

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

TIM PRESSLEY, President

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We met LIVE and in person in May at the church for the first time since February 2020.

Wow...that's one for the history books. Michael Messing and Jack Wilson set up Zoom cameras and equipment, but we had ten excited members come out to share some magic including Past International President, Mike Stratman who cut his vacation to Florida short so he could make it to the meeting, and Exec Committee Member, Tom Vorjohan, who flew up for the occasion. After a little business that included appointing Michael Priestap onto the Board of Directors to replace Evan Bishop who has taken a job and moved away. The Ring is looking into getting a storage unit for our Winter Carnival supplies and other stuff; and speaking of the WCM, we are please to announce that the Red Roof Inn will be our official convention hotel for 2022.

Our talking point tonight was to share our biggest performance, and the magic theme this evening was "Mommy Magic" since Mother's Day was earlier in the month. President Tim Pressley said his mother would always say, "In one ear and out the other," and he showed how that was possible as he passed a silk just like the saying says! Tom Vorjohan did his mom's favorite...that was a staple of his close-up for 30+ years: the Invisible Deck. Tom shared how he did a show for a full Smokies stadium for a Just-Say-No event for school children. Bill Sturgis showed the group a routine with three Anverdi dice that he is working on, and the group discussed ideas for about 15 minutes afterwards.

Michael Messing told that his biggest show was at halftime of the Southeastern Conference Basketball at Thompson Arena for 21,000 people! It was 1989, and he walked us through the memory of doing the Crystal Box and Metamorphosis. Ed Ripley biggest show was planned during the Covid over at the Franklin Heritage Festival, and he and Tim Pressley will hopefully get another chance this year. We were glad to have Chris Koopman join us for the first time this year, so we had him catch up on all the "Talking Points" and we learned his first book was Harry Lorayne's Magic Book, his first trick was the Hot Rod, and he did a large Father/Daughter banquet for his biggest show.

Although we have heard the story, it's always fun to hear Mike Stratman tell about the time he became a promoter in Decatur, Illinois and got to open for Irlene Mandrell at the new Civic Center. Back to sharing magic, Jack Wilson was excited to show that his copy of *Mr. Jennings Takes It Easy* had arrived, and he was very impressed...especially since it has taken Mr. Kaufman 23 years to put it together. Michael Priestap showed up just days after his knee replacement surgery, and he did "Pre-Diction" and Face Off for the group. We also had our newly-elected Program Chairman, Victor Agreda, join us from Vermont on Zoom as well as Bill Osburn from Florida on vacation. Bill showed his latest purchase from Harry Allen melting a coin into a deck of cards to find a selected card. It was great to be back face-to-face...uncovered and closer than six-feet! Looking forward to more joining us soon.

Tom Vorjohan