

**STATED COMMUNICATION**  
**First & Third Tuesday**  
**Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**May 6 May 20**

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD**  
**MAY 2025**



10868 METRO PARKWAY  
 FORT MYERS, FL

**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

## Greetings from the East



At our second meeting in April R.:W.: Sims lead off our educational series by presenting on Masonic etiquette. Based upon the reaction of and interaction by the craft, it was a great success. In fact, the assembled Brethren found it so interesting that R.:W.: Sims has agreed to present a second session later this year. For those that did not attend, I will insure that we get the word out well in advance so that you can schedule accordingly. In the interim, I would like to extend my thanks to R.:W.: Sims for a job well done and for getting us off to a great start.

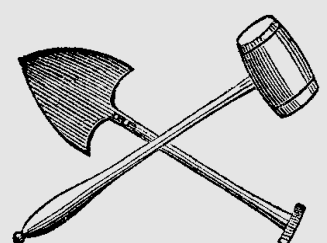
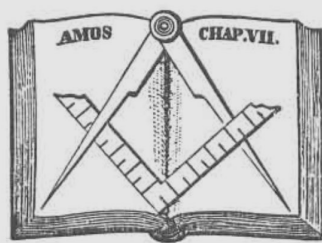
Our next educational session will be held at the second meeting in May with W.: Averhart presenting. Several brothers have volunteered for future presentations and/or have suggested topics. I encourage all of you to voice any topic that you believe will be of interest. Simply contact me or any of the officers with your idea.

My last thought for this communication centers around the topic of member's involvement in the Lodge. It has been my observation that more and more of our Brothers are becoming active in some aspect of the Lodge. This is especially true of many of our new members. If you would like a good example of this, note the number of Lodge officers that do not stand when I recognize Masons above 10 years of membership. Those that remain seated have been Masons for a relatively short time but have become involved very quickly. That is not only an indication of a strong and stable officers line, but bodes well for the general future of Tropical Lodge. I hope that all of you will find an area or areas of Lodge life that interest you and stay involved.

Fraternally,

*Thomas Knafel, PM*

**Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923**  
[tknafel@gmail.com](mailto:tknafel@gmail.com)



## Greetings from the West



It doesn't seem possible to have passed another great month with you wonderful my Brothers, yet here we are as May creeps up on us, with Grand Lodge right around the corner!

There have been so many great things to celebrate in April: the Shrine Ceremonial, the 75th Anniversary of Cypress No. 295, several more Grand

Lodge candidates visiting with us, Brother Steve Lewter being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft and proving his proficiency in 28 days' time(!), seeing Brother Rafael Morales of Cape Coral No. 367 confer his first degree and returning courtesy work for us, another successful Master Mason Association meeting, the Daughters of the Nile officer installation (congratulations to Pat & Dorothy, and everyone else), Noah No. 357 holding their first official meeting in their building since Hurricane Ian, LaBelle No. 379 Brothers proving their Fellow Craft Proficiency, Ladies Appreciation Night at Fort Myers Beach No. 362 and so many more events I just can't recall!

Thank you to all the Brothers who have supported Tropical Lodge, our Brothers in other Lodges, and the 24th Masonic District as a whole. It is wonderful to see us so alive with activity and excitement. Freemasonry has so much to offer—from fellowship and ritual to celebration. I encourage you to get out and get active in your Lodge and district. Support each other and keep spreading the cement of Brotherly love!

Sincerely & Fraternally,

*Aaron A. Averhart, PM*

Senior Warden / (239) 995-8837  
cmndraverhart@gmail.com



## Message from the Senior Deacon



Greetings Brethren. I hope this finds you and your families in good health and happiness. The May Charity Of The Month (COM) is a nonprofit called "[The Brotherhood Ride](#)". In May, we observe National Law Enforcement Week, so I felt this would be fitting. They are a group of active and retired law enforcement and firefighters who raise money for

the families of fallen law enforcement, firefighters and first responders. They will be joining us on May 6th for dinner. Please come out and welcome them into our lodge.

Please do not forget to donate when you sign into the logbook as the COM donation box will be on the Tyler's desk. May we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Fraternally,

*Andy Silvia*

Senior Deacon / (508) 728-7491  
Asilvia64@aol.com



## From the Secretary's Desk



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.

To make any updates to your phone number or mailing address please let me know by sending a message to the email address below.

*Randy Crone*

Secretary / (239) 340-2310  
secretarytropical56@gmail.com



# TROPICALLODGE56.ORG

## Culinary Greetings from the South



It's already May; hard to believe.

As Junior Warden this year I really thought that it was going to be a challenge with the amount of work that is involved, but with the new Brothers that have come in this job has gone very smoothly. I would like to thank Brother Lewter, Brother Hamm, Brother Prescott and Worshipful Averhart

for the willingness to help out!

The Easter dinner went off without a hitch and I was told the dinner was great. The importance of getting everyone involved is so important. It allows many to take ownership and pride in the lodge and I for one am so proud of my fellow Brothers! Let's continue to support one another it makes our lodge stronger and helps grow our lodge.

*Shawn Hubbard*

Junior Warden / (239) 823-6034  
motherhubbardsc@comcast.net



## M E N U

### May 6th

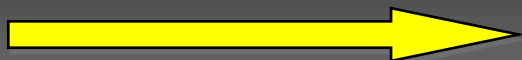
- Tacos (Hard and Soft)
- Refried Beans
- Mexican Street Corn
- Enchiladas

### May 20th

- Belgian Waffles
- Sausage & Bacon
- Scrambled Eggs
- Hashbrowns
- Bagels



The five (5) elected officers are in this puzzle. Can you find them?



## Musings From A Chaplain

By Brother Phil Keyes, LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

In the 60-plus years that I have been a Master Mason I am pushed to recall a Stated or Called Communication that didn't begin with Brethren gathering at a table to share a meal. With this realization I conclude, and accurately I submit, that Masons like food.



In fact, inviting others to our Masonic table is rewarding for members of the Fraternity and can also be a powerful recruiting tool among friends, relatives and neighbors. I suspect there are numerous Master Masons among our ranks, including myself, who accepted an invitation to come to dinner so our application could be given to the secretary.

Masonic Lodges often provide special meals to raise funds for community projects. I recall that years ago when I was being initiated, fried fish dinners were popular. Others also use food to promote special causes. The church I attend does chicken dinners grilled over charcoal, the American Legion Post holds "steak night" events to raise money, Boy Scouts sell hot dogs at high school baseball games, and Girl Scouts sell cookies..

Why this focus on food? It is because food is central to life and our joy in being alive is best expressed through food. Who can think of a more appetizing idea than that?



## Quote of the Month

A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent. " — General Douglas MacArthur  
Manila Lodge No. 1 in Philippines

# Elected Officers Word Search



**Worshipful Master    Senior Warden**  
**Junior Warden    Treasurer    Secretary**



## District 24

**District Deputy Grand Master**

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

**District Instructor**

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





# 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
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

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

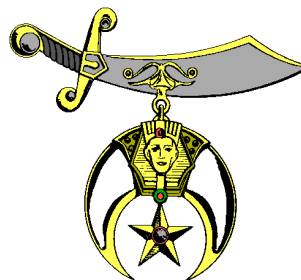
\*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant  
Bodies In Freemasonry

