



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

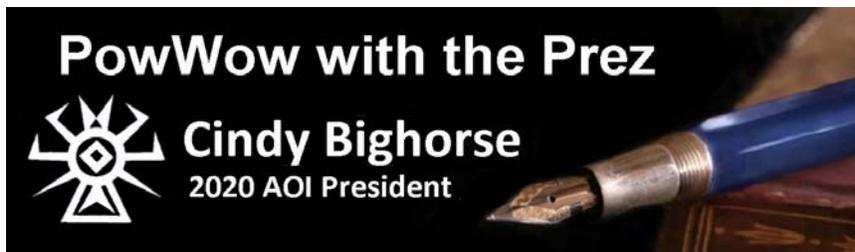
Volume 2020 - Number 3 - March 2020

Next Monthly Assembly Meeting Thursday March 19, 2020 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from Rosemont 6th Grade

MARCH 2020 AOI MEETING CANCELLED

The Executive Committee of the Alliance of Illusionists has voted to cancel the Thursday March 19 Monthly Assembly Meeting at the Illusion Warehouse. However the Executive Committee will meet Thursday March 19 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Mercado Juarez restaurant located at 1651 E Northside Drive, Fort Worth 76106.

The restaurant is very visible from I-35 in north Fort Worth. It is located on the west side of the freeway, between downtown and the Radisson Fossil Cree hotel where the TAOM 2020 convention will be held. The meeting will give the committee a chance to work on the upcoming public show and cover President Cindy Bighorse's list of action items. It will also give the committee a chance to sample the food in anticipation of the TAOM convention. All members in good standing (2020 dues-paid-up members) may attend. In accordance to the club's Bylaws, visitors may not attend.



Our lives have been put into a spin recently with the upheaval of the Coronavirus. Our hearts and prayers go out to the individuals, businesses, and families that are being impacted by the hysteria. We will continue to monitor the situation. While your Executive Committee

won't make long-term decisions, we do look forward to getting back to business as usual. I want to thank each of you for your patience as we deal with this issue. We are available to hear your concerns and suggestions to help keep magic in your lives. Please don't forget to patronize your magic shops as they navigate the economic impact.

AOI events are wonderful for someone like me who was never involved in magic before the age of, well we won't go there. After Bruce and I started dating, I realized that magic was not much more than engineering, but in a highly artistic form. Precision, whether in the design or timing, is just as critical in prestidigitation as it is in manufacturing fighter jets. When it works, it's a beautiful sight to behold. I wish I had known what you guys are learning. My career would have gone a lot further.

It was an easy transition to spend time with Bruce and his colleagues and marvel at this new "technology." Bruce continues to lure me in by tapping into my non-magical talents of crocheting and sewing. Together we design and manufacture rope tricks, heavy-duty balls for "Cups and Balls," egg bags, quick change costumes, stage curtains, and more. I love working in the shop, playing with new tools and materials.

Besides, shop work eliminates the need for hose and heels, neither of which me appeal to me anymore. There is something satisfying looking at a project completed in a few days rather than years. And that's only accomplished by getting your hands and clothing dirty along with the purchase of a few band-aids and antiseptic creams. Desk engineers never get to experience that sensation. Lucky me!

FEBRUARY 2020 MONTHLY ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT



Many commented that the February Monthly Assembly Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists was one of the most fulfilling educational meetings of our club history. About 16 members braved the cold evening on Thursday February 20 at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop for the first meeting under the direction of new President Cindy Bighorse.

Cindy began the meeting by coaching members on how they can find out about magic club events, on both our www.sam138.com website, on our Facebook page, from our SERVANTE monthly club newsletter, and from our Mail Chimp emails. Next 2020 Texas

Association of Magicians President Joey Byers gave a brief update about the convention our Assembly is sponsoring next September 4-7, 2020. Joey emphasized that latest updates and registration information can be found on www.taom.org.

Then came casual discussion about the recent David Stone lecture that our Assembly sponsored. The lecture was free for members-in-good-standing (2020 dues-paid-up members). The lecture was an incentive for members to pay their 2020 dues and with 29 people in attendance at the lecture, the tactic was quite successful.



