

STATED COMMUNICATION

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

**OCTOBER 7
OCTOBER 21**

DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
OCTOBER 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



**Happy
Halloween!**

Greetings from the East



My last communication focused on the recently completed visit by our DDGM. Since that time we completed another of our annual events as Tropical Lodge acted as the host venue for the Grand Masters visit (GMOV). Although the host Lodge is actually the home Lodge of that years DDGM, Tropical's building is generally used as we are the largest in our district. This means host or not, Tropical is always in the spotlight. I am happy to report that our membership put on a fine showing and the consensus amongst our attendees was that our Lodge showed well. The District as a whole came out looking good and, in my opinion, particularly Tropical Lodge.

This year's GMOV included a tiled meeting that began with a lodge by lodge report on the District's successes in 2025. The list for Tropical was long and impressive. Without even mentioning all of our initiatives and accomplishments it was obvious that our Lodge is active and working to expand our impact on our Brothers and the community around us. The District as a whole came out of the evening looking very good and no Lodge in our District could claim to have done more than ours.

Once again the members of Tropical No. 56 made me proud to be a part and humbled to be the Worshipful Master. Thank you all.

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



Greetings from the West



Tropical Lodge has seen a lot of activity in September, and we would like to thank everyone who has participated and supported us and the district. On Saturday September 6th the Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida welcomed R.:W.: Tony "The Irishman" Chavez for his Esoteric Examination of the Entered Apprentice Degree, which was very well attended by Brothers from across the Tremendous 24th Masonic District. On Saturday September 13th the district welcomed Most Worshipful Tali Italia, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, and our Grand Lodge officers. Tropical Lodge members showed up in force and represented us extremely well for what was so far the best attended GMOV of the year!

On Thursday September 18th the Senior Wardens from Tropical, Fort Myers Beach, Cape Coral, and Cypress Lodges conferred our Senior Warden's Entered Apprentice Degree, welcoming new Tropical Lodge Brother Osmany Pimentel Leon to our fraternity in a fantastic display of Brotherly love and affection. I would like to thank Fort Myers Beach No. 362 for allowing us to share this fantastic evening together under their roof and express my thanks to the Brothers who came out to support this communal effort! On Saturday September 20th Tropical Lodge returned to the Midwest Food Bank for a day of fellowship and community service! We had a fantastic morning supporting a wonderful cause. I plan to make this a recurring event, so if you missed it, keep an eye on your emails and social media for the next opportunity to join us.

Mark your calendars for Awards Night on Tuesday October 21st, when we will celebrate the people who help make our Lodge one of the best in the district; there will be a wonderful dinner and a ceremony of recognition. On Saturday October 18th the MMA of SWFL will also be holding a workday to benefit the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades' Oasis House for runaways, from 9 am to 3 pm. You can keep up with all the latest activities at Tropical Lodge and in our district by syncing the district's calendar to your own, through this link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/3?cid=bW1hb3NmQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>.

Lastly, I would like to send a huge thank you to two Brothers, Secretary Randy Crone and Junior Warden Shawn Hubbard, for helping to remedy our air conditioning issue last month. Their diligence and attention to detail got us up and running in record time, so that we were able to offer our space for the GMOV like we do every year. Brothers, there is so much to be involved with at Tropical No. 56, from degree work to our revitalized Mentor Program, catechism instruction, committees, and so much more. We encourage you to take an active part in your Lodge as we prepare to wrap up this year and move into the next! Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting you on the level

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden / (239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



We are over halfway through the year and many of you have still not paid your 2025 dues. You should be receiving your second dues notice in the mail very soon. Please do not let your dues lapse.

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. Also let me know of any updates to your phone number or mailing address.

Randy Crone

Secretary / (239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Message from the Senior Deacon



Greeting Brothers,

The Charity of the Month for October will be coming up for a vote at our first meeting. Please don't forget to contribute to the donation box located on the Tyler's desk prior to every meeting. We are coming up to the end of the year and

we want to finish strong.

May we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon / (508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



Culinary Greetings from the South



October is here and the year is almost over and we have so much to continue to do. First of all, I would like to thank the EA brothers that made a fabulous meal for the last lodge meeting. They showed what the future of our lodge is going to look like—working together as a

team, all pulling their own weight! I am very excited for our future going forward.

Cape Coral hosted the Grand Master's visit this year. I was so proud of the turn out that we had from our Lodge and the compliments that were given to us from the Grand Master. If nobody saw it before, they are starting to see it now: Tropical Lodge No. 56 is a true active Masonic Lodge! They are seeing that we are taking things seriously, with our ritual degree work being second to none! We have also had a great showing at Open Books, the amount of charity work, along with so much more! You Brothers should be proud!

I want to personally thank each and everyone that is striving to make our lodge one of the best! Let's not take the foot off the gas. Let's finish up the year strong !

