

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

**November 5
November 19**

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
NOVEMBER 2024**



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL 33966

TropicalLodge56.org

(239) 334-6074

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



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Greetings from the East

I hope this communication finds everyone safe and well, as we look back together on the month of October. Our catechism instructors are hard at work with our three Entered Apprentice Brothers, who should be ready for catechism return in December of this year. We are tentatively planning their Fellow Craft Degree for January of 2025, and their Master Mason Degree for April. The Masonic Mentor team is preparing appropriately, as is the Fellow Craft degree team, and we look forward to seeing these new Brothers learn and grow on their travels East.

That same journey East led Brother Jerry Hamm Jr. to Englewood Lodge No. 360 on October 26, 2024. Through the kindness and Brotherly love of Englewood Lodge, Jerry was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Thanks to some communication between the 24th Masonic District's Right Honorable District Instructor Bruce Rivera and the 23rd Masonic District's Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Justin Broome, our request for courtesy work was granted. Tropical Lodge's Junior Steward Nick Gadbois and me, as well as Cape Coral Lodge's PDDGM Scott Peacock, were warmly welcomed to the 23rd District and treated to an excellent outdoor degree. We all had a wonderful time and eagerly await the opportunity to repay their kindness and hospitality.



Looking forward to November please mark your calendar for a Master Mason Degree being held on November 2nd at Cypress No. 295. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. and the degree will begin at 9 a.m. Our Fellow Craft Brothers, Bruce Prescott and David Grey, will be raised that day thanks to the courtesy work provided by Cypress Lodge, and we hope you will join us in Naples to support these Brothers.

On Saturday November 9th, Cape Coral No. 367 has invited RW Joe Fleites back to do his esoteric dissection of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees. This was extremely well-received when he visited and did the Entered Apprentice earlier in the year, and we are looking forward to the remaining degrees. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. and the presentation will begin at 9 a.m. *This is a suit and tie affair*, so we ask that you dress accordingly, and we hope to see you there!

On Saturday November 16th at 12 p.m., Fort Myers Beach No. 362 will host a memorial service for beloved Brother John Troia, a fixture in Southwest Florida Masonry for many years. We hope you can join us as we gather to honor his memory.

On Sunday November 10th we will welcome back the *Level and Square Market*, after a hurricane-related hiatus last month. Please join us from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for food, crafts, and so much more. Proceeds from vendor fees go to our rotating Charity of the Month, with November's recipient being *Turkey's for Thanksgiving!* Thank you to our Junior Steward Nick Gadbois for the hard work you and your volunteers put into this charitable endeavor.

On Saturday November 16th at 12 p.m., Fort Myers Beach No. 362 will host a memorial service for beloved Brother John Troia, a fixture in Southwest Florida Masonry for many years. We hope you can join us as we gather to honor his memory.

As always, the Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, the next being on November 27th. Dinner is served at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. That night is also Open Books from 6 to 9, for those seeking to improve their ritual work. Both of these are open to all Master Masons in good standing.

On Thursday December 5th, Cape Coral No. 367 will confer a *Past Master Fellow Craft Degree*. Dinner is at 6:30 and the degree begins at 7:30. There are several Tropical members on the degree team, giving you even more reason to come out and support Cape Coral Lodge.

Tropical Lodge has been working hard to fight food insecurity all year with our *Feeding Minds* food drive supporting the *Florida Gulf Coast University Food Pantry*, and it has been a fantastic success thanks to you. We hope that you will pick up a few extra cans of soup, vegetables, or chili the next time you are at the store to help us reach our donation goal of 1500 pounds by the end of the year. For those of you who don't know, our Brother Senior Deacon Shawn Hubbard has also taken on the fight against food insecurity. Enlisting the aid of Fort Myers Chapter No. 31 Order of the Eastern Star, we are helping to improve Thanksgiving for some families in need. Working with the local authorities, we are raising money to benefit families with children attending Tice Elementary. \$15 will buy one turkey, so with the goal of feeding 200 families we plan to raise \$3000. We need your help to do this though, so please contact Shawn, or any officer to help us reach this goal. Collection for this will end at midnight on November 18th. Let's make our charitable presence felt this year as we work to help those facing food insecurity in our community. Thank you Brother Shawn for your hard work, and thank you Brothers and Sisters for your support with all of our charitable initiatives!

