



MAY-JUNE 2022

TRESTLEBOARD

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



In This Issue:

- From The East..... 1
- Sr. Warden’s Message..... 2
- Jr. Warden’s Message..... 2
- Lodge Officers..... 3
- If You Missed It..... 3
- Calendar..... 4
- Grand Lodge Info..... 5
- Special Notices..... 6
- Lodge Information..... 7
- Committee Activities..... 8
- Trestleboard Boosters..... 10
- Birthdays..... 10
- Did You Know..... 10
- Advertisements..... 11

IMPORTANT DATES

Lodge Meetings

Stated Meeting – June 7 - 7:30 pm

Called Communication – June 21 – 7:30 pm

Other Events

December 1 – Augie’s Birthday



From The East

Worshipful Master Vick Fiore

Greetings from the East My Brothers,

The year is passing quickly, and June is shaping up to be another very busy month for the Lodge. We have had a lot of activities over the last few months, and we are planning more all the time.

The sale of the Lehigh Lodge is ongoing, and we will continue to give updates on the status. We are also planning many improvements to the Lodge building and will continue to update the Craft on our progress.

We will most likely have an EA degree in July, and any Brother that wants to join the degree team or help us with practices is more than welcome. We will keep you posted on the date for the degree. Also, please contact JD Bob Zimmerman if you are interested in learning more about Masonic funerals, one of the most important ceremonies that Masons perform.

As always, I would like to extend an open invitation to wives, children and family to dinners, and hope to see more Brothers at our Lodge meetings as we continue through the year.

Very sincerely,

Vick

2022 Dues Reminder

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

Greetings from the West Brothers,

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, you might be very surprised at how active it is and how many things you can be involved in, from taking a part on a degree team, to helping with meals, to learning more about the meanings of masonic symbols and just spending time with your Brothers! Come to Lodge and get involved!

Fraternally,

Tom

"Remember that it is the actions, and not the commission, that make the officer, and that there is more expected from him, than the title."

— General George Washington



Junior Warden's Message

Brother Aaron Averhart

Greetings From the South,

I hope everyone enjoyed our brief spring! As the year continues to move at a rapid rate, we are endeavoring to keep pace. As such, we are currently planning and practicing for an upcoming Fellow Craft Degree, for which we will soon provide a date. I would like to offer a continued thank you to the officers, past and present, that have been coming to practices to help us with ritual work, your familiarity and willingness to share are part of what makes Tropical Lodge such a wonderful family. While offering thanks to those who serve the Lodge selflessly, I would also like to thank our Senior Steward, Brother Shawn Hubbard, for his continued help in the kitchen. With his assistance, we have managed to find the right balance of good food, cost, and hard work, to ensure we keep providing great meals to the Craft while at the same time establishing financial solvency!

We held a Lodge workday on Saturday, April 23, from 8-11 am, and I was truly humbled by the response! We had a variety of things to do and projects to work on, and the effort was incredibly well supported. This was another fantastic bonding experience, just as in the past, and we are already making plans for our next one. I would personally like to thank Worshipful Master Vick Fiore, RW Gene Sims, Junior Past Master Jeff "MacGuyver" Zimmerman, Junior Deacon Brian Apfel, Junior Stewart Brandon Howell and his 3 absolutely beautiful children and wife, Dave Foote, Past Master Eric Downing, and our resident lecturer and Trestleboard Editor Chris Tilman. The morning was an incredible amount of fun, laughing, and joking around, yet we accomplished a staggering amount of work! We also completed several important projects that can now be crossed off the list! In a few short hours, we managed to get much accomplished, had a great time doing it, and capped it all off with hotdogs, chips and soda! We will continue to announce these through emails, the Trestleboard, Facebook and in Lodge, as this will be a regular occurrence. We hope you will come out and join in the fun next time, and please offer your thanks to these fine Brothers who managed to accomplish so much for the benefit of our Lodge!

We hope to see you at the next meeting and remember that you can stay up to date on all the Lodge happenings by visiting our calendar at www.tropical56.org for the latest information.

Very sincerely,

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...

April 2022 Summary

- At our Stated Meeting on April 5,
 - **Bro. Chris Tilman** presented Masonic Education on the meaning of the Point Within the Circle, located on the North wall of the Lodge.
 - There was an update on the sale of the Lehigh Acres Lodge building, and discussion of the future plans of the unfinished section of the Tropical building.
- At our Stated Meeting on April 19,
 - **W.: Jeff Zimmerman, PM** commended **JW Aaron Averhart** for his many hours of dedicated service to the Lodge, specifically his work in beautifying the landscape. Thank you **Bro. Averhart** for everything you do for the Lodge!
 - Information in reference to the Secretary /Treasurer's Seminar on 4/30/22 was read.
- Charity of the month of April was the **Multiple Sclerosis Center of Bonita Springs**.

