

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

MAY 5
MAY 19

DINNER 6:30PM MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD

MAY 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

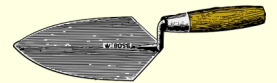


"The true Mason never hesitates to use the working tools to correct personal flaws."

—William Howard Taft

27th President of the United States

William Howard Taft was made a Freemason "at sight" on February 18, 1909, at an occasional lodge convened by the Grand Master of Ohio. The ceremony took place at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Cincinnati, and he was subsequently affiliated with Kilwinning Lodge No. 356.



TROPICAL LODGE 56.ORG

Greetings from the East



I hope this finds everyone healthy and well rested after the Easter holiday! April has been a fantastic month for Tropical Lodge, packed full of activity, and I want to thank the Craft for your support and enthusiasm.

On April 7th we welcomed Right Honorable Jason Ott (right) back to Lodge and presented him with his 25 Year Service Award. Congratulations and thanks are in order for his many years of service to our Lodge and district.

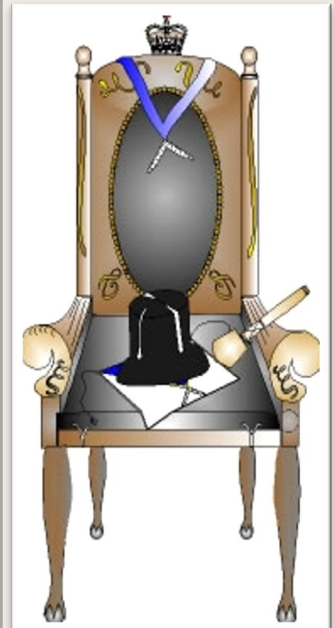
On Saturday April 18th we returned to the Midwest Food Bank to offer up our time and energy in support of their valuable services to our community. A wonderful time was had by all the Brothers and family members that came together and we hope you will join us when we return to the MFB this summer!

On Friday April 24th Tropical Lodge conferred a Master Mason Degree to raise to the sublime degree of Master Mason Brothers Logan Bryant and Ismael Saucedo of Tropical Lodge No. 56 and Damien Arakaki of Punta Gorda Lodge No. 115. This was a momentous event for us as a Lodge, as it was the first Master Mason Degree we have conferred in seven years, and the first cast made entirely of Tropical Lodge members in at least 12 years! I want to thank all of the degree team members who put in months of practice to prepare, and all the Brothers who came out to support us. I could not be more excited about the strides we have made in our ritual work and the incredible bonds that have been built in the process. Many thanks also go to members of Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 and Punta Gorda Lodge No. 115 who assisted on the canvas crew and as part of the 12 Fellow Craft. If you are interested in getting involved with our ritual work, please let me know. This is open to all members of the Lodge, and we would love to have you take part!

Looking forward, we will soon be planning an Entered Apprentice Degree for several potential candidates. We will be travelling to Florida Gulf Coast University to make a delivery of donated food to their Food Pantry, and we will be delivering the Charity of the Month donation and additional money collected to our adopted school Tice Elementary to support their summer snow cone event, both in early May. We will keep you informed of those dates, so look for an email from our Secretary to announce those outings and please come and join us as we work to support our community.

Your Worshipful Master and Wardens will also be traveling to Orlando at the end of May for the 197th Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida, where we will represent the Craft as we consider and vote on proposed legislation and Grand Lodge officers.

Thank you all for your continued support and for allowing us to serve you this year. It is humbling to be part of such an incredible Masonic family, and I look forward to seeing you all on the level!



Aaron Averhart, PM

**Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837**

cmndraverhart@gmail.com

"It's Hip to be Square."



From the Secretary's Desk



This is a friendly reminder that if you have not yet paid your dues, now is a great time to do so. 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



What an April! We performed our first Master Mason degree in seven years and we managed to do that with all Tropical members in the positions.

Congratulations to Brothers Ismael and Logan! I can't tell you how proud I am and the Lodge is of you guys! I look forward to what you two are going to bring to the future of Tropical.

We also volunteered at the Midwest Food Bank again and it was full of laughter and camaraderie of the brothers that attended. We also managed to bag a ton of gravy!

We voted in the lodge to support once again Tice Elementary School and we are going to buy the children snow cones for their last day of the school year. I'm so proud that we continue to do this type of work throughout the community.

I would also like to give an update on the Southwest Florida Masonic Charities. As a group we have raised over \$7000 to purchase two mechanical chairs for the school. It is a group effort and I'm proud to say that the results are astounding. We have a gentleman coming down from Tallahassee that is going to go to the school and we're pretty sure he's going to buy at least another chair. We had a goal of five total so we are well on our way to meeting that goal. If any members of the lodge are interested in joining the charities, please reach out to me.

May is going to be a great month and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the dinners and meetings.

Shawn Hubbard
Senior Warden
(239) 823-6034
motherhubbardsc@gmail.com



District 24



District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Bruce Rivera
(239) 297-9400
rwbruce2025@gmail.com

District Instructor

R.:W.: Scott Peacock
(617) 271-4331
peacockddgm@gmail.com

Culinary Greetings from the South



Tropical Lodge has truly become a shining example of all that is good in Masonry. Our numerous charitable donations, the renovations and improvements on the building & property and the sense of brotherhood among our members. Every Brother should feel a sense of pride that comes from the accomplishments that we have here at Tropical No. 56. Be active and get involved because we need every one of you to continue the positive progress we are making.

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



MAY MENU

May 5 (Cinco de Mayo)

Beef/chicken tacos, rice, tossed salad and dessert

May 19 (FC/EA Meal)

Burgers, hotdogs, tossed salad, sides and desert

Social Media

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

Happenings Last Month



Midwest
FOOD BANK.
FLORIDA



(April 18th)



(April 24th)

Tropical Lodge's first Master Mason Degree in 7 years!



Welcome to our newest Master Masons, Brother Logan Bryant and Brother Ismael Saucedo!



Our 2026 Master Mason Degree Team

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
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



ROY C. ROBERTS*	1976	JEROME MASSEE*	1998
WILBER FRENCH*	1977	WILLIAM HORSELING*	1999
PAUL WILLIAMSON*	1978	CHARLES MARTIN	2000
JAMES BURGETT*	1979	KENNETH LAVINE*	2001
RONALD TEMPLIN*	1980	HELMUT REIMER	2002
JOHN BEDNAR*	1981	JAMES ROSE*	2003
ERNEST SAMUELSON*	1982	CARL PETERSON	2004
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1983	JONATHAN HAMMETT	2005
WALTER REESE*	1984	RALPH MCDONALD*	2006
ROBERT CAMPBELL*	1985	MICHAEL CROUCHELLI	2007
PAUL GOEHLE*	1986	GUY WALTMAN*	2008
WALLACE BATEMAN*	1987	JOHN CARTER	2009
LEWIS FISH	1988	JASON HOLLINGER	2010
TED BLOCK	1989	WILLIAM HORACIO JR.*	2011
ROBERT HOEPPNER*	1990	PAUL GOEHLE *	2012-2013
ALBERT SAMUELSON*	1991	G. RICHARD CURETON	2014
ANDREW STANFORTH*	1992	DANIEL AKARD	2015
J. DOUGLAS WRIGHT	1993	ROBERT LIPPEK	2016
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1994	KEVIN GOURLEY	2017
HARRY HOPKINS*	1995	JAMES BOLLA, SR.	2018
CLIFF AYERS	1996	FRED NATOLI	2019
KENNETH LAVINE*	1997	KEVIN GOURLEY	2020
		LUIS TULIER	2021
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		

*Indicates Deceased

Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners

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