

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

**January 7
January 21**

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
JANUARY 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 Silva

Junior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Robert Zimmerman

Senior Steward

Nicholas B. Gadbois

Junior Steward

Bruce Prescott

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM



2025 Lodge Officers



Installing Officers for 2025



Happy New Year!

Greetings from the East



When I addressed Tropical Lodge for the last time as the Worshipful Master in 2023 and handed the gavel to RW Sims at installation, I could not have imagined that he would be handing it back to me one year later. In that final address I mentioned what an honor it had been to have served the Lodge as the WM. I now feel the very same way

as I prepare to serve once again. In addition, I view a second year as an opportunity to do a number of things better than I did the first time. To begin that effort a number of Brothers have offered suggestions as to how we can improve upon our experience in Lodge. I plan to implement many of those suggestions and I look forward to others throughout the year. I will offer more specifics in the coming weeks.

In closing I would like to offer two things. First, a thank you to the members of Tropical Lodge for extending me this opportunity and to the 2025 officers for their commitment to the Lodge. Second, and most important, I would like to congratulate W. Aaron and the 2024 officers for an outstanding year. Under Aaron's leadership, and as a team, you accomplished many things that have not been done by Tropical in many years. You are all a tough act to follow.

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master

(317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



Brothers, if you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time to do so. If you can not pay for a reason, call me at 239-340-2310 and we can talk and work something out. Remember, as in past Trestle Boards, you can pay by credit card, in the Amity phone App. If you need to make any updates on phone number or addresses please let me know by sending an email to secretarytropical56@gmail.com. Our 2025 dues are \$127.30 again this year.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Planned Meals for upcoming Stated Communications

Jan 7th

Chicken pot pie
Gravy
Rolls
Salad
Desert

Jan 21st

Meatloaf
Mashed potatoes
Gravy
Green beans
Salad
Rolls
Desert

Feb 4th

Chicken Cordon
blue
Rolls
Chicken gravy
Mashed potatoes
Salad
Desert

Feb 18th

Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Potato salad
Coleslaw
Baked beans
Salad
Desert

March 4th

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

March 18th

Corn beef and cabbage
Potatoes and carrots
Corn bread
Salad
Desert



Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

(239) 823-6034

motherhubbardscc@comcast.net



Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings Brethren. I hope everyone had a happy and blessed holiday season.

On December 17th, at our stated communication a proposal was put forth and passed that raises our "Charity of the Month" donation be increased from \$100 to \$200. This was put forth

to help keep with the current economic times that we live in. To help supplement the increase, we are placing a donation box on the Tyler's desk prior to every meeting. We are asking every Brother to donate \$1 at each meeting. This is strictly voluntary, but I know that the Brothers of Tropical Lodge No. 56 will not let us down. If we are fortunate in one month to exceed the \$100 increase the surplus amount will be carried over to the following month. So please try to remember to have at least a \$1 bill with you at every meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Less we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silva

Senior Deacon

(508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



Greetings from the West



I would like to thank the members of Tropical Lodge No. 56 for electing me to serve as your Senior Warden. I promise to approach this position with the same enthusiasm and zeal as every other Masonic commitment I have accepted, and I will also work to revive some of the neglected duties of this office for the benefit of our Lodge. I will be meeting with the budget committee soon, to draft a proposed budget for the year 2026, as well as take an active hand in the committees of which I am a member. I will also be traveling to the installation ceremonies of the other Lodges in our district and encourage you to join me in spreading the cement of Brotherly love and affection, by supporting our Brothers of the 24th Masonic District.

These installations include:

- Ft. Myers Beach No. 362 on Thursday 1/2/24: dinner at 6:30, ceremony at 7:30
- Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 on Saturday 1/4/24: meal at 12:00, ceremony at 1:00
- Cypress Lodge No. 295 on Saturday 1/4/24: ceremony at 4:00, meal at 5:00
- LaBelle Lodge No. 379 on Tuesday 1/14/24: dinner at 6:30, ceremony at 7:30



We are looking forward to an active 2025 at Tropical Lodge No. 56 and benefit from your involvement, so we hope to see you in attendance at our regular communications. I look forward to meeting you on the level once again.

