

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

**April 1
April 15**

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
APRIL 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

Jerry Hamm

Senior Steward

Nicholas B. Gadbois

Junior Steward

Bruce Prescott

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM

Greetings from the East



I hope that all of you have a blessed Easter season. As promised in my March message, I will keep my message limited to only a few points.

At the risk of being unoriginal, my first is to echo my March compliments to the degree team for the excellent EA degree in February by complimenting them again on an equally excellent FC degree in March. Once again W.: Aaron and the team's practice and dedication showed through. Special compliments belong to Brothers Nick and Bruce for outstanding jobs in the Worshipful Master and Senior Deacon roles. You Brothers made Tropical proud. As if two great degrees were not enough, W.: Aaron has informed me that work is beginning with the goal of conferring a MM Degree in 2025. It has been 7 years since a team from Tropical did a MM degree so we have a lot to look forward to.

My second and final thought is to bring attention to our second meeting each month. As I have stated on a number of occasions, when we are not using it for a degree, our second meetings will focus on educational and interesting presentations/discussions about Masonry. Our first session will be held during our second meeting in April. R.: W.: Gene will be presenting on Masonic etiquette. Depending upon our need to advance petitions, etc., the meeting may be changed to a called communication. I will hold that decision until the first meeting in April.

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923
tknafel@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



Greetings from the West



Greetings from the West my Brothers! Tropical Lodge has been alive with activity all year and March was no different. In addition to hosting Open Books on the second Saturday of every month and the Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida on the fourth Wednesday, we have seen some great events take place. Most noteworthy, on Tuesday March 18th, one

month after conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree, we passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft Brothers Steven Lewter of Tropical No. 56 and Daniel Arriojas of Cape Coral No. 367. Congratulations to all the members of the degree team on a job well done, especially Senior Stewart Nick Gadbois who sat in the East and Junior Stewart Bruce Prescott who sat in the Senior Deacon's chair.

It's great to see new Brothers stepping up to such important roles, and the entire degree team is to be commended on the incredible amount of work that went into pulling off two degrees in a 30-day span. Thank you also to Brother Chris Tillman for delivering such a fine lecture (his second in 30 days as well), Worshipful George Baliotis for serving as our degree Chaplain, Worshipful Keving Gourley for conducting, and Worshipful David Wolffe for providing music for the evening. We are fortunate to have Brothers that are so willing to serve the Lodge and consistently offer their support. Anyone with an interest in joining our ritual team is encouraged to email me at cmndraverhart@gmail.com.

Before this goes to press, we will have seen Cape Coral No. 367 host three fish fries (March 14, 21, 28), the Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida host the Secretary and Treasurer Seminar for the Grand Lodge (March 26), and much more. You can keep up with all the happenings in April, like the MMA of SWFL's presentation of RW Joe Fleities of the Master Mason Degree Dissected on 4/19/25 from 9 to noon, by visiting our calendar at tropicalodge56.org. Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting you on the level!

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden / (239) 995-8837
cmndraverhart@gmail.com



Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings, Brethren. The month of April is recognized as National Autism Awareness Month. With that, I have chosen My Autism Connection, located here in Fort. Myers, as our Charity of the Month (COM). I have met with them at their location and I believe that they are doing good work and making a positive impact for our community.

As a reminder, at the beginning of this year, the Craft voted to increase our COM donation to \$200, with \$100 of that coming from the donations place in the donation box, which is on the Tyler's desk before every meeting. Unfortunately, last month, March, mainly 4 Brothers donated out of 2 meeting\$. Now, I know this is strictly voluntary, but please find it in your heart to donate at least \$1 at each meeting. I have faith in our Tropical Lodge Brothers that they will do the right thing. Less we forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon / (508) 728-7491
Asilvia64@aol.com



Culinary Greetings from the South



Brothers: As you can see, we are trying to make dinner special this year. We are not repeating—not one meal. I am getting participation from other brothers who are making dishes that they like; so we get unique dinners that we might not have thought of to serve.