Treasurer Mark Bynum reviewed the recent Criss Angel show that he attended at the Fort Worth Verizon Theatre. Mark even gave his own demonstration of a drawer box trick Angel did during his performance. Sergeant-at-Arms officer Joe Rotio did a Teach-a-Trick segment using the classic Emerson and West Color Monte trick. Robert Smith performed a dynamic demonstration to music with multiplying and shrinking CD's.



After a short break with drinks and homemade refreshments, the meeting reconvened with Secretary Bruce Chadwick giving a dynamic presentation on Showmanship. Bruce talked about basic acting and performing techniques to add polish and professionalism to one's performances. He covered stage directions, foot stance, crossing, body posture, stooping positions, pointing, body language, speech techniques, and basic blocking. He also addressed staging problems with assistants, positioning of volunteers, and did a quick analysis on focus and control

of attention. The presentation was well received and Assembly members adjourned the meeting for lots of gossip and time to spend in the Illusion Warehouse magic shop.



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Cindy Bighorse called to order the February 2020 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm on Thursday February 20. In attendance in the Museum Room of the Illusion Warehouse were all the 2020 officers. Also in attendance as guests were Jimmie and Lisa Fulce.

The minutes of the January Annual Business and Planning Meeting were approved as printed in the February 2020 issue of the SERVANTE monthly Assembly newsletter. Treasurer Mark Bynum then detailed his written financial report. The Assembly currently has a working balance of \$1386.68 in its BBVA checking account. For the March Executive Committee Meeting, Bynum mentioned that he will present the most updated copy of the Budget Form at the same time he presents the March financial report. The Budget Form will detail the projected budgets of the various club needs and how much has been spent in each category. A payment of \$180 was presented to the Illusion Warehouse for twelve \$15 per meeting room rental payments for 2020.

The club's website at www.sam138.com, the Assembly Facebook page, club Mail Chimp emails, and the SERVANTE monthly Assembly newsletter were reviewed. Discussion ensued to acknowledge the pre-approved payment to GoDaddy for the club's website URL and the Mail Chimp automatic monthly payment so Assembly emails can be scheduled in advance of meetings.

Secretary Chadwick mentioned that there is a second Assembly website at www.allianceofillusionists.com, which is owned by past-president Larry Brown. Larry purchased the URL several years ago to protect the Alliance of Illusionists name, and he has continued with yearly payments to keep the URL current. If a person types in www.allianceofillusionists.com, this URL is automatically forwarded to www.sam138.com.

President Bighorse will contact Larry and inquire if the Assembly could reimburse him for the yearly www.allianceofillusionists.com URL payment. President Bighorse will ask Larry to consider transferring ownership of his URL to the Assembly so that he won't have to be responsible for the yearly GoDaddy URL renewal payments.

The success of the David Stone lecture was discussed. The lecture was free for 2020 members in good standing and used as an incentive for members to pay their 2020 dues. Twenty-nine members and guests were in attendance for the dynamic lecture on Sunday afternoon February 9. David Stoned blew the audience away with original comedy and magic.

President Bighorse led a brief discussion that the 2020 public show needs to be scheduled. In accordance with the Assembly Bylaws, Cindy explained her vision for a upcoming logo contest for the Alliance of Illusionists, with details to be planned in the near future. She also emphasized that many of the upcoming Monthly Assembly Meetings will emphasize various aspects of Showmanship to hopefully build-up club member's enthusiasm and ability to compete in the contests at the upcoming 2020 September TAOM convention. Secretary Chadwick mentioned that John Carney would be in the area soon, and Chadwick was commissioned to contact Carney to see if he might be available to lecture for the Assembly the day before his Dallas engagement.

President Bighorse then explained her philosophy that one of the purposes for the 2020 Executive Committee Meetings will be for the officers to talk about that month's Monthly Assembly Meetings and make sure everyone is on board with the club agenda. With that in mind, President Bighorse did a brief rundown for the evening's meeting. With no further business, the Executive Committee called the February meeting to a close.



