

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

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This was our last meeting before we get together in Pigeon Forge as the hosts of the 43rd annual Winter Carnival of Magic. Even so, the business meeting was brief as co-chairmen Michael Messing and Tom Vorjohan have the key volunteers in place for another great convention. Now with Valentine's Day just a couple days prior, we themed our main performances around the lovers' day. Our fifteen members and three family visitors enjoyed some great magic from the heart. Bev Coffey passed around a bag of Valentine's peppermints, but everyone somehow grabbed a butterscotch candy instead. Kyle Copeland talked about his favorite series of books: Card College from Robert Giobi. He demonstrated how Dai Vernon's Emotional Reaction (which is in Giobi's second volume) can be used as an excellent impromptu "out." Speaking of outs, Eric Smerden had a spectator cut to a Post-It heart that said "This is Your Card" which amazed even Eric.

All the way from Cookeville, Jason Murphy told a "heartwarming" Bible story illustrated with three large colored sponge balls. Michael Priestap – accompanied by the Beatles "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" – did a series of effects; a version of Two Copper One Silver with chocolate candies, turning a flower into flour (done to crack up magicians with a clogged thumb tip!), and Three Card Monte that even surprised himself when it turned into Bill Clinton's picture rather than the Tree of Hearts! Tom Vorjohan concluded our themed portion with his Comedy Split Deck using Luke and his father to illustrate the bond of a father and son. Tom also did an effect with a slop shuffle producing all of the hearts face-up in order.

We enjoy magicians bringing in Works in Progress, and this month Dawson Parker had all of us working on improvements to his presentation using an action verb and the hysterical revelation he used. To bring the meeting to an end, Jack Wilson used Siri on his iPhone to reveal a selected card...in a very funny way. We hope to see many of you March 9-10-11 at the Winter Carnival of Magic.

Tom Vorjohan