I will end on the same note I did last month sadly, with a reminder that while we were spared the ravages of yet another hurricane, many of our fellow Floridians were not. Please remember the generosity shown to us after Hurricane Ian, as you in turn offer your support to those in need.

Aaron A. Averhart

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com

From the Secretary's Desk



Brothers, It is that time of year that I will be sending out your 2025 Dues. Our 2025 dues will be \$127.30 again this year. Just a reminder there are still about ten 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. I hope you have a wonderful November.

Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Turkeys For Tice Elementary School

We are raising funds to provide 200 turkeys to families at Tice Elementary School. The cost of each turkey is \$15; Our goal is to reach \$3,000.

For information about how you can contribute, contact Brother Shawn Hubbard at (239) 823-6034.



District 24

Grand Lodge Officers

District Deputy Grand Master

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

District Instructor

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



A Thanksgiving Prayer

By Arthur R. Herrmann

Oh, Lord, now this we're thankful for:

The good things life has held in store;

The love of those within our home,

And friends to greet wherever we roam;

The health and strength wherewith to toil,

The bounteous food from freedom's soil;

We thank Thee for the right to pray

And worship Thee in our own way;

To live within a land that's free;

For this, dear Lord, our thanks to Thee;

And through these blessings, one by one,

May Thy will, Lord, on earth be done!

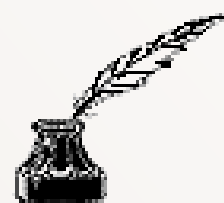
Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”



Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

George Washington



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 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.

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

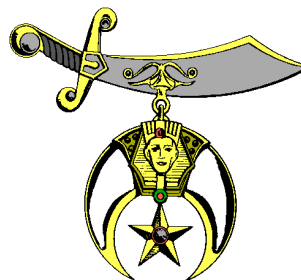
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant



Bodies In Freemasonry



Tropical Lodge No. 56
Free and Accepted
Masons
and
Order of Eastern Star No. 31



PRESENTS

TURKEY DINNERS



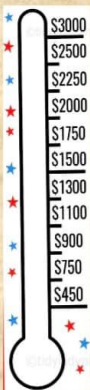
TICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**All proceeds go to the purchase of turkeys
for the families of Tice Elementary School**

\$15 purchases one turkey

Help us meet our goal of \$3,000 (200 turkeys)

**For more Information Contact Shawn Hubbard
(239) 823-6034**



Level and Square Market

November 10, 2024
INDOOR/OUTDOOR
MARKET
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

HANDMADE CRAFTS | SOUR DOUGH BREADS | DESSERTS |
HANDMADE SOAPS AND LOTIONS | LIVE MUSIC |
CANDLES | AND MORE!!!

To become a vendor
Contact Nick at
786-859-1121

Vendor Donations - \$25
8x8 booth space

Vendors
Wanted

Vendors
Wanted



Proceeds
Go To Support
Turkeys Dinners for the
Families of Tice Elementary
School



FELLOW CRAFT & MASTER MASON DEGREES DISSECTED

PRESENTED BY
R. W. Joe Fleites



WHEN
November 9th, 2024
8 am - 12 pm

WHERE
Tropical Lodge No. 56/SWFL Masonic Center
10868 Metro Pkwy, Ft. Myers, FL 33966

**THIS IS A
SUIT & TIE
EVENT AND IS
OPEN TO ALL
MASTER
MASONS**

SPONSORED BY
Cape Coral Lodge No. 367

BREAKFAST
Breakfast will be
served from 8-9 am

WHEN
November 9th, 2024
8 am - 12 pm

WHERE
**Tropical Lodge No. 56/
SWFL Masonic Center**
**10868 Metro Pkwy, Ft.
Myers, FL 33966**



WWW.TROPICALLODGE56.ORG