SUPPORT SAM MAGIC ENDOWMENT FUND WITH AMAZON

Note received from Manon Rodriguez, the Secretary of the Society of American Magicians:

The Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund (M.E.F.) is a charitable foundation dedicated to the advancement of the Art of Magic. You can help the M.E.F, with every Amazon Purchase you make.



Go to smile.amazon.com and list your charity as Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund Inc. and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases.

Same products, same prices, same service - but to generate donations you must always shop at smile.amazon.com instead. Tell your friends and families they can help too!

Since its inception, the The Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund has distributed over \$500,000 in charitable giving to:

- support a national youth development program
- provide grants for needy youngsters to attend summer magic camp
- provide hospital benefits to magicians in need
- provide college scholarships to qualified magicians
- support the historical efforts of the Magic Hall of Fame and Magic Museum
- support the S.A.M. Magic Center Foundation
- recognize literary achievement in the Society's monthly magazine
- provide interpreters for the hearing impaired at the S.A.M. annual convention
- provide youth fellowships to attend conventions to study the magical arts
- provide relief to magicians who have been ravaged by natural disasters like hurricanes and floods
- support specific programs designed to elevate the history and art of magic

The Society of American Magicians, PO Box 24226, Denver, Colorado 80224

PENGUIN MAXX



The Penguin MAXX SOUTHWEST 2020 scheduled for Fort Worth April 3-4, 2020 has been cancelled.



AOI Member Spotlight

JOE ROTIO

**SAM 138 SERGEANT AT ARMS
AND FEATURED MEMBER**

Joe Rotio was born in 1962, in Paterson, New Jersey. Only three square miles in size, the third largest city in the state, and with a population of over 50,000, Joe says "We really had to love our neighbors!"

Joe became interested in magic at six years of age. His father used to practice card tricks on him. One day Joe picked up a deck of cards and tried to duplicate his father's trick. When Joe asked him for the name of the trick, his father answered "I don't remember." Then when Joe asked him which book it came from, his father answered "I don't remember." So Joe picked up a magic book and his magic journey began.

On Saturdays Joe would go to New York city and visit Tannen's magic shop in times square. Joe's dad knew Tony Spina and a few of the other demonstrators. Joe would spend hours there. When Joe's dad bought a new trick, Joe would get one too. When Tannen's moved, Joe and his dad began visiting a local shop in Bloomfield that was owned by Teddy Collins.

As Joe got older, his skill got better. He would practice on the neighborhood kids. Joe was an awkward, shy, overweight kid, except when he had a deck of cards in his hands! This made him very comfortable around people.



When he got to high school however, he discovered football and girls. Magic was benched. One day the principal asked if Joe would perform on the talent show. Joe agreed and it was back to Tannen's. Next he found himself on stage in front of 4000 students, shaking with nervousness, as he successfully performed the rainbow water illusion.

By the time he became a high school senior, Joe was performing a 45 minute show. The magic bug had bit Joe hard and he was quite successful. When he told his dad that magic was what he wanted to do in life, his dad's response was "Go out and get a real job, and use magic as a retirement thing." So Joe started working with his dad on the railroad.

Next Joe enlisted in the Air Force. At his permanent base, Ellsworth AFB South Dakota, there was a talent contest for an exclusive division called Tops in Blue. Joe competed and won 1st place in his category, but did not win the total competition. However he did meet an instructor who was looking to get rid of a lot of magic props and Joe was ready to purchase. In fact Joes still uses some of those props in his children's shows today.

When Joe got married and had his first daughter Amber, again magic took a backseat. Shortly after leaving the military, Joe and his wife divorced and magic once again came to the forefront. He practiced and practiced and was prepared to do magic wherever he went. In 1988 Joe went to work in New Jersey with Transit Rail Operations as an electrician. A year later Joe's father passed away and he decided to make magic his profession. However he couldn't get everything off the ground. Joe remarried and his second child came along (Danielle). Unfortunately there was yet another divorce.

