



Founded In 1949

September 2020

THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

Official Publication of the
Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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Presidents Address – September 2020

Hello GPLA Members and extended family,

September is here already. WOW did summer go by fast! I hope that everyone had an opportunity to get some down time or a small get away. This year hasn't been very easy with this Coronavirus, hopefully we are all making the best out of it in our own way. So you may have already read that the Board of Directors and Executive Board met on September 14th and we had a very productive and successful meeting.

I bring great news from this meeting. Due to the lack of Membership Benefits in 2020, no meeting programs and unfortunately since we had to cancel Convention, I felt it prudent as your President to suggest and make a motion to suspend the Membership dues for the calendar year of 2021. Not only I but other Board Members had the same thought. My motion to do so was seconded and unanimously carried. So that's right folks, no dues notices will be sent out to any Member in good standing. All that we ask of you is to please, when it is safe to do so, come out to the upcoming meetings, stay involved and most of all let us make 2021 GPLA Convention the best attended and the greatest it's ever been, to make up for missing last year. It will be so wonderful to get together in that relaxed atmosphere, see everyone again and have fun.

Lastly, as GPLA President and a friend, my heart-felt sympathy goes out to Mark Miller and his family. Marks' battle with cancer is becoming more difficult than ever. As a GPLA Philadelphia Award recipient, Mark and the entire Lockmaster family has been part of the GPLA family for decades. May the power of prayer and good thoughts be with him and his family.

Also, very sad to inform you all under Health & Welfare that Bob Thomas is currently in Hospice care. I found it only fitting to honor him as Member of the Month. Please see that section in the Newsletter. Keep both Mark and Bob in your thoughts.

It is my wish for you all to be safe, be well and be happy!

Respectfully Submitted,
Your President
Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL

**The meeting scheduled for September 21
has been cancelled because of Covid 19
The next meeting for October 19 is still pending.**

**VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION
PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VOTE**

Dear Members,

Your GPLA Board of Directors and Officers met on September 14th. It was very nice to see each other in person, after 6-7 months. We all wore face masks as we were seated 6 feet apart. Tables and chairs were sanitized and hand sanitizer was available. We all felt safe and it was very productive.

We will leave it up to you to decide having an October membership meeting. Of course we will be following all of the safety guidelines,

SO THE QUESTION IS

Do you feel comfortable attending a membership meeting in October? Please reply "YES" followed by your name if you do.

If you would rather not, please reply "NO" followed by your name.

We will inform you via email, newsletter, and website of the results.

Thank you for taking the time and I hope to see you all soon.

Your President, **Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL**

Please follow instructions below to vote

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Click on the address above.

Then click on "compose E-mail"

Use subject: OCTOBER MEETING and reply YES or NO include your name and send it out.

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Membership Notes

Sorry to inform the membership of the passing of Life member Bill Howard #49. A virtual Facebook service was held and recorded and can be viewed anytime through Craft Givnish's page or by " Remembering William J Howard's" page on Facebook.

Larry Schwalb # 183 received a kidney transplant and is doing well. I spoke to him on 9/15 and he said that he has to take it easy, but in a few months he will be like the old Larry. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Rick Stabile # 254 is recovering from a shoulder operation. We also wish him a speedy recovery.

Bob Thomas # 239 has been admitted to hospice care early September. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Philadelphia Award Recipient Mark Miller from Lockmasters has been battling cancer and his condition is not expected to improve. It was reported that Lockmasters was sold to an Investment Group out of NY.

Bill Gibson, former ALOA Executive Director, past away last Monday waiting for heart surgery.

John Arnold, past ALOA Director died last week in a motor cycle accident.

It has also been reported that Philadelphia Award Recipient David O'Toole from Ireland is battling serious health problems.

Life member Marvin Weinstein, who passed away earlier this year left some tools and equipment that his Son Gary likes to sell. Gary number is 856-795-5077

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GPLA OUTSTANDING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SEPTEMBER 2020**September Member of the Month BOB THOMAS**

I like to think that volunteering is doing your part to make a difference in your life and the life of others for the better. Maybe leaving your little mark on something that is bigger than you. Well this member exemplifies that premise, not only for GPLA but for ALOA and I'm sure for other organizations as well. He is somewhat quiet but sure can carry a big stick.

For ALOA he served as a key person in the Keystone state chapter, he held many positions from the top down. For GPLA he was an outstanding Board of Director for many terms, and as Sargent at Arms he always performed his duty with the upmost dedication. He was always volunteering to help me and GPLA at Convention as day man for many years, greeting and registering attendants for classes and exhibit and always doing whatever was needed to help. A good man and even a better friend, if you know Bob like I know Bob I'm sure you will agree. He is very humble and never liked to take credit when credit was due. He and his wife Joanne never liked to sit at the head table in the spotlight, but we loved having them there. He was presented the Herman C. Henssler Jr. Award in 2009 for a good reason: because he always went above and beyond for his beloved association. I was very honored when he presented the Henssler Award to me in 2010 with such a very nice speech. It made me feel good, something I will never forget.

Thank you Bob Thomas, as your GPLA President and as your friend, thank you!

May God bless you and may good vibes be with you always wherever you may journey!

Robert Thomas Member #239

Respectfully Submitted,

You're President

Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL

MARTY'S MEMORIES

Sometime in the early seventies, a call came in to open a small safe at a restaurant supply store in a town nearby. Upon arrival, I saw a small cast iron Hall safe. Easy money - I drilled a small hole, lined up the gates, and BINGO! After unlocking the safe, I had the manager open the door.

While he was removing the contents, he told me that someone was coming from the bowling alley nearby to look at it and hopefully buy it. When the manager asked me what a reasonable price would be, I had to give him a high number since he had to pay me \$195.00 for the opening and repair (Remember now, this was in the 1970's).

I was just getting ready to repair the door when he told me that the bookkeeper was out, so he could not pay me right away. "OK I said, I will do the repairs in the shop and bring it back tomorrow"

One of my technicians stopped by the next day to put the door back on the safe, and again, there was no money. When my tech told the manager that it may take a day or two to get back again, he was told "no rush" because the bowling alley guy was not interested - the safe was too small for him.

When I heard that the sale was dead and my calls to get paid upon delivery had failed, I figured we would be stuck with an old safe door and no money; it ended up taking up space in our warehouse.

During a clean-up a few weeks later, I saw the safe door again and got an idea about how to get my money. I had one of the employees call the restaurant supply store saying, "Hi, I was told by someone at the bowling alley that you have a small safe for sale. Do you still have it?"

They took the bait, and within 5 minutes the phone rang and the caller ask me about the safe door. "Sorry, I have to put you on hold for a minute to see if I still have it", I responded. "You better have it, or else!" was the response. "OK", I said a few second later, "I found it, but it has a \$195.00 invoice taped on it." A short time later someone came in with \$195.00 cash and picked up the door.



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The Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

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The Connelly - Singer Scholarship of GPLA



Gerald J. Connelly, Jr.



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M. Leonard Singer

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Name: _____ GPLA Member #: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Employer: _____ Supervisor's Name: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Number: _____ Position: _____

Type of classes desired: _____

Length of time in Locksmithing: _____ Previous Recipient? No ___ Yes ___ If yes when? _____

Please write a few sentences telling us why you would like to be considered as a recipient for this Scholarship:

Please return completed application to:

Cliff Shafer, c/o CLC Locksmiths, 2103 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson, NJ, 08077-3044

OR — FAX to 856-829-4088

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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