



Founded In 1949

# THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

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

**WWW.GPLA.ORG**

## Editor

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Mike Nimmo

Scott Roop

7.00 Food & refreshments

Meeting 7.30

**Our next meeting is scheduled  
for Monday May 15**

**There will be no April meeting**

## Membership Notes

**We will vote on the following applicants at the May meeting.**

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 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

Johnny DePew, as Apprentice member. Johnny is a self employed part time Mobile locksmith from Lower Masefield, PA Sponsored by Paul Kline

**Joe Gallagher, (Member 117) had a right reverse shoulder replacement performed recently, and will be home bound until he can drive again.**

**My wife Nelly is getting a lot better, thank you aLL for the get well wishes we received from our members and for box of goodies we received from GPLA via our Health and Welfare Chairman.**

**Judy Fitzgerald' cochlear implants seem to be working well, as she is hearing things she never heard before. So you better watch out Ed.**

## President's Message

**Hello GPLA members and friends,**

Spring has arrived and the weather is getting better. The Phillies have started the regular season, and summer vacation plans are being made. I hope you get a chance to take some time off and enjoy a little rest and relaxation. Remember, everyone needs a break once in a while.

Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum at the March membership meeting. There were 3 applications for membership scheduled to be voted on that had to be postponed until the May meeting. Please plan to attend the May meeting so we can act on these applications. With no quorum there were no official minutes for the meeting, but I have some information I wanted to share with the membership. The Board of Directors has had discussions about the future of GPLA, which I presented at the March meeting. I was asked to make that statement a part of the April president's message and here it is.

### **"The Future of GPLA"**

GPLA was founded and has progressed over the years on the platform of providing educational opportunities to the membership and others in the industry. With the same educational opportunities now being available directly from manufacturers, distributors, and through virtual learning, the future of GPLA and other associations being a choice for education by the younger generation is rapidly fading. We've seen it in the decline of attendance at the convention classes, except when NJ CEU requirements are necessary every 3 years. The same can be said about classes at the headquarters outside of the convention or CEU requirements.

The board of directors has been in discussion since last spring about the future of the association. We currently have numerous members of GPLA that have served as officers and on numerous committees, specifically the convention committee, for many years. A significant number of them, me included, are looking forward to retirement in the very near future. Personally, I will be relocating out of the area for most of the year. Others I've spoken with will be relocating out of the area permanently.

Where does this leave GPLA? Who will run it in the future? What about the convention? If you look at the membership of GPLA as well as many other associations, the average age is over 50. This is a trend not only in locksmithing but in other civic groups and associations as well. Chambers of Commerce, social clubs, scout groups, and churches, are all hurting to different degrees to maintain the staff of volunteers necessary to keep them going. (A local Stamp Club that rents space from our church has an average age of over 70)

GPLA and other associations are no different and have unfortunately not been able to attract the younger generation to join. Numerous associations have struggled to survive, and others have either gone belly up or just faded away. You see numerous local and regional association websites that are left unattended, meetings that no longer take place, and some with little or few members or direction. The attendance at our own general meetings has been dwindling and, in some cases, we do not have a quorum to conduct official business, like tonight. This required the bylaws to be changed a few years ago to allow for a reduced number of members in attendance to hold an official meeting when necessary.

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

Many times, the bulk of the meeting attendance is represented by the row officers and board members. Very few members show up. Has membership been reduced at this point to being nothing more than a logo to include with your advertising?

The board of directors has been holding discussions about the probability of closing down GPLA after the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in 2024. Rather than see this association fade away or completely collapse, like many others, the board has discussed bringing it to an end on a high note and with dignity. The 2024 convention would be the last and the association would be working towards shutting down shortly thereafter. There are numerous legalities involved with such a move for a 501c, tax exempt organization, and the membership would ultimately have the final say.

Board Chairman Cliff Shafer and treasurer Marty Arnold have met with a lawyer to go over some preliminary information, necessary to comply with state and federal laws to consider when closing a non-profit corporation. The intention is for that information to be presented to the membership so informed and responsible decisions can be made about the future or demise of GPLA. We have some tough questions moving forward and hopefully GPLA can maintain the status as a class organization whatever the future holds.