It wasn't until Joe met his current wife that things really took off. With his railroad career on the downside, Joe's wife pushed him into performing more and more for fund raisers and charities such as the Boy Scouts, Give Kids the World, food pantries, fire departments, American legions, The Elks and Moose Lodges. He also performed for Disney's MGM studio as well as Animal Kingdom, Universal Studios Orlando, the performing arts center, street fairs, block parties, shelters, and the Ranch for underprivileged children. To this day, this is the type of performing Joe loves best. When he retires in about three years, Joe Rotio's goal is to perform on Carnival Cruise ships as a restaurant magician.

TAOM 2020 NEWS

2020: Perfect Vision for TAOM

Its spring break in the local schools, spring training in major league baseball, and we just sprang forward an hour by turning our clocks ahead by an hour last week! So far, we have had a bit of rain and some wind, but March has hardly been "in like a lion..." It is indeed time for the NCAA Basketball Tournament. It appears that Baylor and Houston are pretty much locks for the big dance, and we are all crossing their fingers for the other schools with respectable records to make the field; Stephen F. Austin, University of Texas, and Texas Tech.

Thank you SO much to those who replied and assisted us with feedback to our anonymous survey we started in December. We had responses from just under 200 people! Yeah!

Most of the survey responders with a few exceptions were magician. The overwhelming reason they attend conventions is to learn, socialize, and be entertained. I was surprised to discover this. My interpretation of this data is that magician-related events at conventions presently are more important than extracurricular events, such as spouse events, at least for current attendees. That does not mean that if more spouses and family members attended, that the results would be the same. Five percent of our responders were spouses or other family members of magicians. Maybe, non-magic-related events, such as family events, spouse meetings, or local sight-seeing trips, might be more in demand if we drew more family to our conventions. Hmmmm. This fact is interesting to consider and to work on for convention planning committees and marketers.



The thing most attendees liked about conventions is the social aspect, visiting with friends and other magicians. This response superseded the entertainment value answer and the learning value answer. Wow! In contrast to the second question, where the goal for attending is #1 to learn, #2 to socialize, and #3 to be entertained. The net result, what responders get out of the convention is 1 the Social aspect, 2 the entertainment, and 3 the learning. This tells me that we need to give attendees what they really want, first and foremost....LEARNING!

It seems pretty obvious from the other answers that the rising costs of conventions are killing attendance. Outrageous cost is the primary thing attendees dislike about attending conventions, as well as the single reason people cite for not attending conventions that they really would like to attend. The biggest things people would like to see changed about conventions are to reduce the costs and to do more workshops and lectures.

Most responders (51%) attend only one convention per year. That is a sobering fact and it places a heavy responsibility on the convention planners to hit a home run. Just imagine if your convention is the only convention that people attend that particular year. Wow...convention planners, you must bring your A-game.

As I digested and analyzed the statistics of the survey, it was obvious to me that cost, talent, and geographical location are the three biggest determinants for convention attendance. It seems in some cases that extraordinary

talent can overcome the higher costs and still bring people in. On the flip side, poor or repetitive talent is the second reason for people to blow off the convention, especially if the cost is high. These are all important lessons, and data that I will pass along to my convention planning committee.

In reaction to this data, I have to admit that a few of these statistics caught me off guard. There were more part-time pros than either amateurs or full-time pros who responded. Most people only attend one convention per year and attend with the goal of learning as their primary reason, which is not being fulfilled.

I have to say that our 2020 TAOM convention planners got a few things right here. We correctly saw the desire for people to learn something at a convention. We are offering 12 workshops, a speed bonus workshop, a one-hour special workshop session on juggling to make your magic shows more entertaining, and a one hour special presentation on the birthday business. That is 15 separate one hour learning events.



What else did our planners get right? They listened. At TAOM in Houston in 2018 Jamie Salinas and the TAOM board invited Danny Garcia and Alex Rangel in to discuss why conventions were not better attended, and in particular by the younger crowd. One reason they cited was cost (our survey results validate their reason precisely). Another was because (paraphrased) "conventions are always the same old thing, featuring the same old talent.

