

STATED COMMUNICATION

FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 2
SEPTEMBER 16

DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

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

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2025

10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org



PHONE:
(239) 334-6074



You are invited to join us as the

Senior Wardens

Of Ft. Myers Beach No. 362, Tropical No. 56, Cape Coral No. 367, & Cypress No. 295

Confer an Entered Apprentice Degree



Where: Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362

When: Thursday September 18, 2025

Dinner 6:30, Degree 7:30 pm

We hope you will join us for this night of fun and fellowship!

Greetings from the West



Since our last communication Tropical Lodge completed one of the highlights of each Masonic year, the District Deputy Grand Master's visit. As is tradition, this was our second visit for 2025 (the first was conducted by the out going DDGM) and the first for our new DDGM. Not only are these visits an opportunity for each Lodge to hear the Grand Master's message but also a chance for the DDGM to assess how each lodge is doing. Prior to the stated meeting the Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Secretary meet with the DDGM to review a checklist that measures the Lodge against goals set by the Grand Lodge. The list is extensive and requires a lot of work on the part of our Secretary and Treasurer.

I am happy to report that we all can be very proud of Tropical's report. Our Secretary and Treasurer were, as always, very well prepared and did our Lodge proud. I would like to thank Brother Crone, Right Worshipful Sims and all the members of Tropical Lodge that have made us an example of what our fraternity should be. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and active members.

In closing, this was my 4th and final DDGM visit as the Master of Tropical 56. I am eternally grateful to those that I have mentioned, and all the members, for making my experience with these visit such a positive one.

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



Greetings from the West



Greetings from the West, Brethren! As the month of August draws to a close, it is rewarding to reflect on how much has been accomplished by Tropical Lodge. On August 5th our adopted teacher, Ms. Laura Godsea, was warmly welcomed, along with her family and school administrators from Tice Elementary; she was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Grand Lodge and monetary support from Tropical Lodge. We also voted unanimously to make Tice Elementary our adopted school, something that has been in the works since 2024! Distinguished Brother Kurt Wagner was given his 60-year Service Award, which was presented by our Worshipful Master and District Deputy Grand Master, who was there for his official visit. All of this happened on one single night!

On Friday August 15th some of the officers from Tropical Lodge were fortunate enough to further cement the bonds of affection with Tice Elementary as we delivered a trunk full of much needed school supplies to a grateful faculty. Some of those supplies were donated by the Square and Level Market vendors and the rest by Tropical Lodge members; they were all well received. Many thanks are owed to our Senior Stewart Nick Gadbois for spearheading that donation drive. At our following meeting on August 19th, Tropical Lodge presented checks to our two Scholarship Award recipients, due to the hard work of Brother Bob Zimmerman and the Scholarship Committee. Our Lodge has made such incredible strides in recent years, leaving a positive impression in our community, all while reshaping our Lodge culture into a powerful and vibrant force!

Looking forward to September, please mark your calendar for Saturday September 6th as the MMA of SWFL welcomes R.:W.: Tony "The Irishman" Chavez and his Esoteric Examination of the Entered Apprentice Degree. This promises to be an enlightening morning and we hope you will join us. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. for those who RSVP to mmaosf@gmail.com. On Saturday September 13th the Tremendous 24th Masonic District will see the return of the Grand Master's Official Visit, with a dinner followed by a tyled meeting—hosted by Cape Coral No. 367 and held at the Tropical Lodge building. While the dinner has already reached capacity, the tyled meeting is still open to all Master Masons in good standing.

On Thursday September 18th the Senior Wardens of Tropical, Fort Myers Beach, Cape Coral, and Cypress Lodges will jointly confer an Entered Apprentice Degree for candidates from various Lodges in the district, including ours! Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the degree at 7:30 p.m. We hope you will attend and support this joint effort by our Lodges.

Finally, on Saturday September 20th from 9-11 a.m., Tropical Lodge continues our fight against food insecurity as we return to the Midwest food Bank to volunteer our time and energy for this great cause.. Please [click this link to sign up](#) if you would like to attend.

There is so much to do and be a part of at Tropical Lodge and in the Tremendous 24th Masonic District. You can keep track of it all on our [District 24 Google Calendar](#). Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you all on the level!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden / (239) 995-8837

cmndraverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



We are over halfway through the year and many of you have still not paid your 2025 dues. You should be receiving your second dues notice in the mail very soon. Please do not let your dues lapse.

If you haven't done so already, remember that you can pay your 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



Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings, Brothers. For September the *Charity Of The Month* will be the Midwest Food Bank. In the past, some of us from Tropical have assisted them in fulfilling their orders at their location and we'll be doing so again this month. I am asking that all Brothers please contribute in the donation box on the Tyler's desk.

Lest we forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon / (508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



Culinary Greetings from the South



Wow! I cannot believe how fast August has gone by.

Adopting a teacher at Tice Elementary, adopting the school itself, and bringing a trunk full of donated supplies to the school would seem like enough. But, no...headed up by Brother Bob Zimmerman, we also gave away two scholarships to students preparing to attend college.

We also did **Operation: Cigars for Warriors**. Brothers donating cigars (and money) to that charity will allow our sailors and soldiers abroad that are protecting us to enjoy a good smoke.

Our Lodge is really starting to get noticed. We had brothers that have stepped up to the plate to make our get-togethers more than a business meeting.

We also had a scare this month with one of the AC units overheating. We escaped something potentially very bad. Thank goodness the protections on the units contained and kept the situation to a minimum. Just a note: If you hear an alarm and do not see or smell smoke you can call and we will get it handled. *If you smell and see smoke dial 911 immediately! (You don't have to call or check with anyone to see if you should.)*

For September we will continue to practice our rituals, as well as working on proficiency cards. If you have no clue what I'm talking about and want to be involved in degrees, come and ask; we have a place for you. I'm excited for September.

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden / (239) 823-6034

motherhubbardscc@comcast.net



DeMolay



On **October 9, 2025** at the **Miami Scottish Rite Building** located at 471 NW 3rd St, Miami, FL 33128 the DeMolay will host their degree. This is open to all Master Masons in good standing.

The Florida Commandery is requesting all Sir Knights that wish to attend to be in their class A uniform with

chapeaux and swords. It is suggested you arrive by **5:00 p.m.** with dinner to follow at **6:00 p.m.** This should be a great event in support of the masonic youth in Florida.

MENU:



SEPTEMBER 2: Nick's Homemade Pizza & Salad

SEPTEMBER 16: This is the first time that this has ever happened...the new Entered Apprentices will be working together as a team to make dinner for the Craft. It will be a surprise as to what they make. Please show up and support them.

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



GMOV

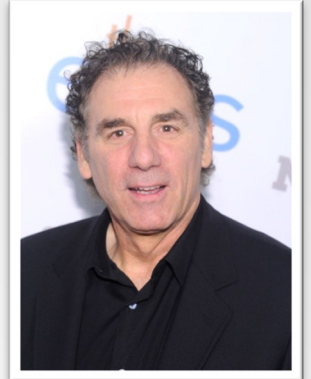
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

5:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Famous Freemason

Michael Anthony Richards

Born June 24, 1949



Michael Anthony Richards is an American actor. He graduated from Thousand Oaks High School in Thousand Oaks, California. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1970 and trained as a medic while stationed in West Germany. After leaving the Army he used his GI Bill benefits to enroll in the California Institute of the Arts. He transferred to Evergreen State College where he graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama.

Richards' first television break came in 1979 when he appeared in Billy Crystal's first cable TV special. The following year he appeared on the show *Fridays*, an attempt by ABC to recreate the success of *Saturday Night Live*. It was on the show *Fridays* that he met Larry David.

In 1989, Richards appeared in the "Weird Al" Yankovic film *UHF*. That same year he was cast on the series *Seinfeld*, written and created by Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David. Richards played the part of Cosmo Kramer, *Seinfeld*'s eccentric neighbor. Although the show started slow, by the end of its nine year run *Seinfeld* ended at Number 1 on the Nielsen ratings. It also saw Richards winning the most Emmys of his fellow cast mates, winning the award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series in 1993, 1994 and 1997.

Richards is a member of Riviera Masonic Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades, California. He is also a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction where he was invested in the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH).

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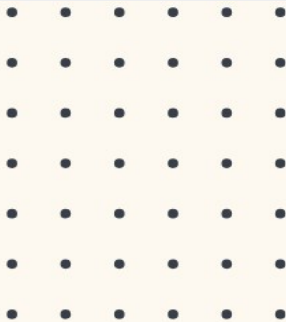
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Happenings Last Month



We celebrated our new adopted teacher, Ms. Laura Godsea, by presenting her a check for school supplies and our certificate of appreciation.



Worthy Brother Kurt Wagner was presented with his 60-year Masonic Service Award!



On August 15 a few of the officers from Tropical No. 56 delivered a trunk full of school supplies to our recently adopted Tice Elementary School and visited the classroom of our adopted teacher. We were warmly welcomed and thanked by the faculty. It was wonderful to see the inviting and welcoming environment Ms. Godsea was able to create with our support. It is a privilege to serve our community and we look forward to our next interaction with these incredible folks!



On August 19 Tropical No. 56 and its Scholarship Committee, congratulated our Essay Contest winners: Kayla Mann (\$500) and Kathlyn Rodriquez (\$1000)!



Return to Midwest Food Bank

Tropical Lodge No. 56 will be returning to the Midwest Food Bank, and you are invited to take part. This is open to you and your families, and like the last time it promises to be a wonderful group experience.

- **Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2025
- **Time:** 9 a.m.—11 a.m.
- **Where:** Midwest Food Bank, 5601 Division Drive, Fort Myers 33905



Click the following link to sign their waiver and mark your calendars for a fun morning of service and fellowship: [Sign the Waiver.](#)



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 FSAM. 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