



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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Maurice Onraet

Anthony Buenaflor

Barry Wilensky, CRL

John Williams, CRL

Ken Kramer

Steven Kaufman

## Our next meeting will be on March 17th, 2025

**Location:**

**Tiffany On The BLVD**

**9010 Roosevelt Blvd**

**Philadelphia, PA 19115**

**Dinner 6:45, Meeting at 7:30**

**\*Dinner will be served at 7:00 @ \$5.00 Per person or**

**just show up at 7:30 to attend the meeting at no charge.**

## PROGRAM

**Logan Humphry presents**

**Architectural Builders Hardware**

**Products**

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**Hello GPLA Members and Friends**

**I would like to start off by thanking all the previous members for all the hard work and dedication you have done over the many years serving on the Board. For those who don't know, Cliff and Ed will be seeking a more laid-back roll or as some call it retirement. Whatever your next endeavor is GPLA will always be thankful for everything you both have done. Next, I would like to thank all the new members who have stepped up to accept the role of Row Officers and Board members. I feel with this new interest in the association GPLA will be around for many years to come. If anyone has any suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, The Board has been kicking around so good ideas and any input would be appreciated.**

**Paul Kline**

**GPLA President**

## **BOARD CHAIRMAN'S HIGHLIGHTS**

I have created this section to keep our members well informed. Your Board of Directors and Row Officers have been working hard to bring more benefits to our members. Several new things have been discussed and some already being implemented. Here are just a few; at the last March board meeting several proposals were put on the table and discussed in detail. Ideas like lowering our membership dues or a point system for general membership meetings attended to be put toward lowering dues. Another proposal was to lower the cost of dinner meetings, as without a headquarters we do require a location to have those meetings. This was the proposal that all the Board members voted on and was passed with all yays. It was presented by one of our most knowledgeable members with the best information on our financial situation, Mr. Marty Arnold. His proposal was as such; to present the members with a very low-cost dinner meeting to encourage membership meeting attendance, as we do have required minimums. All members in good standing will pay only \$5.00 for a \$35.00 expense meal and each would get one 50/50 raffle ticket with that \$5.00 for a chance to win big. So, we thank Mr. Arnold very much for presenting that proposal and for all the Board members for bringing you this first of many benefits, with more to come.

Other things in the works like streamlining the new membership applications, to make it a bit easier and faster to become a GPLA member, because we want and need new members. Our new Vice President and Membership Chairman is starting out on a giant first step with reviewing and replying to 8 new membership applications. Thank you very much Mike Nimmo for the outstanding job that you are doing.

Next our roster will be digitized with much more valuable information right at your fingertips. This roster will be on our website in the "members only" section with password restriction. It will also be sent to every member in good standing through an email, which by this time you should have received already. Thanks to our new Roster Chairman, Jim Handschuh Sr.. This new format will eventually allow us to send out emails to members wishing them things like "Happy Birthday" of members and spouses, which may keep you out of trouble in case you forget the wifes birthday (haha). Or wishing each member a "Happy Anniversary" and thanking you for your dedication and devotion to your association and more things to come. Thanks again Jim for that hard work in this committee.

Other things to note, our website is being worked on to enhance the "Find a Locksmith" page and to get all members correct and valuable information in that section. We will also be having a website program in the near future to bring everyone up to speed on all of the great benefits within our website.

One of the changes already being put to use, we received authorization to purchase all the required equipment to have Zoom available at both Board and Membership meetings. We strongly encourage members to attend these meeting in person to help us meet our minimum dinner requirements, but if you are unavailable to be there in person, please log in through Zoom so that we can meet our requirements for quorum. As your presence on Zoom will legally meet that requirement. Each member will be sent an email prior to that meeting with a Zoom link to enter the meeting. It is very easy to do and adds another membership benefit to our long list of new membership benefits. This Zoom meeting was something that I personally proposed to be put in effect so that we could go back to our monthly meetings and still make it convenient for all our members. This Zoom effort is being headed off by myself and our newly appointed Zoom master, Jim Handschuh Jr.. Thank you very much Jim for all your efforts under this newly appointed position.

