Founded In 1949

THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

The Official Publication of the
Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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Please join us for our next meeting!

In-person or via Zoom (see Page 19)

Date: Monday, May 18, 2026
Meeting Time: 7:45 PM (No cost to attend)
Location: Tiffany On The BLVD
9010 Roosevelt Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19115
Dinner: Arrive at 6:30 PM for dinner
Cost: $5.00 per member / $25.00 per non-member
Program: GSM Lock – Doorwares Associates

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NEW Membership Benefits Added

We're excited to share that the following vendors have generously extended an exclusive offer to all GPLA members. Members will now receive an **additional 5% discount** on top of the vendors' already competitive pricing. To take advantage of this benefit, simply provide your **GPLA member number** when placing your order.

IDN-Hardware Philadelphia

https://www.idn-inc.com/locations/idn-philadelphia

Independent Hardware Inc.

https://independenthardware.com/

FBI – Fried Brothers, Inc.

https://fbisecurity.com/

GPLA is excited to expand one of our most popular member benefits!

Members can now bring their spouse or partner and enjoy a pre-meeting dinner together.

Make it a night out, **dinner for two for just $10 total ($5 each),** while connecting with fellow professionals at the GPLA membership meeting.

We can't promise romance; we can only promise food.



President's Message

Hello GPLA Members,

The next meeting will be scheduled prior to the summer recess to address essential business requiring Membership action and to ensure continuity before the seasonal break.

In addition, the Board is evaluating options for a new meeting venue near the Philadelphia Airport to provide a more centrally located and accessible setting for members traveling from various areas.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. I sincerely appreciate the commitment of our members and look forward to all we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

With best wishes,
Paul J. Kline
GPLA President

Nominations Are Now OPEN!

Run for a GPLA Leadership Position

By Michael Nimmo
GPLA Vice-President/Membership Chair/Nominations Chair.

The **GPLA stands at an important crossroads in its 77-year journey.** Our members care deeply about this Association—some envision a thoughtful conclusion to its work, while others see the potential for renewal, revitalization, and a return to the respected standing we have long held in the industry. Both perspectives come from a shared desire to honor our legacy and shape our future.

This is a moment for every voice to matter. **Your insight, your experience, and your commitment will help guide the path ahead**—whether that means charting a bold new course or thoughtfully closing a historic chapter. Together, we can ensure that whatever direction we choose reflects the values and dedication that have defined the GPLA for generations.

Leadership roles, including Row Officer and Board Member positions, are open. If you feel called to help lead the next chapter, please reach out to Nominations Chair Michael Nimmo via email through the GPLA website.

GPLA CPR Certification Class – May 16, 2026

CPR TRAINING

GPLA is committed to empowering its members with the skills to help others and potentially save a life. Please mark your calendar for the GPLA CPR Certification Class:

- **Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2026
- **Location:**
  Philadelphia Airport DoubleTree Hotel
  4509 Island Avenue
  Philadelphia, PA 19153.

- **Time:** Two sessions available
  - Morning Session: 8:30 AM
  - Afternoon Session: 2:00 PM
    (only available if more than 15 participants)

- **Cost:** $25.00 donation per member.
  - Each member can bring up to 2 family members at no extra cost.

Space is limited to 15 participants per session.
Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
To reserve your spot, please contact Sven Hellwig at 215-669-6444.



April 2026 – Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Overview

Date: April 20, 2026
Location: Tiffany On The BLVD, Northeast Philadelphia, PA
Time: Start 8:00 PM – End 9:19 PM (1 hour 19 minutes)

Presiding: President Paul Kline
Recording Secretary: John D. DePew

Members in Attendance: 19

- In-person: 14
- Online (Zoom): 5

Guests: 3

- In-person: 2 (Chris Braun – NextKey, and Dan Waslanko)
- Online (Zoom): 1 (Brandon Douglas – NextKey)

Notes About this Meeting

- The meeting was delayed by approximately 15 minutes due to Wi-Fi connectivity problems which affected Zoom participants' ability to join the session.
- Quorum has been met.