As you can see and notice from your own grocery bill, things cost more to make than they ever have before. We have a policy of a suggested \$10 donation for dinner. If you are going to eat, we would appreciate the donation to participate in the meal. We can take a check if you want to pay for the month.

Also, the officers made a decision to replace the cleaning crew for the building. I hope you are paying attention and noticing the stuff that's getting done—like the bathrooms smelling great and the carpets being vacuumed. The crew also took the time to brush down all the cobwebs and spiderwebs on the front of the building, which makes it look like we just pressure washed the place.

If you see something that doesn't look right or is broken. Please bring it to my attention. I would like to thank the brothers this year that are helping out with the Junior Warden duties. I appreciate you all.

Have a great Spring.

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden / (239) 823-6034
motherhubbardscc@comcast.net



MENU

April 1st (By Junior Steward Bruce Prescott)

- Lasagna
- Italian Garlic Bread
- Salad



April 15th

- Spiral Ham
- Homemade Baked Mac & Chee
- Rolls and Butter
- Salad



May 6th

- Tacos (Hard and Soft)
- Refried Beans
- Mexican Street Corn
- Enchiladas



May 20th

- Belgian Waffles
- Sausage & Bacon
- Scrambled Eggs
- Hashbrowns
- Bagels





**There are eight (8)
Appendant Bodies in
this puzzle.
Can you find them?**

Musings From A Chaplain

By Brother Phil Keyes, LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

We humans are fragile beings. Doesn't matter how large or how small we have grown, a carelessly spoken word or unthinking action can injure us. Too often too few of us stop to consider the impact that the words and actions we employ may adversely affect another person. Remember the adage, "You have but one chance to make a favorable impression"? You also have just one chance to preserve a friendship.

As Freemasons, we are taught to act and speak with the concern that another may interpret us much differently than we intend. Once a feeling is hurt the healing process may take a long time. We've all known Lodge members who refuse to darken our doors again because of some misunderstanding. No amount of apologies has closed the wound that was opened by a misspoken word or act.

Creating an awareness of this human vulnerability and striving to use greater caution during our conversations, within as well as outside the Lodge, we can become guiding examples of the love the Great Architect of the Universe wants us to show. We must learn to practice charity, reverence, goodwill and peaceful existence at all times.

Appendant Bodies Word Search



**Eastern Star Grotto High Twelve Scottish Rite
Shriners Sojourners Tall Cedars York Rite**

Quote of the Month

"Brother, I, too, own a television set, but that does not keep me at home on lodge night. I have never yet had one of the characters on television come off the screen and shake my hand. They have never offered me the warm friendship that my lodge brothers do. They have never handed me a cup of coffee or a doughnut. No! Never! "

—Unknown

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



March 18th: Congratulations to Brothers Steven Lewter of Tropical No. 56 and Daniel Arriojas of Cape Coral No.367 on being passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft. Also, congratulations to Brother Nick Gadbois for a superb debut as acting Worshipful Master for the degree.

Pictured left to right: Cape Coral Worshipful Master Michael Cowles, Brother Daniel Arriojas, Brother Nick Gadbois, Brother Steven Lewter, and Tropical Worshipful Master Thomas Knafel.



March 18th: Worshipful Aaron Averhart, Brother Andy Silvia, and Brother Nick Gadbois sporting their kilts for Kilt Night.

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	
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

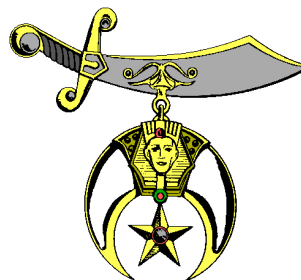
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry





LEVEL AND SQUARE MARKET

Tropical Lodge No. 56 F & AM
10868 Metro Parkway.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

HANDMADE JEWELRY | SOUR DOUGH BREADS | DESSERTS | HANDMADE
SOAPS AND LOTIONS | FOOD TRUCKS | CANDLES | AND MORE!!!

APRIL 13, 2025

11:00AM - 3:00PM

**VENDORS NEEDED
CONTACT**

Nick - 786-859-1121

levelandsquaremarket@gmail.com

