

STATED COMMUNICATION

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

APRIL 7
APRIL 21

DINNER 6:30PM MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD

APRIL 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

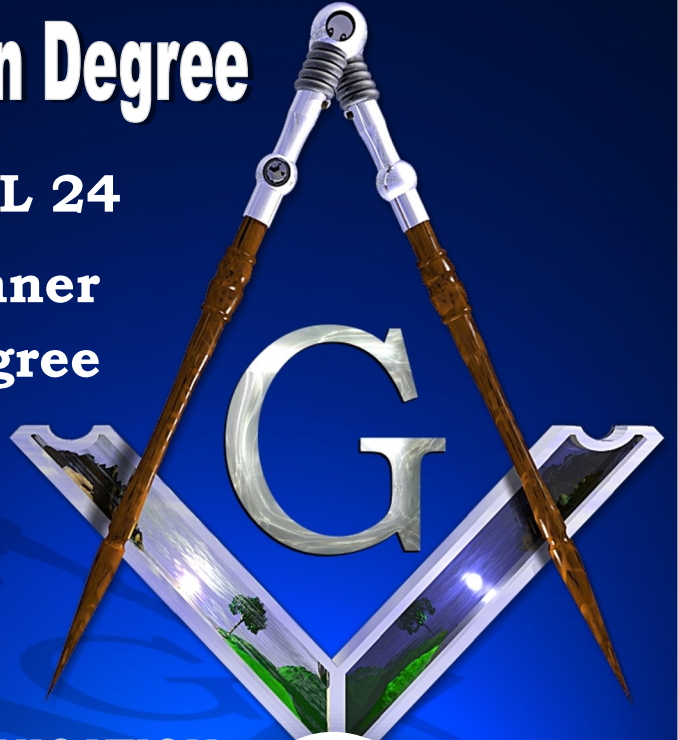
John, Gavin, PM

Master Mason Degree

FRIDAY APRIL 24

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Degree



CALLED COMMUNICATION



Easter Sunday

April 5th



Greetings from the East



Greetings from the East Brethren. As we approach Easter, it is hard to believe how quickly this year is passing. We recently celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our Third Annual Kilt Night and the second official visit by Right Worshipful Bruce Rivera, District Deputy Grand Master. Thank you to Brother Junior Warden for providing the Craft with the traditional corned beef and cabbage meal, and to the Brothers who helped him execute a well-received meal. We also welcomed Right Worshipful Scott Peacock, District Instructor, and the Committee Men of the Tremendous 24th Masonic District, all of whom offered their continued services to our Lodge members. The highlight of the evening came when we presented Brother Selmer Mauret Salvesson with his 60 year Service Award (right). I have known Brother Salvesson for about 45 years and was truly honored to be a part of his big night.

We hope you will mark your calendars for **Friday, April 24, 2026**, as Tropical Lodge will confer our first Master Mason Degree in many years. On top of that, all the regular cast members for both sections will be composed of Tropical Lodge members. Our degree team has been working hard for our Fellow Craft Brothers, and we look forward to providing them with a quality degree. Our degree team is not just made up of officers, but also numerous members of the Craft who enjoy being involved in that capacity. We also have several Brothers working on proficiency cards, as we are always striving to improve our ritual work, and we invite you to be a part of that too. As Right Worshipful Peacock pointed out in his recent visit, this is what sets us apart from every other fraternity and a central facet of who we are as Masons.

We encourage you to be a part of all the activities your Lodge has to offer, including our charity work. On **Saturday April 18th**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. we will be returning to the Midwest Food Bank, and hope you will join us! You can register with the MFB at the following link: <https://volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/opportunities/casqEFe8yI>. We always have a wonderful time serving our community in this capacity and hope to see you there.

I would like to close by thanking Brothers Dave Foote and Randy Crone for their continued work on the building in preparation for the completion of the storage area. Their selfless dedication sets a great example for us all and is a reminder of what an amazing Masonic family we have! We thank you for your continued support and look forward to everything the remainder of the year has in store for us.

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com



"It's Hip to be Square."



Did You Know?

President Harry S. Truman was a dedicated Freemason and a highly active member, serving as the Grand Master of Masons of Missouri from 1940 to 1941. He became a Master Mason in 1909 and, in 1945, was coronated a 33° Honorary Scottish Rite Freemason. Truman often stated that being Grand Master was one of his greatest honors.



