



May 2026 Trestleboard

Noah Lodge No.357

Chartered April 28, 1966
Free and Accepted Masons of Florida
41 Willis Road
North Fort Myers, FL 33917

Noahlodge357.com

Stated Communication 2nd and 4th Mondays
at 7:30 PM

Elected Officers

Worshipful Master, W.: Edward D. Ciofani, PM
eciofani@me.com
239-656-0117

Senior Warden, W.: Jeffrey A. Tumbarello, PM
jeff.swflreia@gmail.com
239-671-8248

Junior Warden W.: Dana McGrath, PM

Treasurer, R.:W.: Michael O. Gardner, PDDGM
ddgmgardner24@gmail.com
239-707-8302

Secretary, R.:W.: Samuel J. J. Scardina, PDDGM
pm36797@gmail.com
239-738-6278

Appointed Officers

Chaplain, Brother Stephen Pfaff

Marshal, W.: Shawn Morton, PM

Senior Deacon, Brother Lawrence Shorter

Junior Deacon, Brother Charles Christman, Jr.

Senior Steward, Brother Timothy Martin

Junior Steward, Brother TBA

Tyler, W.: Raymond Brownlee, PM

2026 Committee Chairmen

10.02 Finance- W.: Jeffery Tumbarello, PM

10.03 Vigilance- W.: Dana McGrath, PM

10.04 Petitions – R.:W.: Sam Scardina, PDDGM

10.05 Education- W.: Ray Brownlee, PM

10.06 Relief- W.: Edward Ciofani, WM

10.07 Investigation- As needed

10.08 Charity- W.: Jeffery Tumbarello, PM

10.09 Lodge Property- W.: Jeff Tumbarello, PM

10.10 Neglect of Committee- W.: Ed Ciofani, WM

10.12(a) Budget- W.: Jeffery Tumbarello, PM

1012(b) Lodge Instructor- R.:W.: Sam Scardina, PDDGM

10.12(c) Website- Bro.: Larry Shorter

10.12(d) Trestleboard - Bro.: Larry Shorter

10.12(e) Harry Chapin- W.: Ray Brownlee, PM

10.12 (f) Public Relations- W.: Derek Vaneske, PM

10.12(g) Funerals- R.:W.: Michael Gardner, PDDGM

IMPORTANT **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May

4th Lodge Officers Practice 7:30 PM
11th Stated Communication 7:30 PM*
25th Dark

25th, 26th and 27th
197th Annual Grand Communication

June

1st Lodge Officers Practice 7:30 PM
7th Picnic Island 11:00 AM
Contact W.:Tumbarello or Brother Martin
8th Stated Communication 7:30 PM*
22nd Stated Communication 7:30 PM*
DDGM Official Visit
**Dinner is at 6:30 PM*

***ALL MASONS are invited and encouraged to attend. If you know a man who you would recommend becoming a Freemason you are encouraged to invite him to dinner and fellowship with the Brothers of the Lodge.**

L.Y.P.M.G.C.

**Set your goal at 100%...only Two Pennies a Day!!
This time you are asked to put in your 2¢**



**Want to support your Lodge financially for years to come? Buy a perpetual Membership today.
Ask the Lodge Secretary for the form.**

Lodges within the 24th District

Tropical Lodge No. 56

Stated Communications on the
1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 PM
10868 Metro Parkway
Fort Myer, FL 33966
R.:W.: Robert Lippek, Secretary
239-600-9084

Cypress No. 295

Stated Communications on the
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00 PM
5850 N. Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34108
W.: Dennis Cowley, Secretary
Phone 239-222-4181

Noah No. 357

Stated Communications on the
2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30 PM
41 Willis Road
North Fort Myers, FL 33917
R.:W.: Samuel Scardina, Secretary
Phone 239-478-9822

Fort Myers Beach No. 362

Stated Communications on the
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 PM
17671 Pine Ridge Road
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
W.: George Baliotis, Secretary
Phone 239-560-4873

Cape Coral No. 367

Stated Communications on the
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:30 PM
10868 Metro Parkway
Fort Myer, FL 33966
W.: Mark Vardakis, Secretary
Phone 313-310-8527

LaBelle No. 379

Stated Communications on the
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
180 Jaycee / Lions Drive
LaBelle, FL 33935
R.:W.: Edgar Lanham, Secretary
Phone 239-872-9211

R.:W.: Bruce Rivera
District Deputy Grand Master
239-297-9400

R.:W.: Scott Peacock
District Instructor
617-271-4331

What is Masonry?

by Bro. Walter H. Bonn, Victor, Iowa

It's not a sign or handshake,
a hall where tilers sit,

It's not a guarded building,
where passwords will admit,

It's not a place of symbols,
which Wardens oft display,

It's not a lodge of members,
who meet in white array.

