

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

**First & Third
Tuesday**
Dinner 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

**March 4
March 18**

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
MARCH 2025**



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

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

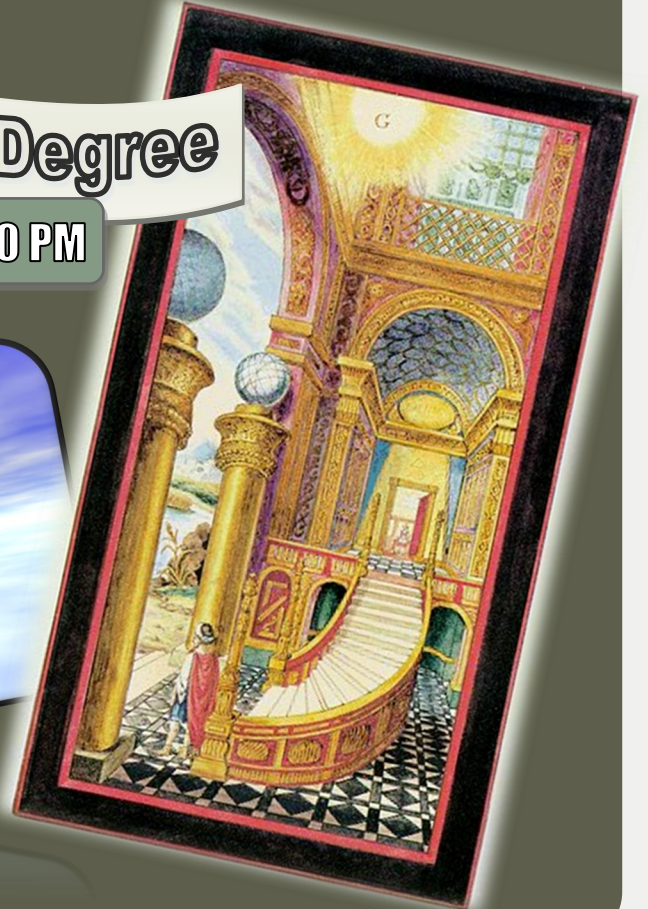
Senior Steward
Nicholas B. Gadbois

Junior Steward
Bruce Prescott

Tyler
John, Gavin, PM

Fellow Craft Degree

March 18th — 7:30 PM



Greetings from the East



My plan for Trestle Board messages in 2025 is to keep mine short and to the point. I will generally choose one or two items to comment on or provide an update. As such, my March message focuses on the following two subjects.

First, I would like to complement our degree team lead by W.: Aaron. Their dedication to practice and the pursuit of perfection is an example to all of us that wish to participate in ritual. Not only have they taken on the difficult task of presenting degrees in back-to-back months, they made Tropical proud by presenting an outstanding EA degree in February. Special recognition goes to our Senior Deacon for proving any doubters wrong with an excellent job. For those that may be interested in learning a degree part, the team practices on the non-lodge meeting Tuesdays at 6:00 pm.

Second, we will be considering an increase in our dues in the next few months. Our junior Warden Shawn is heading a committee that will be researching dues across our district and presenting their findings to the finance committee. The finance committee will review the findings and make a recommendation to the Craft as a whole. In the end, those that follow the process, and show when it comes to a vote, will determine the final outcome. This obviously impacts all of us so take due notice...

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master

(317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



Celestial Lodge

Brother Howard Hays laid down his working tools February 22, 2025.

- Initiated 2/21/12
- Passed 8/21/12
- Raised 3/9/2013

No plans for a Masonic Service have been planned at this time. We will keep the membership informed if this changes.

Alas, my Brother.



32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry



For Master Masons looking to further their journey in Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers is looking for

candidates for the 2025 Spring Reunion Class March 15 & 16. If you would like to be considered for the upcoming class, email Brother Andy Silvia (Asilvia64@aol.com), W.: Kevin Gourley (KLGourley1971@gmail.com), or speak with any other Brother you know who is a Scottish Rite member.

There is an online petition on the Valley of Fort Myers website. Here you can learn about and become active in the 4th thru 32nd degrees of Freemasonry. If you enjoy ritual or the meaning behind it, the Scottish Rite may be for you.

Greetings from the West



I hope this finds everyone well as we head into Spring! I want to thank all the Brothers who came out to support us on February 18, as we conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree and welcomed Brother Leandro Ferreira to our great fraternity. Tropical Lodge made history that night when our Senior Deacon Andy Silva, who is visually impaired/blind, performed his degree duties with the skill and assiduity that we have all come to expect from him. This might have also been a first in the state of Florida! I would like to congratulate Brother Silva and the entire degree team, including our Trestle board Editor W.: Kevin Gourley who sat in the West, for such a fine job. Thank you also to Worshipful Master Tom Knafel for allowing me to serve as the Lodge Instructor and Mentor; it is a great honor to work with such dedicated Brothers and be a part of such memorable occasions, as we continually strive for light.

