

**STATED  
COMMUNICATION**

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

**March 4  
March 18**

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD  
MARCH 2025**



10868 METRO PARKWAY  
FORT MYERS, FL

[TropicalLodge56.org](http://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

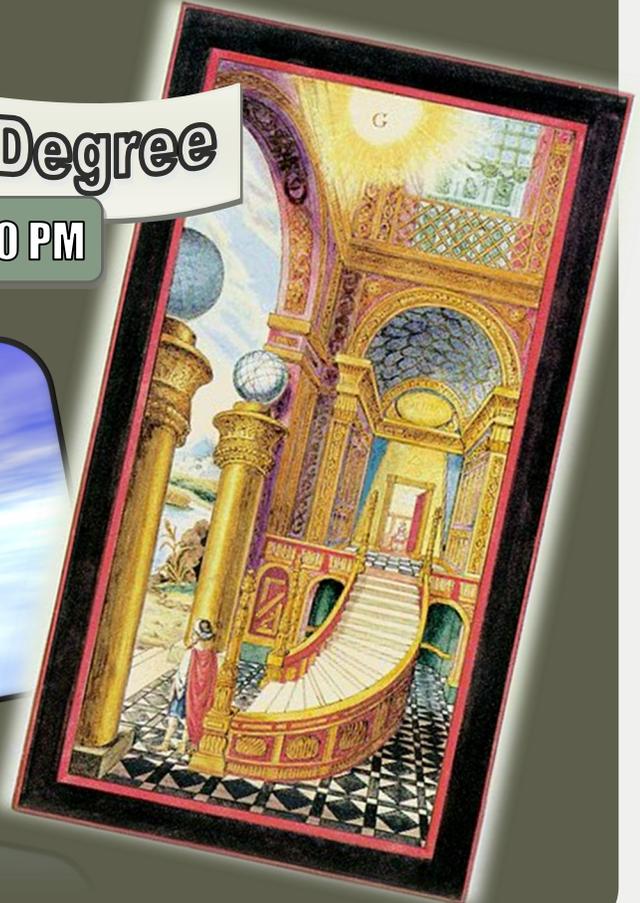
**Senior Steward**  
Nicholas B. Gadbois

**Junior Steward**  
Bruce Prescott

**Tyler**  
John, Gavin, PM

## **Fellow Craft Degree**

**March 18th — 7:30 PM**



# Greetings from the East



My plan for Trestle Board messages in 2025 is to keep mine short and to the point. I will generally choose one or two items to comment on or provide an update. As such, my March message focuses on the following two subjects.

First, I would like to complement our degree team lead by W.: Aaron. Their dedication to practice and the pursuit of perfection is an example to all of us that wish to participate in ritual. Not only have they taken on the difficult task of presenting degrees in back-to-back months, they made Tropical proud by presenting an outstanding EA degree in February. Special recognition goes to our Senior Deacon for proving any doubters wrong with an excellent job. For those that may be interested in learning a degree part, the team practices on the non-lodge meeting Tuesdays at 6:00 pm.

Second, we will be considering an increase in our dues in the next few months. Our junior Warden Shawn is heading a committee that will be researching dues across our district and presenting their findings to the finance committee. The finance committee will review the findings and make a recommendation to the Craft as a whole. In the end, those that follow the process, and show when it comes to a vote, will determine the final outcome. This obviously impacts all of us so take due notice...

Fraternally,

*Thomas Knafel, PM*

**Worshipful Master**

(317) 379-6923

[tknafel@gmail.com](mailto:tknafel@gmail.com)



# Celestial Lodge

**Brother Howard Hays laid down his working tools February 22, 2025.**

- **Initiated 2/21/12**
- **Passed 8/21/12**
- **Raised 3/9/2013**

**No plans for a Masonic Service have been planned at this time. We will keep the membership informed if this changes.**

**Alas, my Brother.**



## 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry



For Master Masons looking to further their journey in Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers is looking for candidates for the 2025 Spring Reunion Class March 15 & 16. If you would like to be considered for the upcoming class, email Brother Andy Silvia ([Asilvia64@aol.com](mailto:Asilvia64@aol.com)), W.: Kevin Gourley ([KLGourley1971@gmail.com](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com)), or speak with any other Brother you know who is a Scottish Rite member.

There is an online petition on the Valley of Fort Myers website. Here you can learn about and become active in the 4th thru 32nd degrees of Freemasonry. If you enjoy ritual or the meaning behind it, the Scottish Rite may be for you.