May 2022 Summary

- At our Stated Meeting on May 3,
 - **SW Tom Knafel** provided an update on the sale of the Lehigh Acres Lodge building and proposed repairs, replacements and updates for our building.
 - **W.: Bruce Rivera, PM**, District 24 MH-100 Chairman presented the 1st place trophy for the MH-100 donations from Tropical Lodge No. 56, as well as the heavy weight belt.
- At our Called Communication on May 17,
 - **Bro. Brian Apfel** suggested an annual "pay in advance" option for meals, more will be announced later in the year.
 - **W.: Alex Guilday, PM** suggested we do rehearsals on Masonic funerals to better familiarize Brothers when attending a real Masonic service. **JD Bob Zimmerman** will lead this project.
 - **JW Aaron Averhart** presented Masonic Education on aspects of preparation and admission in the Fellow Craft Degree.
- Charity of the month of May was the **Donation to the Grand Lodge of Florida for the Ukraine**.



New Brothers

We did not welcome new Brothers in April or May.

New Candidates

The Secretary read two new petitions in April and May.

Sickness & Distress

Please keep the following Brothers in your thoughts and prayers:

Bro. Jason Rine
Bro. Ed Lanham
Bro. Joe Caiazza
Bro. David Zucker
Bro. Kurt Wagner
W.: Barry Thrasher, P.M.
Bro. Tim Ennis
Bro. Randy Crone
Family of Bro. James Parker
W.: Lewis Fish, P.M.
Family of M.: W.: Thomas L. Turlington, Jr., P.G.M.

Lodge Calendar

Calendar may have changed - Please contact the Secretary to confirm Lodge availability for events.

Southwest Florida Masonic Center Event Calendar						
June 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30  Memorial Day	31	June 1 6 pm - 9 pm GROTTO STATED MEETING. 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm AASR Exec Com	2	3 6 pm - 10 pm Synagogue	4 11 am - 6 pm Knight Mason, USA
5 Pentecost	6 Whit Monday 5 pm - 10:30 pm OES Stated meeting	7 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Tropical Lodge Stated Meeting	8	9 7 pm - 9 pm Scottish Rite Degree Practice	10 6 pm - 10 pm Synagogue	11 8 am - 11:30 pm OES School of Instruction
12 Trinity Sunday 8 am - 5 pm OES	13	14 Flag Day 7 pm - 9:30 pm Poinciana Chapter No. 50	15 6:30 pm - 9 pm AASR Consistory	16 Corpus Christi 11 am - 1 pm Synagogue	17 6 pm - 10 pm Synagogue	18 12 pm - 4 pm Athelstan
19 Father's Day	20 5 pm - 10:30 pm OES Stated meeting	21 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Tropical Lodge Stated Meeting	22 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Master Mason Association	23	24 6 pm - 10 pm Synagogue	25 11:30 am - 4 pm Order of Athelstan
26	27	28 6 pm - 9 pm Commandry	29	30	1 6 pm - 10 pm Synagogue	2

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. Dagneff

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

Just FYI...

Brother Kurt Wagner

If you are looking for more light in Masonry, a few ways to advance. One, you can join the York Rite or Scottish Rite, where degrees 4 through 32 will be presented. Any member will be more than happy to assist you. You can also join the Master Masons Assoc. of Southwest Florida on Facebook, lots of great information. Another way is to read the numerous magazines and papers in our magazine rack in our hallway.

Fraternally Yours,

Kurt

Special Notices

STOP

If you have symptoms
GO HOME NOW
Protect your Brothers
and their families

Coronavirus
symptoms

- sore throat
- dry cough
- fever
- shortness of breath
- tiredness

Approved for Distribution by M.W. Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master, on August 27, 2021

Lodge Information

Lodge Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Finance	SW Tom Knafel	317.379.6923
Vigilance	JW Aaron Averhart	239.204.7286
Petitions	SS Shawn Hubbard	
Masonic Education	SW Tom Knafel	317.379.6923
Board of Relief	W.: Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Investigations	SS Shawn Hubbard	
Charity	W.: Vic Fiore	239.895.5390
Lodge Property	JW Aaron Averhart	239.204.7286
Budget	W.: Mike Lewis, P.M.	239.340.5602
Building	Bro. Dave Foote	239.633.4650
By-Laws	Bro. Randy Crone	239.340.2310
Child ID	TBD	
Coaching	Bro. Andrew Silvia	
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.	JW Aaron Averhart	239.204.7286
Masonic Store	Bro. Kurt Wagner	
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.	1969
Frieden, R.G.	1975 & 1976
Roan, A.N.	1981
Landrum, E.W.	1988
Sandahl, W.A.	1989
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
Summerall, S.N.	2002
Bodenhamer, T.H.	2003
Shields, R.G.	2004
Ott, J.J.	2005
Lott, E.W.	2006
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

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.

Building Committee



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.

A special thanks to all the Brothers who participated in the Lodge clean-up day on April 23rd, we got a lot of work done, but there is still much more to do!

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.

