

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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What a great start for 2022! We had 16 people participating in-person at the church, and we hooked up to Zoom for four more including our past president, John Hopper, from his hospital room and Tom Vorjohan down in Florida. The January meeting is always our longest business meeting as we discuss and prepare for the Winter Carnival, but we got down to magic quickly.

Ed Ripley was freshly back from the SAM Convention in Las Vegas where he won first place in Close-Up, the “People’s Choice” and a spot on an upcoming show at the famed Peacock Theater! We are very, very proud of Ed’s success, and he shared a slide show of some “behind the scenes” photos including the Frank Sinatra dressing room as well as the heaps of praise he received from various icons of magic. Way to go, Ed!!

We had ten other performers this evening, most of them using the theme of “Misdirection” as their guiding light. Jack Wilson employed some time misdirection to make a simple force and revelation amaze the group with “Prediction Prompter” by Ian Adair from the January issue of *The Linking Ring*. Roger Reeves shared some beautiful “tips” on how he effortlessly uses a Thumb Tip and Eclipse Tip in his act with incredible economy of movement and no fumbling. Appearing virtually from his home in Knoxville, Michael Priestap did the classic of misdirection with eight cards that had one vanish and become a blank card (aka Princess style).

Bill Sturgis had a beautiful large book that he used to produce five large drink bottles. First time guest – who is Order of Merlin! – Tom Raidy, presented his “Beware the Scoundrel” poem as he performed a multi-phased three-shell game including a shot glass at the end. The always funny Ray Adams did a beautiful sequence with three Chinese coins that penetrated on and off a ribbon and into a metal bucket. Bill Osburn used actual Marshal Brodien “TV Magic Cards” and a little misdirection to make a chosen card jump to the top of the deck and then the entire deck was all that card.

To bring this meeting to the finish line, President Tim Pressley showed several pamphlets that were not magic, but very cool including numerology and the “Ancient Book of Formulas.” First time guest (who came with Ray), Joshua Jackson, had us all believing he wasn’t going to do any magic, then “Wham” he produced a silk at his fingertips...with great misdirection! To end the meeting, the Secretary, Tom Vorjohan, talked about his presentation of Paper Balls Over Head and the incredible misdirection and audience control that has to go with it; Michael Messing added stories about watching Slydini performing the effect at Tannens’ Magic Camp and one other time with incredible control and misdirection. A great time was had by all!

Tom Vorjohan