Assignments!!

If you have signed up online to be in the Parade, but you have not received your assignment, please send an email to [klleverett@theparade.org](mailto:klleverett@theparade.org) to make sure we have your Parade application.

The following positions are **closed**:  
VIP Logistics, Band Marshal, Banner Carrier, and Costume Marcher. **If you asked to be placed in one of those areas (and have not received a confirmation), check with Kim to see if you need to choose an alternative position.**

## Costume Drive-Up at the Parade Studio!

If you have your Parade assignment, please email [fitter@theparade.org](mailto:fitter@theparade.org) to schedule an appointment to pick up your costume or jacket. Be sure to include the following in your email:

- Size
- Volunteer Position
- Names of any family/friends who will be marching with you (include first & last name)

**\*\*The Pit Crew team and Dispersal will get their jackets on the day of the Parade. They will not need to schedule\*\***

## FLOAT DRIVING SCHOOL

**SAT., NOV. 7**

### Parade Studio Lot

If you are a **new** float driver/spotter, you will need to attend Float Driving School.

Appointments are in person and last about 15 minutes. Sign up is between 9 AM & Noon.

Schedule your 15 minute training session by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4cafa62ba3fd0-float>

**ALL PIT CREW MEMBERS & PARADE CAPTAINS  
GET A COOL BOMBER JACKET!!**

Masks and social distancing are required at all Parade Company activities.



## PARADE VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

**Sign up for the Q&A Orientation Zoom Meeting on  
Nov. 17 at 10 AM or 6 PM:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4cafa62ba3fd0-parade>

### NEW TO ZOOM???

If this is your first time using the Zoom app,  
you can watch the following video for a tutorial:

#### ZOOM TUTORIAL

<https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>

# COVID SAFETY REMINDERS

## VOLUNTEER SAFELY



**Please Stay Home if Sick:** If you are feeling sick, or displaying any symptoms of illness, please stay home for the safety of the Parade team and your fellow volunteers.



**Wash Your Hands:** Wash hands before, during, and after volunteering. Please wipe down your volunteer area before and after you volunteer.



**Please Wear a Mask!**  
We have masks onsite and can provide one to you, if you do not have one.



**Please Social Distance:** Be sure to keep a distance of at least 2 meters (6.6 feet) between yourself and others.



**Confirm Your Activity:** Please be sure to confirm with the volunteer coordinator that there is still a need for volunteers before heading to the studio.



**Ah-Choo!** If you sneeze or cough, do so only into a tissue or your arm.

# ART STUDIO UPDATES

We have limited volunteer opportunities in our Art Studio. Please see the following updates and reminders for volunteering.

- In order to keep social distance guidelines, **no more than 5 people** will be able to volunteer in the studio for the day.
- **You must let us know ahead of time** that you are coming in to help. Sign up for one of the available slots in [Volgistics](#). Or, email [klleverett@theparade.org](mailto:klleverett@theparade.org) with the date you plan to come in to be sure there are openings.
- Be sure to confirm that your help is still needed before heading to the studio.
- You must wear a mask and social distance when entering our facility.
- Art Studio Volunteer Opportunities are:
  - Mon - Fri 10 AM to 4 PM
  - Volunteer duties include painting, cleaning or light float construction
  - **There are no late night or Saturday hours. There are no drop-in hours.**
  - **There are no office or sewing opportunities at this time.**
- If you are scheduled to volunteer:
  - Check in with the guard when you arrive and enter through the doors under the blue awning. Sharon or a staff member will meet you and take your temperature. Anyone with a temp of 100+ will not be able to enter. Do not use the Artist door for entry.
  - If you are not feeling well, please stay home and get better!
  - **The Volunteer Room is closed . Please do not enter the office area.** Alex and Eric can show you where the designated eating areas are in the studio (for social distancing) Please leave your valuables in your car.
  - You will not need to check-in on the office computer when you arrive. If you normally track your hours by logging in when you arrive, Kim or Sharon can check in/out for you. If you prefer to do this yourself by using your phone or PC, that is fine too.