It is the home of justice,
of liberty and truth,

Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth,

Of succor for a brother,

of gentleness and cheer,

Of tolerance for neighbors,

whose life is often drear.

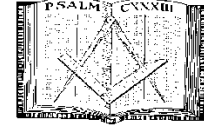
Maybe this will help.

Have you checked out the NEW Noah
Lodge Website?

www.noahlodge357.com

Now you can stay informed about all that is
happening at **YOUR** Lodge!

For the Good of the Order



Petitions Committee:

Mr. Brian Keith Gregory

Investigating Committee:

Mr. Gregory Lloyd Hill, II

For Ballot:

Petitions for the Degrees of Freemasonry

Petition for Affiliation

Brother Gus Coutin

Petion for Dual Membership

Brother Doug Godme

Waiting for Entered Apprentice Degree

133rd Psalm

Mr. Chauncy Solinger

Mr. Amaury Gomez

Mr. Gary Scicluna

Working on Entered Apprentice Catechism

Waiting for Fellowcraft Degree

Amos 7:7-8

Working on Fellowcraft Catechism

Waiting for Master Mason Degree

Ecclesiastes.12: 1-7

Working on Master Mason Catechism

FROM THE SOUTH



My Brothers,

Well, April showers bring May flowers. Everything's coming up roses at YOUR Lodge, too. The lights are up, even in the Dining Hall. More work continues, but there's Masonic light to be seen at the end of this tunnel.

We'll be conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on multiple Candidates in May or June. Watch the Facebook page for exact dates, or call me for details as the month rolls in (239-707-0001). It would be great to fill the bleacher seats for the newest Masons like WAY back in "the old days"

By the way, if you need something, Brothers, please remember we're Brothers and we'll do all we can to get you back on track!

Fraternally yours,

W.: Dana McGrath, PM
Junior Warden

BY THE PLUMB.

FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

As we move into May, I want to provide a brief update on what we have underway and where we are heading as a lodge.

On the charitable front, we are carrying forward five months' worth of our monthly charity. This is already accounted for within our existing budget and does not represent any new or additional spending. These funds will be directed toward assisting Lighthouse of SWFL Inc. in purchasing a pair of Meta glasses for a visually impaired individual. This technology provides real, practical benefits, including interpreting surroundings and reading text such as restaurant menus aloud, materially improving day-to-day independence.

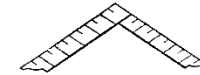
We also have a lodge social event scheduled. A Masonic Boat Day is set for June 7th. We will meet at Picnic Island at 11:00 AM. There will be a grill on site, and the intent is a relaxed day on the water with brothers and families. If you have a boat, plan to join us directly. If you do not, go to the Sanibel Causeway and call me at 239-671-8248. We have several brothers who will coordinate pickups.

From a membership standpoint, we are seeing positive growth. Engagement and participation continue to trend in the right direction, reflecting the effort being put into the lodge. At the May meeting, I will provide a detailed update comparing our actual spending to the planned budget so there is clear visibility into where we stand financially.

Fraternally,

W.: Jeff Tumbarello, PM
Senior Warden

FROM THE EAST



As the sun rises in the East...

My Brethren,

As April showers are to bring May flowers, meaning rain and more rain is heading our way. Nothing better than to start preparing for potential hurricanes this year. If anyone knows of someone in their community that may need assistance in preparing, let the craft know and we can discuss potential assistance.

I'd like to welcome three new members to Noah Lodge, W.: Travis Goff, W.: Nathan Goff and Brother John Connor and his beloved companion Daisy May.

As we move along with the rebuild, I'd like to thank Brother Christman for his dedication to the repairs, mainly the ceilings in the kitchen and Worship Hall. Last but not least, the continued success of our lodge is bringing good men into the fold. Recruitment is quintessential to our future!!

God Bless!!

Fraternally,

W.: Edward Ciofani, PM
Worship Master
Noah Lodge No. 357

Upon the Square...