I know this announcement may come as a surprise or shock to many, not only in this room but those throughout the industry, and there are a lot of questions to be answered than we have time for tonight. I, and the members of the board of directors that are here tonight, will try our best to answer any questions you may have, with what we do know to this point. If you have any comments or questions tonight, let's keep them brief and to the point for now, until we have more concrete information.

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**The above statement was presented to inform the membership of the current state and possible future of GPLA, with the support and encouragement of the Board of Directors. The Convention committee and the board will continue working towards planning the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, and information will be announced as it becomes available. We're looking forward to a memorable event and hope the membership and members of the locksmith industry will be a part of it as well. Thank you and hope to see you at the May general meeting.**

Respectfully,

**Ed Fitzgerald  
President**

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We did not have a quorum at the March membership meeting. It seems more and more the interest to attend meetings or getting involved with committees in our association is fading.

Just like the Presidents said, the main purpose of our association was EDUCATION and also FELLOWSHIP. After our 75th Convention we may be coming to a point to ask our self if GPLA is still serving a useful purpose, as Education is available through manufacturers, suppliers and You-Tube on any subject regarding security, and the Fellowship like in the old days is gone.

Jim Handschuh Jr did a great job that night explaining the S5000 Retractable bar and the SDC Automatic operator. Very interesting presentation, Thank Jim.

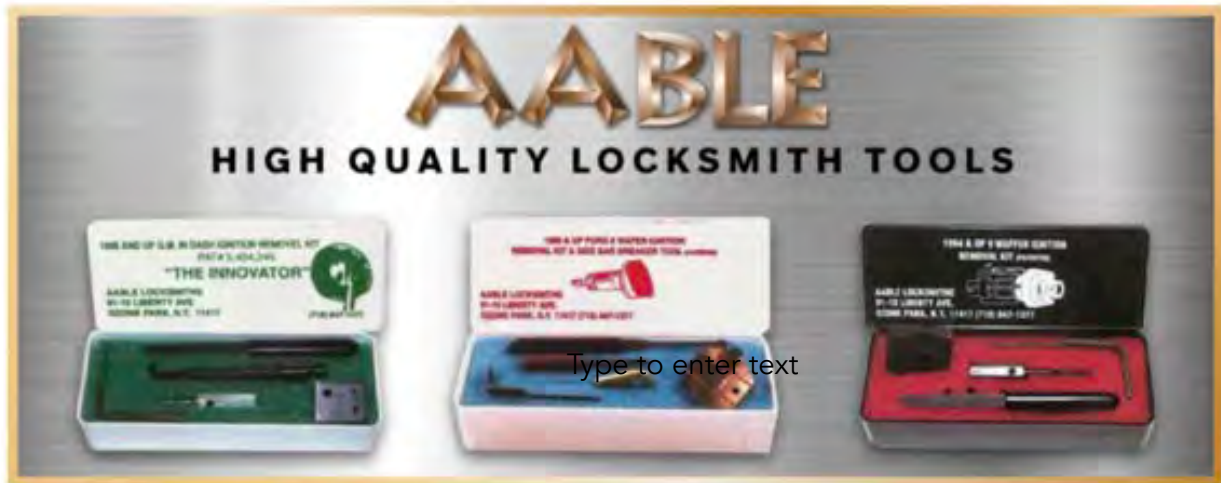


**Thank you “Bill Neff” for printing the ID Cards and Membership Rosters**

**For changes to the database reply to Marty <[martysr1@mac.com](mailto:martysr1@mac.com)>**



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## A Timeline for the History of Locksmithing

In 1889, W. H. Taylor patented the Master Ring cylinder commonly credited to Edward O'Keefe in 1898.

In 1891, the paracentric keyway designed by Warren Taylor was incorporated into the Yale & Towne products for their pin tumbler locks

In 1897 Edward O'Keefe patented the Bicentric cylinder, commonly associated with the Yale brand, which was the first dual shearline cylinder. He produced it beginning in 1898.

In 1899, Byron Phelps received a patent for the unit lock, which simplified installation and provided a heavier duty lockset.

In 1903, the deaths of 596 people in the Iroquois Theater Fire prompted the invention of exit devices. Although the most popular and well known of these was the Von Duprin model A designed by Vonnegut, Dupont and Prinzler, there were actually many developed between 1904 and 1911. Russwin was the first to use a dogging mechanism in 1914.

In 1904, Yale first used the word "cylinder" in regard to a lock.

