



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Is It Time For Ring 76 to Incorporate?

Since its formation in 1948, Ring 76 has been, under the law, an Unincorporated Association. In less litigious times, unincorporated associations were commonplace. They are still common today, but their legal status is not clearly defined, and they tend to operate somewhat “under the radar.”

Technically, the income of an unincorporated association is subject to income tax, although these entities often do not have Tax ID Numbers, and do not file the legally required tax returns. Also, without a Tax ID No., the association cannot have a bank account under its own name – bank accounts are typically under the Social Security Number of an individual.

Of great concern is the potential legal liability if a plaintiff brings suit against an unincorporated entity. The entity itself does not have legal standing, nor does it own assets from which might pay for defense and/or a judgment. Instead, the suit will name individuals – the association members perceived as the responsible parties. This likely includes the association’s board of directors, and can even extend to all members of the association. This would put members’ personal assets at risk, and also impose upon them the burden of mounting a legal defense.

In recognition of these problems associated with our changing times, the IBM recommends that all Rings incorporate as 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporations. As a nonprofit corporation, Ring 76 would have to file annual “postcard” income tax returns, but it would not owe taxes. It could have bank accounts in its

own name, own other assets, sign contracts (including purchasing insurance), and would be responsible for its own debts. Thus, a lawsuit against Ring 76 would most likely not jeopardize the personal assets of members. Also, the Ring could maintain insurance against such suits, with one benefit being the insurance company’s obligation to provide legal defense.

There is a strong possibility that IBM may soon provide liability insurance to Rings for “Ring events.” This coverage, however, would most likely apply only to incorporated Rings.

The issues of continuing with our magic shows at the San Diego County Fair, and raising the Ring’s public profile, are related to incorporation. These issues are related because conducting shows in the Ring’s name may require signing contracts and securing event insurance, and may increase our potential liability exposure. These issues are discussed further in the “BELIEVE IN MAGIC” article in this newsletter.

At the last Board meeting, your Board voted unanimously to explore further the idea of incorporating the Ring, with the goal of doing so unless unforeseen complications develop. Bob Meigs, Ring Secretary, is discussing this with James Brown, legal counsel to IBM. He also welcomes the input of any members with information, suggestions, and/or opinions. Especially welcome is the input of attorneys, CPAs, or others with relevant experience. Bob will report his findings both to the Board and the membership.

— Bob Meigs

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am really looking forward to being president of Ring 76 for this coming year. Thank you all! I will do my best.

Ring 76 is many things – a magic club, a teaching club, and a social club. I will work to strengthen it in all of these areas. But as Jeff Marcus said at our last Board meeting, we are primarily a **performing** club. That's the area I hope to emphasize most in this coming year.

Our new meeting schedule has many opportunities for members to perform. In August, the theme is "What I Learned Over the Summer." Maybe a trick you learned at the Convention? Contact Belinda Kaesler, our 1st vice-president, if you want to perform.

I have a few suggestions to make meetings more "performer friendly." First, let's limit announcements at the beginning of the meeting to a couple minutes each, and get right into the magic! And it will help our performers if there is less talking and fewer card tricks going on while they're on stage.

I'd like to see us return to the tradition of **auditions** for new members, as set forth in our Bylaws. Also, prospective members should join IBM National **before** they join the Ring.

Enough business stuff! I want to thank all of you who worked so hard to make the 2010 IBM Convention a success. You did a great job! You know it, I know it, Jack knows it, and National knows it, too! Congratulations! I'd also like to thank Don and Donna Soul, who spent endless hours selling our T-shirts, missing most (all?) of the Convention to staff our sales table.

If any of you have ideas or suggestions, please let me know. You can email me anytime, and often catch me at Denny's before or after the meetings. I'd like to get to know all of you better. And now, let the magic begin!

— Kenny Shelton

THE INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

On Sunday, July 18, Ring 76 held its annual Installation and Awards Banquet. This year, the soiree was held at Bob Meigs' house in Solana Beach. The evening began with a potluck dinner, with a grand abundance of dishes and deserts, followed by appropriate ceremonies an awards, and capped by a wonderful show by "home grown" professional magician, Joel Ward. Richard Ustick was responsible for co-ordination of the food, and Belinda Keasler arranged a raffle that was very successful financially, aesthetically, and in terms of prizes. Everything ran very smoothy, and a good time was had by all.