We need to mix it up. Young people want to see people they know from modern media and the web." I spoke with Scott Wells at Penguin MAXX in Dallas in 2019 and his advice was that people are not as concerned about staying in a five-star hotel as they are about keeping their expenses affordable so they can attend the convention, really enjoy it, and maybe have a few dollars left to spend in the Dealers Room. I communicated this to our planning team and we tried to take some initial steps in correcting some of the issues that were called out by Houston friends. Our registration is \$100 for the basic registration and \$225 for the workshop registration. The hotel rate is \$109 per night. I challenge you to find a more affordable convention these days!

Additionally we tried to mix up the traditional talent list a bit. Notice that we came out of the gate last September by announcing our female performers first. (Ladies first, right?) Sadly, a strong female presence is something amiss from many magic conventions. We tapped into Internet magic by bringing in DC Magic Girl and Alan Paoletti. We borrowed from the latest and greatest of the Magic Castle when we pursued Jared Kopf. We recruited Lian Walker to treat convention goers a particular stream and flavor of traditional Chinese magic that most magicians will never get to see.

The advice to give attendees something different did not fall on deaf ears. I would like you all to meet Harry Allen. I mean REALLY meet Harry. You say, "he is not something different" - or is he? You see him every year (and at every convention) behind a dealer table, right? But...how long has it been since you have seen him live and hilarious on big stage like when he made his bones. TAOM has not seen him like this for many years!

Our survey results also indicated that people still like the big name talent: the national and international stars. So, be sure to look at www.taom.org/2020 and access 2020 TAOM Talent where you will find that we have a talent sheet that rivals, and in some years, exceeds, that of the national and international conventions! So, not only will you get to see your favorite international stars perform, but you will get to see them more than once over the course of the convention. You like Ariann Black? She is performing in three different capacities. You like Robert Baxt? He's part of three shows. Michael Finney? You will see him twice. How about Losander? Three shows! Oh...did I mention two-time FISM winner Rocco? Three shows!

The convention is half-way sold out, so register now at www.taom.org/2020. There you will find menu options with links to register for both the convention and the convention hotel at our special convention rate. As always, thank you for reading, and for making Texas magic great!

Joey Byers, 2020 TAOM President

2020 TAOM SURVEY RESULTS

This Survey Monkey survey was originally announced and made available via hyperlink in the December issue of Magic Across Texas. The survey was live, accepting feedback for three months. There were about 200 responses.

1. With respect to your experience in the world of magic, you consider yourself:

A. Part time Pro - 33% - B. Amateur 28.9% - C. Full time Pro - 22% - D. Hobbyist - 7%

2. What is the primary reason you attend a magic convention?

A. To learn from experts 37.8% - B. To socialize with other magicians 20% - C. To enjoy the entertainment 15.6% - D. To advance my career in magic, see great talent, and dealer room, each 6.7%

3. What do you like most about magic conventions (Free form answer)

A. 30% of replies mentioned visiting/friends/ comradery - B. 22% of replies mentioned entertainment the magic itself - C. 20% of replies mentioned learning - D. 14% of replies mentioned new ideas, insipitation to advance career or grow in the art - E. 8% of replies mentioned dealers room
Other multiple mentions were to meet the stars and spouse events

4. What do you dislike most about magic conventions?

A. 16% - cost of convention and convention related expenses - B. 14% - over-packed schedule - C. 12% - venue (showrooms, close-up rooms, offsite theater, hotel layout) - D. 9% - show seating.

Free form answer and answers were all over the place on this one. Most common answers listed first. Other multiple answers, none over 6%, in no order: lack of workout facilities in hotel, poor schedule time of day for events, poor event organization, respective talent, lack of food options.

5. What one thing would you change about modern day magic conventions? (Free form answer).

A. 9.8% Price conventions lower (reduce costs) - B. 9.6% - Do more workshops/lectures - C. 7% - Seating (seating-related)- some want assigned, some want to change close-up show seating, others want to change gala show seating. - D. 4% - Try something new.

Only 2 responses were close to 10%, most all of the other responses were less than 4%. Most responses were only particular to 1 person - which made it difficult to classify. This question solicited a lot of pet peeve answers

6. Which factor kept you from attending the last convention you wanted to attend?

A. 36.3% - Cost - B. 11.4% - Poor planning by convention hosts - C. 9.1% - Poor talent (lack of big names) - D. 7% - Schedule conflict (magic-related) - E. 6.8% - Distance to travel - F. 5% - Schedule conflict (non magic-related)

7. How many magic conventions do you attend per year (on average)

A. 51.1% - one - B. 28.9% - two - C. 13.3% - three - D. 4.44% - four or five

8. List three factors in order of importance that would convince you to attend a magic convention.

A. Good Talent 229 points - B. Better Location 160 points - C. Better Cost 144 points - D. Huge Name 80 points - related to talent obviously (Lance Burton, Copperfield, Levent, Franco, unnamed) - E. Personal Schedule/Health allows 64 points - F. Special, Better, Appealing lectures 40 points - G. Being paid to perform, present, or be there professionally 40 points - H. Venue 36 points - I. Better/More/bigger variety of Dealers - 32 points
Weighted answers (Primary Answer 3 points, Secondary Answers 2 points, Tertiary Answers 1 point) shown relative to other answers

9. List three factors in order of importance that would cause you NOT to attend a magic convention

A. Too costly (travel, hotel, registration, etc) 283 points - B. Poor, unappealing, or repetitive talent 136 points—C. Geographical location (too far, flight involved, etc) 73 points - D. Personal schedule conflict - 68 points—E. Poor venue/facilities of some type (theaters, showrooms, hotels) - 48 points - F. Date of convention (date/time of year - e.g. Labor Day, July 4) 37 points - G. Host actions (Poor communication, poor advertising, offensive actions/words by convention host - 32 points - H. Poor variety of, or too few Dealers - 28 points - I. Too few/bad workshops - 24 points - J. Inclusion of Blue material or non-family-friendly events, performers, content - 21 points



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September 4 - 7, 2020 - www.TAOM.org

Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists Inc



Robert “Bob” Hummer (1906 – 1981) was a Chicago magician who made a living doing magic in local bars and other venues in the Midwest. He was a secret assistant for Paul Le Paul, also created stage illusions and clever magic / puzzles. The popular to this day and massively pirated ‘Whirling Card’ is one of Bob’s creations and whose fundamental secret is the basis for many close-up levitation effects. His magic can be found online and is certainly worth exploring.

Circle of Friends: Mr. Hummer’s fascinating ‘Little Stranger’ is just so tantalizing to ‘mathmagicians’ it’s nearly impossible to resist tampering with. My ahmm ahmm (throat clearing sound) alteration involves a table of 4, each taking part in the experience, I’ve also adjusted the handling to camouflage and reduce the mathematics for today’s more percipient folk. It’s more of a puzzle than a magical event; it is however equally perplexing.

Requirement: A full deck of 52 cards (jokers removed) and 4 people. I’ll be explaining it under the assumption it’s 2 gentlemen and 2 ladies. In the following I’ll refer to them as persons 1, 2, 3, & 4.

1. Hand the well shuffled deck, faces down, to a gentleman (person #1) and look away. Tell him to remove sixteen (16) cards off the top and set the remaining deck portion face down on the table. Explain he is to now separate the reds and blacks in his packet, keep the black cards for himself and hand a lady (person #2) the reds. Instruct her to count how many cards she’s been given, set them down, pick up the deck and remove that many cards off its top. Once she’s done so, tell her to hand those cards to the next gentleman (person #3) and set the deck remainder back down then pick her packet of red cards back up. Lastly, instruct person #3 to separate the reds and blacks of their packet, keep the blacks and give the final lady (person #4) the reds. At this point both men are holding small packets of black cards, the two ladies small packets of red cards, and the left over portion of deck is on the table.

Tell all 4 people to cover their cards with their other hand or hide them from view some other way, once they acknowledge doing so, turn back around.

