



Founded In 1949

THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

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

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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Marty Arnold, CML
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Sven Hellwig, CRL
John Williams

Alternate members

Mike Nimmo
Scott Roop

**Our next meeting will be on
Monday January 15, 2024**

Your Editor wishes all of you



And a Happy and Healthy 2024

Presidents Message

Hello GPLA members and friends,

It's been an eventful year for GPLA, and I think there were many questions raised and many more answered as to the future of our association. We started off not sure what was in store after the 75th Anniversary Convention in 2024 and hopefully with the reinvigorated membership, GPLA will continue to thrive for years to come. There are numerous members to thank for their contributions and willingness to step forward and make this happen, and I would like to single out Sven Helwig in particular as the leader of the movement. Thank you, Sven.

The convention committee has begun working on the 75th Anniversary convention and the pace will only pick up as we get into the new year. Please consider stepping up to help on the various committees that make an event like this to be successful. I can tell you firsthand that it can be very rewarding to be part of something that will be very special and memorable.

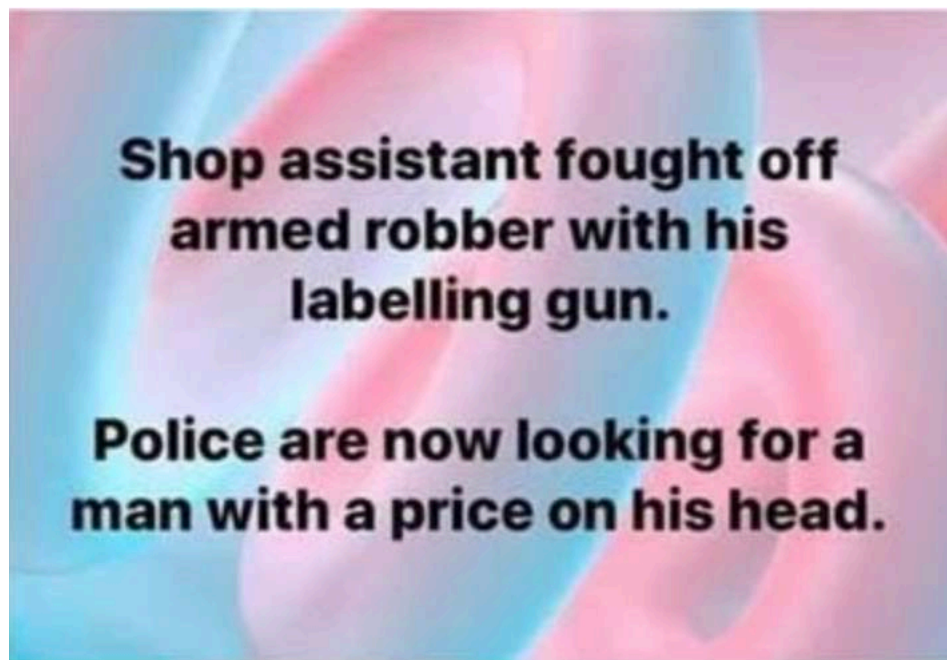
As we close out the year 2023, we remember those that have left us and left their mark and legacy with GPLA. Let us not forget them and those that have come before us and committed to making our association so well-known and respected and build on their memory as we move forward into 2024.

I hope you have the opportunity and are able to take the time to enjoy this holiday season with family and friends. On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors, I would like to offer you our sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and all the best for a healthy and prosperous New Year. Take care.

Respectfully,

Ed Fitzgerald, CML
President

SOME HUMOR



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The membership send its sincere condolences to our Alternate Board Member Scott Roop for the loss of his Daughter Lauren. May she rest in peace.

On behalf of our whole family my wife Sue and I like to express our sincere appreciation for all the out-pouring of well wishes, prayers and condolences received on the loss of our Daughter Lauren.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The bylaw committee has proposed the following bylaw changes, to allow building fund disbursement decisions be made by the he Board of Directors.

Elimination of section 2 A, B and part of C of our bylaws.

2. The monies contained in the building fund are to be under the safe keeping of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and deposited in an account in the ASSOCIATION'S name separate from all other funds of the ASSOCIATION. Funds may be transferred from the operating fund to the building fund of the ASSOCIATION by a majority vote of eligible members present at any regular membership meeting. Monies may be dispersed from the building fund for any suitable purpose by the following procedure:

- (a) Notice of the proposed disbursement, setting forth the purpose thereof, shall be sent to each voting member at least ten (10) days before any meeting.*
- (b) A written authorization stating the purpose of the disbursement must be signed by two- thirds (2/3) or more of the voting membership in attendance at the meeting designated in (a) above.*
- (c) A Quorum must be present at the designated meeting and written proxies from absent members will be included in the tabulation.*

NEW SECTION B:

1. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall have supervision of the operating fund, the building fund and other property of the ASSOCIATION. The BOARD shall have full power to authorize the performance of acts to carry out the objectives and purposes of the ASSOCIATION.

2. Disbursements from the building fund shall be signed by any two (2) of the following: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER or CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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Minutes of the November 2023 GPLA General Membership Meeting

The GPLA General Membership Meeting was held at the GPLA Headquarters on November 20, 2023 and was called to order at 7:37 PM by President Ed Fitzgerald.

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

President Ed Fitzgerald welcomed our guest Tom O'Hogan who is up for membership.

Program: Jim Handschuh Jr. gave another interesting and informative presentation on "Mega Handles" a new line of high quality doorware products. Jim added that Mega Handles was started by Hershy Sofer in NYC, who was looking for high quality door hardware products at a reasonable price.

Ed Fitzgerald thanked Sven Helwig for treating us to an excellent Thanksgiving dinner. Sven received a large round of applause and many accolades for such a wonderful and delicious meal.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Marty Arnold approved the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter with a second from Jim Handschuh and was approved unanimously by the Membership.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marty Arnold stated that he presented a comprehensive financial report to the Board of Directors which reviewed the Operating Account from August 26 through October 31, 2023 and discussed the Convention Financial Report from August 26 through October 31, 2023. The Treasurers Reports were passed unanimously by the Board. Marty reminded all in attendance that any Member in good-standing may request a copy of the financial statement. Marty Arnold then added that GPLA made \$1252.00 on the recent Safe Class.

Correspondence In and Out: Dana Barnum stated that he had Correspondence In asking about the Convention. Marty Arnold added that he sent out dues notices.

President's Report: President Ed Fitzgerald again thanked Sven Hellwig for such a wonderful meal. Ed Fitzgerald announced that he attended the Master Lock Association of Great Britain. Ed then stated that he went to their Gala and was invited to sit at the main table. Ed added that he invited members of the MLA to attend our 75th anniversary convention. Ed mentioned that it is interesting driving on the wrong side of the road. Ed then added that our next GPLA meeting will be on Monday January 15th and asked members to watch out for the next eBlast where the next meeting will be.

Membership: Nelson Dayton reported to that he received two applicants, Steve Garay and Thomas O'Hagan for Shop Membership, both employees of TCNJ reporting to Chris Martin member number 307.

Education: Cliff Shafer stated that Basic Mechanical Safe Lock Servicing class sold out. Cliff added that Randy Carpenter is interested in stepping up to the position of Education Chair.

Health and Welfare: President Ed Fitzgerald sadly stated that Honorary Member and Henssler Award Winner Dee Mock passed away after a long battle with cancer. Ed added that Dee's funeral was well represented by GPLA members. Ed then added that Jack Magee had a minor stroke and tests showed he had a few minor strokes before. Marty Arnold happily mentioned that Nelly is doing better, adding that she is getting out with a little assistance. Marty then added that she is undergoing therapy and should be walking on her own in a few weeks. Dana Barnum stated that his wife Diana just started chemotherapy once a week and radiation treatment daily. Ed added that everyone will be keeping Diana in their thoughts. Ed asked Larry Schwalb how he has been doing since he had a kidney transplant. Larry stated that he is doing OK and is glad to be back to a GPLA meeting.

Ed then added that Jack Magee had a minor stroke and tests showed he had a few minor strokes before. Marty Arnold happily mentioned that Nelly is doing better, adding that she is getting out with a little assistance. Marty then added that she is undergoing therapy and should be walking on her own in a few weeks. Dana Barnum stated that his wife Diana just started chemotherapy once a week and radiation treatment daily. Ed added that everyone will be keeping Diana in their thoughts. Ed asked Larry Schwalb how he has been doing since he had a kidney transplant. Larry stated that he is doing OK and is glad to be back to a GPLA meeting.

Building: Marty Arnold and Ron Marcinkowski both stated that there is nothing to report

Communications: Paul Kline stated that Constant Contact is working fine.

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Newsletter: Ed Fitzgerald mentioned that Marty Arnold is looking for someone to take over the Newsletter. Marty added that everyone, as far as he knows received the Newsletter, except for Ron Marcinkowski new Shop Members, he added their emails to his data base and sent them a copy of the Newsletter.

Meeting Program: Paul Kline stated that he had a person who wants to give a presentation on RFIDs lined up for the next meeting.

Convention: Sven Hellwig stated that only 10 months until the 75th anniversary Convention. Sven added that the Convention committee had their first meeting and the theme will be the 75th anniversary and Friday night will be casino night. Sven stated that he talked to Locksmiths and vendors at Yankee and most were interested in coming to our Convention. Cliff Shafer added that Tony Buenaflor GPLA member #69 is the Convention Honorary Chair. Sven then added that GPLA is planning to have more classes than previous years. John Williams added that he already has a lot of the classes confirmed. Cliff mentioned that he is looking for an artistic assistant to help with publications. Cliff then stated that GPLA will be awarding up to 15 scholarships and the application is on the website. Sven added that Paul Kline is planning an escape room at the Convention. Sven then added that Dave from Fried Brothers became a sponsor for the GPLA Convention.

P.A. Legislation: Nothing new to report.

N.J. Legislation: Ed Fitzgerald stated that in New Jersey there were three Locksmiths applications approved by the Advisory Committee, there were three Locksmiths applications approved for reinstatement and several Locksmiths were penalized \$5,000.00 for operating without a license.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Jim Sandstrond ask where the next General GPLA meeting will be located, Ed Fitzgerald stated that he is not 100% sure at this time and to watch the Newsletter and for a Constant Contact message. Sven Hellwig thanked everyone for stepping up to help keep GPLA going into the future.

Good of the Association: Ed Fitzgerald reported that he presented the Lee Rognon Award to Dion McCallister at the Master Lock Association of Great Britain Convention. Paul Kline shared an interesting story about a job rekeying a 1981 Cadillac. The owner of the car was a collector and showed Paul all of the keys and key machines that he got at a local auction. Paul stated he was shocked when the customer showed him a plaque and asked what GPLA is. Paul say the plaque read Presented to Robert A. Nelson by the Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association January 15, 1958.

Sven Hellwig asked if anyone has one old GPLA pictures. Cliff Shafer asked if anyone wants the heavy safe in front of the room. Barry Wilensky thanked Sven Hellwig, Cliff Shafer, Paul Kline, Johnny DePew and Maurice Onraet for helping him clean out the Boardroom and the back closet. Barry added that wrapping up 75 years of history was no easy task.

Dana Barnum mentioned that his company was asked to open a safe. Dana added the safe was manufactured in Philadelphia in 1866. Marty Arnold thanked Lab for donating pinning kits to GPLA. Honorary member Carol Williams won this years drawing for the Lab Pin Kit.

Barry Wilensky announced that tonight we will be giving away \$60 and a few other nice prizes.

Sven Hellwig announced that Alvin Jackson is our most dedicated member because he drives two hours each way to come to the GPLA meetings. Alvin received a round of applause.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 was made by Dana Barnum and was seconded by Sven Hellwig.

Respectfully submitted,
Maurice Onraet, Recording Secretary

**Our Thanksgiving dinner meeting was a success , Sven and his committee did a great job
As show below it was well received by our members who attended.**



Some members went for seconds or more! That is how good it was!



Jim Handschuh Jr presented an interesting program, he is listening to a question raised by Sven.



Honorary member Carol Williams was the lucky winner of the LAB pin kit after the second drawing as Member # 188 Chuck Dixon was not present to accept when his number was drawn first.

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**The lucky winners from top L to R: Bill Neff, Jimmy Armenakis, Nelson Dayton,
Ron Marcinkowski, Arnie Rabinowitz, Alvin Jackson, Chris Martin and Carrol Williams.
THANKS AGAIN LAB**



Gerald J. Connelly, Jr.



Founded In 1949



M. Leonard Singer

GPLA MEMBER APPLICATION FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Name: _____ GPLA Member #: _____

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

DOB: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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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