*Looking forward to seeing your smiling eyes!*





# 5 FUN FACTS about NORM LEVY

**1. Best Place You've Hiked:**  
The Grand Canyon

**2. Something About Me That May Surprise You:**

I once owned a Baskin-Robbins® ice cream store. I learned that working for my self was not what I wanted. After a year or so, I moved on.

**3. Married/Kids?**  
PJ and I have been married for 55 years and have a daughter, two sons, three granddaughters and one grandson.

**4. Favorite Place to Travel?**  
Vegas!

**5. Any Awards?**  
The American Lung Association conducts a stair climb every year and I've won my age group a few times.



Norm donning a medal at the American Lung Association Stair Climb!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### NORM LEVY

For the better part of two decades, Norm Levy has been a driving force for The Parade Company, and we do mean that literally - since he is one of our best float drivers!

Retired from Bristol Myers Squibb, Norm is one of those energetic people who is always on the lookout for a new adventure. And when a friend told him in the early 2000s that The Parade Company needed volunteers, he leaped at the chance.

"I'm retired, and I was looking for fun things to do. What can be more fun than a parade?" said Norm, who grew up in Evansville, Indiana before moving to the Detroit area in the early 1960s. After volunteering, Norm soon learned the pure fun and adrenaline you get on Parade day, and he's been hooked ever since!

Norm has lent a hand in several TPC events, including Cruise in Shoes presented by Huntington, Hob Nobble Gobble presented by Ford, and of course, the Parade!

In the last few years, he has driven the Strategic Staffing Solutions "Disco Dogs and Cool Cats" float down Woodward Avenue on Parade day.





Norm - on the cover of HAP's Balance Living magazine



Norm is the hidden driver inside the Strategic Staffing Solutions "Disco Dogs and Cool Cats" float!



Show us your best Elf pose!



Norm (AKA Bob Seger) with fellow volunteer Maggie Prong at Jimmy John's Field in Utica

Norm didn't start out as a float driver. He began his TPC career as a float spotter. He's also worn a number of Big Heads, including favorite entertainment and sports legends Bob Seger, Tom Selleck, Magic Johnson, Gordie Howe, and Sparky Anderson.

In fact, his path to float driver is one that includes self-confidence and a little bit of destiny.

"One Thanksgiving while returning the float to the warehouse, we were stuck in Lot A, waiting our turn to enter the warehouse," he explained. "The driver needed to use the restroom, so he asked me to drive the rig into the building. I was afraid I'd mess up the float but said okay. I safely managed it into the building. That was all the confidence I needed. From then on, I was a float driver!"

This path seems to be a pattern for Norm, whose passion seems to be trying new things and rising to the challenge. This much is evident in his thirst for exploration and discovery ... on foot. Hiking is one of Norm's favorite pastimes, something he said his wife, PJ, describes this way: "She says I spend the spring and summer hiking and the other months planning where I'm going next year."

Norm's hiking expedition list is both inspiring and exhausting. It is even more impressive when he reveals he only began "serious" hiking when he was in his 40s. That is when a friend invited him to tag along on a white-water rafting trip along the Colorado River, winding through the Grand Canyon. While this would be the experience of a lifetime for most, it was just the starting line for Norm.

"I return to the Grand Canyon every year," said Norm. "And every five years, to commemorate a special birthday, I do a rim to rim-to-rim hike. That entails hiking down 5,000 feet to the river from the South rim, up 6,000 feet to the North rim and repeating the process going back down and up to where I started. It's 42 miles in all."

Norm has also hiked and backpacked in most of the major National Parks and the Canadian Rockies. He's climbed the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales and many more fabulous places.

Tired yet? Inspired maybe?

Based on Norm's hiking exploits and accomplishments, one might think he is blessed with perfect health and the physical capabilities to continue to tackle these amazing feats. But Norm had moments where he's had to apply his fortitude to his personal life, more specifically, when he needed heart surgery. Even then, Norm was able to rise above the obstacle and share his success story with others.

"Last year I was featured in an article in the Health Alliance Plan (HAP) magazine *Balanced Living* about my recovery from aortic valve replacement surgery," he said. The article was about Norm's remarkably fast and full recovery, and how surgery hadn't slowed him down a bit.