2. Pick up the remainder deck portion off the table. You now need to count how many cards are in it. This is accomplished without being obvious by spreading over single cards, slowly and gazing at the backs as if you’re trying to perceive something through them. Once you know how many cards there are, commit it to memory. You’ll be using it in a calculation coming up. Turn the partial deck face up. Spread through it, counting how many blacks (ignore the reds). Once again, don’t say anything, just spread and stare. Believe it or not, with these two just acquired numbers you can calculate how many cards each person has!

3. Mentally, subtract ten (10) from the number of blacks you’d just counted. The sum tells you how many red cards person #4 has. Add person #4’s amount to the partial deck total (1st number from step 2.) then subtract that total from thirty-six (36). The sum tells you how many black cards person #3 is hiding!

4. Adding person #3 & 4’s number of cards together tells you how many red cards person #2 has.

5. Subtract person #2’s amount from sixteen (16), the total tells you how many black cards person #1 has.

6. Look down at person #1’s hidden packet location. Say “black – black – black, etc.”, until you’ve said one per card he’s hiding. Look at him and say, “You’re holding ____ blacks (revealing their amount)!”. Repeat the process with the other three folks.

Sample Run: Person #1 removes 16 (always) cards off the deck’s top and separates their colors. In this example suppose he has 7 black cards and 9 reds. He keeps those 7 blacks and gives person #2 the 9 reds. Person #2 counts how many cards she’s been given, sets them down and picks up the deck She removes in this case 9 cards off its top and hands them to person #3, setting the deck back down afterward. Person #3 separates the blacks and reds in his 9 cards, keeps the blacks and hands person #4 the reds. Let’s imagine he kept 4 blacks and lady #4

got 5 reds. You pick up the deck and secretly count how many cards there are. In this case you'd count 27 cards. You now turn it face up and spread through it, secretly counting the blacks, 15 in this case. Mentally subtracting 10 (always) from 15, you know person #4 has 5 red cards ($15 - 10 = 5$). Now you'd mentally add 5 (#4's amount) to 27 (remainder deck portion) which total 32 ($5 + 27 = 32$). That sum (32) is subtracted from 36 (always) and which equals a total of 4 ($36 - 32 = 4$). Person #3 has 4 black cards. Adding persons 3 & 4's totals together you know person #2 has 9 red cards ($4 + 5 = 9$). Subtracting 9 from 16 (1st removed amount) you know person #1 has 7 blacks ($16 - 9 = 7$).

The only numbers you have to remember is 16, 10 & 36.

Humming to an Accordion: This is my combination of another Bob Hummer principle with a binary sorting process and is explained in my 5th book, 'A Book -O- Tricks', the 3rd variation of the trick 'A.C.O.D.I.O.N.'.

1. Remove 16 cards and put the rest of the deck away. If following the previous trick simply take back persons 3 & 4's cards and put aside with the deck. Request persons 1 & 2 to combine their cards and elect one of them as your volunteer for this trick. Instruct that person to mix the packet well. Look away and request that he / she look through their 16 cards and commit one to memory. They can remove it and show the others then stick it back in somewhere if they choose.

2. Tell them to hold the packet face up and to deal it back-and-forth into 2 piles. During this, they are to watch which pile their selection goes into. Once finished, instruct them to pick up the other (without selection) portion, flip it face down and drop on top of the table group. Afterward, tell them to pick up the entire stack.

3. Repeat step '2.' three (3) more times. Walk them through the process each time so it's clear they are to deal it into 2 piles just like the 1st time, pick up the pile that doesn't have the selection in it, turn it over as a block and drop onto the other (selection's group). After 4 deals and recombining, the 16 card packet will now be alternating face up and face down cards. Ask him / her to pick up and turn over the entire stack, thus rendering their selection face down. Thanks to a binary sorting principle it is now the 6th card from the top (3rd face down card), regardless of where it began!

4. Turn back and pick up the pile. Spread it to display its accordion-like condition. Mention their selection being one of the face down cards and that you don't know which one (big lie). Stare at the 5th card (face up card directly above the selection) and mention it appearing different or something. Start closing the spread, catching a pinky break below the 6th card (selection). Remove, as a group, the 5 cards above it and flip them over and back down onto the packet, maintaining the pinky break below the 6th card throughout. Remove the face down card off the packets top, show its face so they see it's the card you'd just mentioned. Revolve it back to face down and poke it into the pinky break (under the selection) and let everything settle (break no longer needed). Look down at the now face up card on top and say to them you're not sure if it's the selection and instead you'll try something different.

