

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

**December 3
December 17**

2024

OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Aaron Averhart

Senior Warden

Brian Apfel

Junior Warden

Robert Zimmerman

Treasurer

Gene Sims, PDDGM

Secretary

Randy Crone

Senior Deacon

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Deacon

Andy Silvia

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Tom Knafel, PM

Senior Steward

Christopher Saxby

Junior Steward

Nicholas Gadbois

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
DECEMBER 2024**



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:
(239) 334-6074



Merry Christmas!

Greetings from the East



Brothers and Sisters: It is with a jubilant heart that I write to you one last time in 2024, to express my thanks for allowing me to serve you this past year. It has been an incredible journey, filled with amazing memories of time well spent with you all. I begin my reflection by offering profuse thanks to Secretary Randy Crone and to Worshipful Kevin Gourley, our Trestleboard Editor and Website Administrator, for taking on those daunting tasks. One of the keys to our successful year has been our ability to communicate more directly with you, and they deserve recognition for their vigilance. Between our Secretary's emails, the up-to-date calendar and website, and our revamped Trestleboard, we hope you've felt more connected to everything happening in your Lodge.

In 2024 Tropical Lodge has hosted some wonderful events, like our 3rd Annual *Houdini Night* and a *Past Master & Awards Night*, which included getting to work with some awesome Brothers in the kitchen preparing those delicious meals and spending quality time with you and your families. On St. Patrick's Day we had our *1st Annual Kilt Night*, with Brothers showing up in proper attire from Lodges throughout the district, and a traditional Irish meal. We also had Ft. Myers Beach No. 362 visit that night to participate in some Traveling Gavel games; the fellowship was great. Working with Worshipful Pennewaert and Cape Coral No. 367, thanks to his leadership, we participated in a *Lent Fish Fry* to raise money for charity initiatives and build the bonds of Brotherhood between our Lodges. In that same vein, Worshipful Rick worked with Lee County EMS to set up a joint CPR/AED class for our Lodges so we have better prepared Brothers in case of an emergency, which we will continue to hold in the coming years.

Tropical Lodge has also seen its share of ritual work this year, having conferred a Fellow Craft and Entered Apprentice Degree in our Lodge, including courtesy work for Punta Gorda No. 115. We were fortunate enough to work with 24th District Lodges as they provided courtesy work for us, allowing us to participate in Cape Coral No. 367's *Entered Apprentice Degree* and Cypress No. 295's *Master Mason Degree*. Thanks to the help of some of our newest Brothers we have also built a strong catechism instruction team and revived the *Masonic Mentor Program*, bringing it into the 21st century, and assuring our new Brothers receive the instruction we all hunger for at that stage.

Close to my heart this year was our focus on food insecurity, which manifested itself in several ways. Our *Feeding Minds* food drive has helped keep Florida Gulf Coast University's Campus Food Pantry stocked this entire year thanks to your generous donations, positively impacting the food insecure student population that will one day soon be our community leaders. We were fortunate enough to assist *Midwest Food Bank* and learn about their nationwide fight against hunger and need, which inspired everyone involved. Our *Turkeys for Tice* project saw our Brother Senior Deacon raise an astounding \$4500 for the families of Tice Elementary School students, with the help of OES Fort Myers Chapter No. 31, leaving an indelible mark in the memories of those families your generosity helped touch. I've also personally enjoyed joining Cape Coral Lodge members serving the community at their Harry Chapin Food Distribution once a month.

Tropical Lodge and the Southwest Florida Masonic Center have seen significant growth in our group activities as well. We have started a *Masonic Bodies Committee* composed of all the Masonic Center groups, that has been fruitful for the Lodge and everyone who meets here. Our Brother Junior Steward started the Level and Square Market, which supports charitable efforts at the Lodge, and helps expose us to the broader community. After several years of work, Tropical Lodge is also now the host for the *24th Masonic District's Open Books*, bringing Brothers together for fellowship and education and helping us to improve our Masonic ritual. We have been blessed to work with the Lodges and appendant bodies in our district this year and look forward to many more memories together.

These are just a few of the wonderful things that have happened at Tropical No. 56 in the year 2024, all made possible because of you, and all proving that it is indeed hip to be square! I have not attempted to thank all of you incredible Brothers and Sisters by name, because the list is far too long, but you have humbled me with your support and enthusiasm. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life, again made possible because of you, and I am forever in your debt. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

May the blessings of heaven continue to rest upon us and our Masonic family.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



Brothers, Just a reminder there are still a few brothers that have not paid their **2024** dues. Unfortunately, if those 2024 dues are not received by December the 27th I have to NPD that brother. Please do not make me have to do that. 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. I hope you have a wonderful December.



Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Charity of the Month



District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

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

District Instructor

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



Lodge Officer Nominations 2025

Worshipful Master

Robert Zimmerman and Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Warden

Aaron Averhart, PM

Junior Warden

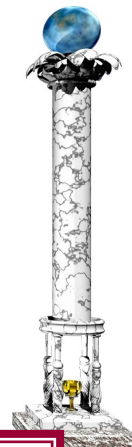
Shawn Hubbard

Treasurer

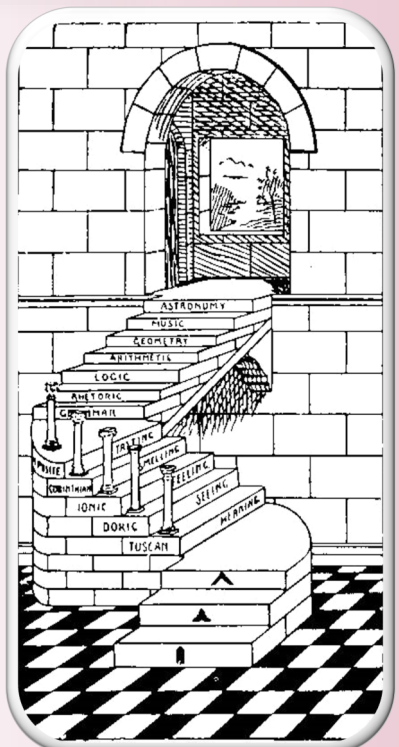
Gene Sims, PDDGM

Secretary

Randy Crone



ELECTION NIGHT DECEMBER 3





Burl Ives

Burl Ives was an American musician and folk artist.
(Born June 14, 1909 - Died April 14, 1995)

Famous Freemason 

Ives was born near Hunt City in Jasper County, Illinois June 14th, 1909. As a young man Ives was active with both the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of DeMolay. In 1924, Ives was a Lone Scout which shortly after joined with the Boy Scouts of America. On September 5th, 1927, Ives joined the Order of DeMolay. Ives attended Eastern Illinois State Teachers College from 1927 to 1929. He never graduated. During his junior year he was in an English class and realized he was wasting his time. After an exchange with the teacher as he was walking out the door, Ives slammed the door and never looked back.

In the 1930's, Ives traveled around the country working odd jobs and playing his banjo. In Utah he was arrested for vagrancy and for singing "Foggy Dew" an English-Irish folk song that local authorities considered a "bawdy song". He also attended Julliard in New York during this time.

In the 1940's, Ives started his own radio show called the *The Wayfaring Stranger*, named after one of his songs. He also became a member of the Almanac Singers which at various points in time had other well known members including Woody Guthrie. The Almanacs were active with the American Peace Mobilization (APM). The APM was a peace movement trying to convince the United States to not get involved with World War II with various folk songs. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union the Almanacs changed their tune, literally. They began writing folk songs encouraging American participation in the war.

In 1942, Ives was drafted and ended up being part of Irving Berlin's *This is the Army*. A traveling show to military bases to help to rally and support the troops. He was honorably discharged in 1943.

In the 1950's, like many performers, Ives was blacklisted for allegedly having communist ties during the Red Scare. Ives appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. This got him off the blacklist and started a long time feud with fellow folk singer Pete Seeger. Seeger accused Ives of naming names.

Ives appeared in several films. He was in the film *Big Country* for which he won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

In 1964, Ives lent his voice to the CBS presentation of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. The stop animation featured Ives as the banjo playing host of the show Sam the Snowman. Two of the songs Ives performed in the show, "Silver and Gold" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas", were instant classics. The following year Ives recorded them for an album. He released them the next Christmas taking advantage of their previous success.

Through the 70's and into the 80's, Ives performed in various ways. He lent his recognizable voice and face to a Luzianne tea as their commercial spokesperson. He also worked with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on their campaign "This is your land - Let's keep it clean".

In 1994, Ives, a smoker of pipes and cigars, was diagnosed with oral cancer. After undergoing several surgeries that were unsuccessful in removing the disease, Ives decided to stop any future surgeries. On April 14th, 1995, Ives fell into a coma and passed away.

Ives was a member of Magnolia (now Magnolia-La Cumbre) Lodge No. 242 in Santa Barbara, California being raised in 1977. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite, Southern Masonic Jurisdiction in the Valley of Santa Barbara in 1985. Ives was coronated a 33° Scottish Rite Mason in 1987. He was elected a Grand Cross, an honorarium added to the 33° in 1993.

Master Mason Degree



Congratulations to Brothers Bruce Prescott and David Grey on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason November 2nd at Cypress No. 295 F&AM.



Youth Certificates of Commemoration



November 5th we recognized and honored six outstanding youths for their selfless acts who helped to assist those that were affected by Hurricane Helene. Worshipful Master Aaron Averhart and Worshipful Jeff Zimmerman presented each a Certificate of Commemoration.

Bro. Shawn Hubbard
whipped up a scrumptious
breakfast before the
Degree.

Turkey Dinner Fundraiser



Spearheaded by Bro. Shawn Hubbard, Tropical No. 56 & Order of Eastern Star joined forces and raised \$4,500 to purchase 300 gift cards. These gift cards will go to underprivileged students & families of Tice Elementary School that otherwise may not have very much to eat for Thanksgiving.



PAST MASTERS



TROPICAL No. 56 F&AM

1882

2024

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

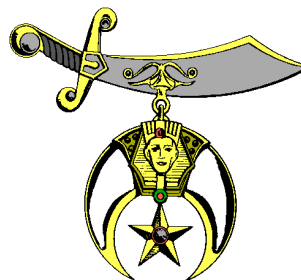
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry



Level and Square Market

Vendors
Wanted

December 8th, 2024

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tropical Lodge No. 56 F & AM

10868 Metro Parkway.

Fort Myers, FL 33901

Vendors
Wanted

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

Proceeds Go To Support
Local Charities



To become a vendor
Contact Nick at
786-859-1121
levelandsquaremarket@gmail.com

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