Past Masters



1966 Earl C. Lewis*
1967 Robert L. Thompson*
1968 Gordon B. Mason*
1969 Louis A. Foss*
1970 David R. Grant*
1971 Charles E. Nelson*
1972 Walter E. Stillwell*
1973 John R. Lee*
1974 James T. Linton
1975 William B. Cowart*
1976 Wiley H. Welch
1977 Gerald L. Keeton*
1978 Alexander J. Sibbald
1979 Robert M. (Mike) Morrow*
1980 Fredrick W. Henningger*
1981 Upton S. Higginbotham
1982 Charles J. Christman, Sr.
1983 Milton A. Bayliss, Jr.*
1984 Howard L. Ekiss*
1985 Olan J. Hilderbrandt*
1986 Charles R. Lawson*
1987 John A. Dean
1988 John R. Grabowski*
1989 Olan J. Hilderbrandt*
1990 Richard G. Bashaw*
1991 Norris W. Clark, Jr.
1992 Stephen G. Sibbald
1993 Alexander J. Sibbald
1994 Dr. Mark C. Means
1995 Floyd D. Waddell*
1996 Dr. Rick A. Means
1997 Larry G. Hayes
1998 John A. Dean

Past Masters



1999 Dana P. McGrath
2000 Thomas E. Reedy*
2001 Lawrence A. Tomlinson, PDDGM
2002 Brian D. Harkins
2003 Robert M. (Mike) Morrow*
2004 Jerry W. Timberlake*PDDGM
2005 Robert L. Gilliland*
2006 David C. Dellinger, II
2007 Christopher D. Kelly
2008 Lawrence A. Tomlinson, PDDGM
2009 Thomas E. Reedy*
2010 Dr. Rick A. Means
2011 Larry B. Newton*
2012 Lawrence A. Tomlinson, PDDGM
2013 James E. Hamilton, Jr.
2014 Rhett D. Tillman
2015 Michael W. Gardner, PDDGM
2016 Robert L. Sabo
2017 Edward D. Ciofani
2018 Jeffery A. Tumbarello
2019 Michael O. Gardner, PDDGM
2020 Joseph C. Krieger
2021 Christopher A. Pare'
2022 Michael O. Gardner, PDDGM
2023 Edward D. Ciofani
2024 Edward D. Ciofani
2025 Edward D. Ciofani

Deceased*

From the Desk of Your Lodge Secretary

Greetings my Brothers,

First, Thank you for your trust electing me as Lodge Secretary for Noah Lodge No. 357. Thus far, I have witnessed firsthand many positive changes and activities at Noah! I hope you will stop by and see the progress made and the progress that continues through the dedication of several Brothers. If you think there is nothing you can do to help, you are mistaken. There are many ways you can help your Lodge return as a very strong Lodge.

Noah Lodge has gained eleven new members and continues to climb in numbers.



The Officers are working extra hard on the ritual work and are improving each time we meet for practice.

Possibly an Entered Apprentice Degree in late May.

Now for the ugly part. Many have not paid their 2026 Dues, Per Capita or even the \$7.30 for the home. Unfortunately, I will be sending out notices very soon to several Brothers.




Sincerely and fraternally,

R.:W.: Samuel J. J. Scardina, P.D.D.G.M.
Secretary

May	2026		SUBJECT	TO	CHANGE	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Lodge Ritual Practice 7:30 PM 	4	6	7	8	9 Open Books 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM Tropical
10 Mother's Day	11 Stated Communication 7:30 PM 	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Dark 197 th Annual Grand Communication	26 197 th Annual Grand Communication	27 197 th Annual Grand Communication	28	29	30
31						

The Charity for the month of May for Noah Lodge No. 357 is
Lighthouse of SWFL

**PRINT ME AND HANG ME ON
YOUR COLD STORAGE APPLIANCE
Just Remember to Change Me Every Month**

June	2026	SUBJECT	TO	CHANGE		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lodge Ritual Practice 7:30 PM 	2	3	4	5	6
7 **Picnic Island 11:00 AM	8 Stated Communication 7:30 PM 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 DDGM Official Visit to Noah 	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**The Charity for the month of May for Noah Lodge No. 357 is
Lighthouse of SWFL**

***Picnic Island please contact W. Tumbarello or
Brother Martin for more information.**

**PRINT ME AND HANG ME ON
YOUR COLD STORAGE APPLIANCE
Just Remember to Change Me Every Month**

A Mason's Charity
By Brother Stephen Suratos
Junior Deacon, Naomi Lodge No. 87

In closing a Lodge on any degree, we invoke the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe with these words: "May we daily increase in Faith, Hope, and Charity; but more especially in that Charity which is the bond of peace and the perfection of every virtue."

It is also explained in the Entered Apprentice's lecture that we claim the vast dimensions of the earth to represent the universal nature of Freemasonry and its relationship to the unrestrained nature of a Mason's charity. We also learn that the greatest round in Jacob's theological ladder is CHARITY for it "extends beyond the grave throughout the boundless realms of eternity."

