

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022



IMPORTANT DATES

Lodge Meetings

Stated Meeting – January 4 -7:30 pm

Stated Meeting – January 18 – 7:30 pm

Stated Meeting – February 1 -7:30 pm

Stated Meeting – February 15 – 7:30 pm

Other Events

February 14 – Valentine's Day **December 1 – Augie's Birthday**

TRESTLEBOARD

Tropical Lodge No. 56 Free & Accepted Masons 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33966

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Worshipful Master Vick Fiore

Good day from the East my brothers,

So, a lot has happened since last we spoke, we are bringing a new Brother into the Craft (congratulations to you, good Sir), other Brothers are soon to be advancing degrees, we have Brothers moving down and visiting our Lodge, and we have two new Lodge instructors. Our RWDDGM will be visiting at our next meeting Feb 15th.

The sale of the Lehigh Lodge is looking promising. The officers and I are coming up with more plans to bring a little fun back to our Lodge. So far, this year is looking promising and I hope to see more and more Brothers both new and old.

With that being said, I would like to start extending an open invitation to wives, children and family to dinners. After all, without the support of our spouse and family we would not be the men we are. From the earliest lessons taught by our parents, to be the men would that one day place their hands upon that alter and make an obligation, to the lesson our wives and children teach us each day, these are the things that make us good enough men to enter the Craft and we in turn use the teachings of the Craft to better ourselves for them. Masonry only adds to that bond of family that is already strong in our daily lives. As men and Masons, we should always remember the lines of unity that connects us and uplifts us.

Very sincerely,

Vick



If you haven't paid your 2022 Dues yet, please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call Randy Crone at (239) 340-2310.



Senior Warden's Message

Brother Tom Knafel

Brothers,

Greetings for the first time from the West. I would like to thank all of you for entrusting me with the Senior Warden office for 2022.

Tropical Lodge's outlook for 2022 is a very positive one. In addition to the impending sale of the Lehigh property, and the positive impact that it will have on our Lodge, we are seeing an increased level of membership interest. I believe that this will grow as we are able to make physical improvements to our building and grounds. A key to turning interested individuals into members of Tropical is the impression that we make on their initial visit(s). When you see someone that you do not know, I encourage you to introduce yourself, introduce as many officers as possible, offer a tour of the Lodge, and ensure that they don't eat alone. Our collective goal should always be to send them home with a positive impression of our Lodge and membership.

Finally, I would like to thank W: Jeff Zimmerman, P.M. for his leadership and dedication last year. I know that he led with an eye to what he believed to be just and fair and always with the best interests of the membership at heart. Enjoy the well-deserved view from the sidelines.

Fraternally Yours,



" Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life." - Sandra Carey



Junior Warden's Message

Brother Aaron Averhart

Greetings from the South, Brothers.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that this finds you all well. I would like to start by thanking you for the confidence that you have demonstrated in me. By electing me to serve as your Junior Warden, for a second time, I could not feel more supported. It is a wonderful gift to return to, many thanks!

Of course, as quickly as I thank you, I ask for your help so that I may effectively execute the duties of my office. I will be at the Masonic Center early on Lodge days, preparing and cooking food, cleaning and dressing up the dining hall, setting up the Lodge room and cleaning the bathrooms. In general, getting things ready for a great night of fellowship. This is definitely not a job that can be done alone, however, and I am in need of a few Brothers to help with food service and clean up, among other things. Some guys with experience coking meat would be a major bonus, as I am a vegetarian and not the one you want in charge of that aspect of your meals! Please contact me at the email address listed below if you would like to get involved, and thank you in advance for your help my Brothers.

Outside the kitchen, the new year promises to be as exciting as the last. We will continue to focus on our growth as men and Masons, as well as helping new Brothers come to better understand the craft. We are also going to focus on bringing some of the fun and excitement back to the fraternity, in a variety of ways, and we hope that you will join us often! I look forward to an exciting year filled with fellowship and brotherly love, goodwill and tolerance, meaningful community works, and a deeper appreciation for all that I have been given. Thank you again for the trust you have placed in me.

