

STATED COMMUNICATION
FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER 15
DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2026



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

2026 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Aaron Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

Andrew Silvia

Treasurer

Bruce Prescott

Secretary

Robert Lippek, PDDGM

Senior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Junior Deacon

Nicholas Gadbois

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Steward

Jerry Hamm, Jr.

Junior Steward

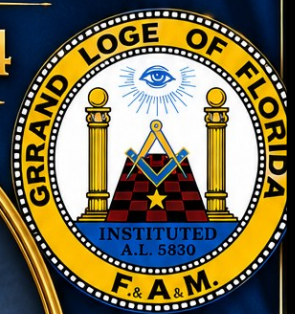
Robert Bennett

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM

GRAND MASTER OFFICIAL VISIT

DISTRICT 24



Most Worshipful
Haskell R. Vest, Jr.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

AT 5:30 P.M.

TROPICAL LODGE NO. 56 F&AM

Trestle Board Publisher
W.: Kevin Gourley, PM

NOTE: The District 24 GMOV is officially at capacity, and cannot take more RSVPs.

Greetings from the East



Greetings from the East! August was yet another memorable month for Tropical Lodge, starting with our Senior warden Shawn Hubbard's first time sitting in the East. On August 4th, Brother Hubbard stepped up to cover for my absence and I am told he did an excellent job presiding over the business of the Lodge. I was able to return for the meeting of the 18th, at which we accomplished a great deal. We started the evening off by welcoming our adopted teachers Cynthia Delgado and Sherri Skipper and Administrator Maria Santiago Gonzalez of Tice Elementary School, to present them with their certificates of adoption and monetary support. They were grateful for our sponsorship and we look forward to more opportunities to assist them with their needs.

That same night we were treated to a Master Mason proficiency examination of Brothers Logan Bryant and Ismael Saucedo, by the head of our catechism program Brother Bruce Prescott. After deeming them proficient and offering our congratulations, we dropped down to the Entered Apprentice Degree so that all our Brethren could join us in Lodge as we performed the Lambskin Presentation, awarding Brothers Bryant and Saucedo their burial aprons and Masonic bibles, something for our newer Brothers to aspire to. With our Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Brothers still present, I followed that with a presentation of my academic research on Tropical Lodge luminaries L.C. and W.R. Washburn and their place in local and Masonic history. After resuming labor in the Master Mason Degree we conducted the remaining business of the Lodge and parted upon the square, peace and love prevailing.

On Friday August 21st several officers and members of the Lodge met for an impromptu lunch at local favorite Biggies, where we broke bread and had a wonderful afternoon of fellowship. The highlight of the gathering was being able to surprise Brother Gerald "Ted" Connally with his 40 year Masonic Service Award, surrounded by friends and Brothers new and old. A special thanks goes to R.:W.: Gene Sims for helping me arrange that wonderful surprise for Ted, who has difficulty making our evening Lodge meetings. All in all it was a fantastic chance to gather as friends, laugh, and just enjoy each other's company. We look forward to more opportunities to do that and will try to make it a regular occasion so that available Lodge members can join in the fellowship.

DID YOU KNOW?

President George Washington laid the famous U.S. Capitol cornerstone on September 18, 1793 during a special Masonic ceremony. Today, the exact location of that original sandstone block and its inscribed silver plate remains a historical mystery. Washington was a member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Virginia. He also served as the first Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 A.F. & A.M.



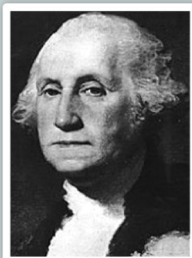
We look forward to an exciting and engaging September and encourage you to get involved in all the wonderful activities and opportunities for engagement, from mentoring, to catechism instruction, committee duties, and ritual work. Thank you Brothers for continuing to make Tropical Lodge No. 56 the most wonderful Lodge in the district and for all the selfless service you render the Craft. I look forward to the next time we meet upon the level.

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com

"Historia est Magistra Vitae"



Quote from a Famous Mason

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence." —Brother George Washington



From the Secretary's Desk



Our 2026 dues remain \$127.30. If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns about payment, please contact me at the phone number below. I am always happy to speak with you and work through any situation.

