

THE GREATER
PHILADELPHIA
LOCKSMITHS
ASSOCIATION

www.gpla.org

President

Sven K. Hellwig, Sr., CRL

Vice President

Robert Mock

Treasurer

James Sundstrond III

Recording Secretary

Paul Kline

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Wagner

Sergeant at Arms

John Williams

Newsletter Editor

Michael Nimmo

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Edward Fitzgerald, CML

Martin Arnold, CML

Nelson Dayton, CML

Orvis Kline, CPL, CAL

Michael Nimmo

Clifford L. Shafer, CPS, CML

Robert Thomas

Ronald Weaver

Barry Wilensky, CRL

In this Issue:

- **Presidential Viewpoint**
- **Minutes from November Membership Meeting**
- **New Committee to protect your association**
- **Scenes from the Holiday Party**
- **Dinner Meeting Jan 16**

The Professional Locksmith

The Monthly Publication of GPLA

Volume 58 Issue 1

January 2012

PRESIDENTIAL VIEWPOINT

Hello members

I hope you are a fan of Frank Sinatra as much as I am because he *and* I did it our way.

... And now, the end is near, and so I face my final meeting. My friends are all here and I see them clear, I'll state my case of which I'm certain.

I've served my Association and lived a life that's full. I traveled each and every convention hallway and more, much more than this, I did it the GPLA way.

Regrets ... I've had a few (like hiring the wrong comedian at Christmas party) but then again ... no more to mention. I did what I had to do and saw it's through, without exemption

I planned each charted course, each careful step, along the membership meeting way and more, much more than this I did it the GPLA way.

Yes, there's times I'm sure you knew when I bit off more than I could chew. But through it all, when there was doubt, I ask my GPLA friends and we figured it all out. We all stood tall and did it the GPLA way.

I loved and laughed and tried to do my best. I had my fill my share of schmoozing ... And now that things subside I find it all so amusing.

And to think I did all that and may I say not in a shy way oh no oh no not me...I did it the GPLA way.

For what is a man? What has he got if not his friends that he has not? To say the things I truly feel and to do the best for my Association. Let the record show I took the blows and did it the GPLA way.

Yes it's true; I did it for all the members and the GPLA way.

Thank you to all of my friends and my brotherhood of members for two of the best years in my life's record. Serving as your president has been an honor and a thrill nothing like swallowing that big pill of having to step down. My life has taken a big turn and from this I hope I can only learn. Out with the old and in with the new should never make you blue. Here's looking at all of you. Happy New Year to all of my friends and colleagues and thank you again for all the support you've shown me. It will never soon be forgotten!

Sincerely, your Friend & Former President,

Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL

Minutes of 2011 G.P.L.A. November General Membership Meeting

The November 2011 GPLA General Membership Meeting was held at GPLA Headquarters on November 21, 2011 and was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Sven Hellwig.

The President then introduced the following guests: Dave Bryant, Yakov Weiss, Mitch Danzig, Maurice Onraet, Bruce Wallen and Olad Assulin.

A presentation on CompX Security Products was given by Dave Bryant.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Orvis Kline to accept the October, 2011 General Meeting Minutes as printed in the Newsletter, 2nd by Larry Schwalb and was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Correspondence In: A card from Bill and Jill Young was received thanking GPLA for the condolence card they received on the passing of Bill's Mother.

A thank you note was received from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mandlebaum on the warm welcome they received from GPLA as first timers at this year's convention.

Correspondence Out: Nothing to report.

President's Report: Sven Helwig thanked the Row Officers and Board of Directors for all the support he received during his term. Sven also reported on the new membership fact finding committee that was put in place for future new applications. Cliff Schafer will be running this committee and it will be up and running by March, 2012.

Health & Welfare: Bob Mock reported a condolence card was sent to the Pfeil family on the passing of Eleanor Pfeil.

Bob also reported Barry Wilensky will be having knee surgery on both knees.

Newsletter: Nothing to report.

Convention Committee: Sven Helwig reported the 2012 GPLA Convention will be on October 4th, 5th, and 6th at the Hilton Hotel. More info will be available in upcoming meetings.

Nominations Committee: Orvis presented the candidates for the 2012/2013 Row Offices and Board of Directors as follows, Cliff Shafer for President; Nelson Dayton for Vice President; John Williams for Corresponding Secretary, Mike Nimmo for Recording Secretary and Paul Kline for Sergeant At Arms. Orvis asked if there were any nominations from the floor who would like to run for each office. Hearing none, ballots were passed out to each member present.

After all ballots were counted, the vote was a unanimous vote for each of the running Row Officers.

Orvis presented the candidates for the 2012/2013 Board of Directors: Dana Barnum; Edward Fitzgerald; Sven Hellwig Sr.; Orvis Kline; Edward Pfeil Jr., Barry Wilensky and Steve Kaufman. Orvis asked if there were any nominations from the floor who would like to run for Board of Directors. Hearing none, ballots were passed out to each member present with instructions to vote for up to 6 candidates out of the 7 running.

After all the ballots were counted, the 2012/2013 Board of Directors will be Dana Barnum; Edward Fitzgerald; Sven Hellwig Sr.; Orvis Kline; Edward Pfeil Jr. and Barry Wilensky.

(Continued on page 6)

Scammers Beware: Your kind is not welcome here

The illegal locksmith issue (scammers) has been a heated topic of discussion at recent meetings. For the first time in many years, an applicant was denied membership at our last meeting because several members believed he was operating as an illegal locksmith. Whether that was true or not was a matter of some debate, but in defense of those that voted to deny his membership, the current process for reviewing new applicants is not robust enough to determine their legitimacy.