Fraternally Yours,

Aaron

2022 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

W∴ Vick Fiore Phone: 239.895.5390 Email: onepoint13@yahoo.com **Senior Warden Bro. Thomas Knafel** Phone: 317.379.6923 Email: tknafel@gmail.com **Junior Warden Bro.** Aaron Averhart Phone: 239.204.7286 Email: cmndraverhart@gmail.com Treasurer W∴ Mike Lewis, P.M. Phone: 239.340.5602 Email: mglewis1313@gmail.com Secretary **Bro. Randy Crone** Phone: 239.340.2310 Email: secretarytropical56@gmail.com **Senior Deacon Bro. Brian Apfel Junior Deacon Bro. Robert Zimmerman Senior Steward Bro. Shawn Hubbard Junior Steward Bro. Brandon Howell Tyler** W∴ John Gavin, P.M. **Chaplain** W∴ Joseph Setaro, P.M. **Marshal** TBA

If You Missed It...

December 2021 Summary

- At our Stated Meeting on December 7,
 - Bros. Peter Suckow, Andrew Silvia, and Shawn Hubbard were presented their Aprons and Bibles in the On Yonder Book ceremony. Congratulations Brothers!
- At our Stated Meeting on December 21,
 - W: Jeff Zimmerman, P.M. named Bro. Dave Foote as the Master Mason of the Year for Tropical Lodge No. 56, presenting him with a plaque for his hard work and dedication. Congratulations Brother Foote!
- At our Stated Meeting on December 21,
 - **R:.W:. Robert L. Lippek, D.D.G.M., District 24** introduced the installation team:

Installing Officer: R:.W:. Robert L. Lippek, DDGM Installing Marshal: W:. George Baliotis, P.M. Installing Chaplain: W:. Joseph Setaro, P.M.

The 2022 slate of officers for Tropical Lodge No. 56 were installed as follows.

- WM: W:.M:.Victor Fiore
- SW: Bro. Thomas Knafel
- JW: Bro. Aaron Averhart
- Tres: W:. Mike Lewis, P.M., previously installed
- Sec: Bro. Randy Crone, previously installed
- Chap: W:. Joseph Setaro, P.M., previously installed
- SD: Bro. Brian Apfel
- JD: Bro. Robert Zimmerman
- SS: Bro. Shawn Hubbard
- JS: Bro. Brandon Howell
- Mar: TBA
- Tyler: W:. John Gavin, P.M., previously installed
- W: Jeff Zimmerman, P.M. presented R:.H:. Jason Ott, P.M. a plaque for his many years of service to Tropical Lodge and the Fraternity.
- Charity of the month of December was the Harry Chapin Food Bank.



New Brothers

We welcomed Brother Robert L. Miller in December.

New Candidates

The Secretary read one new petition in December.

Sickness & Distress

Please keep the following Brothers in your thoughts and prayers:

Bro. Jason Rine Bro. Ed Lanham Bro. Joe Caiazza W∴ Barry Thrasher, P.M. W∴ Jim Record, P.M. Family of Bro. Ray Navor W∴ Curt Hardin, P.M. Bro. Tim Ennis