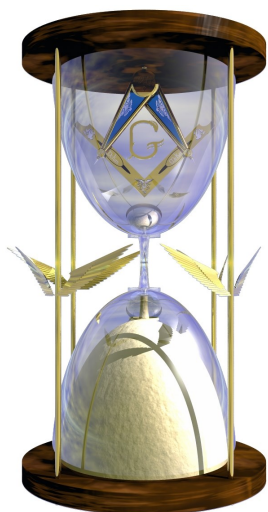
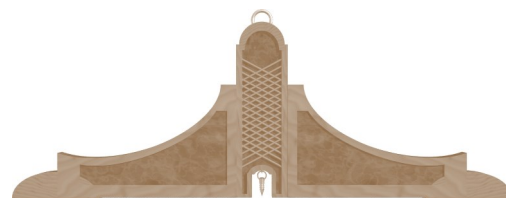
Sincerely & Fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

(239) 995-8837

cmndraaverhart@gmail.com



District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

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

District Instructor

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



Tropical Lodge No. 56 Presents

LADIES APPRECIATION NIGHT

CELEBRATING THE LADY OF
FREEMASONRY

Saturday, February 8th, 2025

6pm - 10pm

Tropical Lodge No. 56

Dinner, Awards, and Dancing

Special Guest
DJ Worshipful
Aaron

Tickets available at the door or contact Nick Gadbois
\$50/couple

And support our charitable funds

Contact nbgadbois@gmail.com or 786-859-1121

 **Masonic Home** of Florida

Masonic Outreach
Services Program

CONTACT US

www.masonichomefl.com

727-822-3499 / 727-308-4228

outreach@masonichomefl.com





Last Month

Brother Agostino "Augie" Luce was initiated an Entered Apprentice into Veritas Lodge No. 53 in New Jersey, on 11/17/1953, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on 1/5/1954, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on 6/1/1954.

Augie transferred his membership from Veritas No. 53 to Peninsula Lodge No. 99, also in New Jersey, on 4/8/1973. Augie became a dual member of Tropical Lodge No. 56 on 8/6/2013, where he remains today.

On 6/1/14 Augie was honored with his 60-year service award, on 6/1/19 his 65-year service award, and on 6/1/24 his 70-year service award. Brother Augie also served as the Chaplain of Tropical Lodge for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019.

Brother Augie's birthday is celebrated every December 1st during Tropical Lodge's "Augie Luce Day" and this past year's celebration marks his 100th birthday!

Because Augie is not able to travel like he used to, we were fortunate enough to visit with him to help him celebrate his 100th birthday.

Charity

By Edgar Alan Guest

Let me be a little kinder
Let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me
Let me praise a little more.

Let me be, when I am weary,
Just a little bit more cheery
Let me serve a little better
Those I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver
When temptation bids me waver
Let me strive a little harder
To all I should be.

Let me be a little meeker
With a brother who is weaker
Let me think more of my neighbor,
And a little less of me.

Congratulations to
Chuck Machell!
He was presented
his fifty-five year
Masonic
Certificate & Pin by
Worshipful
Aaron Averhart.



*"Be at war with
your vices, at
peace with your
neighbors, and
let every new
year find you a better man."*

—Benjamin Franklin



PAST MASTERS



TROPICAL No. 56 F&AM

1882

2025

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

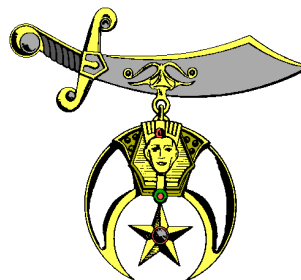
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry

