

STATED COMMUNICATION

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

NOVEMBER 4
NOVEMBER 18

DINNER 6:30PM MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
NOVEMBER 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 Thanksgiving!

DID YOU KNOW? In 1789 Brother George Washington wrote the *Thanksgiving Proclamation* to declare a national day of thanksgiving and prayer. He did this to recognize the role of divine providence in the nation's history and successes and foster a sense of shared identity and purpose among Americans.

It is a historic document that called upon Americans to express gratitude for their freedoms, liberties, and the blessings of peace. It set a precedent for future national days of thanksgiving, shaping American traditions and cultural heritage.

Greetings from the East



Greetings Tropical Brethren,

As I write this month's message I do so with the realization that it will be one of my last as Worshipful Master. I plan to use my last message to thank those that have made my time

in the officer's line so meaningful, so I will use this one to offer a few closing thoughts.

At our first meeting in December the Craft will be voting on next year's officers line. Doing so is one of the privileges of a Master Mason and, like any election, should be undertaken with careful consideration. Unlike some Lodges, Tropical is fortunate to have a number of good and worthy Brothers willing to serve the Lodge. We have enjoyed a steady and harmonious progression of officers and, in those instances where a chair was contested, it was done with re-

spect. I look forward to another smooth election this year and the opportunity to welcome everyone to their new chairs.

During our last meeting in October, we voted on and passed a much-needed dues increase for 2026. I would like to thank our Junior Warden and the Dues Committee, our Senior Warden and the Finance Committee and all those that voted yes. The Officer team does not take these matters lightly and we all appreciate the Craft's understanding and support.

I hope that every Brother celebrated Halloween like a kid and has a blessed Thanksgiving with family.

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master

(317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



Greetings from the West



I hope this trestle board finds you all happy and healthy.

October was a very busy Masonic month, and I want to thank everyone who helped make it the success it was!

On Saturday 10/11 several members of the Lodge attended our monthly Open Books, held at Tropical Lodge, to continue improving our ritual and their dedication is to be commended. On 10/18 several members of Tropical Lodge joined the Master Mason Association (MMA) to help organize efforts to support the United Way at the Oasis House and put in a great day of community service with MMA members from most of the district lodges.

On 10/21 Tropical held our 2025 Awards Night,

which was well attended by the Brethren and their significant others. R.:W.: Gene Sims was presented the Master's Award for his many years of service to Tropical and I was honored to receive the Past Master's Certificate for serving in the East last year. I was also a privilege to be part of the Master Mason of the Year presentation to Brother Bruce Prescott, who has become an incredibly pivotal part of Tropical. Lastly, it was an honor to be given the opportunity to present the Masonic Aprons and Bibles to Brothers Nick Gadbois, Chris Saxby, and Bruce Prescott. I would like to offer a special thank you to Brother Ismael Saucedo for helping to prepare that evening's wonderful dinner!

On 10/22 the MMA of SWFL had its monthly meeting and was well attended by Brothers from Tropical Lodge as always. We welcomed a candidate

for the station of the Junior Grand Warden. It was great to hear the proposed platform from someone who might one day become our Grand Master and to present him our thoughtful questions. Lastly, it was an absolute pleasure to take some of our Entered Apprentices to watch my friend and Brother W.: Rick Pennewaert lead Cape Coral No. 367 in conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree last week.

Looking forward, please mark your calendars and join us for a Fellow Craft Degree at Tropical Lodge that will be conferred by Brother Bruce Prescott on **Tuesday, December 16th**. We will also be holding our 2026 Officer Installation on **Saturday December 27, 2025**; the Lodge will be opened at 5:00 pm, dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the installation ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m.

There is so much happening at Tropical Lodge and so many great opportunities to join us as we participate in district-wide activities. To keep up with everything in real time, I encourage you to sync your Google calendar to that of the Tremendous 24th Masonic District at the following link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/3?cid=bW1hb3NmQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>.

Thank you for your continued support of Tropical No. 56 F&AM. You are what makes our Lodge family so amazing. It is an honor to serve you. As always, I look forward to meeting you on the level.

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

(239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com



**Master Mason Association (MMA)
at the Oasis House with United Way**

From the Secretary's Desk



The **2026** dues notifications have been sent by mail to all Tropical members. For those that have not paid 2025 dues, you must pay by December 27th, 2025 or you could be suspended for Non Payment of Dues. We don't want to lose any brother!

Remember that you can pay 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



Culinary Greetings from the South



Well, we are coming to an end quickly! Thanksgiving and Christmas makes everything a blur!

I want to thank everyone this year that has made our lodge successful. But, we are not done! The kids need to eat for our adopted school. Have you purchased a turkey for a family in need? it's just \$15. Have you asked your neighbors if they are willing to purchase a turkey for a local school for children in need? The only way that we get successful is by everybody participating. So, if you don't know what I'm talking about, please ask me.

We will be having a turkey dinner of our own for the second meeting of the month, so make plans to come and celebrate Thanksgiving with your fellow brothers.

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

(239) 823-6034

motherhubbardscc@comcast.net



Message from the Senior Deacon



The November Charity Of The Month will be to the [Galisano Children's Hospital](#). This is a multi-lodge effort to provide Christmas toys for the children in the hospital. Let's focus on bringing these children some joy. Please dig deep and add your contributions to the donation box located on the Tyler's desk.

Lest, we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon

(508) 728-7491

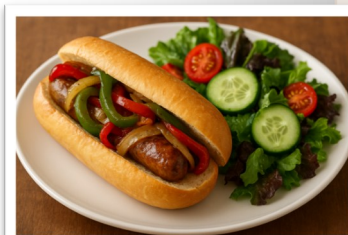
Asilvia64@aol.com



MENU

NOVEMBER 4

Andy's Famous Sausage, Peppers & Onions Subs and Salad



NOVEMBER 18

Open-faced Turkey Dinner with Salad and the Fixens



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



OPEN BOOKS: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 (9am-12pm at Tropical Lodge)

Awards Night



Brothers Bruce Prescott, Christopher Saxby, and Nick Gadbois received their white leather aprons and bibles for successfully giving back the Master Mason Catechism.



W.: Aaron Averhart is presented his Past Master certificate.



Brother Bruce Prescott was selected as the Master Mason of the Year for 2025!



R.:W.: Gene Sims was presented a Master's Award from Worshipful Master Tom Knafel.

October 21



Oct 9: Zone 6 Chairmen W.: Kevin Gourley (Membership Development), W.: George Baliotis (FA-100), and R.:W.: Gene Sims (Penal Affairs & Grand Sword Bearer) from Tropical No. 56 with R.:W.: Bruce Rivera (DDGM) and R.:W.: Scott Peacock (DI) at the MWGM visit to Cypress No. 295 in Naples.

MWGM VISIT TO CYPRESS



Oct 9: Brother Bob Zimmerman meets with M.:W.: Grand Master Taleb Atala and Bro. Ken Jordan.

Valley of Fort Myers

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite



Congratulations to our very own Brothers Robert Bennett, Bruce Prescott and Jerry Hamm for becoming 32nd Degree **Scottish Rite Masons!**



Southwest Florida Masonic Center Charities

Presents

TURKEY DINNER DRIVE



All proceeds provide turkeys for families at Tice
Elementary School.

\$15 = 1 turkey

Our Goal: 200 turkeys (\$3,000)

HELP MAKE THANKSGIVING BRIGHTER!

Contact Shawn Hubbard — (239) 823-6034



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	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 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.

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