

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

TIM PRESSLEY, President

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Our June meeting had less than ten members participating, but there was lots of magic! The plan is for the Ring to go to see Terry Evanswood on July 17 so we can be a part of his 25th year performing in Pigeon Forge! What an amazing accomplishment and boost for magic in our area. Since June had Father's Day celebrated earlier in the month, we had a theme of "Manly Magic" which was wildly open to interpretation. Our president, Tim Pressley, kicked things off showing his "official man card" which helped in a card trick. Jack Wilson pulled out "the studly spud" – Mr. Potato Head – and performed a great prediction effect from the June issue of The Linking Ring. Bill Sturgis went full-out manly as he placed a spike under one of five paper bags and smashed all of them except the one with the spike.

Bill Osburn showed that he had an official "Get Out of Jail" card that was valid in any state, then he did a collector-type effect with the kings and queens. Our only remote member participating (thanks to the tech savvy of Jack Wilson and Michael Messing!) was Tom Vorjohan who taught a great revelation effect for knowing what hand a coin is in. Then he did a similar king & queen effect that he had just learned when he was in Louisville at their Ring's first in-person meeting a week prior.

As the evening wound down, we opened up our "talking point" segment which was "brushes with a celebrity." Michael Messing had stories about cruising with Sinbad as well as Louie Anderson. Mike Stratman knows the entire Mandrel family, and he has ridden to the bottom of the Grand Canyon on a donkey with Kreskin! He has been to Sigfried and Roy's home and to Bob Hope's birthday party. When Jack Wilson was just six, he met Glenn Campbell. Bill Osburn met John Tess and had a book signed by Tommy Chong of Cheech & Chong. Tom Vorjohan was in an elevator with Howie Mandell and he performed close-up for Larry Bird. The stories went on and on. It was a great meeting.

Tom Vorjohan