

THE GREATER
PHILADELPHIA
LOCKSMITHS
ASSOCIATION

www.gpla.org

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PRESIDENTIAL VIEWPOINT

To all of the GPLA members that are fathers, may I wish you a Happy Father's Day!

Those of you that are fathers know the unique joy of getting gifts on Father's Day. Over the years, I have received many such gifts from my daughter. Everything from hand-made baubles, the obligatory tie (one year my daughter gave me a tie that was so ugly it didn't even go with itself! But I wore it!), tools, hand-written certificates entitling me to a day free from whining, etc. When my daughter asked me what I would like for Father's Day this year I got to thinking about some of the gifts I got my own father. And I got to thinking that they weren't enough.

My father decided to become a locksmith when he retired after 27 years of working for Sears. Dad wasn't a man to sit still and knew he'd need to find something to fill his newly acquired free time. He had learned carpentry from his father (who made his living as a carpenter) and was mechanically inclined - having spent his final 15 years at the Sears Technical Training Center in Pennsauken, NJ, teaching Sears service technicians how to repair furnaces, air conditioning units and lawn mower engines - and thought those two talents would serve him well as a locksmith. In 1972, he founded CLC Locksmiths.

As Dad grew the business, he brought first my brother and then me in to it to learn the trade, and passed his work ethic and a fair amount of tried and true advice and wisdom along to us. He had a mental library of favorite sayings that he freely dispensed while we were growing up. As much as I cringed when he trotted out some well-worn chestnut that I had heard many times before, I realize now how well those lessons serve me today. And as with most lessons, it was the simple things that made the biggest impact.

One of his favorite sayings was: "It takes less time to do a job once than it takes to do it twice". He drummed it in to our heads that the objective wasn't to see how quickly we could get the job done, but rather to do it right the first time. Quality over quantity. No matter how many jobs he had lined up for the day, or how many emergency jobs came in, he didn't allow that to rush him once he was on a job. A corollary to doing the job right was to treat every customer's lock, door,

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Minutes of May 2012 G.P.L.A. General Membership Meeting

The May 2012 GPLA General Membership Meeting was held at the GPLA Headquarters on May 14, 2012 and was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Cliff Shafer.

The President welcomed the following guests: Jerry Buckley from Kaba-Ilco, Diane Humphries from Kaba-Ilco, Patrick Smith from SNS Hardware, Mitch Danzig from Fried Bros., John Litwak from JRL Emergency Services.

Prior to the meeting, Jerry Buckley educated the membership with hands-on training in the Kaba-Ilco Road Show truck.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Barry Wilensky to accept the April 2012 General Membership Meeting Minutes as printed/emailed in the Newsletter, 2nd by Dana Barnum and was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Board of Directors meeting in May to review the financial report, therefore there is no update for the membership this month.

President's Report: Cliff Shafer wanted to thank Vice President Nelson Dayton for filling in at the last general membership meeting.

Correspondence In & Out: Nothing to report.

Convention Committee: Sven Hellwig reported that his committee is finalizing the class schedule and it is expected to be released next month.

Health & Welfare: Bob Wagner was in attendance and reported he is feeling better as he recovers from surgery. Sven Hellwig reported he had minor surgery and is improving, while Ed Pfeil, Jr. is still hospitalized.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Good of the Association: Tom DiEva reported an illegal locksmith attempted to scam a local customer, who rejected the unprofessional locksmith and called Evesham Locksmiths for service.

Vernon Kelly reported that an NJ 12 CEU class is available (ACE certification).

50/50: The amount of \$66.00 was won.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Wilensky, 2nd by Ron Marcinkowski and was carried unanimously at 8:01 PM.

Michael E. Nimmo
Recording Secretary

car, etc. as if it was our own. We wouldn't do less than quality work on our own locks, so we shouldn't be rushed into performing shoddy work on a customer's lock.