Program

- NexKey – Chris Braun & Brandon Douglas
  - Presentation on mobile-first wireless access control systems
  - Dealer program introduced (Elite tier offered at 55% discount)
  - Features discussed:
    - Smartphone-based credentials and administration
    - Bluetooth access (~1–2 second unlock)
    - Remote unlock and scheduling
    - Text-based key access
    - Recurring revenue model for dealers

Call Meeting to Order & Opening Formalities

- Meeting called to order at 8:00 PM by the President
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paul Kline, standing in for the Sergeant-at-Arms
- Quorum was confirmed.

Guests Welcomed

- Chris Braun and Brandon Douglas (Nexkey)
- Dan Waslanko
  - Dan introduced himself to the membership.
  - He previously attended the March meeting via Zoom.
  - His membership application will be voted on at the May meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- March 2026 Member Meeting Minutes were published in April Newsletter.
- Motion to accept: Marty Arnold
- Second by: Jack McGee
- Vote: Approved

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report for the period of March 2026 was presented by Sven K. Hellwig Sr.
- Previously distributed to the Board of Directors, reviewed, and accepted.
- Motion to accept: Sven Sr.
- Second by: Marty Arnold
- Vote: Approved

President's Report – Paul Kline

- Leadership updates:
  - Jim Hanschuh Jr. has stepped down as Sergeant-at-Arms and from the board.
  - Barry Wilensky was appointed as interim Sergeant-at-Arms.
  - Ken Kramer advanced to Board Member.
- Membership requirements:
  - Membership requirements were reviewed.
  - Five classes are required for active status; some timing flexibility may be needed.
- Member benefits:
  - 5% vendor discounts have been arranged.
    - Updates to the website and newsletter are planned.
  - A spouse/partner meal benefit was introduced: $5 for spouse/partner attending a GPLA meeting.

- Business initiatives:
  - A potential discount partnership with Square is being explored.
- Training & Certification:
  - CPR & First Aid class scheduled for May 16
- Association matters:
  - At the request of the membership, the Board held a vote on whether to close GPLA or remain open.
    - The Board voted for GPLA to remain open, with a 9–2 vote.
  - High Quality GPLA member ID Cards will be made available.
    - Yankee Conventions (DJ) will let us use their card printer.
    - Availability and arrangement for photos will be provided later.
- Events:
  - Cliff's memorial was well attended by GPLA members.

Board of Directors Report – Sven Hellwig Sr.

- Nothing additional to report.

Membership Report – Mike Nimmo

- 3 members recently paid dues
- 6 members remain delinquent with no response
- Recent applicants have been stalled due to current by-laws.
- Joe Gallager (Haddon Security) has asked to be put into retired member status.
  - Motion was made by Paul. Second by Mike N.

Correspondence – Jim H. Sr.

- Email received from Michael Kellerman inquiring about Pinning & Master key training classes.
- Additional inquiries:
  - Prospective members expressing interest in joining

Education

- No current updates
- Future discussion planned at next Board meeting.

Health and Welfare

- Member family health updates shared.
  - John Williams's son.
  - Sven's daughter-in-law.

Zoom (on-line) Meeting

- Discussion regarding:
  - Microphone quality
  - Connectivity (hotspot)
  - Voting procedures for online participants

Newsletter

- Updated Directors and Officer's List
- Request for member contributions

Website

- April newsletter published online.
- Officers and Directors list updated.
- Static (per position/function) email structure under consideration.
- Members' forum being considered.

Communications

- Constant contact has been renewed for 2026 but will not be again once expired.
- Consideration for role-based email addresses.

Legislation Reports

- **Pennsylvania:** No updates
- **New Jersey:**
  - $64,000 in fines issued for licensing non-compliance
  - New automotive licenses expected
  - CEU legislation under discussion

Program

- IDN catalogs distributed
- Industry updates shared
- Ilco truck at IDN on April 21st.
- May meeting program will be Doorwares Associates presenting GSM Lock new products.