Looking forward, Tuesday March 4 will be the second official visit of Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgemon, Sr. and we would love to have a packed Lodge to welcome him. Never resting on our laurels and always working to meet the needs of the Lodge, please mark your calendars and join us for yet another ceremony by our dedicated ritual team on Tuesday March 18, as we pass to the degree of Fellow Craft Brother Steven Luter. This will also be our St. Patrick's Day celebration, and dinner will be corned beef and cabbage! There is so much to do and be involved with at Tropical Lodge, and you can keep up with it all at www.tropicalodge56.org. We look forward to seeing you in March my Brothers!

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

(239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



If you haven't done so already, remember that you can pay your dues by credit card by using the Amity phone app or to Grand Lodge.. If you cannot pay for a reason, call me at and we can talk and work something out.

If you need to make any updates to your phone number or mailing address please let me know by sending an email to secretarytropical56@gmail.com.

Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings Brethren: I hope this finds you in good health. The Charity of the Month for March 2025 will be the Lighthouse of SWFL. This non-profit organization is located in Fort Myers and has been assisting visually impaired adults and children for some time now. They provide counseling and instruction in everything including mobility, cooking, computers and everyday skills.

Your generosity has allowed us to reach our goal for the past two months, so please do not forget to bring at least a \$1 bill to donate as you sign into the meeting. I know my Brothers will not let me down. Lest we forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silva

Senior Deacon

(508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com

**LIGHTHOUSE
of SWFL**



Menu from the South



March 4th

Jerry Hamm's Famous Jambalaya
Chicken noodle soup
Cornbread
White rice
Rolls
Salad
Dessert



Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

(239) 823-6034

motherhubbardscc@comcast.net

March 18th

Corned beef & cabbage
Potatoes & carrots
Cornbread
Salad
Dessert

TROPICALLODGE56.ORG



**There are seven (7)
St. Patrick's Day words
in this puzzle. Can you
find them?**

The Level and the Square

By Rob Morris

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;
In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the rich must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the poor man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb - 'tis the orders of our Guide.
We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;
The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true
That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.

We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true.
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal - we are hurrying toward it fast,
We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of Death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there
To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.
There's a Mansion - 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart.
There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there
Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.

Let us meet upon the Level, then while laboring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labor, though the labor be severe;
Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

Hands round, ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal Chain.
We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again!
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are --
We meet upon the Level and we part upon the square

St. Patrick's Day Word Search



**Clover Gold Green Irish Luck
Rainbow Leprechaun**

Quote of the Month

"We are committed to excellence in our lives and we are not willing to compromise ourselves for the sake of popularity. One time, the great German mathematician, Karl Gustav Jacobi, was asked why he decided to spend his life at work in such an obscure field. He replied, 'For the honor of the human spirit.' That is the reason why we, as Masons, give our lives affirming our beliefs in moral conduct, brotherhood and compassion. We do it for the honor of the human spirit."

— Stanley F. Maxwell

District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Acey Edgemon, PM
(239) 860-4045

District Instructor

R.:H.: Bruce Rivera, PM
(239) 297-9400



Last Month



We had the local LCSO Explorers, our adopted Scouting organization, visit and have dinner with us before our last communication. Tropical No. 56 presented them a sizeable donation to help them continue their work encouraging the youth that are interested in law enforcement work. Among the Explorers pictured are a few of our Lodge members who are retired law enforcement officers.



Welcome to our new Entered Apprentice, Brother Leandro Ferreira!

A very special shout out goes to our Senior Deacon, Brother Andy Silvia, for a job well done. Despite certain physical challenges, he performed his duties during the EA degree superbly and was also commended by visiting Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgmon.





In Person
Only

District Lodge
Development
All Lodge Officers
Encouraged to attend !

Training Seminar

This seminar
promises to be a
transformative
experience for
all Lodge
Officers .
Geared to the
Secretary and
Treasurers



Saturday March 22, 2025



9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location

Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362
17671 Pine Ridge Rd. Fort Myers Beach

Presented by

The Grand Secretary and other Knowledgeable Brothers



904-354-2339



Email for further information

richard.lynn@glflamason.org



amity.copiri.com/share/QuA3E4t8l



District
24



CAPE CORAL LODGE #367

FISH FRY

Don't miss out on this delectable treat! Place your order now and enjoy the perfect fish fry plate to satisfy your cravings!

Plate Includes

- Crispy Fried Fish Fillets
- Golden French Fries
- Refreshing Coleslaw
- Homemade Tartar Sauce
- Drink

Make your order



Cape Coral Lodge #367
10868 Metro Parkway
Ft. Myers, FL 33983

March 14, 21 & 28
at 4 pm
to 7 pm
Eat in or take out

\$15
Per plate



PAST MASTERS



TROPICAL No. 56 F&AM

1882

Present

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
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	<p>This page is dedicated to the Past Masters who have served Tropical No. 56 F&AM from its beginning way back in 1892 to the present day. These Brothers will continue to be honored here for their past service & dedication to our Lodge and Freemasonry.</p> 
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

This section is dedicated to the Past Masters of the former Lehigh Acres No. 344 FS&M. 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.

2021

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

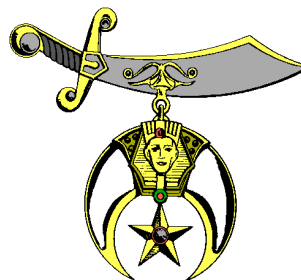
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry

