STATED COMMUNICATION
FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

NOVEMBER 3
NOVEMBER 17
DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM

10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL
PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

TRESTLE BOARD
NOVEMBER 2026

TROPICALLODGE56.ORG

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







Friday, November 13

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Hosted by
Tab'ltha Temple No. 135 Daughters of the Nile
and
Tropical Lodge No. 56 F&AM

Location: Tropical Lodge
10868 Metro Parkway
Ft. Myers, FL 33966

Spaghetti with Sauce
Salad, Bread,
Iced Tea, Lemonade
Dessert with ice cream

Special:
Tab'ltha "Bakery" will be selling baked goods to take home.

Cost: $15.00 per meal

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

50/50 Drawing at 6:30 p.m.

Take-out Dinners will be available for $15.00 each.

Please note: Take-out meals are not included with the price of an eat-in meal.

Trestle Board Publisher
W.: Kevin Gourley, PM
(2024—Present)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Greetings from the East



Fall is here and while we may not get to enjoy the leaves changing color, you can feel the change in the air! As we near Thanksgiving, there is so much to be thankful for at Tropical Lodge. First and foremost I would like to thank our Lodge Property Committee members for the outstanding work they are doing with our storage area construction project and maintaining the building and its many facets. While you may not physically see them at work, they are there many days of the week dealing with contractors, service technicians, and making repairs and improvements themselves. Please be sure to thank Brothers Randy Crone, Dave Foote, and Shawn Hubbard for their hard work and dedication, when you see them next.

Catching up on the past month, the members of Tropical Lodge have been busy both in and out of the Lodge. On Friday October 2nd, members of Tropical Lodge participated in a Masonic Honor Day. First we visited the Fort Myers Courthouse to view the time capsule display on the second floor. After members of Tropical Lodge laid the cornerstone of the second courthouse building in 1915, they contributed items like a Masonic apron, trowel, and papers listing the Lodge and Eastern Star members that participated in the ceremony and attended in support, all of which were included in the time capsule. After that, we traveled to the old Fort Myers Cemetery where we cleaned headstones of Tropical Lodge Past Masters, officers, and members. We also located numerous other headstones not on our list, which we honored with the same respect and care. After working up a great appetite, we went to Biggie's Place for lunch and fellowship, capping off a fantastic day together. Thank you to all the Brothers who were able to participate. For those unable to attend, look for this outing to be repeated in the spring of 2027.

On October 20th, we were treated to a Fellow Craft catechism proficiency exam. Brother Bruce Prescott, the head of our Catechism program, examined Brothers Ed Willis and Nick Patino, and their proficiency was warmly received by the members of the Lodge. These two Brothers will be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on **Friday December 11, 2026**, at Tropical Lodge. This will be an extra special occasion, as the second section will be held outside behind the building, something that hasn't been done in the last decade or so. Dinner will be served at 6 pm and the degree will begin at 7. We hope you will mark your calendars and make plans to attend this special evening. Speaking of marking your calendars, please note these two upcoming events. Tropical Lodge will hold our Annual Past Master and Awards Night on **Saturday November 7th**, where we will honor our Junior Past Master and all the Brothers who help make Tropical the amazing Lodge it is, dinner at 5 pm and presentations at 6 pm. On **Friday November 13**, Tropical Lodge will partner with Tab'Itha Temple No. 135 Daughters of the Nile, to hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser! We can use your help cooking and serving or just showing up to buy dinner if you can't help in the kitchen. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner service begins at 5:30, and the 50/50 raffle drawing will take place at 6:30.

Masonic Home of Florida

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES

The Masonic Outreach Services Program connects the Masonic Home of Florida to members of the Masonic Family, while also partnering with Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies to make a difference for their members and in their communities. Through the Outreach Programs, the Masonic Home is able to meet the changing and diverse needs of the membership through various assistance programs while working to strength, support and educate the Masonic communities throughout the state.



(727) 308-4228

www.masonichomefl.com

As I said in the beginning of my message, there is so much to be thankful for at Tropical Lodge, and it's all made possible by you Brothers! Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to the next time we meet upon the level!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837
cmndraverhart@gmail.com

"Historia est Magistra Vitae"





From the Secretary's Desk



The 2027 Tropical Lodge dues will be $145.00, plus $18.25 for LYPMGC for a total of $163.25.

Dues notices for 2027 will be mailed out this month, so please keep an eye out for yours.

Payment Options:

- **Check or Money Order:** If mailing a check, please include your Grand Lodge ID number in the memo line so your payment can be properly credited.
- **Credit Card:** Pay through the Amity mobile app or by contacting the Grand Lodge directly.

If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns regarding payment, please call me my phone number below. I am always happy to speak with you and work through any situation.