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Lodge Calendar

		Southwest Flor	ida Masonic Ce	nter Event Caler	ndar	
			February 20			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	31	February 1 <u>6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Tropical Lodge Stated</u> <u>Meeting</u>	2 Groundhog Day <u>6 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>GROTTO STATED</u> <u>MEETING</u> <u>630 pm - 730 pm</u> AASR Exec Com	3	4 <u>6.pm - 10.pm</u> <u>Synagogue</u>	5 <u>11 am - 6 pm</u> Knight Masons
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<u>5 pm -10:30 pm</u> OES Stated meeting	7 om - 9/30 pm Poinciana Chapter No. 5	0 Masonic Charity		<u>6 pm - 10 pm</u> <u>Synagogue</u>	Lincoln's Birthday
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 <u>6:30 pm - 9:30 pm</u> <u>Tropical Lodge Stated</u> <u>Meeting</u>	16 <u>6:30 pm - 9 pm</u> AASR Consistery	17	18 <u>6.pm - 10.pm</u> <u>Synagogue</u>	19
20	21 Presidents' Day <u>10 am - 4 pm</u> DON <u>5 pm - 10:30 pm</u> OES Stated meeting	22 <u>6 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Commandry</u>	23 <u>6:30 pm - 9:30 pm</u> <u>Master Mason</u> <u>Association</u>	24	25 <u>6 pm - 10 pm</u> <u>Synagogue</u>	26
27	28	1 <u>6:30 pm - 9:30 pm</u> <u>Tropical Lodge Stated</u> <u>Meeting</u>	2 Ash Wednesday <u>6 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>CROTTO STATED</u> <u>MEETING</u> <u>630 pm - 730 pm</u> <u>AASR Exec Com</u>	3	4 <u>6 pm - 10 pm</u> <u>Synagogue</u>	5 <u>7 am - 6 pm</u> <u>Fort Myers Cion Show</u>

Proud Home Of: AASR - YR - OES - Grotto - KMUSA - AMD - RCC - Tropical Lodge56



Grand Lodge Information

2022 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Grand Master M∴W∴ Jeffrey S. Foster Senior Grand Warden R∴W∴ Glen B. Bishop Grand Treasurer R∴W∴ Rudin J. Boatright **Grand Chaplain** R∴R∴ Chester J. Tokar Grand Marshal R∴W∴ Haskell R. Vest Junior Grand Deacon R∴W∴ Jack W. Hampton **Grand Sword Bearer R**∴W∴ Howard C. Chase Junior Grand Steward R∴W∴ Ben S. Schwartz **Grand Tyler** R∴W∴ Allen E. Wood **Grand Musician Bro. Michael Seeley**

Deputy Grand Master R∴W∴ Robert Lambert Junior Grand Warden **R**∴W∴ Donald W. Cowart **Grand Secretary** M∴W∴ Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M. **Grand Orator R**∴W∴ Ernest W. Catsulis Senior Grand Deacon R∴W∴ Harry H. Boyette **Grand Standard Bearer** R∴W∴ John N. Dragneff **Senior Grand Steward** R∴W∴ William P. Macken **Grand Pursuivant** R∴W∴ Michael R. Gambarrotti **Grand Historian R**∴W∴ Anthony DeAngelo

2022 DISTRICT 24 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

District Deputy Grand Master R.: W.: Robert Lippek Phone: (239) 600-9084

> District Instructor R∴W∴ Scott Peacock Phone: (617) 271-4331

Special Notice



Lodge Information

Lodge Committees

-		
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Finance	W∴ Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Vigilance	JW Aaron Averhart	239.204.7286
Petitions	TBD	
Masonic Education	SW Tom Knafel	317.379.6923
Board of Relief	W∴ Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Investigations	TBD	
Charity	W∴ Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Lodge Property	TBD	
Budget	W∴ Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Building	Bro. Dave Foote	239.633.4650
By-Laws	Bro. Randy Crone	239.340.2310
Child ID	TBD	
Coaching	TBD	
Delinquent Dues	Bro. Randy Crone	239.340.2310
Director of Work	Bro. Chris Tilman	239.738.3303
Fundraising	TBD	
Funeral	TBD	
Historian	TBD	
IT	TBD	
Kitchen	JW Aaron Averhart	239.204.7286
Library	TBD	
Building/Grounds Maint.	SW Tom Knafel	317.379.6923
Masonic Store	W∴ Mike Lewis, P.M.	239.340.5602
Perpetual Membership	Bro. Randy Crone	239.340.2310
Public Education & Citz.	W∴ John Gavin, P.M.	
Public Relations & Publ.	TBD	
Scholarship	TBD	
Sickness/Distress & Visit.	W∴ Joe Setaro, P.M.	239.357.7454
Trestleboard & Comm.	Bro. Chris Tilman	239.738.3303
Youth Activities	TBD	

