



# The Servante

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

Volume 2023 - Number 9 - September 2023

Next Monthly Assembly Meeting - Thursday September 21, 2023 - 7:00 pm

Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas

Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

## SWAP MEET AND OPEN MIC NIGHT

The main core activity of the 7:00 pm Thursday September 21 Monthly Assembly Meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists will be a Swap Meet and Open Mic Night where any member or guest can perform.

There is no charge for attendees to sell their gently used magic at the Swap Meet. Items should generally be in good workable condition. Including instructions with sales items are always a plus. Also sellers can use on a first come basis up to two tables per person as available at the Illusion Warehouse. Sellers are encouraged to bring other fold-up and similar tables as needed to display their wares. All prices, trades, and sales transactions are between sellers and buyers.



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## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2023 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING



Club Vice-President Lonnie Olander called to order the August 18, 2023 monthly club meeting of the Alliance of Illusionists at about 7:00 pm. About 15 people met once again in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse magic shop in Fort Worth, Texas. After a few quick announcements, the evening commenced with the main core activity, which was a lecture and performance from our new member William "Wee-bo" Beaty.

Now a fulltime professional performer, William's previous employment was working at IBM as an office facilities supervisor. William is relatively new to magic and back in 2015 was introduced to the art by fellow IBM worker and Alliance of Illusionists member Joey Byers.

Joey gifted William a small Nested Coin Box effect and William's obsession with magic was set for life.

Joey also introduced William to the Dallas Magic Club. Subsequently Cinde Sanders, wife of SAM PNP Dal Sanders, introduced him to a local clown alley. Later Susan Keys and Martha (Cookie) Warren helped guide him into the clowning world. Then as Covid took its toll in 2020, IBM downsized its operation and William found himself relying on magic and clowning as his fulltime vocation.

William's motto is "Practice, get out there, perform, and do the thing." William also emphasized his obsession with keeping a notebook to record ideas and the fact that the video camera "never lies." William considers magic a "rabbit hole" and he is constantly searching for his next best trick, routine, and idea.

Wee-bo then performed for our club with his Nothing Stick (Pom Pom Stick), appearing cane, long glove production, and whimsical routine with a change bag, breakaway wand, color changing wand and production of a stuffed baby skunk. After some skunk basketball (you had to be there), he performed a fun rendition of hippity-hop rabbits, snake can, and nest of wands. The evening concluded with a question and answer session, and then a quick one-trick performance by Lisa Fulce. In all, it was a great night that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Vice-President Lonnie Olander called to order the July Executive Committee Meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists to order on August 17, 2023 at about 6:00 pm in the Museum Room of the Illusion Warehouse. A quorum was present with Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Cindy Bighorse, Vice-President Lonnie Olander, and Historian Jack McCoy. Also in attendance were members in good standing Lisa and Jimmie Fulce. Not in attendance were Member at Large Charlie Montroll, Sergeant at Arms Connor Branach, or President Bernie Trowbridge.

The July Executive Committee minutes as presented in the August SERVANTE were approved. Treasurer Cindy Bighorse delivered the July Treasurer's report. The previous June 2023 balance was \$5,321.48 plus the Helmer/Dolenz pillow. From that were the subsequent monthly expenses of \$13.86 for Mail Chimp in June, and the same amount for July, leaving the club with \$5,293.76 plus the Helmer/Dolenz pillow.

Olander reported that the September meeting will be a swap meet and an open mic night.

For old business, once again Secretary Chadwick reminded the committee that Donna and Steve Byrd still need to join the national SAM organization and do their new member introductions. Pending the action of the Executive Committee regarding the SAM rainbow logo debacle (explained below), Secretary Chadwick suggested that the club should probably refund the Byrd's application funds and give them the full responsibility to join the national organization on their own timetable.

President Trowbridge and his Maxam company has provided the AOI with a mock-up of the sign for the magic table usually used by the magicians during monthly club meetings. The sign will have the SAM logo as well as the title "SAM Assembly 138" and "Alliance of Illusionists."

For new business, the Executive Committee was reminded about the letter the Alliance of Illusionists sent last month to the SAM National Council via Bronson Chadwick, the Regional SAM Vice-President for the South Central Region, explaining AOI's disapproval about the Council's recent use of the rainbow SAM logo to celebrate LGBTQ agenda. The AOI Executive Committee unanimously agrees that AOI club members who have opposing religious and moral convictions should not be forced by the national SAM organization to support sexual agenda.

In part AOI's letter stated: "Overwhelmingly our Assembly disagrees with the SAM's use of the rainbow logo. The SAM national organization has no business recognizing any societal issue related to sex, morality, or religion . . ." and that the Alliance of Illusionists encourage the National Council to "re-focus solely on the stated purpose of the SAM, to promote the art of magic."

Bronson explained that the SAM National Council rejected AOI's letter at their July New Orleans annual convention meeting, and that the Council fully intends to use the rainbow logo again next June to promote LGBTQ agenda.

The Executive Committee therefore voted to form an exploratory committee to suggest ways whereby magic club attendees can still enjoy AOI fellowship without being forced to accept the SAM National Council's egregious actions. The committee will give a report at the September AOI Executive Committee meeting.

With no further business, the July Executive Committee adjourned to enjoy William "Wee-bo" Beaty's performance and lecture at the 7:00 pm monthly club meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Chadwick, Secretary





Well, you missed it! Or at least some of you did! The 2023 TAOM has passed. If you were there, I'm sure you had an amazing time. If you weren't there, well, you missed out on an amazing time!

I arrived around 10:30 am on Friday and the lobby already had several magicians and magic enthusiasts gathered around showing each other their newest card or coin manipulation. As the weekend progressed you would find that area to be standing room only from 7:00 am to 2:00 am. Overall there were about 200 people in attendance.

The Dealers room opened at noon and filled up pretty quickly. There were about 12 dealers in all and for the most part the selection or style of magic was different with each one. It was a little different at this convention as there was not much as far the latest and greatest. Most dealers were selling magic that has stood the test of time. I'm sure it was not planned out, but this did fit with what almost every lecturer presented on, old tricks with a new twist. In some lectures you watch in amazement at what you thought was something new only to find out it was a twist on an effect from the early 1900's! Being in the dealer's room is like being at a magic show where multiple magicians are performing all at the same time. One can easily stand back and enjoy or move right up to the table and be part of the act. Have a question when they're done and they are right there to answer, show you again and often show you how it's done. In my opinion, the dealer's room is a part of the overall energy and entertainment of the convention.

The socializing started early every day as a very nice buffet breakfast was included with the room accommodations. The hotel provided a large private room with large round tables set off to the side of the buffet so several of us could sit together. Either that or the hotel had a magic convention there before and wanted to keep the normal guest away from us!

The close-up competition started early Saturday morning but sadly there were very few contestants entered for the close-up or stage contest that was held on Sunday. Please go back and read the previous sentence! TAOM 2024 is being held in Arlington next year. That means you have almost a year to put something together so that you can enter the close-up, stage or both competitions! If you think you might like to enter and have a question or concern, talk to Gary or Connor who both entered in 2022. Of course Bruce has been a judge, so he can help guide you on a performance and what the judges are looking for.

There is always plenty of magic going on for the four days with lectures, contests, the dealer's room, afternoon stage shows, professional close-up shows, the big evening stage shows and something that I had not seen before time set up for strolling magicians. Every afternoon and evening there was designated time for strolling magic. The unique thing about this was it was open to anyone. This gave several people young and old a chance to perform for not only other magicians but the hotel guests and staff as well.

The event is really a great time and as I have mentioned before next year's convention is being held right in Arlington, our own backyard, and held in conjunction with the national SAM Convention and the north America FISM competition.

On another matter, will have our officer nominating committee for our 2024 club year put together in a few days. Please give serious consideration to serve as an officer.

Until next time, Bernie



# TEXAS MEANS MAGIC IN 2024!

**THE ROAD TO FISM 2025 GOES THROUGH DALLAS IN 2024!**

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- Youth Chaperone: \$239

Hotel: Loews Arlington \$154 a night

**TAOM - S.A.M.  
COMBINED  
CONVENTION  
DALLAS, TEXAS**

**Aug. 30 - Sept 2 2024**



**Register Online at: [fism-nacm.com](http://fism-nacm.com)**



**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS MAGIC CLUB - ASSEMBLY 13**

## A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS FROM SECRETARY BRUCE CHADWICK

As some of you know, my mother Verilla Dean "Deanie" Chadwick passed away on August 9 in Midland, Texas. My wife Cindy and I want to extend our warmest thanks to the Alliance of Illusionists for the beautiful flowers you sent to the funeral. Thank you too for your kind words, cards, phone calls and sympathy during that difficult time. It is so wonderful to have the AOI family and friends. We appreciate you very much.



Deanie, as she was known to just about everyone who knew her, was born on September 9, 1935 in Hollis, Oklahoma to Emmitt and Ina Roberts. During those early great depression years of her childhood, her father found work operating heavy earth moving equipment as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program. Ultimately the Roberts family found their home in Rising Star, Texas, a small agricultural community about 20 miles south of Cisco. Deanie's childhood was spent in that small "one red blinking stoplight" community. She did well in school and she was proud to be elected a cheerleader during her Rising Star High School days.

After graduating from high school, Deanie moved to Lubbock, Texas to attend business school. There she learned essential business skills and became an expert typist and stenographer. She then moved to Midland, Texas and met her lifelong mate Daryl Chadwick. They married in 1957 and wasted no time starting a family of four children, all born within a short five year period. There were three boys, Bruce, Brent, Buck, and Tracy the youngest.

Daryl and Deanie spent over 20 years raising their four children in their small two-bedroom single bath house at 4312 Thomason in Midland. Thanks to the expert construction skills of my father Daryl Chadwick and his parents, the late Hubert B and Ola Chadwick also of Midland, the house grew with needs of the family. When their eldest son Bruce left the home for Baylor University, the house was a sprawling 5 bedroom, three bath, den, living room and workshop residence.

Later Deanie would land secretarial assistant to the Senior Vice President of El Paso Natural Gas company. With mom being able to work fulltime, this provided great economic relief to the Chadwick household. She also loved to sew and she made much of the clothing her children wore to school, especially during their Jane Long Elementary grade school days.

Deanie Chadwick loved her family very much. She was always congenial, level-headed, and compassionate. She was one of those cunning parents when if she disagreed with one of her children's actions, she would ask discerning questions to make her kids think about their choices. She was as much a psychologist as she was a mother.

And Deanie Chadwick loved to laugh. She loved a good joke, but was usually terrible in telling them. She had an uncanny sense of humor, and loved to play tricks on her children. There were the nights with white coldcream slathered all over her face, she would chase her children around the house like some wild banshee monster, her kids running for their lives, both with fun and in real terror.

She was a very good cook and her family enjoyed hundreds of her wonderfully homemade meals. One day she made a banana pie and served it at the table. She told her kids that the pie was made from small sparrow birds she had caught in the backyard. As she cut through the pie and chopped through the banana slices, needless to say her kids didn't touch that pie with a ten foot pole.

For the most part, she seemed to love the outdoors. Chadwick annual family vacations were usually camping trips. Not camping with recreational vehicles, but real camping with tents, awnings, Coleman stoves, ice chests, and sleeping bags. For the most part, those were wonderful never-to-be-forgotten adventures.

Also Deanie Chadwick with a very strong Christian lady. Prayer was always important in our family. Her children grew up with a firm commitment to Christ as personal Lord and Savior. There was rarely a time when her family didn't attend the weekly Wilshire Park Baptist Church Sunday School and morning worship services. Later as the kids left home, she moved church membership to First Baptist Church of Midland. There she was incredibly active in leading in the Senior Ladies Sunday School department. She was loved and respected deeply by those ladies. She also sang in the choir and participated in a wide array of church activities.

Verilla Dean "Deanie" Chadwick passed away in her home on August 9, 2023, just one month short of her 88th birthday. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emmitt and Ina Roberts, and her brother Bobby Roberts. However she left behind her four children, grandchildren Tiffany Gates, Joseph Tucker, and Bronson Chadwick. There are also two great-grandchildren, Paul and Ralee. Deanie also left behind her sisters Alice Dombroah and Markie Cotton of San Angelo, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The suffering Deanie Chadwick endured late in life due to complications of diabetes and dementia took their toll on this beautiful lady, but she left behind a stunning life of exemplary Christian stewardship and devotion to God. She was greatly loved and respected, and she will be sorely missed by many.



## BENEATH THE TRAPDOOR #7

### MAKING THE MOST OF MAGIC CONVENTIONS

There was a time when magicians were so secretive about their ways and means that to learn magic you would have to try extremely hard to make the right connections. Magic shops were extremely rare and magic secrets were seldom published in print. Before video, the explosion of magic books and eventually the internet, you had to seek out other working professionals and work as a student under that master.

Today magical training is more readily available. One of the best ways to advance your magic career or hobby is to regularly attend magic conventions. These strange gatherings are amazing places to learn new magic, refine your skills and study under the modern “greats.” In the late 90s there was an explosion of magic conventions in the US and abroad. It seemed like every week there was another magic convention happening somewhere in the world. The frequency of these magic conventions has slowed some due the pandemic and economic factors, but I suspect another rise in conventions in the future. One quick Google search however will reveal that there are numerous magic conventions happening all year long.

Magic conventions are not always cheap. Pricing to attend these events is all over the board. Registration goes anywhere from \$100 to \$1000 (USD). Furthermore, you need to account for the cost of travel, lodging, food and of course the dealer’s room!

Getting your maximum value out of these conventions is very important. Below are a few tips to make a magic convention experience the best it can be. For the past sixteen months I have been planning and designing the 2022 Texas Association of Magicians convention: the annual gathering for magicians in Texas and surrounding areas. Since the TAOM convention is fresh on my mind, I find it necessary to give these tips on maximizing your convention experience.

1. REGISTER EARLY – The sooner you register for a convention, the better. Waiting to register for a convention at the door can be a huge mistake. Assuming there are registrations even left, latecomers often get the worst seats to the evening shows and large events. Priority seating is often given to those who register far in advance.
2. CHOOSE YOUR LECTURES AND EVENTS – at some magic conventions you simply can’t do it all! While at the 2022 TAOM convention there are no simultaneously scheduled events, many magic conventions will have multiple shows and lectures running at the same time. Do your research on the acts and speakers that you think may be of interest to you and plan your schedule accordingly.
3. GET OUT OF YOUR SHELL – Don’t be afraid to attend events that do not necessarily line up with your own interests. If you’re a card magician, then don’t be afraid to attend an event on children’s magic. If you’re a stage illusion performer, then don’t be afraid to attend a lecture on up-close mental magic. You never know what knowledge or bit of wisdom may be helpful to your magic career by visiting these events that vary from your up-front interests.
4. PACK ACCORDINGLY – it’s wise to have a pack of cards, some large coins, pen, and paper handy on you at all times. Many lecturers and presenters will teach invaluable moves and information and so it’s helpful to have these common magic mediums on you so you can try out these moves there in person. Having pen and paper handy for notetaking will help you recall information after the convention is over.
5. SUPPORT YOUR LECTURERS – most lecturers do sales after the lecture is over. Many will provide lecture notes and original products available for purchase. Magicians are often surprised to learn that most magic lecturers are

(continued)

not paid to present their lecture. Many lecturers are only given a convention registration or a nominal fee to cover lodging during the convention. By purchasing products from the lecturer, you are showing your appreciation for that speaker, and you are also adding to your collection.

6. NETWORK IN THE HALLWAYS – Don't be afraid to meet other magicians after hours or in the corridor between events. These "jam sessions" are useful opportunities to networking. You never know who you will bump into!

7. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN TO SECRET EVENTS – some conventions will have special events that don't show up on the convention schedule. These are the "who you know" events. Keep your eyes and ears open to hidden parties, late-night shows, etc. that may be a great deal of fun but don't appear anywhere in print!

8. STAY AT THE CONVENTION HOTEL – Very often people will register for the convention and spend the day at the hotel where the convention is taking place but at night go across the street (or even across town) to more affordable accommodations. Doing this is actually more stressful than simply forking over a little extra money and staying at the same hotel as everyone else. It's also important to the hosting organization of the convention that you stay at the venue. The team that produces the convention has to promise the hotel a certain amount of hotel rooms to be sold in order for the convention to be solvent. By not staying at the convention hotel location, you are putting the convention team at risk of paying extremely high fees for unsold rooms after the convention is over; not to mention that you miss out on all kinds of fun late-night jam sessions that happen after-hours during the convention.

9. DON'T LET MONEY BE A PROBLEM – are you broke? Don't let that stop you from coming to a magic convention! There are workarounds for those wanting to attend a magic convention on a budget. All of these are techniques I've used to cut down on magic convention costs. First, consider volunteering at the convention! Volunteers may do tasks such as setup, A/V technical crew work, registration desk help, etc. These volunteers are often given a free convention registration for their efforts.

Next, consider getting a roommate for the convention. Look on social media and email newsletters for those needing a roommate for the convention. If you don't see a posting for roommates, then make a post yourself. While it's a bit odd to have a roommate at a convention the first time you do it, very often you end up making a lifelong friend this way. You can also save money by bringing some of your own food. Dining at the restaurants in and around the convention venue can get expensive so I sometimes bring in my own food to store in the hotel room refrigerator. You would be surprised at how many magicians do this! Finally, consider working for another magician during the convention. You could help a magic dealer in their booth in demonstrating the latest and greatest magic. Some magic dealers will even pay you cash on location for your work!

10. TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS AND VIDEO – It's important to document everything you experience at a magic convention. The best way of doing this, apart from taking notes, is to take lots of photo and video! Keep in mind that it is taboo or even prohibited to record video or take pictures at some events during a magic convention. It's never a good idea to record video during a magic lecture. You also may not be allowed to video certain performances, but pictures may still be an option. Anytime photo or video are allowed, take lots of it! Taking pictures and video of your journey will help you remember key events years down the road and share with others in the future how much fun you had! Who knows, the small-time magicians you meet in the hallway may be the big-time acts of tomorrow. There have been many times when I would meet some no-name acts that within a year or two make it to the Las Vegas stage!

11. BONUS TIP – JOIN THE HOSTING ORGANIZATION – If you are attending a magic convention that is organized by a major magic organization such as the Texas Association of Magicians or the Society of American Magicians then consider joining the organization as a member. Most countries have their own magic societies that offer annual membership. These memberships include perks such as discounted convention pricing, local magic club gatherings during the year, access to online video libraries or a monthly print publication to keep you in the loop on the latest and greatest in the magic world. Staying plugged in with other magicians is important!



The great Richard Kaufman is in the process of expanding 'Greater Magic', enhancing what is arguably the most significant book ever produced on the art of magic. If not the greatest, it's certainly tied with the gold medal winner be it the masterworks of Tarbell, J.K. Hartman, J.B. Bobo, Dai Vernon, Stewart James, among others. They're all to important for ranking against one another.