ACTIVITY	Points	Number Of Units	Total 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 elderly, a VA nursing home, or other such facility.	5		
7. Donation of \$50.00 or more to the Public Education and Citizenship Plaque Fund or Special Project Fund.	5		
8. Donation of \$75.00 or more for a Grand Lodge billboard to support 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 7 th 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		
17. Participate in a District Public Education/Citizenship Workshop.	5 pts. per Brother attending		
18. Other community service projects or activities (describe on attached sheet).	5		
GRAND TOTAL POINTS			

Trestleboard Boosters 2022

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

 R.:W.: Gene F. Sims, P.M.

 Christopher Tilman

 D.B. Kurt Wagner

Did You Know...

A Masonic Traitor

We are all familiar with the story of Benedict Arnold, whose infamous betrayal of George Washington and the entire cause of Continental Army has made his name synonymous with “traitor”.



Major General Benedict Arnold

What you may not know

is that he was also a Freemason, one of 33 Continental Army Generals who were subordinate to and also Brothers to General George Washington. Washington was no fool, and he well knew the power of spies and secrets, as the constant flow of information – particularly British troop movements and battle plans - from his own spies were the key to victory for the often outmanned and outgunned Continental Army.

It is no surprise that many of the generals he appointed were, like him, Freemasons – men who not only were loyal to the cause, but were loyal to each other as Brothers and under a strong moral obligation to maintain secrecy. As a result, Washington had the utmost trust in these generals, especially Benedict Arnold. He was, by many accounts, Washington’s most trusted general.

Washington had given him his fullest trust and had placed him in command of the fort at West Point in New York, arguably one of the most critical military installations in the Colonies.

Arnold, for reasons of greed, jealousy toward rival generals, and the goading of his Loyalist wife, plotted to surrender the fort there to British forces. The plot was discovered in September 1780, shortly after he assumed command there, whereupon he fled to the British lines.

It is difficult to imagine how deeply, on both a professional and personal level, Arnold’s betrayal must have hurt General George Washington. Historical accounts suggest that Washington remained calm when he was presented with evidence of Arnold’s treason. but losing a trusted general and Brother in such a despicable manner undoubtedly had profound effects on him. “Treason of the blackest dye” was the message spread far and wide by George Washington and other leaders in the Continental Army. One wonders if Washington ever placed the kind of trust he had in Benedict Arnold in anyone again.



May

June

May 06	Bert Williams	Jun 05	Ernest Landrum
May 06	Troy Bunch	Jun 06	William Meehan
May 07	Wilhelm Llanillo	Jun 09	Randy White
May 10	James Johnston	Jun 10	Milledge Murphey III
May 14	William Baldwin	Jun 10	Duane Northrup
May 14	Christopher Tilman	Jun 10	Alan Tannenbaum
May 16	John Kuhn	Jun 10	Joseph Montalvo
May 16	Colin King	Jun 12	Douglas Sanders
May 17	Roland Holliday	Jun 13	Michael Thompson II
May 20	Gerald Dilcher	Jun 13	James Taylor
May 20	Victor Fiore	Jun 15	George Baliotis
May 21	Orville Walters	Jun 16	Grady Law
May 25	Paul Wayman	Jun 16	Thomas Sawyer
May 25	Julio Schrodell	Jun 16	Michael Chionopoulos
May 26	Robert Vecera	Jun 17	Frank Pleva Jr
May 27	Leonard Whipple	Jun 18	Gene Sims
May 27	Jonas Seda	Jun 19	Tim Johnson
May 28	Joseph Setaro	Jun 21	Lawrence Fitch
May 30	Daniel Mulligan	Jun 22	Robert Floyd
May 30	Leonard Kozel Jr	Jun 24	Adam Udelson-Saucier
May 31	David Schrader	Jun 25	Branden Howell
		Jun 27	William Pfeifer
		Jun 28	James Gillespie

Trestleboard Advertisements

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

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Repair • Maintenance • Installation • Upgrades
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Joe Setaro
239-357-7454

jsetaro69@gmail.com



"A Brighter Day In Real Estate"

Michael Thompson
Broker / Owner

Sunrise Realty Network, Inc. (239) 340-1685 Cell
12995 S. Cleveland Ave. #157 (239) 210-3775 Fax
Fort Myers, Florida 33907
SunriseRealtyNetwork.com SunriseRealtyNetwork@gmail.com

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Fort Myers
16025 San Carlos Blvd Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 466-7777

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NAUTICAL MILE'S Free Monthly January 2021
SNAPPER WRAPPER
SW Florida Boating & Fishing

Come see the new Cobalt R6 at the
CHARLOTTE COUNTY BOAT SHOW
Page 43

The Sheepshead are here!

Free Fishing Seminars
January 30
Page 56

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BUSINESS
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Trestleboard Advertisements

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



We Are Master Masons
We Are Royal Arch Masons
We Are Royal and Select Masters
We Are Knights Templar
WE ARE THE YORK RITE

Contact Us

Gene Sims, KYCH, EDDGC – Secretary/Recorder

Email: fortmyersyorkrite@gmail.com