Living Past Masters

Edelblut, R.T. Frieden, R.G. Roan, A.N. Williams, E.P. Swaringen, F.D. Matz, M.W.	1969 1975 & 1976 1981 1983 1984 1985
Hardin, H.C.	1986
Landrum, E.W.	1988
Sandahl, W.A.	1989
Irvin, R.D.	1990
McConley, W.A.	1991
Goodman, M.T.	1993
Johns, E.D.	1994
Lewis, J.D.	1995
Andrews, A.H.	1998
Flynn, B.L., Jr.	1999 & 2001
Record, J.L.	2000 2002
Summerall, S.N. Bodenhamer, T.H.	2002
Shields, R.G.	2003
Ott, J.J.	2004
Lott, E.W.	2005
Parsons, B.G.	2007
Thrasher, B.P.	2008
Bissell, S.	2009
Spradling, R.	2010
McCullers, E.	2012
Cavada, J.	2013
Smith, M.	2014
Lewis, M.	2015
Gavin, J.	2016
Sims, G.	2017 & 2018
Setaro, J	2019
Guilday, A.	2020
Zimmerman, J.	2021

Get Involved!

Help the Lodge By:

- Attending Lodge Meetings
- Joining a Degree Team
- Candidate Coaching
- Becoming an Officer
- Joining a Committee
- Helping in the Kitchen
- Getting Active!

Call Bro. Randy Crone if you have questions or need information on what you can do to help the Lodge.

Committee Activities

Public Education and Citizenship Committee



The Grand Lodge of Florida's Public Education and Citizenship program is designed to teach citizenship primarily through our public education system. The program challenges each Lodge to exceed 100 points, and we want Tropical Lodge to participate in this valuable and rewarding program.

The report section (from 2020) on page 9 from The Grand Lodge of Florida has suggested activities for community involvement. We are asking that you look it over and share your ideas of which activities Tropical Lodge might be able to do, and what individuals or groups might participate in them or benefit from them. The Grand Lodge has guidelines for these activities, and we will determine the feasibility of any suggestions given.

Some of these activities can be carried out by friends or family members of Freemasons, but it needs to be organized by the Lodge to apply. Depending on which activities we choose, fund raising may need to take place. Please consider getting involved as we grow this program which will help the community and introduce people to who we are.

Please contact: Committee Chairman John Gavin Email: john.gavin@gavinsace.com

Worshipful Master Jeff Zimmerman Phone: 239.895.5390 Email: 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

Trestleboard and Communications Committee

We welcome and encourage any Brother to submit articles, stories, pictures, or any other information that might benefit the Craft through the Trestleboard. In addition, anyone who wishes to be a Trestleboard booster or has a business that you wish to advertise in the Trestleboard, please email Bro. Chris Tilman at tilmanclan@gmail.com.



The Building Committee has been very active identifying ways to improve both the appearance of the building and property, and to make it more efficient to reduce the costs of operation. We are talking with contractors and getting pricing for drop ceilings throughout the Lodge and repairing/resealing the exterior doors to further reduce air losses and electricity costs.

There are many other simple improvements that we have identified that really just require some elbow grease and determination... and the Lodge needs Brothers to help in this effort!

The Building Committee is also actively planning for future improvements to the Lodge and will communicate updates during Lodge meetings. If you would like to help your Lodge with this important work, please email Bro. Chris Tilman at tilmanclan@gmail.com.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP AWARD 2019-2020

EACH LODGE SHOULD COMPLETE THIS REPORT AND SUBMIT IT DIRECTLY TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2020. Presentations will be made at the 2020 Grand Lodge Communication. NOTE: Every Lodge that accumulates at least 100 points will receive a plaque or tab for outstanding service to PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP. Multiply the point value of each event by the number of events to determine the total for each category. Total all categories to determine the Grand Total. Ask your District Chairman, Zone Chairman, or District Deputy Grand Master for assistance.

ALL LODGES SHOULD FILE A REPORT REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF POINTS ACCUMULATED.

THIS REPORT IS TWO (2) PAGES IN LENGTH. PLEASE SUBMIT BOTH PAGES WITH THE PROPER SIGNATURES BY THE DEADLINE NOTED.

		Number Of	Total
ACTIVITY	Points	Units	Points
1. Grand Lodge Certificates of Appreciation to deserving recipients for			
civic service, public education, and citizenship.	5		
2. Presentation of at least one \$100.00 cash scholarship/award to a			
deserving student or students.	5		
3. Assist municipality or county in non-partisan voter registration and	-		
promotions.	5		
4. Use of the Lodge by Scouting groups, senior citizen organizations,	-		
or non-Masonic groups.	5		
5. Conduct a family program in the Lodge with a public official as the	~		
guest speaker.	5		
6. Sponsor a party or visitation to a children's home, a home for the	5		
elderly, a VA nursing home, or other such facility.			
 Donation of \$50.00 or more to the Public Education and Citizenship Please Fund or Special Project Fund 	5		
Plaque Fund or Special Project Fund. 8. Donation of \$75.00 or more for a Grand Lodge billboard to support	5		
the Grand Lodge Publicity Committee or the erection of a Masonic			
roadside sign.	5		
9. Sponsor a youth group, Scout group, little league team, DeMolay,			
Rainbow, or Job's Daughters.	10		
10. Present the Flag Folding Ceremony at a meeting of an appropriate			
organization and present a U.S. Flag.	10		
11. Present a JROTC cadet with the Outstanding Cadet Certificate and			
monetary award.	10		
12. Submit appropriate articles and photographs to local media outlets			
and <i>The Florida Mason</i> for all activities.	10		
13. Participate in the Adopt-A-School project as described.	50		
14. Participate in the Adopt-A-Teacher project as described.	50		
15. Participate in Good Citizenship Program for 7th grade, present			
posters, give a talk on The Bill of Rights.	25		
16. Participate in the I Love America Essay project and Flag			
Presentation.	25		
	5 pts. per		
	Brother		
17. Participate in a District Public Education/Citizenship Workshop.	attending		
18. Other community service projects or activities (describe on attached	attenuing		
sheet).	5		
GRAND TOTAL POINTS	Carlos and Carlos	E Stort Starting	
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Trestleboard Boosters 2021

For information about how to be a Trestleboard Booster, please email Chris Tilman at tilmanclan@gmail.com.

Christopher Tilman

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I - - Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Did You Know...

By Bro. Red Skelton

^C R∴W∴ Gene F. Sims, P.M.

Pledge - - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance

Allegiance - - My love and my devotion.

To the Flag - - Our standard; *Old Glory* ; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

United - - That means that we have all come together.

States - - Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic - - Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation - - One Nation--meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible - - Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - - Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - - The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All - - For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

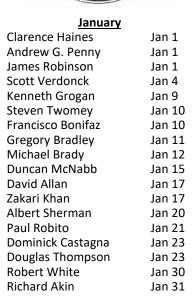
And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: **Under God**. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?



^C D.B. Kurt Wagner



February

Luke Degroot Feb 1 Vincent Anderson Feb 1 Thayer Bodenhamer Feb 6 Harry Poster Feb 7 Ward Sandahl Feb 7 Charles Machell Feb 8 William Roden Feb 9 **Stephen Crews** Feb 12 James Valentino Feb 13 Feb 15 Raymond Vandervort Feb 15 Michael Lewis Henry Fildes Feb 16 John Richardson Feb 21 Feb 21 Dean Martin William Hampton Feb 23 James Goodyear Feb 24 John Silver Feb 24 Oliver Martin Feb 24

Trestleboard Advertisements

For information about how to advertise in the Trestleboard, please email Chris Tilman at tilmanclan@gmail.com.



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