In the past, the president was listed as the default sponsor for guests attending our general membership meetings and for new membership applicants if they did not otherwise have a GPLA member to sponsor them. The open membership drives that were tied to our annual convention did not require any sponsor to be listed. This practice was never a problem and was useful as we tried to grow our membership. Unfortunately, times have changed and recent events have proved that we can no longer conduct business “as usual”.

At the November Board of Directors meeting, the President asked me to chair a committee and review the process for vetting new membership applicants. In addition, I would create a list of recommended changes in our procedures to insure that applicants for membership are legitimate locksmiths and are operating legally. This committee will also review our Code of Ethics and By-Laws, and make recommendations for any changes that may be needed to facilitate the new membership vetting process. Additionally, the committee will create a list of suggested procedures to insure that guests at our meetings and students who attend our classes are legitimate, legally operating locksmiths.

The President has requested this committee report its’ findings and recommendations no later than the March 2012 Board of Directors meeting. The upcoming holidays and the transition of Association leadership through the installation of the recently elected Officers and Directors would likely prevent the committee from presenting the report any sooner.

We understand that this is a “hot button” issue and has caused some polarization within the association. Please allow us the time to review the procedures and make recommendations that not only will prevent illegal locksmiths from becoming members, but insure that we don’t deny membership to locksmiths who are legitimate.

If you have any thoughts, recommendations or concerns on this matter, you can email me at: clshafer@hotmail.com, fax it to my attention at 856.829.4088 or send it by snail mail to: Clifford L. Shafer, CPS, CML, c/o CLC Locksmiths, 2103 Branch Pike, Unit 5, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-3044.

GPLA Officer & Director Installation Dinner Meeting

Monday, January 16, 2012 7:00 pm

ALOA President Tom Demont will be administering the Oath of Office to the newly elected officers. Members are requested to arrive by 7 pm for the presentation. Dinner will be served at 730 pm and is \$20 per person.

Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Pennsauken 08109

Holiday Party 2011



Above: Elaine McGee wonders what Almar the Magician is going to pour onto her hand.

Below: Vernon Kelly assists with an amazing dollar bill illusion.





Above: Fried Brothers' Sonia Starr takes center stage for the "Cutting a Woman in Half Trick"

Below: DJ Tony Egner nearly lost his head when Almar the Magician performed the Guillotine illusion.



(Continued from page 2)

Membership Committee: Bob Mock reported that Bob Schuetrumpf and Joe McQuillan requested and were approved by the Board for Life Member status.

Bob Mock presented new membership applicants to be voted on by all members present as follows: Yakov Weiss for Active Member, Bruce Wallen for Apprentice Member, Alvin Jackson for Apprentice Member and Maurice Onraet for Apprentice Member.

Ballots were passed out to each member present.

After all ballots were counted, President Sven Helwig offered congratulations to new Apprentice members Bruce Wallen, Alvin Jackson, and Maurice Onraet.

Yakov Weiss' application was not approved at this time.

Legislation: Nothing to report.

By-Laws: Chairman Orvis Kline reported that there will be some upcoming By-Law changes. More Information on the changes will be presented in upcoming meetings. Orvis requested that if any member had any suggestions for any By-Laws changes to let him know.

Programs: If anyone has a program they would like to see, contact our Program Chairman Mark Bolno.

Holiday Party: John Williams reported this year's Holiday party will be held on Friday December 9, 2011, at the Cannstatter Volksfest Club. Signup sheets will be available on the web, in the Newsletter, and at our headquarters

Web Site: Web Master Orvis Kline asked members to confirm their info on the GPLA web site for accuracy.

Good of the Association: Orvis Kline reported this year's Just Cars will be May 4th and 5th 2012 in Orlando Florida. Contact Orvis for any further information.

Sven Helwig will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program. If anyone has something to donate, please bring them to this year's Holiday party.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Nothing to report.

50/50: The 50/50 was worth \$72.00 and was won by Nelson Dayton. Various other prizes were provided by Fried Brothers, Independent Hardware, and Lab.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Miller, 2nd by Mike Nimmo and was carried unanimously at 9:04 pm.

Paul J. Kline
Recording Secretary

**** REMINDER ****

GPLA Membership dues can still be paid to Treasurer Jim Sundstrond

The following advertisers make the publication of this newsletter possible.

Please remember them the next time you need to purchase supplies.

A & B Safe Manufacturing Corporation
Phone: 800-253-1267
www.a-bsafecorp.com

Aable Locksmiths
Phone: 203-882-0600
www.aablelocksmiths.com

Buckley Sales Company
Jerry Buckley
Phone: 856-983-9165

Doorwares Associates, Inc.
Phone: 215-258-1264
www.doorwares.com

1st in Hardware
Phone: 866-397-9900
www.1stinhardware.com

Fried Brothers, Inc.
Phone: 800-523-2924
www.fbisecurity.com

IDN Hardware Sales, Inc.
Phone: 800-233-3355
www.idnhardware.com

Independent Hardware, Inc.
Phone: 800-346-9464
www.independenthardware.com

LAB Security Systems
Phone: 800-243-8242
www.labpins.com

Lockmasters, Inc.
Phone: 800-654-0637
www.lockmasters.com

**NEXT MEETING:
MONDAY, JANUARY 16 7:00 PM**

**PENNSAUKEN COUNTRY CLUB
3800 HADDONFIELD RD.
PENNSAUKEN, NJ 08109**

SCHEDULED PROGRAM:

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
BY
ALOA PRESIDENT TOM DEMONT**

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