



Founded In 1949

# THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

Official Publication of the  
Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association  
By Marty Arnold, CML

[WWW.GPLA.ORG](http://WWW.GPLA.ORG)

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XXXXXXXXXX

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Jim Handschuh, CIL

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Ron Marcinkowski Jr.

Sven Hellwig, CRL

Cliff Shafer, CPS

John Williams

**There will be NO membership meeting  
in February.**

**Our next meeting is scheduled  
for Monday March 20**

**More details in the March newsletter**

**Our new President is ready to lead and needs your support.**



## Membership Notes

The Membership will be asked to approve:

**Martin White, CPL, employed by Villanova University as an active member of GPLA. Martin applied for membership during the 2022 convention drive.**

**Anthony Wiersielis, from Staten Island, NY. He is our NE director of ALOA and is up for approval as Associate member. Tony was sponsored by Bob Mock.**

**Dan McGlynn, CML from Hopelawn NJ as active member. Dan was Sponsored by Ed Fitzgerald.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Congratulations Marie & Mike Nimmo

Cliff Shafer send me these pictures of Mike Nimmo's wedding that he and Joe Rustle attended.



#### On a more somber note:

Retired member #115 Ron Blevins was hospitalized for seven weeks last summer and was diagnosed with a rare form of Cancer for which there is presently no cure. Not being able to use his legs, Ron is bedridden at home and being cared for by his wife Tanna. He is taken by ambulance to receive his chemo treatment, that has been reduced now to once a month. Fortunately he is not suffering any pain.

In the last century, Ron was a very active member of GPLA, He served on the BoD in 1988, served as Corresponding Secretary, Vice President and President during the 1990's and also was active in the Banquet committee during all those years. Ron was presented the Herman Henssler Award in 1991. He likes to receive a phone call at 610 - 656 -1641 from members to talk about the old days.

He still has some safe tools and safe literature and also two key machines someone may be interested in. Go ahead and give him a call guys!.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have been informed Life/Retired member #62 Robert McClatchie passed away last year at the age of 92. Bob served our Association as President and was the recipient of the Herman Henssler Award in 1979. His sons Dennis and Doug are continuing the business.

Honorary member # 17 Judy Fitzgerald will undergo surgery for Cochlear implants this month. We wish you well Judy!.

## Hello GPLA members and friends,

As we roll into 2023, I want to thank Sven Hellwig for his leadership the last few years and through the pandemic. I'm pleased in your confidence to be president of GPLA and to work with our row officers, board of directors, and membership to bring value to being a member. With every new year comes new challenges to grow as technician and business owners. This is your association, and we want to make it work for the members. Let me or any of the officers know if you have some ideas on how to make GPLA work better for the members. Let's start with some basic questions.

Our general meetings have been lacking in member attendance lately and I'm hoping it's just a carry over from the pandemic. We will for the time being change our general meeting schedule to every other month, so our meetings for this year will be March 20<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>. If the need or desire arises and the members want to have additional meetings, for a special program or educational opportunity, we can discuss them at the general meetings. Please keep an eye on the newsletter or e-mails that would be announcing any changes.

Do we want general meetings with technical or product information?

Do we want meetings with business related information and speakers?

Do we want to local or state government representatives to help with regulations and codes?

We want to make our meetings informative for the members. By we, I mean myself as well as the row officers and board directors. The goal of GPLA has always been education and there's no reason it can't be more than just technically related. The CPR class held a couple years ago was well attended as an example. A lot of our members are also small business owners, which has become more of a challenge with every passing year. It's important that we grow our knowledge beyond just being locksmiths. Let me know what you're interested in hearing and learning about, or if you know someone that could bring valuable information to our members. Let's make our GPLA general meetings more informative and I look forward to seeing you in March. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Ed Fitzgerald, CML  
President

### 2023-2024 GPLA Committees

Building Committee	Ron Marcinkowski and Marty Arnold
Bylaws Committee	Vernon Kelley
Convention Committee	Sven Hellwig, Sr
Education Committee	Cliff Shafer
Electronic Communications Committee	Paul Kline
Health & Welfare Committee	Bob Mock
Legislation – NJ	Ed Fitzgerald
Legislation – PA	?
Newsletter	Marty Arnold
Programs	Paul Kline
Website Committee	Marty Arnold & Cliff Shafer

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## Minutes of the January 2023 GPLA Installation Dinner

The January GPLA Installation Dinner was held at the Pennsauken Country Club on January 16, 2023. Sign-in started at 7:00. Dinner started at 7:30 with a Caesar salad, a main course which included delicious chicken Parmesan, spaghetti and a dinner roll, ending with a serving of apple pie

President Sven Hellwig called the installation meeting to order at 8:42 pm.