But, what is charity? The dictionary defines charity as:

1. Benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity;
2. Generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering, for example:
 - Aid given to those in need;
 - An institution engaged in relief of the poor;
 - Public provision for the relief of the needy;
3. A gift for public benevolent purposes; for example:
 - An institution (such as a hospital) founded by such a gift;
4. Lenient judgment of others;

A very common concept of charity is giving time, money, or property. However, a deeper and more significant meaning of charity is defined as being (from 1 and 4 above):

To have a benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity, and to have a lenient judgment of others. Thus, CHARITY doesn't only mean or focus on donating money or services but having a pure and charitable HEART. By this is meant, we should wish for, and be willing to encourage, the best in our Brethren and disregard our irregular passions. We should always be sincere in exercising the tenets of our profession – that of BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH.

The two doctrines of Brotherly Love and Relief can be construed as outward expressions of Charity, for "we are taught to regard the whole human species as one common family....to aid, support, and protect each other," and, "to relieve the distressed, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds" which is "the grand aim we have in view."

The following is a beautiful story depicting Charity extending beyond the grave and also reinforces our charge to not side idly by while our fellow man is in need. Some of you may already know about this story, but it is worthwhile hearing again.

In a small town in mid-19th century America, a young man said to his wife, "Mary, you have a shawl you never use. May I have it?"

She was puzzled for a few moments, but got the shawl. He thanked her and left the house. She was suspicious, because several evenings during the past few months he had left after dinner without any explanation. He was never gone long, and when he returned he seemed to have an inner peace about him. He said nothing, and neither did she.

About a week later, Mary was shopping in the village when she saw her shawl again. She was shocked. It was on the shoulders of a beautiful young lady. Angrily Mary followed the girl to a shabby shack. Mary

knocked on the door. The girl opened it and smiled when she saw the visitor. She held the door open and Mary stomped in. As Mary looked around, she saw an elderly lady propped up on a cot.

The lady smiled and said: "How nice of you to visit us." Mary was stunned. She did not really know what to say. The girl asked if she could fix her a cup of tea. Mary nodded and the girl turned to put a kettle on the stove. While the water was heating, Mary said, "I do not know exactly what to say, so I will tell you the truth. I saw my shawl on your daughter, and I was furious. Last week, my husband asked me for it but didn't tell me why. I still don't understand how you have it."

The mother said "We have no idea who left it. We have no idea who has been doing some nice things for us for the past several months. Perhaps now we can solve the mystery."

It started soon after my husband died. We had no money, and I am unable to work. And Nancy couldn't find a job. We were desperate. We had no food and no fuel.

Then one morning when Nancy opened the door, she found several packages of food, clothing, and coal on the doorstep. You have no idea what that meant to us. A short time later, along with more packages, Nancy found a note telling her to see Mr. Tompkins, the lawyer, if she would like a job. She did and Mr. Tompkins hired her. He also sent a doctor to see me, who has been coming regularly ever since, and he won't take any money. And we still find packages, but have no idea where they come from."

They drank their tea and chatted pleasantly for some time. The mysterious packages were mentioned from time to time.

Suddenly Mary asked: "Was your husband a Mason?" "Yes, he was," said the lady. "He loved his Lodge. I don't think he ever missed a meeting."

A short time later Mary left, promising to visit often. After dinner that evening, Mary worked on a quilt she was making while her husband read.

She looked up from her work and said, "I think I learned the great secret of Masonry today." Her husband looked at her with alarm and asked, "And what is it?" Mary answered: "To do good and not say anything about it."

Now, as I said, this is a beautiful STORY, but our job as Masons is to make it more than that.

It should inspire our lives and our actions. It should encourage us to do a little more than we would otherwise do and to be a little better than we otherwise would be.

Of course, we cannot meet every need or help everyone all of the time. We also know that our charity should not cause material injury to ourselves or our families, but there is so much more we can do that we don't.

Sometimes all that is needed by someone who is sad, or lonely, or in distress is a kind word or gesture, a smile or handshake; a pat on the back or a hug. We know these little things can mean so much, so what stops us from sending that card, or making that call that we were thinking about? What stops us from making that visit or doing that favor that we could so easily do? Are we too tired, too distracted, or too engaged in our own enjoyments?

We are human and none of us is perfect, but our Masonic philosophy, the teachings of our ritual, and our Masonic obligations are there to help us when we find ourselves being morally lazy or selfish.