

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

JOHN HOPPER, President
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This was our official annual meeting, and we did it up right with 100% participation of the thirteen members in attendance. The new officers were installed by I.B.M. Past International President Mike Stratman: John Hopper (President), Michael Priestap (Vice President and Program Chairman), Tom Vorjohan (Secretary), Jack Wilson (Treasurer), Bill Sturgis (Sgt. at Arms), Michael Messing (Board of Directors), and Harold Whipps (Board of Directors). Neither Jason Rieger nor Kyle Copeland (the other two Board members) were at the meeting.

It's only be May, but work on the 45th annual Winter Carnival of Magic is in full swing including Tom's announcement that Nick Lewin, Nick Diffatte, John "Gentleman Jack" Lovick, and Jonathan Neal are tentatively confirmed for next March. We are also looking into setting up on-line registration. There will be a half-page ad in the I.B.M. convention program in Grand Rapids.

After last month's theme of "April Showers..." this month's theme was "...May Flowers." Bev Coffey opened the fun with a candle to flower, appearing flower, cane to plume, and multiplying plumes. His finale was a beautiful silk fountain that ended with a 36" butterfly silk. John Hopper had a red wilting flower and then thanked everyone for the tremendous participation this past year. Mike Stratman had a flower on his lapel that snapped back into place, then he put "flour" in a pan and lit on fire to turn it into spring flowers.

"Magic Bill" Osburn produced a sleeve bouquet and produced mylar spring balls from a set of boxes. Using all the ingredients to make seeds into flowers, Bill Sturgis produced a flower bouquet from a thermos. Folding a foulard, Harold Whipps produced two bouquets and told a story about a Dai Vernon lecture where Vernon said, "I can stay as long as you can." Tom Vorjohan showed a cute effect with pictures of six pots and different colored flowers in each. He also performed the Wellington Light Board.

Our "Move-Of-the-Month" (MOM) was "forcing" – Michael Messing, Barry Mitchell, Andrew Hyder, Tom Vorjohan, and Bill Osburn all shared a variety of methods for cards and other objects. As we moved into Open Mic, Bill Osburn tossed a comedy grenade to the crowd. We had great brainstorming pertaining to a "Polka Dot Shower" effect that Christine Maentz brought. For Show & Tell, Michael Priestap brought the Graffiti paper that his daughter received at David Copperfield's show in 1996 in Knoxville. He also shared a story about the Frisbee toss during a subsequent Copperfield show and showed money from occupied Japan. Jack Wilson brought in the two-volume boxed set of Johnny Thompson's books. We concluded with Bill Osburn explaining a couple items from a recent Penguin flyer including a great Pocket Driver's Test with a stop light force.

Tom Vorjohan