Sergeant at Arms Barry Wilensky lead us off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Sven Hellwig thanked both his Row Officers and Board of Directors for all their help over the last three years.

Sven Hellwig then introduced Tony Wiersielis as ALOA N.E. Director and Administrator to give the Oath of Office to the new GPLA Row Officers and Board of Directors. The following were sworn in:

Row Officers:

President: Ed Fitzgerald

Vice President: Nelson Dayton

Corresponding Secretary: Dana Barnum

Recording Secretary: Maurice Onraet

Sergeant at Arms: Barry Wilensky

Treasurer: Marty Arnold

Board of Directors:

Board of Director: Sven Hellwig

Board of Director: Clifford Shafer

Board of Director: John Williams

Board of Director: Jim Handschuh

Board of Director: Paul Kline

Board of Director: Ron Marcinkowski

Alternate Directors: Mike Nimmo

Alternate Director: Scot Roop

President Sven Hellwig presented Ed Fitzgerald as the new GPLA President.

Ed Fitzgerald thanked everyone for coming out and joining us for the installation of new Row Officers and Board members. Ed then congratulated the newly married couple "Marie and Mike Nimmo"

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Marty Arnold made a motion to update the previous minutes published in the November Newsletter with a second by Cliff Shafer, to add Mike Nimmo and Scott Roop as alternate members to the list of 6 elected members of the Board of Directors.

**Continued next page**

**Minutes of the January 2023 GPLA Installation Dinner**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Marty Arnold presented a comprehensive financial report to the Board of Directors which reviewed the Operating Accounts and the Convention Accounts at the last Board meeting. The Treasurers Report was passed unanimously by the Board. Ed Fitzgerald reminded all in attendance that any Member in good-standing may request a copy of the financial statement.

**Correspondence In and Out:** Nothing to report.

**President's Report:** Ed Fitzgerald thanked the membership for coming out, thanked Marty Arnold for arranging the dinner at the Country Club, thanked Tony Wiersielis for giving the Oath of Office. Ed then gave a special thanks to Sven Hellwig for his last three years as President and his dedication to GPLA. Ed then asked folks to step up and help out GPLA moving forward with the upcoming 75 anniversary Convention. Ed then added that the next GPLA meeting will be March 20 but make sure you check the Newsletter to confirm the date.

**Health and Welfare:** Ed Fitzgerald stated that Ron Blevin is fighting cancer and will be providing a list of Locksmith related items for sale.

**N.J. Legislation:** Ed Fitzgerald stated that there is nothing new to report.

**Convention:** Sven Hellwig stated he wants to make a special 75 anniversary convention but with inflation the costs are getting a bit prohibited. Sven wants to discuss the convention at the next Board meeting

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Good of the Association:** Bob Mock mentioned that Jack Magee was nominated to be President of the SJLA. Kevin Donaghy discussed categorizing the older GPLA pictures and identifying the people in the pictures.

