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 at our new venue! (see Page 2)

In-person or via Zoom (see Page 18)

Date: Monday, October 26, 2026
Meeting Time: 7:45 PM (No cost to attend)
Location: **Lehmans' Tavern**
400 Wanamaker Ave.
Essington, PA 19029
Dinner: Arrive at 6:30 PM for dinner
Cost: $5.00 per member / $25.00 per non-member
Program: IDN – Door Hardware

Important!

GPLA Proposed Bylaw Amendments
October 26th Membership Vote

The proposed GPLA bylaw amendments and voting ballot have been emailed to all members for review ahead of our **General Membership Meeting on Monday, October 26th**, when the proposed changes will be reviewed and voted upon.

Members are encouraged to review the amendments in advance, complete their ballot, and print and bring the full 12-page package to the meeting. A limited number of printed copies will be available for those without printer access.

Your participation and voting are important in helping shape the future of GPLA. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday evening!

President's Message

Due to the Yankee Locksmith Convention and the limited availability of many members, our monthly meeting has been rescheduled for the week following the convention.

New Meeting Date: Monday, October 26th
Location: Lehman's Tavern 400 Wanamaker Ave Essington, PA 19029
Time: Dinner - 6:30 PM, Meeting Only - 7:45 PM

Because we have several important bylaw items to review, we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate fully. To accommodate this, the bylaw discussion will take place at the meeting on **October 26th**, allowing time for maximum member attendance and input.

Regarding dinner selections, I have requested additional menu options so members can enjoy a wider variety of choices.

Paul J. Kline
GPLA President

GPLA Meeting - New Venue – Lehmans' Tavern

Lehmans' Tavern and Restaurant
www.lehmansrestaurant.com
Lehmans' has had a tradition of fine foods and gracious hospitality in Delaware County PA for over 70 years.



Located in Essington, Pennsylvania right off I-95 just south of the Philadelphia International Airport. Close to Routes 420, 291, and I-476.

400 Wanamaker Avenue, Essington, PA 19029
Phone: 610-521-1822 or 610-521-1696

Directions:
Take I-95 towards Phila Int. Airport. Exit at 9A – Rt. 420 Essington. On Rt. 420 (Wanamaker Ave.) south, cross over Rt. 291 and continue straight. Lehmans' Tavern is on the left. Parking is available on site.



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.



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.

As of October 23rd, the nominees are:

President:	Micheal Nimmo
	James Sunstrond
Vice President:	Steve Kaufman
	Barry Wilensky
Sergeant at Arms:	Paul Kline
	Bill Neff
Secretary:	John D. DePew
Directors:	DJ Dabenigno
	John D. DePew
	James Handschuh Sr.
	James Handschuh Jr.
	Paul Kline
	Jack McGee
	Micheal Nimmo
	Barry Wilensky

Additional nominations may be made from the floor in the upcoming October membership meeting. The final list of nominees will be posted in the November GPLA Newsletter.

GPLA Leadership Position Nominees – Introduce Yourself!

As we prepare for the upcoming GPLA elections, we encourage all members running for an Officer or Board of Directors position to submit a brief letter of introduction for publication in the November GPLA newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce yourself to fellow members and share your background, experience in the locksmith and security industry, history of involvement with GPLA, and reasons for seeking office. We also encourage candidates to outline their goals, ideas, and what they hope to accomplish if elected. These introductions will help members become better acquainted with the candidates, understand their vision for the association, and make informed decisions when voting.

Please submit your letter of introduction to newsletter.gpla@gmail.com no later than Monday, November 9, 2026, for inclusion in the November GPLA Newsletter. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to hearing your ideas for GPLA's future!

GPLA Membership Meeting Minutes – September 2026

Meeting Overview:

- **Date:** Sept 21, 2026
- **Location:** Lehman's Tavern, Essignton, PA.
- **Time:** Start 8:00 PM, End 9:11 PM (1 hour and 11 minutes)
- **Presiding:** President Paul Kline
- **Recording Secretary:** John D. DePew
- **Members in Attendance:**
  - In-person: 24
  - On-line: 04
- **Guests:**
  - In-person: 03
  - On-line: 01

Program:

- none

Call Meeting to Order & Opening Formalities:

- President, Paul Kline called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.
- Sergeant-at-Arms led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Quorum was met.

Guests Welcomed:

- Brian, guest of DJ Dabenigno, was welcomed.
- Jesse, participating online as a guest of Jim Handschuh Sr., was welcomed and introduced himself to the membership.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- June 2026 Member Meeting Minutes published in Summer and September Newsletter
- Motion to accept: Marty Arnold
- Seconded by: Sven Sr.

Treasurer's Report: Sven Hellwig Sr.

- The Treasurer's Report, previously submitted to and approved by the Board of Directors, was presented to the membership. A motion to accept the report was presented by Paul K. and seconded by Marty and adopted.

President's Report – Paul Kline:

- President Kline noted that his term was nearing completion and encouraged members interested in serving in an elected or board position to contact Mike Nimmo.

Board of Directors Report – Sven K. Hellwig Sr.:

- The Board had reconvened following the summer break. Work continued developing the nomination slate and upcoming by-laws voting matters.

Correspondence: Jim Sr.:

- Inquiries regarding locksmith education were received from the Wichita Hickman School District and Ibrahim Habil. Standard GPLA membership and education information was provided.

Education:

- The Association continues to receive requests for training. The importance of vetting participants and encouraging GPLA membership before providing instruction was noted.
- The New Jersey report included continuing-education information, an SLA-certified class scheduled for October 27, 2026.

Health and Welfare

- Updates were provided regarding Maurice, Randy Carpenter, and Ed Caprari.
- A card was to be sent to Ed Caprari;
- A gift basket and card had previously been sent to Randy Carpenter.

Zoom (on-line) Meeting:

- Microphone issues were addressed by passing a dedicated microphone among speakers. Online participants confirmed improved audio.

Newsletter:

- The September newsletter repeated information from the summer issue, including the proposed bylaw amendments.

Website:

- Members were encouraged to register, keep their information current, and update their "Find a Locksmith" listings.

Legislation Reports:

Pennsylvania: No Pennsylvania report was presented.

New Jersey: Enforcement actions/fines involving unlicensed locksmith and alarm activity.

Membership Report: - Mike Nimmo

- The following applicants were presented for membership:
  - John Kiefer — Associate MembeCalling All GPLA Members: Your Voice Belongs in the Newsletter!ber.

Voting was conducted by ballot for members present and by text for eligible Zoom participants. All three applicants were elected unanimously.

Program: Steve Kaufman

- The October meeting program was confirmed as a IDN on Doors.
- November will be devoted to elections; there is no December meeting.
- The next program after November is planned for January.
-

Health and Welfare

- Updates were provided regarding Maurice, Randy Carpenter, and Ed Caprari.
- A card was to be sent to Ed Caprari;

By-Laws:

- Membership considered the proposed bylaw amendments previously published for member review. Discussions included electronic participation and voting, voting thresholds and quorum requirements, eligibility following disciplinary action or resignation, and the method and timing of notice for future bylaw amendments.
- Vote on amendments as a single package: The proposal to consider/adopt the amendments as one package did not carry.
- Motion: Bill Neff moved that the proposed bylaw amendments be voted on individually by secret written ballot, with each proposed amendment listed separately for a Yes/No vote. The motion was seconded and adopted.
- Action: The Bylaws Committee/Chairman will prepare a ballot listing each proposed amendment separately, with plain-language clarification where available. Eligible members participating by Zoom are to retain voting rights. The bylaw vote is scheduled for the October meeting.

New Business:

- Information was provided concerning upcoming educational opportunities and applications. Materials were to be provided to the newsletter/website for distribution.

Good of the Association:

- Joe thanked the Association and its members for their support following the passing of his father.
- DJ, President of the Yankee Security Convention/organization, announced two scholarships for GPLA members to attend classes associated with the October 23–24, 2026 event in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Next Meeting:

- The membership agreed to use the same meeting location for the next meeting. The October meeting will include the individual vote on the proposed bylaw amendments and continued nominations.

Raffle:

- The 50/50 raffle totaled $112, with a $56 winner's share. Additional door prizes were awarded.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was adopted, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John D. DePew, Recording Secretary

--- END OF MEETING MINUTES ---

Locksmith Humor

A locksmith wanted $300 to replace the car door lock.

My brother-in-law said he could do it for $25!



Fellow Locksmith Associations

South Jersey Locksmiths Association:

https://sjla-inc.org/

Next Meeting: October 27th, 2026
Seven Star Diner
1890 Hurffville Road, Deptford, NJ 08080
Dining @ 6PM – Meeting @7PM

See next page for upcoming CEU classes – October 27th 2:00pm-6:00pm

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/



EDUCATION

For your records
Chk #: Amt:

Attention

All New Jersey Locksmith Licensees

SJLA is sponsoring the Mandatory CEU Classes. These classes will give you 4 CEU credits towards your 2028 license renewal. You will receive 1 certificate.

When: Tuesday October 27, 2026
Time: 2:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Seven Star Diner
1890 Hurffville Rd.
Sewell, NJ 08080

Instructor: Guy Robinson

Class is limited to 20 people Class title: **Floor Closers**

Price: Members SJLA/GPLA $75.00 Non-members $100.00

For Class Info Contact: Bob Cornine @ 609-339-9698

Payment must be made by October 16th to ensure receipt of your CEU certificate*
Class Starts Promptly at 2:00 pm. No one will be admitted after 2:00 pm. No Exceptions!!
Must Bring ID and NJ State License to ensure CEU Credits

Cut along Line and send bottom portion with check Made Payable to: SJLA

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Member # SJLA _____ GPLA _____ MLA _____

New Jersey License #: _____

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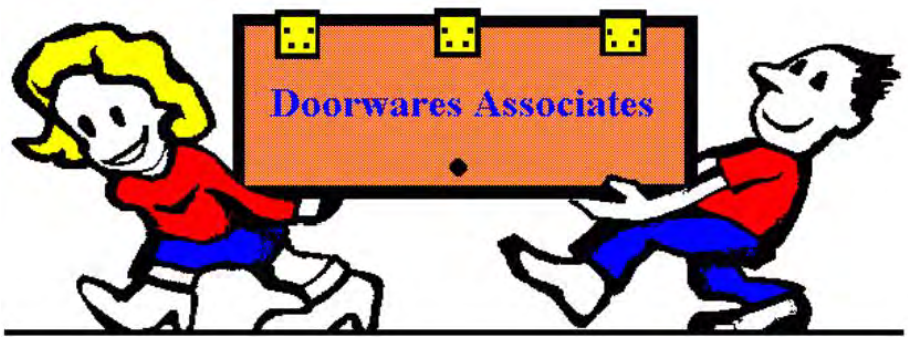


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Become a GPLA Website Sponsor

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 have 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.