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden / (239) 823-6034

motherhubbardsc@gmail.com



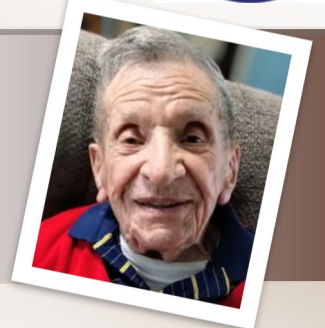
MENU

OCTOBER 7

Chicken Alfredo,
Broccoli, Garlic
Bread, and Salad

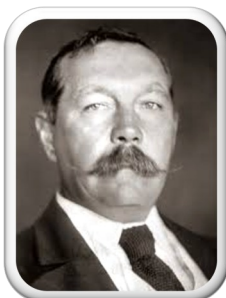
OCTOBER 21

Chili, Vegetable
Soup, Cornbread,
and Salad



This is Augie's Wall at Peninsula Lodge No. 99 in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Famous Freemason



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a British writer, born in Edinburgh, Scotland on May 22nd, 1859.

From 1876 to 1881, he attended Edinburgh Medical School. While in medical school he began writing short stories, some of which were published. He eventually completed his M.D. in 1885.

For a short time Doyle worked in a resort area in Hampshire, England where he practiced medicine. His practice was slow, so he wrote fiction to kill time between patients.

Doyle struggled to get his first Sherlock Holmes stories published. In 1886 he was given £25 for the rights to *A Study in Scarlet* which later was published in a magazine. Once the public got a taste for the Sherlock Holmes stories, more were published. In 1901 he wrote *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Outside of Sherlock Holmes stories, Doyle's most famous work was *The Lost World*; a story about a team of explorers in the Amazon Basin who discover a plateau with dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals.

After the death of his wife in 1906, Doyle became a big supporter of Spiritualism. He wrote fiction and non-fiction books on the subject of Spiritualism. In 1922, he wrote *The Coming of the Faeries*. In it he cataloged theories about the existence of faeries and spirits. His staunch defense of Spiritualism brought him into conflict with various groups and individuals, including **Harry Houdini**. In the early 1920's the two men were friends. After Houdini's mother passed away, Houdini began debunking popular spiritualists and mediums which angered Doyle.

Doyle passed away from a heart attack on July 7th, 1930.

Doyle was initiated into Phoenix Lodge No. 257 on January 26th, 1887. He demitted from the lodge in 1889 only to return in 1902. He demitted a final time in 1911.

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

Halloween Word Search

Can you find the seven (7) words in this puzzle?

T	B	U	E	T	V	M	K	D	P
N	Q	T	T	L	R	M	Y	R	U
L	I	G	H	O	S	T	U	O	M
W	Y	F	L	L	U	K	S	W	P
I	C	Q	F	A	H	E	P	S	K
A	I	A	L	O	P	G	B	K	I
X	L	J	N	O	C	S	S	U	N
G	E	Z	R	D	T	V	F	K	H
E	X	B	T	S	L	N	Q	V	M
D	P	B	B	O	I	E	I	E	N

Candle Coffin Ghost Pumpkin Rope Skull Sword



Happenings Last Month

Most Worshipful Grand Master Tali Atala
and District Deputy Grand Master Bruce Rivera



Worshipful Aaron Averhart, Worshipful Master Thomas Knafel, Most Worshipful Grand Master Tali Atala with Lady Angie, and Brother Shawn Hubbard.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Official Visit to the 24th Masonic District

Sept 18th Entered Apprentice Degree

The Senior Wardens from the District 24 Lodges conferred an EA Degree held at Fort Myers Beach No. 362 where our own EA, Osmany Pimentel Leon, was initiated.

Pictured: Brother Tyler Rhinehart (who conferred the degree as Worshipful Master), Brother Osmany Pimentel Leon and Worshipful Aaron Averhart (served as Senior Deacon).





UNITED WAY
Lee, Hendry, and Glades



Saturday, October 18, 2025

**Brothers of the
Tremendous 24th Masonic District
will be volunteering our services to the United
Way from 9am to 3pm, by working on The Oasis
House, a youth run away shelter. Lunch will be
provided. This is a great opportunity to give
back to our community and show people what
Masons are about, and we hope you will join us.**

**Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida President
W. Rick Pennewaert is keeping a headcount of those planning to
attend, so those looking to participate, please contact him at:**

mmaosf@gmail.com.

Tropical Lodge No. 56

2025 Awards Night



*You are cordially invited to Tropical Lodge's
Annual Awards Night,
where we will honor those Brothers whose selfless
service has helped make Tropical Lodge No. 56
such a wonderful Lodge to be a part of.*

What: Dinner and Awards Presentation

When: Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Where: 10868 Metro Pkwy, Ft. Myers, FL

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	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