# Greetings from the West



I hope this finds everyone well as we head into Spring! I want to thank all the Brothers who came out to support us on February 18, as we conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree and welcomed Brother Leandro Ferreira to our great fraternity. Tropical Lodge made history that night when our Senior Deacon Andy Silvia, who is visually impaired/blind, performed his degree duties with the skill and assiduity that we have all come to expect from him. This might have also been a first in the state of Florida! I would like to congratulate Brother Silvia and the entire degree team, including our Trestle board Editor W.: Kevin Gourley who sat in the West, for such a fine job. Thank you also to Worshipful Master Tom Knafel for allowing me to serve as the Lodge Instructor and Mentor; it is a great honor to work with such dedicated Brothers and be a part of such memorable occasions, as we continually strive for light.

Looking forward, Tuesday March 4 will be the second official visit of Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgemon, Sr. and we would love to have a packed Lodge to welcome him. Never resting on our laurels and always working to meet the needs of the Lodge, please mark your calendars and join us for yet another ceremony by our dedicated ritual team on Tuesday March 18, as we pass to the degree of Fellow Craft Brother Steven Luter. This will also be our St. Patrick's Day celebration, and dinner will be corned beef and cabbage! There is so much to do and be involved with at Tropical Lodge, and you can keep up with it all at [www.tropicalodge56.org](http://www.tropicalodge56.org). We look forward to seeing you in March my Brothers!

*Aaron A. Averhart, PM*

**Senior Warden**  
(239) 995-8837  
[cmndraverhart@gmail.com](mailto:cmndraverhart@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](mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com).

*Randy Crone*

**Secretary**  
(239) 340-2310  
[secretarytropical56@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com)



# Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings Brethren: I hope this finds you in good health. The Charity of the Month for March 2025 will be the Lighthouse of SWFL. This non-profit organization is located in Fort Myers and has been assisting visually impaired adults and children for some time now. They provide counseling and instruction in everything including mobility, cooking, computers and everyday skills.

Your generosity has allowed us to reach our goal for the past two months, so please do not forget to bring at least a \$1 bill to donate as you sign into the meeting. I know my Brothers will not let me down. Lest we forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

*Andy Silvia*

**Senior Deacon**  
(508) 728-7491  
[Asilvia64@aol.com](mailto:Asilvia64@aol.com)

**LIGHTHOUSE**  
of SWFL



# Menu from the South



**March 4th**  
Jerry Hamm's Famous Jambalaya  
Chicken noodle soup  
Cornbread  
White rice  
Rolls  
Salad  
Dessert



*Shawn Hubbard*

**Junior Warden**  
(239) 823-6034  
[motherhubbardsc@comcast.net](mailto:motherhubbardsc@comcast.net)

**March 18th**  
Corned beef & cabbage  
Potatoes & carrots  
Cornbread  
Salad  
Dessert

**TROPICALLODGE56.ORG**



**There are seven (7) St. Patrick's Day words in this puzzle. Can you find them?**

# St. Patrick's Day Word Search



## The Level and the Square

By Rob Morris

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.  
 What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!  
 Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;  
 In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,  
 The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;  
 For the rich must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,  
 And the poor man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb - 'tis the orders of our Guide.  
 We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;  
 The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true  
 That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.

We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;  
 We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true.  
 But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,  
 And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal - we are hurrying toward it fast,  
 We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of Death are past;  
 We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there  
 To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.  
 There's a Mansion - 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart.  
 There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there  
 Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.

Let us meet upon the Level, then while laboring patient here;  
 Let us meet and let us labor, though the labor be severe;  
 Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare  
 To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

Hands round, ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal Chain.  
 We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again!  
 What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are --  
 We meet upon the Level and we part upon the square

**Clover Gold Green Irish Luck  
 Rainbow Leprechaun**

## Quote of the Month

*"We are committed to excellence in our lives and we are not willing to compromise ourselves for the sake of popularity. One time, the great German mathematician, Karl Gustav Jacobi, was asked why he decided to spend his life at work in such an obscure field. He replied, 'For the honor of the human spirit.' That is the reason why we, as Masons, give our lives affirming our beliefs in moral conduct, brotherhood and compassion. We do it for the honor of the human spirit."*

