

STATED COMMUNICATION

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

June 2
June 16

DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD

JUNE 2026



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

2026 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Aaron Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

Andrew Silvia

Treasurer

Bruce Prescott

Secretary

Robert Lippek, PDDGM

Senior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Junior Deacon

Nicholas Gadbois

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Steward

Jerry Hamm, Jr.

Junior Steward

Robert Bennett

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM



CALLED COMMUNICATION

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

TUESDAY, JUNE 30th

6:30 p.m. Dinner / 7:30 p.m. Degree



QUOTE FROM A FAMOUS MASON: "The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose

death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it." – Bro. Clark Gable / Actor (Beverly Hills Lodge No.528)

TROPICALLODGE56.ORG

Greetings from the East



I hope this finds you healthy and happy. It is hard to believe that yet another month has passed. But, as May draws to a close we have much to look back on and be proud of. On May 2nd and 8th, some of the officers and members of Tropical Lodge gathered at the building to finish the process of cleaning out the back room in preparation for construction. This was a demanding task, in the grueling summer heat, that saw us fill two 30 yard dumpsters. Thank you to all you Brothers who came out to help us accomplish this important task, and special thanks go to Brothers Randy Crone and Dave Foote for the organization of dumpsters, rental of a front end loader, and overall coordination of this project.

On May 13th, officers and members of Tropical Lodge got out to support some of our community's educational institutions. We started the day by delivering a check to support Tice Elementary School's summer snow cone event. As always, we were warmly welcomed by Principal Riemenschneider and her faculty, who were extremely grateful for the monetary support we were able to offer *because of your generosity*. After that, we traveled down to the FGCU Campus Food Pantry to make a very large delivery to support the at-need student population. At 573 pounds, this was our largest single delivery to date and brought our total to 2,195 pounds! That's over a ton of food we have been able to provide our future doctors, nurses, teachers, first responders and future community leaders. As a reminder, higher education is not just for the privileged. Many students in college are on a shoestring budget and are unable to afford the expensive meal plans. A blown tire or radiator gone bad can wipe out their food money for the month, or longer, so we thank you for making an investment in the future of our community.

The Grand Lodge of Florida's 197th Annual Communication was just held from May 25th to May 27th and I want to thank you for your confidence in us as your Lodge representatives. We voted on 20 pieces of legislation, heard many Grand Lodge Committee reports, and saw the changing of the guard. It was great to get to gather with the other officers of the Tremendous 24th Masonic District, as well as spend time with each other each evening. On a personal note, I would like to congratulate my mentor and friend R.:W.: Gene Sims, for his successful year as Most Worshipful Atala's Grand Sword Bearer! I know we are all very proud of him!

Looking ahead, be sure to mark your calendars with these dates of importance. Tuesday June 2nd, when we will hold an Entered Apprentice proficiency examination and enjoy some Masonic history, as W.: John Gavin gives his presentation about Masons in the U.S. space program. We will also review the legislation that was voted on at the recent Grand Lodge Annual Communication. On Tuesday June 30th we will hold a Called Communication for the purpose of conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree for three candidates, which promises to be a wonderful evening. We hope you will join us for both of these special occasions and all those in between. I want to thank you again for helping to make this such a successful year so far and I look forward to all the wonderful things we will accomplish together in the remaining months.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com

"It's Hip to be Square."



Introducing the newest District Deputy Grand Master for the 24th Masonic District: Our very own Right Worshipful Jeff Zimmerman, with Lady Cindi Vos.





24th MASONIC DISTRICT

R.: W. DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER'S OFFICIAL VISITS

June 9	– LaBelle
June 11	– Cypress
June 18	– Ft. Myers Beach
June 22	– Noah
June 25	– Cape Coral
July 7	– Tropical

From the Secretary's Desk



Our 2026 dues remain at \$127.30. If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns about payment, please reach out to me at **941-677-2342**. I'm always happy to talk and work with you. No Brother should feel uncomfortable reaching out.

As mentioned in previous Trestle Boards, dues may be paid by credit card through the Amity phone app or by contacting Grand Lodge directly.

If you have had any changes to your phone number, mailing address, or email address, please let me know by sending an email to secretarytropical56@gmail.com so we can keep our records up to date.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and wonderful year. We look forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Bobby Lippek, PDDGM
Secretary
(941) 677-2342
secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Greetings from the West



I am writing this on my return from the Grand Lodge. I was looking around the room while attending the Grand Lodge and seeing over 1500 Masons from all over the world attending.

The thing that occurred to me was although we might not speak the same language, we might not eat the same food, we may not share the same economic backgrounds the thing that I noticed is it doesn't matter where or what your background is, the passion and pride of being a Mason was evident throughout that place. You walk through the halls of the hotel and meet strangers and inevitably, while waiting to get a coffee or waiting on the elevator, you will get into a conversation with that person and you will see the pride that they carry as good or greater than your own of being part of the world we call Freemasonry!

I want to take the time to thank my fellow brothers for having the confidence and in trusting me to represent Tropical Lodge

No. 56 this year again. It was a real honor and privilege and I do not take it lightly! We go there to vote in the new grand line of officers and to vote on the digest changes, but the conversations with other Lodges of their strengths and weaknesses and how they deal with them is invaluable. I can hardly wait to get to tell you about them. The one thing that I can see is Tropical Lodge is no slouch. I had brothers from other lodges say "Oh I've heard of your lodge and how well you guys are doing". We have and are great group of brothers and I am proud to wear my name tag with our lodge name on it.

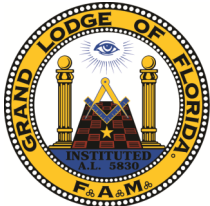
Lets have a great June Brothers.

Shawn Hubbard

Senior Warden
(239) 823-6034
motherhubbardscc@gmail.com



District 24



District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Jeff Zimmerman
(239) 895-5390

1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

District Instructor

R.:H.: Richard Pennewaert
(254) 258-4271

rpennewaert@gmail.com



Culinary Greetings from the South



I would like to give a big THANK YOU to our current EAs, along with Br. Logan and Br. Ismeal, who worked together to provide us with dinner on May 19th. It was a great bonding and teamwork building effort. A few of them will be moving up to FC in the near future, but we have more petitioners in the works so expect another EA dinner later this year.

Tropical Lodge No. 56 is continuing to grow and expanding our brotherhood. We are setting the example on what a successful lodge should be. Don't sit on the sidelines, get involved; there is always good work for

Andy Silvia

Junior Warden
(508) 728-7491
Asilvia64@aol.com



JUNE MENU

June 2

Spiral ham, mashed potatoes, veggies, rolls and desert

June 16

Italian sausage, peppers, onions on rolls, potato salad, and dessert.



Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/TropicalLodge56>

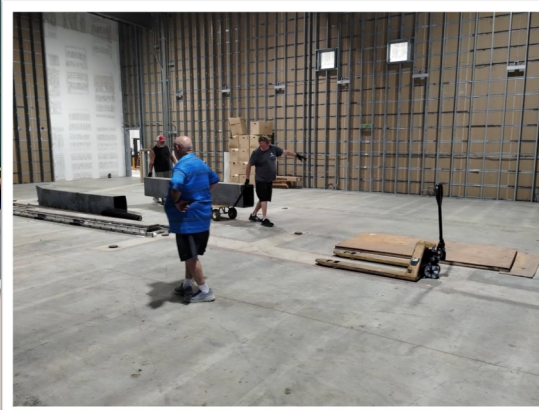


Happenings Last Month



May 2 and May 8: Thank you to the Brothers who came out to help the Lodge Property Committee with the back room project! After another long day of hard work, and yet another full dumpster, we look forward to moving ahead with the next phase!

Cleanup & Renovations



May 13: Some of the officers and members of Tropical Lodge No. 56 had a fantastic day getting out to support our community, followed by some great fellowship at lunch!

Congratulations to the faculty and students of Tice Elementary on all your amazing accomplishments! It is an honor to support your summer snow cone event and we look forward to seeing pictures of all those happy, hard working children!

Tropical Charities!




Also many thanks to the Brothers who continue to donate food to our "Feeding Minds" program supporting the FGCU Food Pantry! Today's delivery might be the biggest one yet, and at 1,622 lbs so far, we are hoping this helps us top the 2,000 lb. mark!



