

FIRST & THIRD  
Tuesday

MARCH 3  
MARCH 17  
DINNER 6:30PM MEETING 7:30PM

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD  
MARCH 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



2B1  ASK1

# Greetings from the East



Greetings Brethren, I hope this finds you all happy and in good health.

Winter is now behind us, spring is in the air, and just like the beginning of the year we have no shortage of events planned in the coming months. I would like to start by thanking everyone for their support so far this year. This includes the officers and degree team, who have had to learn new parts and immediately confer two Entered Apprentice Degrees in two months, and to the Craft who have come out in great numbers to enthusiastically support the Lodge's efforts.

On Tuesday February 17, 2026, we welcomed Brothers Ed Willis, James Brennan, and Hunter Bates into the fraternity, and we look forward to watching them grow in Masonry. That night was also special for the sheer number of visitors, an astounding 9 of them first-timers, one of whom is the Grand Inspector for the Grand Lodge of Russia as well as being a member of several other European Grand Lodges. Right Worshipful Ivelin Kichukov brought two beautiful Masonic flags and a book on the history of Freemasonry in Europe, as gifts and tokens of his Masonic affection.

Looking forward, we hope everyone will join us on Tuesday March 17, 2026, for our Third Annual Kilt Night and the second official visit by Right Worshipful Bruce Rivera, District Deputy Grand Master and his committeemen. True to form, corned beef and cabbage will be served for dinner. On Saturday April 11th we will be holding our Ladies Appreciation Night starting at 5 pm, where we will honor not just the women's Masonic bodies, but also the ladies in our lives that support us on our Masonic journey. On Saturday April 18th, we will be returning to the Midwest Food Bank, from 10 am to 12 pm, for a morning of fun, fellowship, and community service. On Friday April 24th, beginning at 6 pm, we plan to confer our first Mason Degree in several years, composed entirely of Tropical Lodge members! This is sure to be a sight to behold and will be a wonderful demonstration of how strong our Lodge culture has become in recent years! You do not have to be an officer to be a part of our degree team, and we encourage you to reach out if you are interested in taking part in our ritual. We hope you will join us for all of these events.

Brothers, our Library is almost completed, and I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the Brothers who have worked so hard to help us finish it. Very special thanks go Brothers Dave Foote, Randy Crone, and R.:W.: Gene Sims for their tireless efforts to complete the bookshelves, move the books downstairs, get the wardrobe cabinets constructed, and the costumes organized and stored. We are still working out a few details, but I encourage you to stop in and look at our progress. You will not be disappointed.

Thank you all for helping to make our 2026 such a successful year so far, and I look forward to making more memories together!

*Aaron Averhart, PM*

**Worshipful Master**  
**(239) 995-8837**

cmdraverhart@gmail.com



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/casgEfe8yl>

Join us for a fun morning of service and fellowship.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY KILT NIGHT AND DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OFFICIAL VISIT

Join Tropical Lodge No. 56 as we celebrate  
**St. Patrick's Day with our Third Annual Kilt Night!**

At this Stated Communication we will also welcome  
our **District Deputy Grand Master** for his second  
official visit, and we hope you can be with us!

**WHEN**  
**March 17th, 2026**  
**Dinner 6:30/Lodge 7:30**

**WHERE**  
**10868 Metro Pkwy**  
**Ft. Myers, FL 33966**

**WWW.TROPICALLODGE56.ORG**



**FOOD DRIVE**  
Don't forget to bring a  
couple canned goods  
to help support the  
Tropical Lodge's  
Continuing Food Drive  
"Feeding Minds"

**SPONSORS**  
If you are interested in  
sponsoring a food barrel  
at your Lodge, church, or  
place of business,  
please contact:  
WM Aaron Averhart  
239-995-8837 or  
cmdraverhart@gmail.com

**BENEFITING**  
The F&CU Food Pantry,  
which is used by up to  
150 food-insecure stu-  
dents a week, please  
help us support these  
future leaders



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com)

# District 24



## District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Bruce Rivera  
(239) 297-9400  
[rwbruce2025@gmail.com](mailto:rwbruce2025@gmail.com)

## District Instructor

R.:W.: Scott Peacock  
(617) 271-4331  
[peacockddgm@gmail.com](mailto:peacockddgm@gmail.com)

# Greetings from the West



Where did February go?

We just completed an Entered Apprentice degree and now we are going to move on to a Master Mason degree. It will be held on a Friday night, April 24th. Whereas most of us don't work on Saturday mornings, we won't be looking at our watches thinking 5 a.m. comes around quickly. I think it'll be fun. We're talking about having part of it inside and part of it outside. hopefully it's a beautiful night.

I had brought up before that we are going to put something together to earn money for Tropical Lodge No. 56. We contribute to relief of all of these charities and now we need to figure out how to contribute to ourselves to make the large stronger and financially more secure for years to come. I invite all Masons from Entered Apprentices to Past Masters to join me in putting our

heads together to come up with an event that will be second to none. I will be announcing it soon and when the first get together will be.

I know that we have another food bank workday plan for March and I want to encourage all the brothers to show up for that. That is a day that you can bring your wives and children as well for them to see what Masons and community are all about.

*Shawn Hubbard*

**Senior Warden**  
(239) 823-6034  
[motherhubbardsc@gmail.com](mailto:motherhubbardsc@gmail.com)



# Culinary Greetings from the South



*Andy Silvia*

**Junior Warden**  
(508) 728-7491  
[Asilvia64@aol.com](mailto:Asilvia64@aol.com)



Our March 17th Stated Communication falls on St. Patrick's Day. We plan on serving a corned beef and cabbage meal for your enjoyment. So we do not purchase too much or too little, I am asking you to RSVP to me by phone, text or email (below) if you will be eating that evening. Since the corned beef needs to be ordered, the cutoff date, will be March 10th. The meal costs for that evening will stay at the usual \$10 per person price.

# MARCH MENU

## MARCH 3

Meat lasagna, Caesar salad, rolls & butter and dessert

## MARCH 17

Corned beef and cabbage meal, tossed salad, bread and dessert

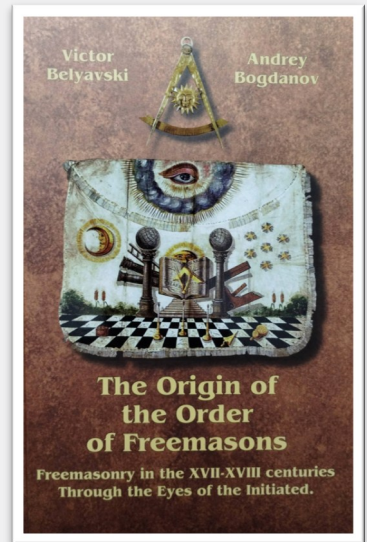
# Happenings Last Month



Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Entered Apprentice Degree on February 17th! We had over 50 guests, 10 first time visitors, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts from across the district, a Grand Lodge officer from Russia, a candidate for the station of the Junior Grand Warden, our DDGM and DI, and so many other wonderful visitors! The best part of all, we welcomed three new Brothers into our fraternity!

Welcome to our newest Entered Apprentice Brother Masons:

- James Patrick Brennan, II
- Hunter Stoney Dakotah Bates
- Edward Matthew Willis



This book was composed based on research into train loads of documents from European Lodges that had hidden their records after the invasion of Nazi Germany.



Flag for the Grand Lodge of Spain



R.:W.: Ivelin Kichukov, Grand Inspector of the Grand Lodge of Russia (left) with Cypress Brother Mihali Peticov (right) who is originally from Bulgaria and acted as his translator.

# 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
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