— Stanley F. Maxwell

## District 24

**District Deputy Grand Master**

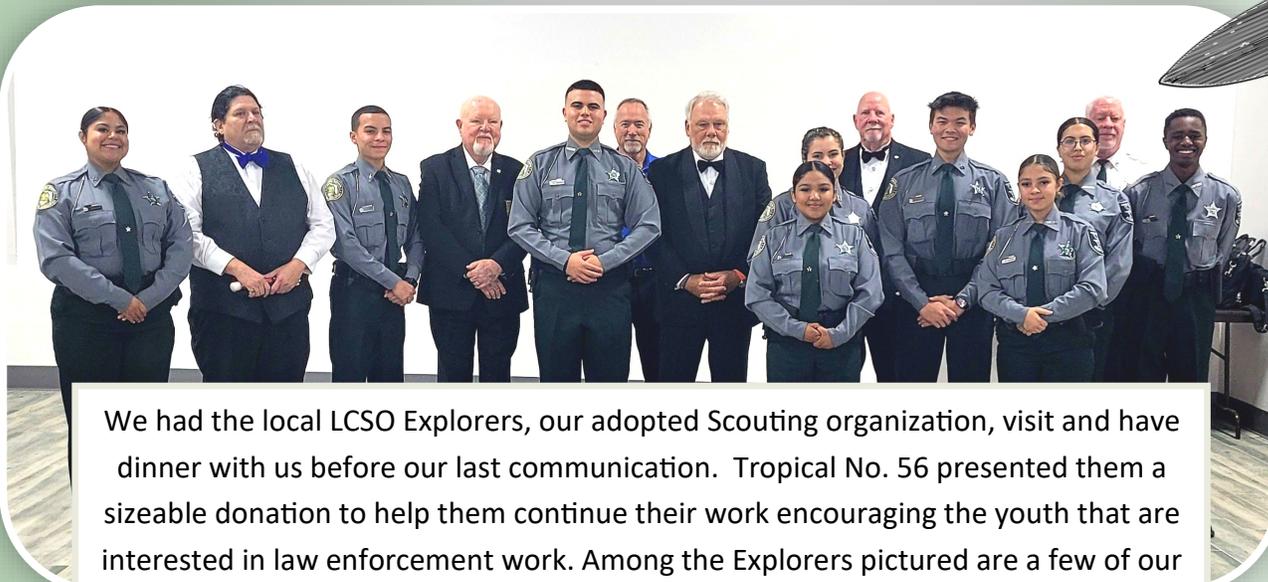
R.:W.: Acey Edgemon, PM  
 (239) 860-4045

**District Instructor**

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



# Last Month



We had the local LCSO Explorers, our adopted Scouting organization, visit and have dinner with us before our last communication. Tropical No. 56 presented them a sizeable donation to help them continue their work encouraging the youth that are interested in law enforcement work. Among the Explorers pictured are a few of our Lodge members who are retired law enforcement officers.



Welcome to our new Entered Apprentice, Brother Leandro Ferreira!

A very special shout out goes to our Senior Deacon, Brother Andy Silvia, for a job well done. Despite certain physical challenges, he performed his duties during the EA degree superbly and was also commended by visiting Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgmon.





In Person  
Only

District Lodge  
Development  
All Lodge Officers  
Encouraged to attend !

# Training Seminar

This seminar  
promises to be a  
transformative  
experience for  
all Lodge  
Officers .  
Geared to the  
Secretary and  
Treasurers



Saturday March 22, 2025



9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

## Location

Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362  
17671 Pine Ridge Rd. Fort Myers Beach

Presented by

The Grand Secretary and other Knowledgeable Brothers



904-354-2339



Email for further information  
[richard.lynn@glflamason.org](mailto:richard.lynn@glflamason.org)



[amity.copiri.com/share/QuA3E4t8l](https://amity.copiri.com/share/QuA3E4t8l)



District  
24



# CAPE CORAL LODGE #367

# FISH FRY

Don't miss out on this delectable treat! Place your order now and enjoy the perfect fish fry plate to satisfy your cravings!

## Plate Includes

- Crispy Fried Fish Fillets
- Golden French Fries
- Refreshing Coleslaw
- Homemade Tartar Sauce
- Drink

## Make your order



Cape Coral Lodge #367  
10868 Metro Parkway  
Ft. Myers, FL 33983

March 14, 21 & 28  
at 4 pm  
to 7 pm  
Eat in or take out



\$15  
Per plate

# 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	<p>This page is dedicated to the Past Masters who have served Tropical No. 56 F&amp;AM from its beginning way back in 1892 to the present day. These Brothers will continue to be honored here for their past service &amp; 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