Another lesson my father taught us was: "Everything it's place and every place it's thing". Long before he became a locksmith, Dad had his workshop in our basement. There was a pegboard on the wall behind his workbench with all of his small hand tools within easy reach. He could tell at a glance if there was any tool missing, and he could reach up and put his hands on the exact tool he needed without ever looking up from whatever he was working on. Later when he built his own toolbox for locksmithing, he kept the same philosophy. He never left a tool behind on a jobsite because he could take one look in the box and determine if anything was missing before he took it out to the service van. I'm pretty well organized, but can't say my record is as spotless only because I once left the entire toolbox at a customer's house! Everything was in its place when I did go back to get it though, so I count that as a small victory.

Of course he had many other nuggets that he would drop on a regular basis, but there isn't room to list them all here. When he finally decided to let go of the reigns, he sold the business to us. My brother and I paid fair market value for it along with interest since we didn't have the money to buy it outright. Dad believed that if he just gave it to us, we wouldn't have as much of an incentive in keeping the business going. I don't think he was correct on that, but I respected his decision.

Dad died in 1997 after suffering from Alzheimer's. We watched as the disease robbed Dad of his dignity before robbing us of him. The disease robbed us of him well before he died. Towards the end, the man I knew as my father no longer inhabited his physical body. While my father has died, the business he started lives on. I believe the best Father's Day present I can give him now is to make sure the business he founded continues.

Fraternally,
Clifford L. Shafer, CPS, CML
President

Calendar of Events

June 18	GPLA Membership Meeting at Headquarters	Philadelphia, PA
July 7-14	ALOA Convention & Tradeshow	Las Vegas, NV
September 17	GPLA Membership Meeting at Headquarters	Philadelphia, PA
September 10-13	ASIS Security Conference & Expo	Philadelphia, PA
October 4-6	GPLA Convention & Tradeshow	Philadelphia, PA

If you have information on any event that may benefit the association, please

forward it to GPLA Newsletter Editor Mike Nimmo

2012 GPLA Convention & Tradeshow

Preliminary Class Schedule

Wednesday at GPLA HQ:

High Security Auto Lock Theory, Lock Picking and Decoding Tools. Instructors: Orvis & Paul Kline, and John Williams.

Thursday at the Airport Hilton Hotel:

Impressioning. Instructor: Sven Hellwig.

Basic Mechanical Combination Safe Lock Servicing. Instructor: Cliff Shafer. This class is NJ 6.5 CEU approved.

Introduction to Automotive Locksmithing. Instructors: Jim and/or Stacy Hetchler.

Panic Exit Device Servicing and Installation. Instructor: Lounging Lizards. This class is NJ 8 CEU approved.

Friday at the Airport Hilton Hotel:

Mechanical Combination Safe Lock Dialing Diagnostics: Instructor: Lockmasters

Electronic Access Control. Instructor: Tom Foxwell. This class is NJ 7 CEU approved.

R2 Hinge Installation 1/2 day AM. Instructors: Cliff Shafer and possibly Kerry Sprick. This class is NJ 3 CEU approved.

Keyless Ride 1/2 day PM. Instructors: Provided by Keyless Ride

Advanced Automotive Locksmithing. Instructors: Jim and/or Stacy Hetchler.

Lock Picking. Instructor: Lounging Lizards. This class is NJ 8 CEU approved.

Please stay tuned for the on-line release of the convention booklet or visit the association web site at www.gpla.org for more information

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**NEXT MEETING:
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 7:30 PM**

**GPLA HEADQUARTERS
8015 CRAIG STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

SCHEDULED PROGRAM:

**THE ANNUAL WEENIE ROAST WITH THE WORLD
RENOWNED CHEF LE CLIFF AT THE GRILL**

(BY THE WAY, WE'RE CLEANING THE HQ TOO)

**The Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association
C/o Michael Nimmo
184 Clifton Ave.
West Berlin, NJ 08091**