In 1902, the American Hardware Corporation was formed with the merger of P & F Corbin and Russell & Erwin. Corbin-Russwin is credited with developing what is now known as the multiplex key system.

In 1909, Henry Gussman filed the first patent for a key duplicating machine, which interestingly, used a six inch cutting wheel. There is some speculation he may not have been the first to invent such a machine, however, only to patent it.

In 1912 John Junkunc invented the first combination padlock.

In 1916, Samuel Segal, a NYC policeman, observed that nearly all burglaries occurred on the side of the door away from the hinge, and commented that what would make burglaries less common would be to put hinges on both sides of the door. From this joking comment he developed the invention of a "lockable hinge" – and invented the first jimmy proof lock. He also has over 25 patents, proving he didn't stop when he built the first one in 1916.

In 1917, ILCO became the first independent producer of key blanks, and sold them directly to locksmiths all across the country.

In 1921, Walter Schlage advanced the concept of a cylindrical pin-tumbler lock by placing a push-button locking mechanism between two knobs.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

I was working on an old golf courses maintenance shed, when the client showed me this lock on the office door. It looks like it worked back in the day and not something made up. Thought I would share with our group.

**John Paul Williams, CRL**



### **A little Humor**

Being in a Walmart I had to use the restroom, and just after I closed my stall door, a voice from the next stall said, "Hi, How are you?? Embarrassed..... I said, "I'm alright!!"

Then the voice said, "So what are you up to?" I said, "well, just trying to handle some private business over here!" Then I hear him say, "Can I come over?" Annoyed..I said "Excuse me?!"

Loudly I hear the voice say, Sorry Joe, I will have to call you back, there's an idiot in the next stall answering all my questions!"



# A Timeline for the History of Locksmithing

## Continued from page 7

In 1922, **Leonard Singer** began the first program to educate Locksmiths. Prior to that all knowledge was handed down from Master to Apprentice, (usually Father to Son) and most locksmiths worked behind black folding "dressing screens". Knowledge was limited to what the trainer had experienced. Singer wrote booklets, later formed the Locksmithing Institute correspondence Course, helped found the Locksmith Ledger magazine and was instrumental in the formation of ALOA. **In essence he is the father of locksmithing education.**

In 1923, Best patented the first interchangeable core lock (based upon his earlier patent from 1921) with additional modified patents the following two years as he refined it.

In 1924, Harry Soref invented the laminated padlock, which was produced by the Master Lock company he had founded in 1921 to make padlocks.

In 1924, Walter Schlage is regarded as the inventor of the cylindrical key-in-knob style lockset. The first pin tumbler version was offered in 1928. His list of patents related to this sort of product is almost unbelievably long.

In 1924, E.D. Reed published the first Reed Code Book, which was largely based upon using his mathematical prowess to break the code series, because manufacturers did not share that information.

In 1927, ILCO developed the ILCO Universal Disc Code Cutting Key machine. It used discs with holes into which a pin dropped to control depth and a lever action to feed the key into the cutting wheel.

In 1927, E.D. Reed's original code book became a series of code books, being updated by himself as well as Harold (Morris) Hoffman, Elias and Bill Kenton (KC), Morris Falk and several others, and continued to expand well into modern generations. E.D. Reed continued to also write, compile and publish many other booklets for Locksmiths, continuing into the 1940's

In 1929, Stan McLean begins publishing The National Locksmith magazine and founds the National Locksmith Association.

In 1929, E.D. Reed and S.A. Mclean co-authored the Manual of Safes, with a large portion representing the work of Bill Kenton.

In 1933, the Chicago Lock Co. introduce the Ace Lock, developed by WC Shinn, to the delight of insurance underwriters and vending machine owners.

In 1934, Briggs & Stratton developed the sidebar lock and General Motors introduced it on automotive locks beginning in 1935.

In 1938, McKinney introduced a bored-in lockset with an adjustable backset.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

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## Upcoming Conventions in 2023

The SAVTA show is scheduled for April 17 to 22, 2023 in Reno, NV

Welcome to ELF 2023 in Helsinki Finland on June 8th-10th!

ALOA will be August 6 to 12 2023 In Orlando, FL

The International Automotive Association convention will be September 14 to 16 in Kansas City, MO

2023 Yankee show is on October 25 to October 29 in Springfield, MA

Friend from over the pond asked me to publish this info on the MLA Expo



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