

STATED
COMMUNICATION

First & Third
Tuesday
Dinner 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

April 2
April 16

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TropicalLodge56.org



TRESTLE BOARD
APRIL 2024

10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL 33966

PHONE: (239) 334-6074

2024

OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Aaron Averhart

Senior Warden

Brian Apfel

Junior Warden

Robert Zimmerman

Treasurer

Gene Sims, PDDGM

Secretary

Randy Crone

Senior Deacon

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Deacon

Andy Silvia

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Tom Knafel, PM

Senior Steward

Christopher Saxby

Junior Steward

Nicholas Gadbois

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM

Greetings from the East



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make March 2024 a fantastic month for Tropical Lodge No. 56! The building is alive with Masonic activity, and there is no shortage of events to get involved with. This month saw the installation of The Order of the Eastern Star's officers in a beautiful ceremony, the York Rite hosted some of their dignitaries, and the Scottish Rite held their annual reunion, among other things. On March 19th Tropical Lodge celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our first annual *Kilt Night*, with a nice showing of Brothers in appropriate attire. That night we also hosted Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362, as they most graciously participated in a *Traveling Gavel* exchange.

Junior Warden Bob Zimmerman served corned beef and cabbage, of course, and it was a fun filled evening for everyone! You can keep up with all



our scheduled events by checking the calendar on our Lodge web page, at tropicalodge56.org.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of Tropical Lodge's 2024 food drive, "Feeding Minds". In January we delivered 79 pounds of food to FGCU's food pantry, which was fantastic, but I challenged us to double that. I am pleased to announce that not only did we double that amount, between the Lodge and the food barrel at the College of Education, we nearly tripled it!!! The food pantry was very grateful for our February donations totaling 225 pounds, bringing us to 304 pounds so far this year! I will be gathering the food from March and delivering it this week, and will have a report on that in next month's Trestle board.

I cannot thank you enough for your support with this project, and for helping us make a difference in the

lives of food-insecure students. These young people have fallen through the safety nets in society, and struggle to meet their needs, with as many as 150 students every week availing themselves of the food pantry at FGCU. Education should not be for the privileged alone, so I thank you again for helping us support these future doctors, nurses, scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, politicians, and more. They are the future of our communities and the future of our nation, and this is not an isolated issue. [Here is a link to a very recent CBS segment on this very issue](#), that will hopefully help put this into perspective.

Considering the roles they will be playing in all our futures, providing them with a little faith, hope, and charity is the least we can do. Thank you again, and I look forward to everything April has to bring us!

Sincerely & fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

cmdraverhart@gmail.com

Masonic Funeral Service

Brother Edward B. Weaver

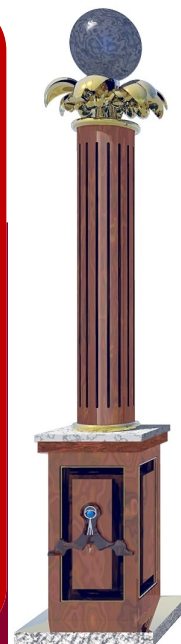
Master Mason from East Gate Lodge No. 603—Gahanna, OH

He was a member of the Mariners, Araba Shrine, Scottish Rite Valley of Norfolk in the Orient of Virginia, and a Park Ranger for Lee County, Florida.

Sunday, April 7th, 2024. At 1:00pm

Tropical Lodge No. 56 F&AM

10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers



“I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest.”

— Theodore Roosevelt



Charity of the Month

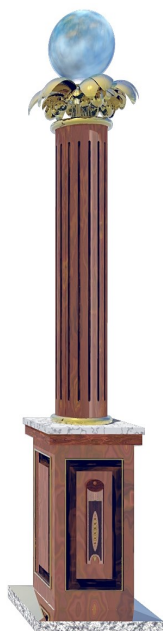
Candlelighters of Southwest Florida

The Mission of the Candlelighters of Southwest Florida is to provide support, education and assistance to families of children with cancer or blood disorders and the professionals who care for them. It is a local 501(c)3 charitable organization right here in Fort Myers. For more information visit their website at

candlelightersswfl.org.



What's New?



This is a fundraiser for the Masonic Home - \$20 donation gets you this very unique coin to add in your collection. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Masonic Home of Florida. Contact Jeff Zimmerman at 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com.



Last Month

KILT NIGHT & THE TRAVELING GAVEL



MARCH 19, 2024

