



Founded In 1949

# THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

Official Publication of the  
Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

By: Jim Handschuh, Jr

**WWW.GPLA.ORG**

### Editor

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#### MEMBERS

Jim Handschuh, CIL

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Ron Marcinkowski Jr.

Sven Hellwig, CRL

John Williams

#### Alternate members

Mike Nimmo

Scott Roop

## Our next meeting will be on January 20th, 2025

Location:

**Pennsauken Country Club**

**3800 Haddonfield Road,**

**Pennsauken, NJ 08109**

**Cash Bar 6:45, Buffet Dinner at 7:30**

**\$25.00 Per person + 1 Guest at NO CHARGE**

## PROGRAM

### Officer Installation Meeting

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Hello GPLA members and friends,

The holidays are behind us, and I hope everyone had the opportunity for some time away from work and get together with family and friends. As we turn the page on 2024, we can remember it as a very memorable year for GPLA. We celebrated the 75 th anniversary of our association and the service to locksmiths. Between the educational opportunities and social events, the convention committee put together a celebration that something those in attendance will remember for years to come. Thank you for your outstanding job.

The past 2 years seem to have flown by and there have been a few hurdles to overcome, including declining member involvement, closing the headquarters, and the discussions of closing the association after the 75 th anniversary. As these events unfolded, some old and new members have accepted the challenge to step up into leadership roles later this month. We wish them the best as they look forward to tackling the challenges ahead and keeping GPLA moving forward. It's good to see so many members step up for the first time, and some to become active in a long time, to help guide GPLA into the future. Congratulations and thank you to Sven Hellwig, our nominations chairman, for a job well done and being the driving force behind this movement to rejuvenate the association.

As my term as president of GPLA ends, I can say it has been an honor and a privilege to represent this association. GPLA membership and serving as president has provided me the opportunity to meet some of the best minds and people in locksmithing, whom I've learned a lot from. Representing GPLA at different association events, both here and abroad, can open many doors. There is so much to be gained through membership and even more when you get more involved. The wealth of knowledge acquired through membership in GPLA has helped me grow as person, a businessman, and to prepare for the future. I hope you're preparing for your future as well.

Take advantage of all that your membership in GPLA has to offer, while keeping in mind that you only get something out of it based on what you put into it. Don't be reluctant to attend more meetings and join in the different discussions taking place. The programs being presented may not always be something you are involved with, but the information available can be helpful and perhaps spark an interest to try something new.

Our next general meeting will be the installation of the newly elected officers and directors on January 20, 2025. This meeting will be held at the Pennsauken Country Club with the details in this newsletter. Please make it a point to come out and join us in support of the new officers and directors getting set to lead GPLA.

Thank you to all the members that have helped make my time as president an experience I'll remember and look back on fondly. Your friendship and guidance is greatly appreciated. Happy New Year and I hope 2025 will be a successful year for everyone. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Ed Fitzgerald, CML  
President

## SOME HUMOR

Two fish in a tank, one says to the other; "You man the guns, I'll drive!"



**GREATER PHILADELPHIA  
LOCKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION**

# **Minutes of the November 2024 GPLA General Membership Meeting**

Not Received.

# **Passing the Torch: A New Year and New Leadership for GPLA**

As the calendar turns and we welcome the fresh opportunities of a new year, it's a fitting time to reflect on where we've been, celebrate where we are, and look forward with excitement to where we're going. For the Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association, this transition is especially meaningful as we prepare for the installation of our new officers on January 20th. This moment marks a continuation of our proud legacy and a celebration of the dedication and service that define our organization.

The change in leadership is much more than the passing of titles; it's a moment to honor the contributions of those who have served tirelessly on our Board of Directors and as row officers. To our outgoing officers: your hard work, resilience, and unwavering commitment have been the backbone of GPLA. You have guided us through challenges and triumphs, always with the goal of strengthening our community and advancing our craft. Your legacy is imprinted on the foundation of this organization, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your service.

To the incoming officers: you carry forward a torch lit by generations of leaders before you, a flame fueled by passion for our industry and devotion to the values we hold dear. We look to you with confidence, knowing that your vision and energy will propel GPLA into its next chapter. The road ahead will surely have its share of challenges, but it will also be rich with opportunities—opportunities to innovate, collaborate, and continue building the vibrant and supportive community that defines us.

The installation ceremony is not just an acknowledgment of new leadership but a reminder of what makes GPLA special: a shared commitment to excellence, camaraderie, and the collective advancement of our trade. It's a moment to recommit ourselves to the mission that unites us and to celebrate the bonds that make us stronger together.

As we step into 2025, let's carry forward the lessons of the past, embrace the promise of the future, and work together to make this year one of growth, progress, and shared success. Here's to a wonderful new year for GPLA and to the leaders, both past and present, who make it all possible.

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## **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

We proudly present the following 3 member applicants. Stephen Miller, Sponsored by Dana Barnum, Eliot Kolner Open Enrollment, and Paul Bilker.

## **The following members were voted on for Positions in Office**

Row officers:

President:

Paul Kline

Vice president:

Mike Nimmo

Sergeant at Arms:

Jim Handschuh, Jr.

Recording secretary:

Kevin Donaghy

Corresponding Secretary:

Jim Handschuh, Sr

Appointed treasurer:

Marty Arnold

Board of Directors:

Tony Buenaflor

Sven Hellwig, Sr.

Ken Kramer

Steve Kaufman

Barry Wilenski

John Williams

Alternates:

Maurice Onraet

Randy Carpenter



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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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do not write below this line*





*I'll drink to that !*

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Place copy in PDF format below and E-mail to Editor Jim Handschuh, Jr.

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