We thank you all for your patience, as we will have some hiccups while some of the new Board members and appointees get acclimated to their new positions. You may have noticed that we missed one Newsletter and one Minutes Report, as you can imagine this is a very involved and detailed committee and are working hard to bring you the Newsletter at a consistent and timely pace.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your Board Chairman or ask any Board of Director or Row Officer. We will all be very happy to discuss any concerns with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board of Directors and Row Officers for stepping up to the position and moving GPLA forward in the right direction for many years

to come. Thank you very much from your GPLA Board of Director Chairman,  
Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL

January 17, 2025  
Mr. Sven Hellwig  
469 Lincoln Ave  
Hatboro, PA 19040

Dear Mr. Hellwig,

Because of you and the Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association, children and families at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) will find hope and healing when they need it most.

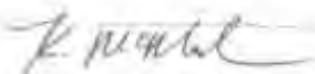
Your generous donation of \$1,400 during our triple match campaign provides \$4,200 in support. This empowers the dedicated teams of doctors, nurses, and caregivers to deliver world-class, specialized care tailored to each child's unique needs. Every day, we see the transformative impact of your support as children receive the coordinated, compassionate care that helps them thrive.

Thanks to your support, we are able to make a difference in many important areas of care and research. Your contribution will help fund vital initiatives such as:

- **Research:** Supporting initiatives like the Cell & Gene Therapy Collaborative Seed Grants, which fund the early-stage development of new cell and gene therapies or a research project such as implementing a new MRI technique that enables pediatric MRI studies without the need for sedation.
- **Patient Family Care:** Hosting events like the CHOP Prom, Halloween celebrations, and Pajama Day for patients, distributing over 7,000 activity kits, and launching innovative programs like the Patient Technology Program with 3D printing and LEGO Robotics.
- **Training and Education:** Providing professional development opportunities for over 700 CHOP employees and funding continued education for pediatric fellows.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future for children everywhere, and your support enables us to address both immediate needs and promising new opportunities. Whether it's easing the financial burden on families, advancing research, or strengthening our community initiatives, your investment ensures that CHOP can respond quickly to the urgent needs of children and families.

With deepest gratitude,



Kevin McMahon  
Sr. Director, Cause Marketing & Community Fundraising  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation  
267-426-6517  
[mcmahonkm@chop.edu](mailto:mcmahonkm@chop.edu)

## SOME HUMOR

What is a ghosts favorite pair of shoes? BOOOOOOOOTS!



**GREATER PHILADELPHIA  
LOCKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION**

# Minutes of the January 2025 GPLA General Membership Meeting

The January GPLA Installation Dinner was held at the Pennsauken Country Club on January 20, 2025.

Sign-in started at 6:45. A very nice buffet started at 7:30 with many delicious choices.

President Ed Fitzgerald rang the bell and called the installation meeting to order at 8:15 pm.

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

President Ed Fitzgerald mentioned that there are a lot of wonderful gifts left over from the Convention which will be given out as door prizes over the next few meetings.

Ed Fitzgerald thanked his Row Officers and Board of Directors for all their help over the last couple years through some challenging times. Ed then gave a special thanks to Sven Hellwig, Clifford Shafer, Marty Arnold including his wife Judy Fitzgerald.

Ed Fitzgerald then asked John Truempy, 2024 Philadelphia Award winner, to give the Oath of Office to the new GPLA Row Officers and Board of Directors. The following members were sworn

in:

Row Officers:

President: Paul Kline

Vice President: Mike Nimmo

Treasurer: Marty Arnold

Board of Directors:

Board of Director: Sven Hellwig

Board of Director: Ken Kramer

Board of Director: Randy Carpenter

Board of Director: Steve Kaufman

Board of Director: Barry Wilensky

Board of Director Alternate: Maurice Onraet

President Ed Fitzgerald presented Paul Kline as the new GPLA President

President elect Paul Kline thanked the outgoing Row Officers and Board of Directors for their support of GPLA. Paul thanked everyone for coming out and joining us for the installation of new Row Officers and Board members.