By-Laws

- Updates required
- Zoom participation rules to be reviewed

Tips and Tricks

- **Automotive**
  - Smart Box Gen 3 now supports Ford vehicles that previously required NASTF access.
    - Additional cost is $15, compared to $100 for NASTF.
    - Service availability is limited to 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - A 2024 Jeep Renegade requires a $500 preprogrammed key plus NASTF access ($100), representing the material costs involved.

Raffle

Prizes:

- 50/50 - $28.00 – Won by Tony B.
- Hat
- Medeco shirt
- Swag items

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Jack M., Seconded by: Sven H. Sr.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,
John D. DePew – GPLA Recording Secretary

--- END OF MEETING MINUTES ---

Locksmith Humor

Locksmith: “So… you definitely didn’t use a coat hanger, right?”

Customer: “Nope. Not a coat hanger.”



Tip & Tricks Corner

A recurring column for practical locksmith wisdom

Each month, we'll share quick, field-tested tips from across the locksmithing world; residential, commercial, automotive, and safe work. These are the small techniques, clever shortcuts, and professional habits that make the job smoother, safer, and more efficient.

🏠 Residential

- **Strike Plate Alignment Trick**
  - If a deadbolt won't throw:
    - Apply lipstick or marker to bolt → close door → identify misalignment
    - Use a **step bit or carbide burr** instead of chiseling (cleaner & faster)

🏢 Commercial

- **Door Closer Adjustments**
  - If door slams:
    - Adjust sweep speed first, then latch speed
  - If door won't latch:
    - Increase latch speed slightly
  - Always check for:
    - Air pressure issues (common in sealed buildings)

🚗 Automotive

- **Lockouts**
  - Use the appropriate Lishi Tool to pick lock.
  - Use **wedge + long reach tool**, but:
    - Protect airbag areas (side curtain zones)
  - For tight vehicles:
    - Use **under-window tool entry**, not top frame

🔐 Safes

- **Electronic Safe Failures**
  - 80% of issues:
    - Dead batteries or keypad failure
  - Try:
    - External power (if supported)
    - Keypad swap before drilling

If you have a favorite trick, shortcut, or technique you'd like to share, send it in—we'll feature member submissions in future editions. This column grows stronger with your contributions. Email to: newsletter.gpla@gmail.com

Fellow Locksmith Associations

South Jersey Locksmiths Association:

https://sjla-inc.org/

Next Meeting: **May 26th, 2026**
Seven Star Diner
1890 Hurffville Road, Deptford, NJ 08080
Dining @ 6PM – Meeting @7PM

New York Masters Locksmiths Association

http://www.nymla.org/
https://www.clearstar.com/

Yankee Security Convention Inc.

https://yankeesecurity.org/

Yankee Security Convention 2026

Dates: October 20-24, 2026
Location: MassMutual Center
Springfield Massachusetts

For more information visit: https://yankeesecurity.org/



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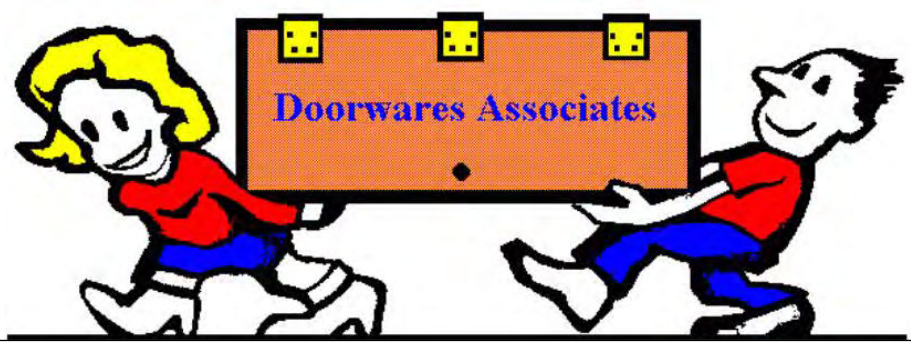


www.fbisecurity.com

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3243 Clump Road. Green Lane, PA. 18054