5. Complete-cut the packet anywhere except the selection's general vicinity, spread over the top 2 cards, remove and flip them over together as a unit back onto the packet. Repeat this process of complete cutting and turning over of the top 2 cards, a couple times more. Now hand the packet to the spectator and let them do the cutting and turning over of the top two cards, always together as a single unit. They can do this process however many times they choose.

6. Tell them to now deal the entire packet one last time, back and forth into two piles. Next instruct them to pick up either stack, turn it over and drop onto the other. Either ribbon spread it or let them look through it. They'll see every card is now facing the same direction, except for their selection!

Bob Hummer's face up / face down principle is amazing just to play with and ponder how it even works in the first place.

BOB WHITE PASSES

Legendary DFW magician Bob White passed away early in February. He was a good friend, teacher, and mentor to many. Bob was a student of natural sleight-of-hand with everyday objects, a well-respected school show magician, and a leader in the underground magic movement.

Charlie Miller and Dai Vernon had great influence on Bob, and he took every opportunity to spend time with them. He often said: "Magicians liked to talk to Vernon and Charlie. I preferred to listen."



Bob could perform onstage with great ease, and yet perform amazing close-up miracles with everyday objects. Until his very end, Bob was an enthusiastic study of cards, coins, and the cups and balls. It was his expertise with those small props that eventually captured the attention of other magicians.

Bob spent nearly four decades performing magic for a wide range of audiences. After leaving a successful career in insurance, he earned the bulk of his living using magic to entertain and motivate school children. Posters in those schools simply referred to him as "Master Magician" Bob White.

His father, an amateur magician, first trotted him on stage to perform. Bob attended the first Texas Association of Magicians convention in 1947, received an Order of Merlin award for his longstanding membership in the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and received a performing fellowship from the Academy of Magical Arts.

Bob kept secrets tight but still mentored a select few like-minded people. Some would even make the long trip to Texas to visit with him. Those friends coaxed him into sharing a few of his closely guarded routines with others through workshops, where he would urge aspiring performers to focus on the fundamentals, to practice and to read the right books. He treated the Vernon Book of Magic and Expert at the Card Table with reverence. Bob retired from performing full time in 2010. Bob passed in his hometown of Corsicana, Texas at the age of 78. However he never stopped practicing, perfecting and refining the methods and magic that made him legendary.

CHARLES "CHUCK" SEWARD LEHR

October 14, 1936 ~ February 29, 2020 (age 83)



Chuck "the Dean" Lehr was a very well-known Texas magician, in especially in the Dallas magic circles before he and his wife Joannie retired and moved to Wentzville, Missouri.

Chuck was a full-time professional magician and was highly respected by his peers, especially throughout Texas. He was always supportive, enthusiastic, and upbeat. He and Joannie were the glue that held together many magic organizations and events. His love and dedication to magic and his peers was unsurpassed.

Chuck won multiple TAOM trophies and was the Dean of the Dallas Magic Club. Chuck and his wife Joannie were both Past National Secretaries for the Society of American Magicians. They were also ardent members and supporters of the Texas Association of Magicians. Chuck specializes in outstanding comedy magic and performed corporate functions, trade shows, and private parties. He started magic in 1970 and settled in Dallas in 1976. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Alice Lehr, and his wife Joan Lehr.



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DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact communications@allianceofillusionists.com or go to <http://sam138.com/alliance/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

The two clubs meet concurrently on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at 4055 International Plaza, Fort Worth. See their Facebook group for other details.

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

Meets monthly. See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.

DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

The Addison Treehouse, 14681 Midway Rd. Addison, Texas 75001 , www.DallasMagic.org.



IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.

BRUCE CHADWICK'S
Magical Wisdom

Routining a magic act is easy. Start out with something fantastic, finish with your most spectacular, and put something interesting in the middle.