Paul Kline made a motion to purchase the equipment needed to move forward with having our meetings interactive with Zoom. Sven Hellwig mentioned the benefits of having our meetings broadcast over Zoom which included expanding our membership and making it easier for members who have a hard time driving at night attend the meetings. Sven added that about \$1200 of equipment needed. Nelson Dayton added that having Zoom would really benefit out of state members. Marty Arnold seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marty Arnold email comprehensive financial reports to the Row Officers and Board of Directors for review. Marty added that the Board will be voting on the reports at the next Board meeting in February. Marty then added that five GPLA members have not paid their dues. Marty stated that he contacted the five members and three of the members are requesting to change their status to Life Retired member upon Board approval. Marty added

that the three members are Frank Vesele Member number 291, Kevin Savoy Member number 280 and Jim Sundstrond Member number 222.

#### Membership:

Mike Nimmo stated that GPLA had eight applicants that came in at the end of the year, four applicants that he is working on and that Nelson Dayton is working on. Nelson added that two of the applicants are here tonight.

Stephen Miller, applying for Active Membership  
Certified Lock & Access  
Wilmington, DE

Paul Bilker, applying for Active Membership  
Lock Systems  
Philadelphia, PA

Mike Nimmo then added that he is working with the four applicants and the application processes should be done in six months.

#### Convention:

Sven Hellwig stated that the 75 anniversary convention was a huge success. Sven added that he is looking for people to join the Convention Committee.

#### Web Pages:

Cliff Shafer mentioned that the web page needs to be updated with the names of the new administration.

#### Newsletter:

Sven Hellwig stated that if anyone has written an article to please send them to Jim Handschuh Jr. to have them published in the Newsletter.

#### Education:

Randy Carpenter mentioned that ASSA Abloy got back to him on a four part electrical course in June or July but the dates and price are not definitive at this time. Randy added that he is working on a CodeLocks CEU course.

Scott Roop mentioned that Allegion is having courses at the end of February which includes Basic Electricity, How to secure a Door and a course on the Schlage ALS Lever lock. Scott added that the courses have CEUs and Lunch will be provided.

PA Legislation:

Nothing new to report.

NJ Legislation:

Nothing new to report.

Health and Welfare:

Judy Fitzgerald reported Dana Barnum is still in rehab, a bit light-headed, and able to walk around. Sven Hellwig mentioned that his Grandson is making good progress.

Old Business:

Sven Hellwig received a thank you letter from CHOP for GPLA's donation. Sven enthusiastically added that our donation of \$1400 was turned into \$4200 thanks to fund matching during the Holidays.

New Business:

Nothing to report

Good of the Association:

Ed Fitzgerald mentioned that Gerald Connelly's son William stopped by his shop and returned Gerald Connelly 1964 Philadelphia Award. Ed added that he will be giving the award to Barry Wilensky to keep in the GPLA archive. Sven Hellwig asked the Corresponding Secretary to send a letter to CHOP thanking them for adding to the donation. Sven stated that if any member joined the LLC to protect your personal assets from business liabilities. Sven added that the LLC now needs a BOE, which requires all your personal information to the state. Sven added that the Small Business Association fought the BOE requirements in court and is sent back to the lower court, but now moving to the Supreme Court. Sven then added that please contact your Congress Representative and tell them that you do not approve of the BOE requirements. Scott Roop mentioned that Securitech was purchased by ASSA Abloy and will be having classes. Paul Kline mentioned that he had a 2015 Nissan Rogue locked up on New Years Eve, adding that when the Nissan Rogue locks-up it means the ECU is fried. The 50/50 prize of \$95 as well as a lot of other fine items were won. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sven Hellwig and was seconded by Cliff Shafer at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maurice Onraet, Recording Secretary



# Master Key Systems: Best Practices for Design and Implementation

## Introduction:

Master key systems are widely used in commercial buildings, multi-family housing, and institutional settings to provide tiered access control. When properly designed and implemented, they offer convenience, security, and flexibility. However, poor planning can lead to vulnerabilities and unauthorized access. This article explores best practices for designing and implementing secure and efficient master key systems.