As noted in previous Trestle Boards, dues may be paid by credit card through the Amity mobile app or by contacting the Grand Lodge directly.

If you have had any changes to your phone number, mailing address, or email address, please notify me by email at secretarytropical56@gmail.com so that we may keep our records up to date.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous year. See you in Lodge.

Bobby Lippek, PDDGM

Secretary

(941) 677-2342

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND MASONIC FUNERAL

FOR OUR BELOVED BROTHER KEVIN ZIMMERMAN'S JOURNEY




Date & Time: 9/5/2026 at 11:00 AM
Location Name: Fort Myers Beach
Masonic Lodge #362



Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers

CHARITY RAFFLE



*Win This
EXCLUSIVE
BOTTLE OF...*

**20 YEAR OLD
PAPPY VAN WINKLE'S
FAMILY RESERVE**

Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey

TICKET PRICE:
\$50

DRAWING:
December 17th, 2026
at the Fort Myers Consistory



All proceeds will go to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida in support of the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.





To purchase tickets, call
Kenny Vince at (239) 292-9593



or email kennyvince79@gmail.com

Tropical History



This notice ran in the Fort Myers Press on January 26, 1893, eight days after receiving our charter from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. This is possibly the first public notice given for a Tropical Lodge meeting. It is noteworthy not just for that, but also for the Brothers who occupied the offices of Worshipful Master and Secretary: the Washburns.



District 24



District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Jeff Zimmerman
(239) 895-5390

1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

District Instructor

R.:H.: Richard Pennewaert
(254) 258-4271

rpennewaert@gmail.com

Culinary Greetings from the South



As we approach the Fall season Tropical Lodge has accomplished so much this year. Unfortunately, due to my medical issues, I have missed some of the recent meetings, but I have been kept apprised and I have been following all the great things you have been doing. I wanna thank everyone who has reached out to me and those who have kept me in their prayers. I will be back with you very soon and I truly look forward to it. We don't realize just how important being with

our Brothers withing the walls of the Temple are to us until we cannot be there. Let's keep the positive progression of our Lodge going.

Andy Silvia

Junior Warden

(508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



MENU

SEPTEMBER 1: Spaghetti Bolognese garlic bread and Caesar salad.

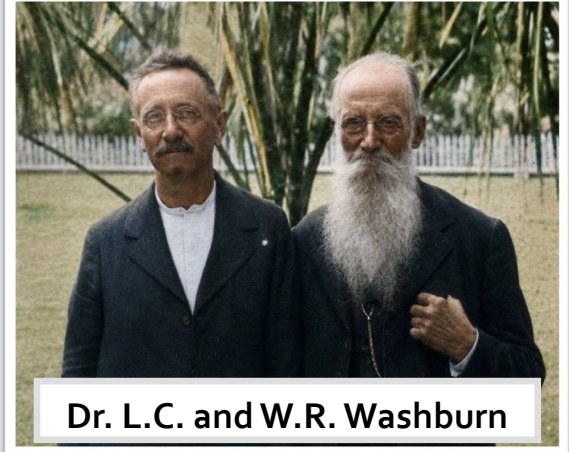
SEPTEMBER 15: Gourmet, hot dogs and rolls, Portuguese baked beans and tater tots.

Happenings Last Month

Fellowship, Proficiency and more!



AUGUST 18: We enjoyed a wonderful evening of dinner and fellowship, presented certificates of recognition and monetary support to our adopted school, Tice Elementary, and our two adopted teachers, witnessed an excellent Master Mason proficiency examination and Lambskin Presentation, and learned about the Washburns' lasting impact on local Freemasonry and the development of Fort Myers.



Dr. L.C. and W.R. Washburn

40 Years and Counting



AUGUST 21: It was a great day for some of the officers and members of Tropical No. 56. Not only did we get to surprise the legendary Gerald "Ted" Connolly with his 40-year Masonic Service Award, but we had a wonderful time breaking bread and enjoying each other's company.



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	Jeffery 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 & 2026
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 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.



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