Jim Handschuh Sr. – 215-651-2124

jim@doorwares.com

Jim Handschuh Jr. – 215-390-6093

jhandschuh@gmail.com

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Become a GPLA Website Sponsor

At GPLA, we are committed to providing exceptional value to our members. Thanks to the generous support of our Web Advertisers and Convention Sponsors, we can continue offering meaningful programs, resources, and opportunities to our community.

We would be honored to include your company as a valued GPLA supporter by becoming a Web Advertiser on our professionally managed website, GPLA.org. Your advertisement will be prominently displayed and linked directly to your company's website, giving you increased visibility among our engaged and growing audience.

In addition to appearing on our website, your advertisement will also be featured in our monthly GPLA newsletter, further expanding your reach within the locksmith and security professional community.

The annual cost for this advertising opportunity is $300.00.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the benefits of becoming a sponsor, please contact John at: newsletter.gpla@gmail.com

How to Apply

To become a GPLA Web Advertiser, please provide the following information along with a high-quality company logo or advertisement image:

- Company Name:
- Contact Person:
- Phone:
- Email:
- Web URL:

Please send your completed request to:
John D. DePew, Newsletter Editor
newsletter.gpla@gmail.com

Why Join GPLA Meetings on Zoom?

Although we always enjoy seeing members in person, we understand that it isn't always practical.

That's why joining the meeting via Zoom is a great option—it lets you stay involved without the drive, traffic, or scheduling stress.

Joining GPLA meetings via Zoom allows you to participate from your shop, home, or anywhere using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. You're still counted for attendance and can ask questions, join discussions, and vote when required—just as if you were in the room.

Zoom makes meetings more convenient and comfortable. No rushing, no late-night drives, and no missing important updates. It's free, easy to use, and you don't even need a Zoom account—just click the link or scan the QR code to join.

Most importantly, Zoom ensures your voice remains part of the conversation, so you don't miss out when decisions are made or topics affecting your association are discussed.

To make things even easier, we've created the **GPLA Zoom Meeting Access & Participation Guide**, which is emailed to members along with the GPLA Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you—whether in person or on Zoom—at the next meeting.

If you have any questions or comments about Zoom participation, please email meeting.gpla@gmail.com.

Calling All GPLA Members: Your Voice Belongs in the Newsletter!

The GPLA newsletter is more than a monthly publication—it's a reflection of our community, our craft, and the collective knowledge of locksmiths who take pride in their work. Each issue becomes stronger, more informative, and more enjoyable when members like you share your experience, creativity, and insight.

We're inviting all GPLA members to contribute content for upcoming editions. Whether you've been in the trade for decades or you're just starting out, your perspective adds value.

What You Can Contribute

- Industry News & Updates
- Articles & How-To Pieces
    - A unique job you completed
    - A tool you rely on
    - A technique you've perfected
    - A lesson learned the hard way
    - Even if you only have an idea, send it along. We can help shape it into a full article.
- Locksmithing Tips & Tricks
- Industry Trends & Insights
- Humor, Jokes & Lighthearted Content

Why Your Contribution Matters

- It strengthens the knowledge base of the entire GPLA community
- It highlights the professionalism and expertise of our members
- It preserves the history and culture of our trade
- It helps newer locksmiths learn from seasoned professionals
- It keeps the newsletter vibrant, diverse, and worth reading

Your voice helps shape the identity of GPLA. Even a short submission can make a big impact.

Ready to Contribute?

Simply email your content—or your ideas—to the newsletter editor at **newsletter.gpla@gmail.com**

If something doesn't fit this month's issue, it will be saved for a future edition.

Let's continue building a newsletter that reflects the skill, humor, and dedication of the GPLA membership. Your contribution is not just welcome—it's appreciated.