**The Force**— One of the most important things to know in the world of card magic is the force, causing someone to unknowingly choose a particular card. Needless to say, due to it's significance there are hundreds of methods for accomplishing the feat. How about a couple more? Trust me, you'll like these. They're both quite simple and effective.

**Force 1**— 1. Reverse the 2nd from top card, this is the force card, in this case the 5 of clubs (A), of course this is done without the spectator's knowledge.

2. With the deck square and face down on the table, ask someone to raise any amount of cards off the top in a clump, turn the block over and return onto the tabled portion, thus undeniably marking their exact cutting location within the deck.

3. Pick the deck up and slowly spread to the 1st face down card (B), being careful not to spread it or another face up card will be seen. Speed isn't necessary here.

4. Mostly square the face up cards and move the block to an in-jogged condition with the face down portion. Place your right middle finger on the top of the visible face down card, the thumb at the near end and index curled comfortably on top (C). Move the right hand forward, the thumb pushing the face up block square with the deck proper and the middle finger pushing the face down card forward at the same time (D). In the end the deck will be square with the single face down card poking out the front.

5. Remove the face down card and place it on the table for the spectator to look at (E). It's the force card.

6. Spread off all the face up cards and flip them face down on top.

In all appearances it looks just like the card was freely and fairly chosen.

**More:** Step 4 is known as the Christ-Anneman Alignment Move.

**Force 2**— This is a refinement of a J.K. Hartman idea (*Free and Easy, Card Craft, pg. 314*).

Begin with force card on the deck's bottom. Ask for a number between 5 and 15, explaining not too few but not too many which would make it either uninteresting or bog the trick down. Whatever number they tell you, mentally subtract one (1) from it then subtract that from eight (8) or sixteen (16), whichever it's below and remember the total. Ask them to hold out their hand, Deal off the top, one card at a time, counting out loud, until you reach your memorized number. At that point, look up at them and verify the number they said. This pause makes it easy to deal the bottom card (force) onto the stack instead of the top then continue with top cards until his chosen number is reached. Ask him to do an Australian down/under deal (the top card to the table, the next card underneath the held cards, the next to the table, the next underneath, etc. until one card remains. It will be the force card. **Note: If they choose nine (9), 1 from 9 is eight (8) which you subtract from sixteen (16), which totals eight (8), so on the 8th deal the bottom card, then 1 more from the top.**



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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 party room and 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**

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

**MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE**

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

**DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174**

See [www.DallasMagic.org](http://www.DallasMagic.org) for meeting information.

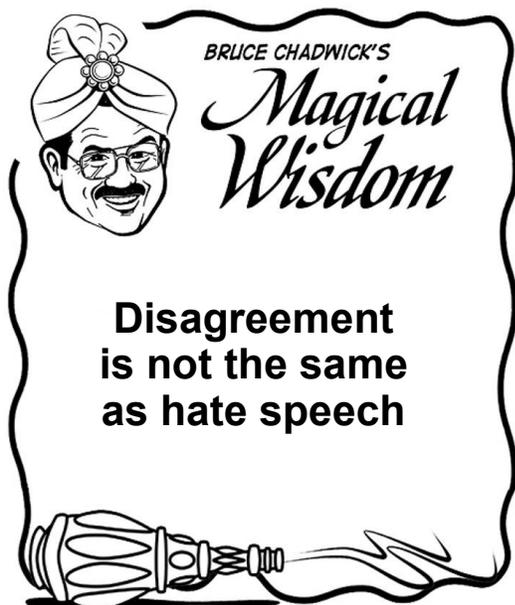


**IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON**

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either [www.ImprovArlington.com](http://www.ImprovArlington.com) or [www.ImprovAddison.com](http://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](http://www.MagicLivingRoom.com) for more information.



“They made a lot of my money disappear.”