Likewise, the pandemic has not dampened his spirits for the 2020 Parade. Even though this year's Parade will be missing one of his favorite parts: the crowd!

"When I'm driving Disco Dogs and Cool Cats, I'm hidden inside the float with only a small screen connected to an outside camera to guide me along with my spotter," said Norm. "I can't see the crowd, but I can sure hear them even with the music playing. That always brings a smile to my face." While Norm won't hear the crowd this year, he's content knowing that he's taking part in something that will bring joy to the millions of Parade fans watching on TV.

It is certainly safe to conclude that moss does not grow under Norm's feet. Instead, he makes the most out of each moment, which is perhaps a nod to his favorite quote: *Tempus Fugit*.

"It means 'time flies' ... even during COVID years," he sagely noted.

*Thank you, Norm for your dedicated service year after year!*



Norm taking in the breathtaking view at Zion National Park.



Bruce Allen  
Ivar Anderson  
Marie Angel-Stewart  
Diane Armijo  
Diane Baldwin  
Deborah Barker  
Jasmyne Barnes  
Leona Barzart  
Nancy Beaudry  
Kathie Booth  
Barsoum Bouchar  
Marilyn Boylan  
Yvonne Brooks-Burke  
Colleen Burris  
Khya Calhoun  
Santana Campbell  
Lisa Carnegie  
Antonio Christian  
Ivy Clark  
Courtney Coccia  
Devon Cooley  
Alexander Copeland  
Patricia Corrigan  
Deborah Craig  
Christopher Dahmen  
Khiyon Daniels  
Michael Daraskavich  
Doris Darrell  
Lela Davis  
Leslie Dean  
Sarah DeBrabant  
Kimberly Delks  
Mary Derey  
Linda DeSmet  
Tiffanh Dessert  
John Duskocz  
Danielle Dowtin  
Jessica Drews  
Maryellen Elliott  
Donovan Fann  
Tricia Fitzsimons  
Anthony Fletcher  
Alonda Freeman-Neely  
Virginia Freers

Debbie Furton  
Donald Gardner  
Vanassa Garner  
Debra Gerard  
Sanyul Godfrey  
Neshele Godfrey  
Camille Gray  
Michelle Gruda  
Angela Gubler  
Erika Gwyn  
Janeice Hampton  
Ariel Hijazi  
Chareta Hudson  
Scott Hughes  
Emmanuel Humes  
Tarif Hunt  
Stephanie Jenkins  
Christopher Jens  
Martha Jordan  
Kimberley Kish  
Carla Knighton  
Mary Koehler  
Carol Kostrzewa  
Tiffany Kuhn  
Valorie Lacoste  
Dana Lawrence  
Gregory Lechkun  
Kristen Lloyd  
Ben Macioce  
Sheila Marable  
Kelley Marcaccio  
Roderick McDonel  
Kimberly Meerhaeghe  
Sheila Mercer  
Shane Miller  
Charmane Miller  
Janet Minchella  
Sylvia Mitchell  
Linda Molitoris  
Sarah Mollner  
Michelle Moning  
Angela Moore  
Stefanie Moore  
Elizabeth (Lilly) Morris

Jesse Niemchak  
Sharon Norman  
Gary O'Keefe  
Daniel Otwell  
Ed Paddock  
Donna Paterson  
Cathy Pefley  
Anthony Piccirilli  
Daniel Plotzke  
Nancy Polderdyke  
Jana Porterfield  
Lynne Price  
Kaiesha Rivers  
Amy Roth  
Ronnie Rowls  
Michael Ruth  
Erica Saylor  
Angela Schimke  
Margo Schmidt  
Jeff Schramm  
Patrick Sebring  
Daryl Shackelford  
Sean Sheppard  
Larry Shields  
Vee Shovan-Wedlake  
Harriett Silverman  
Susan Stahl  
Jackie Sullen  
Julie Taylor  
LaToya Thompson  
Peggy VanSickle  
Donna Vorhees  
Mary Warren  
Andrea Washington  
Mieshia White  
Iketa White  
Joe Wiesner  
James Wilburn  
Helena Williams  
Vickie Williams  
David Williams  
Kay Wilson  
Monique Yaldoo  
Bettina Young  
Judy Zerafa

