

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

VICTOR AGREDA, JR., President

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With a couple of our members attending the annual FFFF convention (Mike Stratman and Ed Ripley), and our President tied up with family matters, we had just twelve members attending in person, two on Zoom, and one about to do his initiation performance.

First, we announced our new slate of officers who will be sworn in at the May meeting. President – Michael Priestap, Vice President – Sherman Wires, Secretary – Tom Vorjohan, Treasurer – Jack Wilson, Sgt-at-Arms – Bill Osburn, Program Chairman – Andrew Hydee, and our four Board Members – Michael Messing, Tim Pressley, Jim Stott and Mike Stratman. We look forward to another great year of growth, sharing, and learning with magic!

In a bit of brief business, we discussed the upcoming 50th Winter Carnival of Magic – which will be known as the “Golden Winter Carnival of Magic,” and it was decided and approved (for multiple reasons) that 2025 will be the final WCM using the format that had been working for the past 49 years. This one will be one no one should miss -- already booked for March 6-8, 2025 includes: Jeff Hobson, R. Paul Wilson, David DaVinci, Jon Archer, Dan Sperry, Steve Beam, Geoff Williams, Chris Capehart, Stephen Bargatze and more to be announced!

The first order of official magic was to watch the initiation performance of Stacey Roach who had originally joined the Ring in 1979 at the age of 17 with a lot of big props, but he said, “Tonight, I packed a lot lighter!” He used a piece of rope to make instant knots, thread the loop, two became one, and great variations of Professor’s Nightmare. We unanimously welcomed Stacey back to the Ring!

The theme for the evening was “Renewal” and four performers tackled this. Sherman Wires used a calculator with random numbers to get the month, day, year, and exact time. Michael Priestap found the “Renewal Song” for background ambiance, as he tore a paper towel and restored it. “Magic Bill” Osburn used three different sized Rubik’s Cubes for a bit of renewal as they disappeared and went back to the box where Bill had them stored. John Gyllenhaal changed a \$1 bill into a million, then into a stack of millions, and a fake million into a real \$100 bill.

Ray Adams has put a great deal of work into a skit with a balloon, and he shared the script as it stands so far. Jim Stott shared book #26 in a special boxed hardcover of Marshall Brodien’s book, and shared a mini illusion as he put a Barbie in a box. Roy Schubert shared the powers of imagination as a card was found at a named date and then in a hat. Steve Jerden showed how he has been able to make fake lollipops using wooden balls he found at Hobby Lobby. Tom Vorjohan joined via Zoom and shared his most recent cards he received from www.playingcarddecks.com as well as two new books he got from Vanishing Inc. by Chris Congreave. What a great night of magic!

Tom Vorjohan