

STATED COMMUNICATION
FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday
Dinner 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
July 1
July 15

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
JULY 2025

10868 METRO PARKWAY
 FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:

2025

OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Warden

Aaron Averhart, PM

Junior Warden

Shawn Hubbard

Treasurer

Gene Sims, PDDGM

Secretary

Randy Crone

Senior Deacon

Andrew Silvia

Junior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Jerry Hamm

Senior Steward

Nicholas B. Gadbois

Junior Steward

Bruce Prescott

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM



Greetings from the East

July is upon us and with it half of 2025 is behind us. I hope that each of you has had a great start to the year.

Tropical Lodge has much to be proud of from the first half of the year. Our degree team had conferred more degrees than in any year in recent memory, Brother Bob Zimmerman has jump started our scholarship program, Senior Deacon Andy continues to bring potential brothers into the Lodge and keep them engaged while our investigation and catechism teams guard the West gate and move new candidates/members forward. These are only a few of the contributions made by so many members. In future communications I will highlight a number of others.

My final thought for this month is the many thanks that all of Topicals' members owe to Worshipful Kevin Gourley for the outstanding job that he does publishing each month's Trestle Board. He does so while also handling so much of our online presence. He does a an absolutely terrific job and we should all remember to say thank you when we see him.

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923
tknafel@gmail.com



Happy Independence Day!

Greetings from the West



I would like to thank everyone who helped make our June 28th Entered Apprentice Degree such a success. In addition to the hard work put in by our regular degree team, R:W: Bobby Lippek sat in as our Senior Warden, W: Kevin Gourley as the Chaplain, and we had five conductors that selflessly gave of themselves to

help us initiate our six new Brothers! Thanks also go to Junior Warden Shawn Hubbard for serving such a great breakfast. We are so fortunate to have such an active and engaged group of Brothers at Tropical Lodge as demonstrated by those of you who made the time to support us, and our future has never looked so bright!

We have so much happening at Tropical Lodge and you can keep up with it all at www.tropicalodge56.org, including Open Books on the second Saturday of the month and our Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You can also keep up with all the latest District 24 happenings by syncing your Google calendar to the [new district calendar](#).

Don't forget to bring some canned goods to the next event you attend at Lodge to help us in our continued support of the Florida Guld Coast University Food Pantry as we work to help fight local food insecurity. We are also working on orchestrating another visit to the Midwest Food Bank, so keep an eye on your Lodge emails in the near future. Until then, I look forward to meeting you all on the level at our stated communications on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden / (239) 995-8837
cmndraverhart@gmail.com



Culinary Greetings from the South



It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through this year. I enjoyed the opportunity to attend Grand Lodge in May and vote in the new Grand line; It was pretty exciting and interesting. I appreciate the confidence by the craft in allowing me to participate. It's also been exciting to see new brothers come in and participate almost immediately with the various lodge duties and by showing a real interest in the success of our lodge.

We have a Master Mason degree planned for October, which will be one of the first ones we've done in years; I'm excited to see that happen. This past weekend we initiated six new brothers as Entered Apprentices.

I do want to put the word out now that we are going to be doing the *Turkeys for Tice Elementary School* again this year and will start collecting funds soon. Also, we have adopted a teacher from Tice Elementary. She is brand new and we will support her throughout the year.

Brother Aaron's and Brother Bobby's presentations were awesome. They both deserved the round of applause that they got.

We will continue this year without duplicating meals, except for the DDGM visit where he requested Brother Jerry's jambalaya. On that note, if any brother has a meal that they specialize in let me know. We would love to have somebody cook a meal that is different.

Thanks again for the great effort by everyone this year. There will be more to come.

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden / (239) 823-6034
motherhubbardsc@gmail.com



MENU:

JULY 1

Baked Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Corn on the Cob
Rolls and Butter

JULY 15

Jerry's Sausage & Peppers
Cole Slaw
Cowboy Beans
Salad and Dessert

Message from the Senior Deacon



The July Charity of the Month will be the non-profit *Hearts and Homes for Veterans*. They provide assistance for homeless veterans to have a place to live, help veterans modify their current homes, and provide financial assistance when needed.

Please do not forget to bring at least \$1.00 with you to put into the Charity Donations box located on the Tyler's desk prior to our scheduled meetings. May we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon / (508) 728-7491
Asilvia64@aol.com



From the Secretary's Desk



If you haven't done so already, remember that you can pay your dues with a credit card by using the **Amity** phone app. If you cannot pay for a reason, call me at the number below so we can discuss and work something out.

To make any updates to your phone number or mailing address please let me know by sending a message my email address below.

Randy Crone

Secretary / (239) 340-2310
secretarytropical56@gmail.com





The are eight (8) words related to America in this puzzle. Can you find them?

America Word Search



**Bald Eagle Constitution Independence Liberty Bell
Mount Rushmore Old Glory Statue of Liberty
White House**

"We must be unanimous; there must be no pulling different ways; we must hang together." — John Hancock

District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Bruce Rivera
(239) 297-9400

District Instructor

R.:W.: Scott Peacock
(617) 271-4331



Famous Freemason



JOHN HANCOCK

January 23, 1737 - October 8, 1793



In 1774 John Hancock made his way to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia along with his fellow Massachusetts delegates. In late May he was elected to be President of the Continental Congress by unanimous vote.

When the Congress recessed on August 1st, Hancock made plans to wed Dolly in Fairfield, Connecticut. Their marriage produced two children, neither of whom survived to adulthood. Their daughter died in infancy and their son died as a result of a head injury while ice skating.

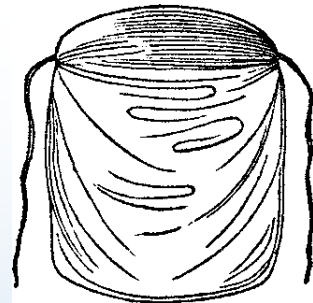
Hancock became a member of the St. Andrew Lodge in Boston in 1762. The lodge met at the Green Dragon Tavern where the Sons of Liberty also met. St. Andrew Lodge shared many of the same members as the Sons of Liberty, including Hancock.

**This article provided by Today in Masonic History at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>.

Happenings Last Month



Congratulations and welcome to our newest Entered Apprentice Masons! Pictured above are EA Brothers Login Bryant, Karl Jensen, Ismael Saucedo, Randy Wilson, John Sanvil and Carroll Watson! In the center is Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Bruce Rivera and Worshipful Aaron Averhart (who conferred the EA Degree).



New EAs with the Installing Officers on June 28, 2025.

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	Jefferey 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



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