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 \$127.30, the same as last year.

If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns about payment, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly 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



Brothers, once again I sound like a broken record—Worshipful Gourley puts out an email and goes, "Okay, it's time again." I feel like I just did it two days ago.

I'm excited for April to come because we will be welcoming two new Master Masons. We will also be conferring that degree for the first time since I've been a member, so that's pretty exciting and a great accomplishment for us.

I would like to take a moment to talk about my personal experience as a Mason. It is a brotherhood that I never realized would be so giving to me. Like many, I was affected by Hurricane Ian; the roof left the building of my condominium. The first person to call me the next day to check on me was a Mason. He was the current DDGM at the time and said I need to meet you. He handed me \$1000 and said, "Hey you're gonna need this." The second phone call I got was from a Mason asking, "Do you have anything that you're able to salvage? We've rented you a storage unit and we'll pay for it for a year for you." The Masons provided lawyers and insurance people and all kinds of trades that could help us during that time. Well, forty-two months have

gone by and I got my condo back this month. Once again, Masons have showed up to help me move stuff into the house, help me install closets & showers, and help me get back into that house. I would like to give a shout out to all the Masons who have helped me over the years by praying for Debbie and me.

Thank you for listening to me during one of the most difficult times of my life—for being there and supporting me through everything I was going through. I truly believe everything happens for a reason, and that God was teaching me all along what truly matters in life. It isn't about material things—it's about the relationships we share, especially with my fellow Brothers and my family.

I look forward to April and all that it has to bring for us as a Lodge.

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



Andy Silvia

Junior Warden

(508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



Greetings, Brothers. Just a reminder that meals are now \$10 per person. It is no longer a donation, rather it is a fee which we will be reporting and paying taxes on. This will put us in compliance with state law and required by the Grand Lodge of Florida. If you have any questions, please see me or WM Aaron. I'd like to give a big THANK YOU to Brothers Bob (Junior Steward), FCs Ismael & Logan and EA Ron for all their hard work in the kitchen.

APRIL MENU

APRIL 7

Spaghetti and Meatballs, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread and a Dessert

APRIL 21

Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Rolls/ Butter and Dessert



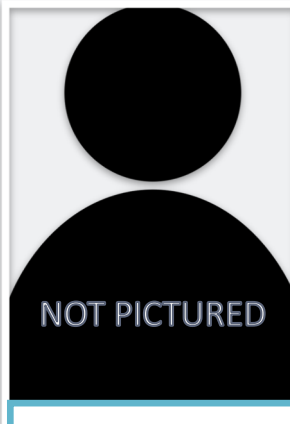
February 28 Chili Cookoff Results!



Peter Fedders
1st Place
(Cape Coral No. 367)



Tim Ennis
2nd Place
(Tropical No. 56)



Joe Gallagher
3rd Place
(Cape Coral No. 367)



Meet the Judges

- **Worshipful Kevin Gourley, PM**
(Tropical No. 56 / Past Master Lehigh Acres No. 344)
- **Most Worshipful Taleb Atala**
(Grand Master of Masons of Florida)
- **Right Worshipful Jeff Wonderling**
(Past Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania)

Local Worshipful Masters



- **Right Worshipful Jeff Wonderling**
(Past Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania)
- **Most Worshipful Taleb Atala**
(Grand Master of Masons of Florida)
- **Worshipful Master Tyler Rhinehart**
(Fort Myers Beach No. 362)
- **Worshipful Master Joe McArthur**
(Cape Coral No. 367)
- **Worshipful Master Aaron Averhart**
(Tropical No. 56)

Tropical Lodge No. 56 will be returning to the Midwest Food Bank, and you are invited to take part! This is open to you and your families, and like the last time it promises to be a wonderful group experience.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

Where: Midwest Food Bank

5601 Division Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Follow this link to sign up:

<https://volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/opportunities/casgEFfe8yI>

Join us for a fun morning of service and fellowship.



Midwest
FOOD BANK®
FLORIDA



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*	Edgar M. Boyette*	Richard G. Simpson, Jr.*	Gordon A. Fore* (PDDGM & GLO)	John Gavin
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



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

TROPICAL LODGE 56.ORG