Your new Board consists largely of the prior year's Board, with some shuffling of positions, and the addition of the "newbie," JP Jackson. The new Board consists of: President, Kenny Shelton; 1st Vice-President, Belinda Kaesler; 2nd Vice President; Donna Greenbaum; Treasurer, Richard Ustick; Secretary, Bob Meigs; Sergeant-at-Arms, Sherry Luft; and our three Members-at-Large, James Thayer, Terry Lunceford, and (the newbie) JP Jackson.

The ceremonies began with a phone call – played over our speakers – with Jack White in his hospital room. Jack was in good spirits, joked with us for awhile, and thanked the Ring for all our efforts during the convention. The Ring made Jack and Honorary Lifetime Member (for the second time), and members signed a birthday card, which will be presented to Jack by Bob Ingalls.

Bob Meigs then presented very nice magic wands as a token of his appreciation to the Ring members (excluding performers) who worked 5 or more hours during the convention. Recipients of these awards, who Bob calls The Nefarious Krew, included Malcomb Campbell, Chuck Cook, Loch David Crane, Gary Dismukes, Charlie Gott, "Perfesser"

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Installation Banquet Photos



Kenny, Michael, and Bob talk to Jack White



Belinda and Michael present raffle prizes



Close-up Contest Winners — Jacque Lord, James Kellog Jr. and "Perfessor" Howard



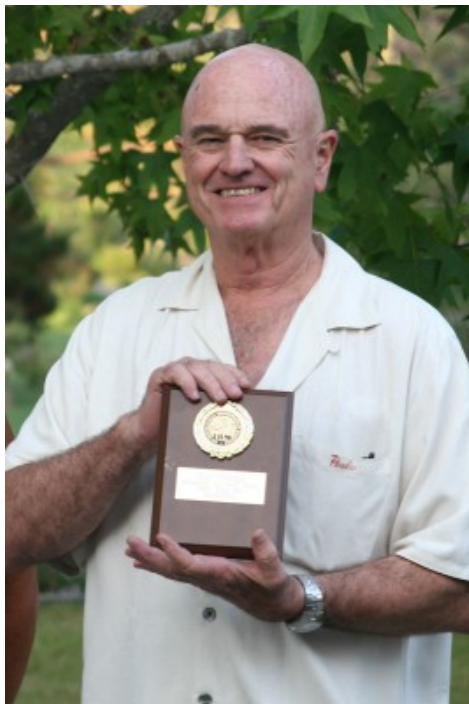
Stage Contest Winners — Mago Ruly, Sebastian and James Kellog Jr.



Officers of the 2010-11 Ring 76 Board are sworn in.



Installation Banquet Photos



Member of the Year— Bob Meigs



Performer of the Year — James Kellogg Jr.



Joel Ward performs for Ring 76





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Howard. Bob Ingalls, Belinda Kaesler, Sherry Luft, Dr. Jeff Pearson, Toni Perrine, Kenny Shelton, James Thayer, Alfonso Vasquez, and Greg Wauson. (Note: Bob is not at all sure that his records are complete, so if you worked more than 5 hours at the convention, and were not a performer in our Big 3 show, please contact Bob.)

Conspicuously omitted from Bob's list were three members that he chose to recognize separately, due to the impressive extent of their efforts. These were Donand Donna Soul, and Richard Ustick.

Our members who performed in the Big 3 convention show received recognition in the IBM program, but also deserve recognition by our Ring. Terry Lunceford organized our three daily shows (which all differed somewhat), as well as performing in them. Other performers included Terry Gedfrey, Michael Johnson, Jeff Marcus, Bob Meigs, Joe

Mystic, Jose Sanches, and Steve Spellman. Bob Ingalls served most ably as emcee.

Meanwhile, back at the banquet... James Kellogg, Jr. "double trophied," as Entertainer of the Year and the winner of our Stage (Stand-Up) Competition. Second place in the Stage Competition went to Sebastian, and third place to Mago Ruly.

Jacque Lord won the Close-Up competition, with James Kellogg, Jr., finishing second, and "Perfesser" Howard, third.

Bob Meigs was recognized as Member of the Year for his many efforts in service of Ring 76 this year as well as his exceptional organization skills in connection with the recently concluded IBM Convention.

Our evening concluded with a very magical magic show by local pro, Joel Ward.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

— Bob Meigs

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"I'm sorry, Nicoli. I just can't book your cigarette act into a single dinner club in California!"

It was a Magical Week — Officially!

The IBM held its Annual International Convention in San Diego from July 6 through 10. Ring 76 was the host Ring, which was very appropriate, considering that it's our town, and Ring 76 member Jack White was the presiding President!

The Convention followed closely on our July 4 magic shows at the Del Mar Fair, which led San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders to officially proclaim the week of July 4-10 **"International Brotherhood of Magicians' Week of Magic in San Diego."** This proclamation was due, in large part, to the efforts and political connections of Ring 76 President Michael E. Johnson.

This year's convention was an outstanding event, but, unfortunately, was not as well attended as other recent conventions. Attendance was in the mid-600's, or about half the number of attendees that

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“An Extension of Me” by Eric Jones (3 set DVD)

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D

June 07, 2010

Keeping up with this Jones will be daunting. Eric Jones is an elegant prestidigitator. He is determined to present effects that are practical, magical and, in his hands, doable. In a three DVD set produced by Kozmo Magic and Oswego House, this artist patiently describes how he does it and with an eternity of practice a determined conjurer may emulate this master. Disc One is devoted to presenting (often more than one version) and explaining the slick motions that accomplish the wonders. Speedfly; Elevator Cut; Trip Rev; Swirl Production; Standing Room Only Collectors; Peregrination; Flash Coins Relit are each reputation makers. In each of these marvels, Eric bows to those who gave him inspiration i.e. Chad Long, Nate Kranzo, Karrell Fox, Lee Asher, Lennert Green, Paul Cummins and others. This responsible crediting is testimony to Eric Jones being a student of the craft, familiar with those who made contributions, and determined to honor others.

Disc II begins with “Eye Candy” a charming sponge ball routine. “El Cambio Nada” a card color change at chest level (Eric is fond of doing magic at this higher level than the often waist stance). Rune Klan’s Full Palm Change and a Joshua Jay method is credited. Fred Robinson’s “Ambitious Riser” and Ray Kosby’s “Ray Rise” comes into play with “Ambitious Force”.

To interested readers, this reviewer will provide a detailed rendition of some of Jones’ effects featured on the second DVD that you may experience the flavor of the detail provided by Eric Jones ‘teacher’.

Hellbound Remix

Referring to Kris Kenner’s Spellbound Hellbound which doesn’t use any gimmicks: He has added one gimmick and even though you might not want to do the entire routine but some original techniques may be valuable. With the aid of an expanded shell, two sterling Chinese coins (the latter fits well into the expanded shell). Jones’ “Enigma move” is a hand washing technique where the coin remains ‘invisible’. Then a true finger tip shuttle pass. Seems like only one coin but in the right hand is the valid coin and in the left Chinese coin covered by shell. Next move is compliments of Jeffrey Lata (deceased). Jones uses his thumb to conceal the coin.

Going forward is a version of David Roth’s Tenkai Pennies. Kaps subtlety and Ramsey subtlety are employed as

well. Bobo’s expanded shell maneuver is described. Jeffrey Lata’s unnesting sequence permits the coin to by gravity open from the top side and sliding up behind the shell visually changing one coin to another. Eric Jones credits Reed McClintock with another devious deception. Applying Richard Sanders Visi-Switch which is done with bills, Jones uses for coins. In the latter, the thumb remains stationary as you bring the hand up to your face to blow on the coin. Finally the ‘coins’ may be given to audience for examination! N.B. You don’t need a 50 foot shelf library of magic books and DVDs, Eric laboriously demonstrates all these moves and more.

Ishkabbille Sandwich

Instantaneous production of audience selected card face down between two face up Kings. Control selection to top of pack. Gary Oulett ‘crook move’ is credited for loading the selection behind one of the Kings. The Kings are in V shape and laid down on the pack and when the selected card is moved to the center of the V it seems that the card literally jumped up from the pack. Gerald Kosky switch is the inspiration for the next magic. By doing this you have switched the selection for an indifferent card.

Francis Menotti is credited for doing a face up version (using a duplicate card).

Oxyclean Coin Routine

Eric states this is the strongest routine he performs. With sleeves up and completely surrounded starting clean and ending clean this is real magic. This is his latest attempt at a perfect three coin production and vanish. Needed are a Flipper coin and shell which are nested in a sock (toes removed) located at the elbow on the left hand. The DVD exhibits Eric doing his dance like elegant moves. Wonder if he has considered adding symphonic

accompagnement?