PAST MASTERS

Tropical No. 56 F&AM

Established
1882

L.C. Washburn* 1892-1896, 1899-1900 & 1902	Charles Varner* 1935	Berwyn Clifton* 1960	Francis D. Swaringen 1984	Barry P. Thrasher* (PDDGM) 2008
L.C. Stewart* 1897-1898	Ray Kissinger* 1936	C.J. Leffers* 1961	Maynard W. Matz* 1985	Samual Bissell 2009
Charles O. Swanson* 1901	Robert R. Gresham* 1937	James I. Whitaker* 1962	H. Curt Hardin* 1986	Ernest R. Spradling 2010
L.M. Stroup* (PDDGM) 1903 & 1909	Charles R. Smith* 1938	Earl. C. Lewis* 1963	Edward J. Jackman* 1987	Richard T. Nelson* 2011
Frank C. Alderman* 1904	Fred J. Lahor* 1939	George E. Blust* 1964	E.W. Landrum 1988	Edward McCullers 2012
N.G. Stout* (PDDGM) 1905 & 1914-1915	Guy M. Strayhorn* 1940	Robert A. Reedy* 1965	E. Wade Sandahl 1989	John Cavada 2013
George H. Ireland* 1906, 1908, 1912-1913 & 1918	Joe Shofner* 1941-1942 & 1944	Lewis R. Long* 1966	Rodney D. Irvin (PDDGM) 1990	Mark Smith 2014
Frank Kellow* 1907	L.E. Steward* 1943	Irvin I Edenfield* 1967	Wayne A. McConley 1991	Michael P. Lewis 2015
G.F. Funch* 1910	Edgar M. Boyette* 1945	Richard G. Simpson, Jr.* 1968	Gordon A. Fore* (PDDGM & GLO) 1992	John Gavin 2016
T.J. Evans* 1911	John W. Shultz* 1946	Richard T. Edelblut, Sr. 1969	Mark T. Goodman 1993	Gene F. Sims (PDDGM & PDI) 2017-2018
David N. Ireland* 1916	Leslie N. Russel* 1947	Andrew L. Chandler* (PDDGM) 1970	Edward D. Johns 1994	Joseph Setaro 2019
DeWitt T. Farabee* 1917	M.M. Tillis* 1948	Alva R. Jones, Jr.* (PDDGM) 1971	Joe D. Lewis (PDDGM & PDI) 1995	Alexander Guilday 2020
John L. Morris* 1919-1923	J.T. Harper* 1949	William E. Hart* 1972	Charles A. Williford* (PDI) 1996	Jeffery Zimmerman 2021
W.O. Sheppard* 1924-1925	J.D. Holland* 1950	Tom H. Youngblood* 1973	Thomas P. Gordon* 1997	Victor Fiore 2022
R.V. Lee* 1926	Wilson Starnes* 1951	James A. Hamby 1974	Albert H. Andrews 1998	Thomas Knafel 2023 & 2025
C.M. Storter* 1927	Roland O. Palmer* 1952	Ronald G. Frieden (PDI) 1975-1976	Bernard L. Flynn 1999 & 2001	Aaron A. Averhart 2024 & 2026
Robert T. Branham* 1928	Dana L. Brechtel* 1953	James P. Stephens* 1977	James L. Record (PDDGM) 2000	
T.P. Bartleson* 1929	W. Stanley Hansen, Jr.* 1954	Charles M. McWilliams* 1978	Samual N. Summerall 2002	
J.H. Ingram* 1930	Eugene V. Washburn* 1955	Richard G. Simpson, Jr.* 1979	T. H. Bodenhamer (PDDGM) 2003	
William R. Anderson* 1931	Foy C. Adams* 1956	Tom H. Youngblood* 1980	Roger G. Shields 2004	
John M. Trolan* 1932	Charles A. Powell, Jr.* 1957	Arlan N. Roan 1981	Jason J. Ott (PDI) 2005	
E.L. Daniel* 1933	W.W. Watson* 1958	Vernon E. Lynch 1982	E.W. Lott 2006	
Leslie G. Sheets* 1934	Marshall E. Wilkens* 1959	Earl P. Williams* 1983	Bry G. Parsons* 2007	

*Indicates Deceased

1962-2021

This section is dedicated to the Past Masters of the former Lehigh Acres No. 344 F&AM. Although their Lodge merged with Tropical No. 56 in August 2021, they are our Brothers and will continue to be honored here for their past service & dedication to Freemasonry.



PAST MASTERS

Lehigh Acres No. 344 F&AM



ROBERT BERNSTEIN*	1962
WALTER RIDGE*	1963
GRADY RYMER*	1964
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1965
LEON HURTADO*	1966
WILLIAM BEEMAN*	1967
FRANK LYONS*	1968
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1969
CHARLES GOEHLE JR*	1970
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1971
CHARLES GOEHLE JR*	1972
PAUL MELOY	1973—1974
JAMES FOSTER	1975

ROY C. ROBERTS*	1976
WILBER FRENCH*	1977
PAUL WILLIAMSON*	1978
JAMES BURGETT*	1979
RONALD TEMPLIN*	1980
JOHN BEDNAR*	1981
ERNEST SAMUELSON*	1982
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1983
WALTER REESE*	1984
ROBERT CAMPBELL*	1985
PAUL GOEHLE*	1986
WALLACE BATEMAN*	1987
LEWIS FISH	1988
TED BLOCK	1989
ROBERT HOEPPNER*	1990
ALBERT SAMUELSON*	1991
ANDREW STANFORTH*	1992
J. DOUGLAS WRIGHT	1993
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1994
HARRY HOPKINS*	1995
CLIFF AYERS	1996
KENNETH LAVINE*	1997

JEROME MASSEE*	1998
WILLIAM HORSELING*	1999
CHARLES MARTIN	2000
KENNETH LAVINE*	2001
HELMUT REIMER	2002
JAMES ROSE*	2003
CARL PETERSON	2004
JONATHAN HAMMETT	2005
RALPH MCDONALD*	2006
MICHAEL CROUCHELLI	2007
GUY WALTMAN*	2008
JOHN CARTER	2009
JASON HOLLINGER	2010
WILLIAM HORACIO JR.*	2011
PAUL GOEHLE *	2012-2013
G. RICHARD CURETON	2014
DANIEL AKARD	2015
ROBERT LIPPEK	2016
KEVIN GOURLEY	2017
JAMES BOLLA, SR.	2018
FRED NATOLI	2019
KEVIN GOURLEY	2020
LUIS TULIER	2021

*Indicates Deceased

Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners

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