Additionally, if you have had any changes to your phone number, mailing address, or email address, please notify me at secretarytropical56@gmail.com so we can keep our records up to date.

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

Greetings from the West



As the year draws to a close, it is amazing to reflect on how quickly the time has flown. In just a few short weeks, we will elect our new officers, ensuring the wheels of our lodge continue to roll steadily forward.

I am incredibly proud of our lodge and everything we have accomplished over the last few years. In particular, getting our dedicated degree team firmly in place has been a massive milestone, and I look forward to watching our newer brothers step up to advance the ritual work. I am also deeply proud of our community outreach. From adopting a local school and awarding scholarships to volunteering at the food bank, we are truly making a meaningful impact right where it matters.

To truly finish this incredible year strong, we need to rally together for one final push. We have two major opportunities right ahead of us: our upcoming spaghetti dinner, which directly supports the lodge's funds, and our 50/50 raffle, which will fund our "Turkeys for Tice" community initiative. This dinner is a true group effort between the Daughters of the Nile and Tropical Lodge 56, taking place on November 13th for just $15 a plate. We will also be offering the 50/50 raffle tickets that very same night, so please come prepared to support both great causes. Let's bring the same dedication we've shown all year to these final events and make sure we end on a high note. I look forward to seeing everyone step up for our lodge and our neighbors!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

On November 4th, 1752 a 20 year old George Washington entered the fraternity as an Entered Apprentice in Fredericksburg, Virgina, beginning his lifelong journey as America's most famous Freemason.

Culinary Greetings from the South



As we begin to approach the holiday season Tropical Lodge is becoming even more active. There are so many events and projects being conducted that it can often be difficult to keep track. All of this progress is only possible because of the active membership that we have. I want to thank all of those who have been participating

In our progress, Tropical Lodge is a success all because of you.

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

MENU

NOVEMBER 3:
Baked ziti, Caesar salad, garlic bread and dessert.

NOVEMBER 17:
Beef and chicken tacos, rice, tossed salad and dessert.

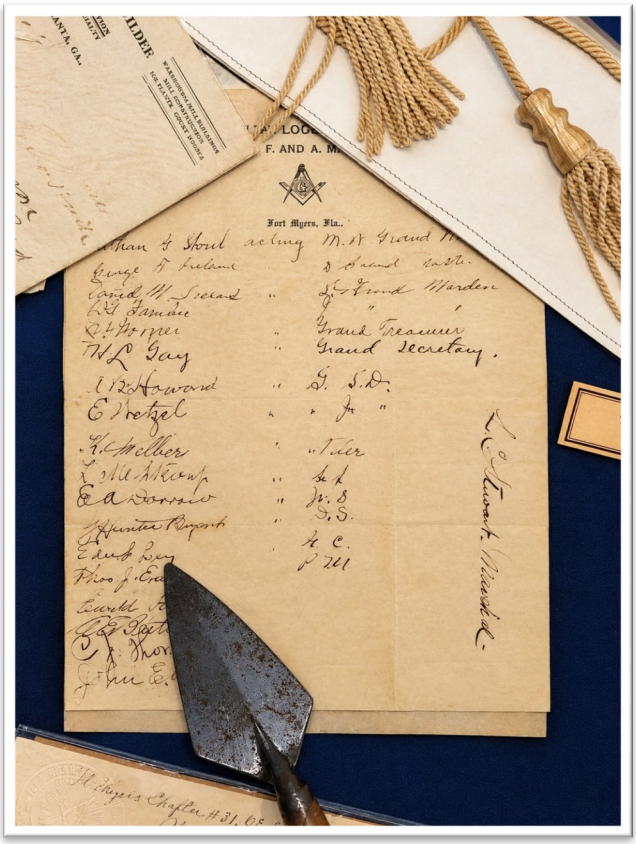
District 24



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

Happenings Last Month



It's About Time!

OCTOBER 2: Members of Tropical Lodge No. 56 had a great time visiting the time capsule in the current courthouse, retrieved from the second courthouse building. That courthouse was constructed in 1915 and the time capsule contained numerous items from the cornerstone laying ceremony performed by members of Tropical Lodge. We also found a nice list of Order of the Eastern Star Fort Myers Chapter No. 31 members who attended the ceremony.





A Grave Undertaking

OCTOBER 2: We traveled to the old Fort Myers Cemetery where we cleaned headstones of Tropical Lodge Past Masters, officers, members, family members, and a host of other Masons we didn't have on our list. Of course, this whole project started with the Washburns', so we made sure to get a group photo in front of their section marker.







"A grateful heart is the truest working tool of a Mason."

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

TROPICALLODGE56.ORG