Disc III starts with Ambitious (a card routine); G.O.D. Hand (coin); Tai Chi Penetration (a coin is penetrated. Provided are: a half dollar with a hole, a Chinese coin with a hole); (Impossible Production and Impossible Coins Across) The word ‘impossible’ is redundant when describing Eric Jones’ majesty with coins and cards.

Praise is not sufficient for this set of instructional DVDs. Highly recommended.

Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5). P.S. Oh yes : Practice needed.





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came to San Diego in 2002. IBM lost money on the event, and the dealers were also hard hit. But that said, the lectures and entertainment were superb, attendees had a great time, and Ring 76 did a fantastic job as host. Members of Ring 76 also put on the stage magic portion of convention's "Big 3" shows.

Terry Lunceford kicked off the convention with a "Pre-Convention Party" at his home on Monday afternoon. Terry also organized, directed, and performed in the Ring's Big 3 show.

About 25 members of Ring volunteered for various duties at the Convention. These volunteers put on a show at Sharp's hospital; picked up VIPs at the airport; helped with load-in and load-out; performed host, stagehand, and doorman duties at the Convention's shows and competitions; served as local contacts for visiting entertainers; watched over the dealers' room; taught magic in the MYI sessions; and ran errands. Bob Meigs recruited and coordinated the Ring's volunteers. Kenny Shelton organized the hospital show, Don and Donna Soul sold our T-shirt everyday, and Richard "The Man Behind the Curtain" Ustick swept up tons of confetti.

Some of the highlights of the convention included the Grand Banquet and Cabaret Show on Wednesday night, with Jack and Lynn White at the head table, followed by the Presidents Reception hosted by Jack White.

On Thursday, Ring 76 opened its Big 3 stage show, which played again - with considerable variation - on Friday and Saturday. Performers included Terry Lunceford (who also directed), Bob Meigs, Joe Mystic, Donna Greenbaum, Michael E. Johnson, Jeff Marcus, Terry Godfrey, and Steve Spellman. Bob Ingalls was our emcee. Most attendees saw the show, and the general consensus was that it was "...very good!"

Also excellent were the three shows at the Balboa Theater. The Thursday night opened with a tribute

to Mark and Naiomi Wilson. Jeff Hobson emcee'd in an inimitable style, and Rick Thomas closed with a great illusion show, including an excellent version of the Wakeling Sawing.

Friday night was the finals for the stage competition, with Rich Block doing his usual outstanding job as emcee.

Saturday was wonderful display of talent, highlighted – in this reporter's view – by the illusion show of Chuck Jones & Company, and an over-the-top one-man dance/magic/puppet routine by Jerome Murat. If there is a Hall of Fame for magic routines, Murat's routine would definitely be included.

So, Gang . . . TW3 – That Was The Week That Was!

— Bob Meigs

Ring 76 2010-11 Calendar

Aug 9*	Magic I Did Over the Summer
Sep 13*	Classic Magic
Oct 11*	Halloween Magic
Nov 08	Auction Night
Dec 13	Holiday Banquet
Dec 14	Lecture
Jan 10*	Open Stage Night
Feb 14*	Close-up Competition
Mar 14	Swap Meet
Apr 11*	Animal Theme Magic
May 09*	Stage Competition
Jun 13	Lecture and Elections
Jul 10	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform



Ring 76 T-Shirt Sales

In many ways, this year's I.B.M. Convention was resounding success for Ring 76. Ring Attendance was good, volunteerism was high, and the International Officers and Board of Trustees saw what a local Ring could do when asked to step up and deliver.

One aspect, however, was not as successful as the Ring 76 Board had hoped. With a sluggish economy, and weak attendance, this year's T-shirt sale did not bring in the cash rewards we had hoped for.

The good news is that the Ring did not lose any money on our endeavor, thanks in large part to the efforts of Don and Donna Soul. Unfortunately, we did not repeat the sales success of the 2002 I.B.M. convention. This was a convention held in better economic times, and with a much larger attendance.

In the coming weeks, the Ring 76 Board of Directors will be looking at ways to sell all the remaining T-Shirts. Suggestions from the Membership are most welcome.

— Richard Ustick

Ring 76 Is Getting To Be Too Big!

This year, dues collection was an overwhelming success, with over 95% of the membership renewing for another year. As it currently stands, Ring 76 now has over 85 active members.

That is the good news.

Unfortunately, with aggressive growth comes growing pains and the most obvious to the Ring members is our meeting hall. While Jack's Magic Place has been a wonderful venue for us these last few years, it has become an increasingly tight fit. This is particularly true during our most popular events, the annual swap meet, auction, and Holiday Pot luck.

If we are to continue to grow, and provide adequate space for Ring 76's needs, we need to start looking for larger facilities. The Board of Directors is

looking for such a meeting hall, but they need your help. If you know of place that can fulfill the needs of a large organization, such as ours, please get in touch with a Board member.

— Richard Ustick

I.B.M. National to Crack Down on Non-Members

I.B.M. National has notified its local Rings that it will be taking a stronger look at membership directories in the near future. The goal is to be sure that members of the local Rings are members in good standing of the national organization.

It has always been the policy of the International Brotherhood of Magicians that you must be a member of the international organization first, before you can apply for membership to any local chapter. In the last few years, this policy has been passively enforced.

The I.B.M. will soon be reviewing local Ring membership lists and comparing them to their national registry. Rings found to be non-compliant with the membership policy risk disciplinary action.

Article 4, section 2 of Ring 76's Constitution states that "Only current members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians shall be eligible for membership in this organization."

For the last few years the Ring has taken a passive stance on National membership, leaving the responsibility to the individual member. However, with the national organization now enforcing its long standing policy on membership, Ring 76 must take a more active role.

Members are reminded that they must also belong to the I.B.M. to hold membership in the local Ring. Forms for national membership are always available at the Ring meetings, and Board members will gladly assist in completing them.

— Richard Ustick



BELIEVE IN MAGIC

What's Next?

This year, Ring 76 put on three one-hour public shows on July 4 at the San Diego County Fair. The first was a “Kids’ Show,” featuring Terry Godfrey, Alex Greenbaum, and Bob Meigs. These three performers, along with Donna Greenbaum and Belinda Kaesler also participated in Ring 76’s Magic Camp, held on Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons throughout the Fair. In the evening, Donna Greenbaum, Belinda Kaesler, Terry Lunceford, Jeff Marcus, Bob Meigs, Joe Mystic, Jose Sanches, and Kenny Shelton put on two one-hour family shows on the high profile Showcase Stage. All three shows enjoyed professional stage facilities and very large audiences.

Ring 76 has the opportunity to maintain, and even expand, its presence at the San Diego County Fair. But if so, there are questions to be answered. Who should perform? Should we put forward our most experienced pros, or those members wanting an opportunity to perform before a large audience? Should the number of performers be aimed at putting on the best possible show, or allowing the most members to participate? Are there liability issues to consider in associating the ring’s name with a public show?

Your Board will be considering these issues within the coming months. If you’d like to make your opinion heard, all members are welcome at Board Meetings. The next meeting will be Monday, August 23, at Bob Meigs’ house at 7PM.

In addition to our shows at the Fair, there are a number of other things Ring 76 might do to raise the public profile of the Ring and/or its members. For example, we might display a brief resume and contact information for our performing members on our website.

Also, there are many high-profile public venues besides the Fair at which Ring 76 could perform. A few examples include, Mardi Gras, Cinco de Mayo, Fallback Festival, and El Cajon’s Classic Cruise.

So what is the proper community interface for Ring 76? The Board wants to appoint a Committee of Ring members to study this issue. Would you like to be on it? Members with an interest in this topic, or with special community connections, are strongly encouraged to participate! Please contact one of the Board Members if you are interested.

Dear Igor

Good Evening, Ring 76. Igor bids you welcome to the Magical Year of 2010-11. The purpose of this column is to provide you with a ready forum for expressing suggestions, complaints, and issues of concern, either to the Board, or to the membership. Email queries to Igor@Ring76.com. If your comments are for the Board, the Fictitious but Diligent Igor will bring them up at the next Board meeting and get back to you by email. Or, if you request, Igor will reply publicly in the next newsletter. If your comments are directed to the membership, the Real James Thayer will publish them in the next newsletter. He can include your name, or, if you prefer, he will identify you only as an “Inquiring Wizard.”

— Igor

Magic Notes

Godfrey the Magician will be entertaining at the following fairs in August:

Sonoma County Fair

August 3 to 8; Santa Rosa, CA

Umatilla County Fair

August 10 to 14; Hermiston, OR

Josephine County Fair

August 17 to 21; Grants Pass, OR

Grant County Fair

August 25 to 28; John Day, OR



Do you have some interesting news about a Ring 76 Member (including yourself) that you would like to share? If so, please send it to editor@ring76.com. The deadline for the month’s Newsletter is 10 days before the next Ring 76 meeting.