## Understanding Master Key Systems

A master key system consists of a hierarchical structure of keys that control multiple locks. The main levels include:

- Change Key: Operates only one lock or a specific set of locks.
- Master Key (MK): Operates all locks within a defined group.
- Grand Master Key (GMK): Operates multiple master key groups within a system.
- Great Grand Master Key (GGMK): The highest level, controlling multiple GMKs.

## Best Practices for Designing a Secure Master Key System

### 1. Plan for Scalability:

- Design systems with future expansion in mind to accommodate additional locks and users.
- Use a structured keying chart to track all key levels.

### 2. Maintain Strict Key Control:

- Limit the number of master keys issued and keep a detailed key control log.
- Use restricted keyways that prevent unauthorized duplication.
- Implement key return policies for departing employees or tenants.

### 3. Avoid Overcomplicating Key Hierarchies:

- Excessive key levels can lead to confusion and increased security risks.
- Balance convenience with security by limiting the number of master keys in circulation.

### 4. Use High-Security Cylinders:

- Implement patented key systems that require authorization for key duplication.
- Consider incorporating electronic access control alongside traditional keying systems.

### 5. Document Everything:

- Keep comprehensive records of key holders, key biting charts, and lock assignments.
- Use software to track key issuance and returns to minimize security risks.

### 6. Regularly Audit the System:

- Conduct periodic reviews to ensure compliance with security policies.
- Re-key locks if keys are lost or security is compromised.

## Implementing a Master Key System in Commercial Settings

- Schools and Universities: Require strict access control for classrooms, administration offices, and dormitories.
- Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities: Need a tiered system with emergency override capabilities.
- Multi-Tenant Buildings: Should ensure tenants only have access to common areas and their respective units.

## Conclusion:

A well-designed master key system enhances security while providing convenient access control. By following best practices in design, documentation, and key control, locksmiths can create systems that are both efficient and secure. As security threats evolve, continuous

evaluation and upgrades to master key systems will be essential for maintaining protection in commercial and institutional settings.

*Thank you to all of the many VIP's, students, exhibitors, instructors and sponsors for making the GPLA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention a great success! We couldn't have done it without you!*

*Congratulations to our 75th Anniversary Convention Award Recipients:*

*Distinguished Distributor Award – Fried Brothers*

*Lee Rogan Award – Edward Fitzgerald*

*Gerald J. Connelly Jr. Award – Yankee Security Convention*

*Hermann C Hensler Jr. Memorial Award – Judy Fitzgerald and Carol Williams*

*The Philadelphia Award – John Truempy*

*Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of this year's convention and to share any of your photos and memories from the convention (or from past conventions).*

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## **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

We proudly present the following 8 member applicants. Stephen Miller, Eliot Kolner, Paul Bilker Ray Wible, Adam Schreier, Paul Detwiler III and Samuel Diggins.

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**For more information call 989-354-5623**





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 !*

## WHY NOT BE A WEB SPONSOR FOR GPLA

At GPLA, we strive to provide the best to our members and due in part to our Web Advertisers and Convention Sponsors, we are able to achieve that goal. We would like to include your Company as a GPLA supporter by becoming a Web Advertiser on our professionally managed website at <GPLA.ORG> If you have any questions about the benefits, do not hesitate to contact Marty at <martyr1@mac.com>

The annual cost of a web ad, linked to your site is \$300.00. The web ad will also be posted in our monthly newsletter.

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

@jhandschuh@gmail.com