

STATED COMMUNICATION

First & Third
Tuesday

Dinner
6:30 PM

Meeting
7:30 PM

June 3
June 17

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
JUNE 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

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Saturday, June 28
Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
Degree at 9:00 a.m.



Greetings from the East



June greetings from the East. My message for this month focuses on the just completed 196th Grand Communication, better known as Grand Lodge.

Tropical Lodge was represented by a number of members including R.:W.: Sims, Senior Warden W.: Averhart, Junior Warden Hubbard, W.: Jeff Zimmerman, Brother Bob Zimmerman, R.:W.: Lippek, several of our honorary members and myself. Highlights included the election of M.:W.: "Tali" Atala as Grand Master, the appointment of R.:W.: Bruce Rivera as our DDGM and the appointment of our own R.:W.: Gene Sims as Grand Sword Bearer.

Although a number of offices were contested, our officer team was able to reach agreement on the candidates that we felt best represented the interests of our Lodge. As fortune would have it, we selected the winner in each election. In every instance, harmony prevailed with the losing candidate making a successful motion that a unanimous vote be called for and recorded for the winner. We also had the honor of hearing a Memorial Day presentation from a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He lost an arm and eye in the fighting but continued on and has lived a life that is an inspiration to everyone. At our next meeting, I will ask each Brother that attended to offer their observations and take questions from the craft.

In closing, I encourage all Brothers to consider attending a Grand Communication at some point in your Masonic journey. It is open to any Master Mason. The sessions are very educational, the venue is nice and the room rates are extremely reasonable. Some of the number top reasons given when someone is asked why they became a Mason are a feeling of brotherhood, being part of something larger and becoming a better man. I cannot think of a better place to experience those things than in a hotel full of our Brothers.

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master / (317) 379-6923
tknafel@gmail.com

Greetings from the West



I hope this finds you all healthy and happy! We have just returned from the 196th Annual Grand . I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent you once again. It is always nice to see old friends and Brothers and to gather together for the purpose of improving our great fraternity.

Hearty congratulations are in order for Tropical's very own R.:W.: Gene Sims on his appointment as the Grand Sword Bearer for the Grand Lodge of Florida. R.:W.: Sims sets an amazing example of selflessness we should all strive to emulate.

I would also like to congratulate newly-appointed District Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Bruce Rivera, as well as R.:W.: Scott Peacock on his second appointment as our District Instructor. A huge thank you should also be extended to R.:W.: Acey Edgemon Sr. for the outstanding job he did as our District Deputy Grand Master this past year. These men have earned their appointments by consistently living Freemasonry and they demonstrate that our fraternity is nothing less than a way of life.

Mark your calendars for the following dates of importance: 1) On **Saturday June 28**, we will be conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on as many as 7 candidates, with breakfast to be served at 8 am followed by the degree at 9 am. 2) On **Tuesday August 5** we will receive our new District Deputy Grand Master and his committeemen. R.: W.: Rivera will be relaying the official message of Most Worshipful Tali Atala, the newly-elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Florida. 3) As always, Open Books are held on the second Saturday of the month from 9 am—Noon. 4) The Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida meets on the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm.

There is so much happening at Tropical Lodge. You are encouraged to visit our calendar at www.tropicalodge56.org to keep up with all our planned events, as well as those of the other Masonic bodies that meet in our building.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

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



Message from the Senior Deacon



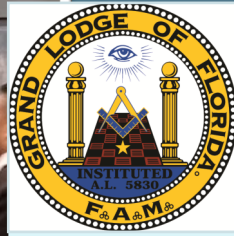
Greetings, Brethren: As we approach summer I hope you are all filled with a renewed spirit of fellowship.

Our Charity Of The Month (COM) for June will be the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. The money raised benefits 15 clinics in Florida that primarily serve children. Please do not forget to contribute, if possible, when signing in at the Tyler's desk.

May we never forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Andy Silvia

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



Congratulations to our very own R.:W.: Gene Sims!

He was appointed the Grand Sword Bearer for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida!