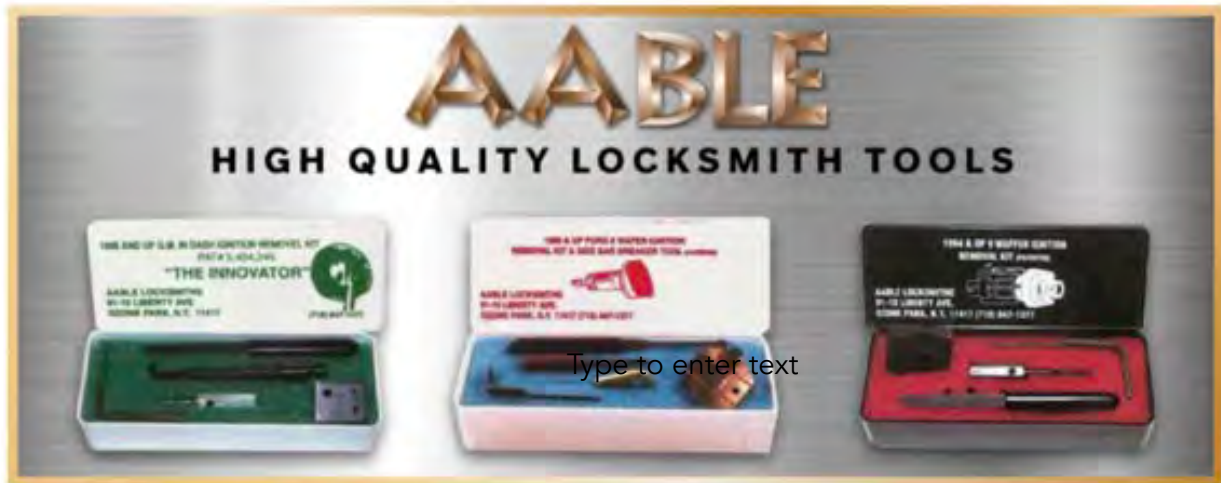
The 50/50 prize of \$110 was won.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sven Hellwig and was seconded by Marty Arnold at 9:00 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Maurice Onraet, Recording Secretary



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## The Installation of Officers on January 16, 2023

Tony Wiersielis the N.E. ALOA Director performed the installation ceremony at the dinner meeting attended by 55 members and guests



From L: Tony Wiersielis, ALOA Director: Ron Marcinkowski, Director: Edw. Fitzgerald, President: Nelson Dayton, Vice President: Dana Barnum, Corresponding Secretary: Maurice Onraet, Recording Secretary: Barry Wilensky, Sargent at Arms: Sven Hellwig, Director: Paul Kline, Director: Cliff Shafer, Director: Marty Arnold, Treasurer: Jim Handschuh, Director: John Williams, Director:



Pictures provided by Judy Fitzgerald



# A PIECE OF HISTORY

## The Mosler Story Page 2

During World War II, Mosler once again cooperated with U.S. defense efforts to build Sherman tank turrets and warship steel assemblies.

The beginning of the Nuclear Era created new and technologically challenging security demands. During this time, Mosler introduced special purpose doors designed to protect top-secret nuclear facilities against atomic bomb blasts or tornadoes.

Following the Second World War, an order from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) led Mosler to the construction of an enormous vault door, the world's largest at the time. Built to hold back incredible dam water pressures, the door was several stories high, five feet thick, and weighed 125 tons.

Despite its size, one person could swing open the door with one hand. The unprecedented demand for new kinds of security during this period also allowed Mosler to enter into the government security container business with the manufacture of products to protect the nation's classified documents. At one time, Mosler led the government security container business.

In the 1950's the U.S. government turned to Mosler with a new challenge to design and build a custom safe to protect the nation's most valuable documents. The unique safe was to provide an attractive, accessible display offering the public a clear view of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights while safeguarding these priceless documents from fire, flood, attack, theft and vandalism.

Today this Mosler display is viewed annually by hundreds of thousands of liberty lovers at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. At the end of each day, or in case of an emergency, a touch of a button initiates a "jack-in-the-box" action that retracts the precious documents safely into a 50-ton vault.

The proliferation of America's banking networks of the 1960's and 1970's prompted Mosler engineers to provide increasingly sophisticated alarm reporting, access control and monitoring systems that catapulted the company to a leadership position in electronic security.

It was Mosler security equipment that discovered listening devices concealed in the Great Seal of the U.S. at the American Embassy in Moscow during the Eisenhower administration.

As electronic security products further evolved with the advent of the computer, Mosler innovated alarm reporting and monitoring with Mosler COMSEC", the industry's most advanced integrated security system. Mosler became responsible for helping major commercial and financial businesses maintain their corporate security networks with this remarkable technology.

And while the Mosler vault doors are contemporary using advanced, lighter materials, they still offer the protection of the mammoth doors made many decades ago. As Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber of the Great Depression, once remarked as he attempted to break into a Mosler safe, "Mosler, you build one hell of a safe." His comment, no doubt, would be the same today.

The King is dead. No modern or future safe manufacturer will come close to meeting the accomplishments fulfilled by The Mosler Safe Company. Their rein of nearly one hundred thirty-five years will never be repeated!

**You could ask ten people the reason for Mosler's demise. You probably would get ten different answers. Regardless, one of the worlds greatest safe manufacturers is now only a part of history.**

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