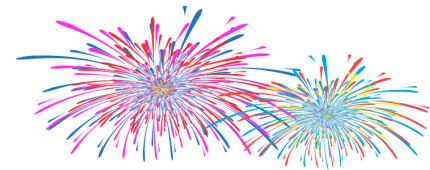




Jacquelyn Abraham  
Shanta Agee  
Brie Anderson  
Kenneth Baldwin  
Regina Banks-Hall  
Luciano Bastianelli  
Kyesia Bates  
Robin Bean  
Wayetta Beard  
Stephany Beeler  
Andrea Bierma  
Richard Brudzynski  
Shakara Bryant  
Kim Burleigh  
Mary Bussey  
Davine Cyars  
Mary Dantzler  
Carol Dargin  
Matthew Davis  
Imari Deadrick  
Kelley Denk  
Diamone Dennis  
Dee Dershem  
Ron Dershem  
Louise Dery  
Susan DiCosmo  
Kari Elliott  
Trish Farrell  
Karen Fields  
Alan Fisk  
Susan Flannery  
Robbie Flowers Davis  
Linda Ford  
Kimberly Frederick  
Matthew Freeman  
Latonya Gaskins  
Sharon Gatewood  
Lori Gatzke  
Rachel Gaylord  
Jasmine Gentry  
Kenneth Gilmore  
Eric Goosen  
Ashley Grant  
Robert Greene  
Tamika Gregory

Janice Gruenberg  
Grace Guel Watmuff  
Jo-Ann Hale  
Amy Hallochak  
Gwenevere Heard  
Patricia Howard  
Dorothy Ingraham  
Jean Innes  
Suzette Jaczynski  
Niharika Jain  
Leslie James  
Beverly Johnson  
Aisha Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Daryl Joyner  
Elly Karam-Burk  
Candace Kilbury  
Christine Klein  
Nichelle Knox  
Jessica Krcmarik  
Tatum Kreindler  
Anne Kuzma  
Sandy Labut  
Terrence Lakey  
Job Lali  
Bonnie Lancaster  
Ameenah Lane  
Sabrina Lowe  
Linda Lupi  
Theresa Mack  
Angie Maher  
Michael Marchetti  
Sabrina Martin-McNeil  
Priscilla Mayes  
Lo'riss McCaskill  
Briggitt McClain  
Hilda McDonald  
Darryl Mernatti  
Dori Middleton  
Mike Miller  
Denise Miller  
Marlyn Minus  
Betty Mioduszewski  
Princessonakapomadianna Moore  
James Mulcahy

Erin O'Donnell  
Marian O'Higgins  
Linus Parr  
Karla Patillo  
Debbie Penkala  
Carolyn Perry  
Ashley Petty  
Jessica Pioletti  
Latanya Pitts  
Rita Pressley  
Edwin Ramos  
Eliane Ramus  
Lisette Reed  
Vitula Reese  
Ken Riach  
Dawn Richardson  
Gregory Robinson  
Debbie Rocholl  
Romeo Rowe  
Lee Sack  
Philicia Schin  
Michelle Schneider  
Ciera Searcy  
Kristi Sharp  
Harvey Shaw  
Kathryn Smith  
Deandrea Smith  
Robert Sobie  
Brenda Solis  
Quanetra Standfield  
Mathew Tallman  
Deirdre Teagan  
Kenneth Thomas  
Pam Thompson  
Kathy Van Gordon  
Ruth Vinson  
Apryl Voner  
Donna Walker  
Laura Walter  
Robert Webber  
Pam White  
Tekia Williams  
Holly Windom  
Natasha Young  
Marty Young  
Brenda Young-Freeman



## Ford Fireworks Detroit

### A Great Show That Lit up the Night Sky and Our Living Room!

The 2020 Ford Fireworks were **AMAZING!**  
Thank you to everyone who shared pictures  
of themselves enjoying the show from home.

Send pictures to: [klleverett@theparade.org](mailto:klleverett@theparade.org)

***Thank you for all you do!***

If you have a favorite picture from one of our  
past events that you'd like to share, please  
send it our way! You may see it on social  
media or in the next newsletter!