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



Culinary Greetings from the South



Come join us on June 3 for some delicious shepherd's pie and salad. Then, on June 17, we will have a Baked Potato and Sweet Potato night—complete with Rolls and a salad.

Shawn Hubbard

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





The seven (7) appointed officers are in this puzzle. Can you find them?



Musings From A Chaplain

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

Showing brotherly love through hospitality is a powerfully effective way to create a community-wide awareness of the positive aspects of a Masonic Lodge. In another Lodge a couple years ago, a Ukrainian refugee and his family were traveling to a new home when there was a traffic crash.

Fortunately, none of them were injured but the car was not drivable. Repair parts could not be delivered until the next day. A local Mason witnessed the crash and took pity on the family. He understood their money was scarce and they could potentially miss a couple of meals. Without hesitation he invited all four to be the guests that evening at his Lodge's meeting-night dinner. As it turned out the man's father and father-in-law were members of a Masonic Lodge in Kiev.

The Holy Scriptures often depict the sharing of meals, especially in the New Testament when the most unlikely people would share a meal. We read of bread being broken among the disciples with outcasts and members of society not accustomed to eating with religious leaders.

In many cases, a communal meal provides the context for revealing ourselves to people who otherwise would never consider who Freemasons are. It is a great way to let our light shine in the community.

District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Bruce Rivera
(239) 297-9400

District Instructor

R.:W.: Scott Peacock
(617) 271-4331



Appointed Officers Word Search



Chaplain Junior Deacon Junior Steward Marshal
Senior Deacon Senior Steward Tyler

FAMOUS FREEMASON



Oliver Hardy

Born January 18, 1892 - Died August 7, 1957

At a young age Hardy's mother wanted him to go to college to study law. There is no evidence this happened. Instead Hardy started his career in the movie industry in 1910 when a movie theater opened in his home town. Hardy became a projectionist, ticket taker and manager.

Hardy was raised in Solomon Lodge No. 20 in Jacksonville Florida. He was raised sometime before 1954 since his membership was mentioned on the television show "This is Your Life" in 1954.

This article provided by Today in Masonic History at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>.

TROPICALLODGE56.ORG

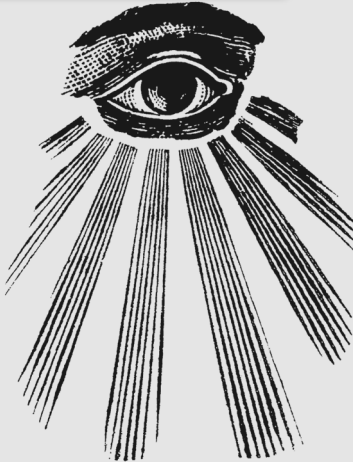
Happenings Last Month



Congratulations to Cape Coral Lodge for a successful Master Mason Degree on May 3rd and raising two brothers — Steve Lewter of Tropical No. 56 and Daniel Arriojas of Cape Coral No. 367.



Andy Silvia presented our donation to The Brotherhood Ride. (April's Charity)



Thank you for the faith and trust you have placed in us, the principal officers of Tropical No. 56, and for allowing us to represent you at the 196th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida!



The various officers of the 24th Masonic District at the 196th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida

Saturday

Pack Up & Paddle

June 21, 2025

9 a.m. - Noon



BEACON OF HOPE

Helping Our People Excel

United Way & Beacon of Hope

On Saturday, June 21st from 9am-Noon the United Way is looking for a group to help pack up items and tape walls for a Beacon of Hope painting project. After the project we will go kayaking and paddle around Matlacha for a couple of hours. Anybody who might be interested, please contact Jeff Zimmerman at the phone number or email address below.

Phone: (239) 895-5390

Email: 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com



5090 Doug Taylor Cir, Saint James City, FL 33956



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

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

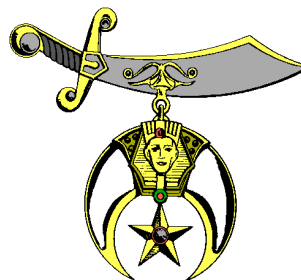
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry

