

**STATED  
COMMUNICATION**

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

**August 6  
August 20**

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD  
AUGUST 2024**

10868 METRO PARKWAY  
FORT MYERS, FL 33966



[TropicalLodge56.org](http://TropicalLodge56.org)

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**

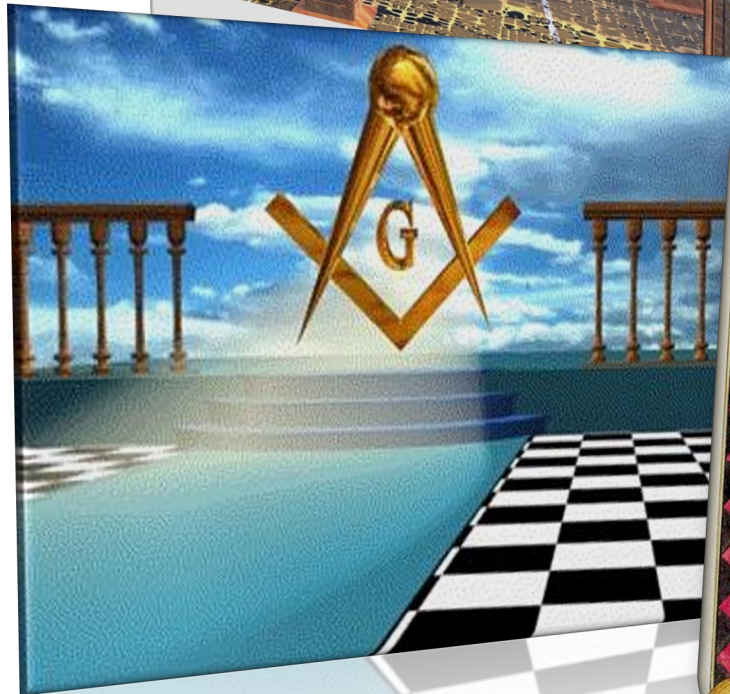
Christopher Saxby

### **Junior Steward**

Nicholas Gadbois

### **Tyler**

John, Gavin, PM







## Greetings from the East

The Lodge is alive with activity this year, and I would like to thank everyone for their participation and passion. Between the regular meetings of the Lodge and our various Masonic bodies, special events, and rental groups, there is no lack of activity at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center. You can keep up with all the latest at [www.tropicalodge56.org](http://www.tropicalodge56.org).

On July 2, Tropical Lodge welcomed R.:W.: Acey Edgemon, District Deputy for the 24<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and his party. After a lovely meal, graciously prepared by R.:W.: Bobby Lippek, we retired to the Lodge room for our regular business. Before R.:W.: Edgemon delivered the Grand Master's message, Worshipful Rick Pennewaert presented Tropical Lodge members with the District 24 "Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents" champions trophy, recognizing the generosity and support of the craft.

On Sunday, July 13, Tropical Lodge kicked off the Square and Level Market. The goods on offer ranged from fresh bread, specialty foods, and barbeque, to crafts, clothing, and Masonic items. Congratulations to Junior Steward Nick Gadbois on organizing and executing such a successful event, all with the goal of supporting our charities of the month! We would like to thank everyone who came out to support this new venture and remind everyone else that this will be an ongoing event held on the second Sunday of every month.

At our stated meeting on Tuesday July 16, we welcomed Brother Patrick Spickenbom, from Zum Goldenen Hirsch Lodge No. 98 in Oldenburg Germany. It was a wonderful opportunity to break bread together and to learn more about our Deutsch Brethren, and we look forward to his next visit to the states. We also officially welcomed RW Chris Sanchez and W Eddie Sanchez into the folds of Tropical Lodge No. 56. Although they were already a part of our family, it is fantastic to make it official. Welcome home Brothers!

Looking forward, we have a busy schedule for the remainder of the year and hope you will join us for the variety of events we have planned. On Saturday August 17 at 5 pm, Tropical Lodge will host our Past Masters & Awards Night. This will include dinner before the event, but seating for food will be limited, so please RSVP to [cmndraverhart@gmail.com](mailto:cmndraverhart@gmail.com) to assure a reserved seat. On Saturday August 24 at 10 am, Tropical Lodge No. 56 and Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 will join forces once again to welcome the Cape Coral Fire Department for instruction on the proper use of our AED unit, as well as the latest techniques in CPR. While this year's event is not a Red Cross certified course, for those looking for certification we plan to have that in place next year. Thank you to Worshipful Pennewaert for putting this together and providing us yet another opportunity to grow together as Brothers and Lodges. On Saturday August 31 at 5:30 pm The Fort Myers Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star will be holding their annual dinner, celebrating their founder Dr. Rob Morris. They have extended an invitation to all members of the Lodge to join them at this potluck dinner. RSVPs can be sent to me at the above RSVP email address, and I will pass them on to the Worthy Matron.

On Tuesday September 17, Tropical Lodge will confer the Entered Apprentice degree. As always, dinner will be served at 6:30 and the gavel will drop at 7:30. We hope you will join us as we welcome these gentleman into our time honored fraternity. On Saturday September 28 the 24<sup>th</sup> Masonic District will welcome Most Worshipful Don Cowart, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, and his party. This is the official visit to our district by the Grand Master and *your attendance is earnestly solicited*. Please come help support your Lodge, the District, and the Grand Lodge at this momentous event. Formal attire is requested for this dinner and tiled Lodge meeting, and we hope that we can count on you to be there and be square!

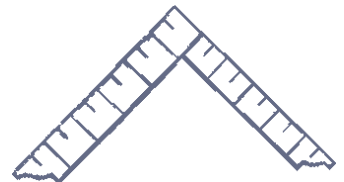
I'll leave you with a request and a reminder. The Grand Lodge has requested assistance providing items for Corky's Cupboard. The sought materials are simple but essential for the happiness and comfort of our family residing at the Masonic Home, so we request your assistance in satisfying our obligation to provide charity for those in need, especially a Brother Mason. I would also like to remind everyone that Tropical Lodge is running a food drive throughout 2024. "Feeding Minds" benefits food insecure students by supporting the Florida Gulf Coast University Food Pantry. This service is used by as many as 150 students every week, and our goal is to help support these future nurses, educators, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders as they struggle to make a better life for themselves. Thank you for your generosity so far this year, and thank you for your continued support!

*Aaron A. Averbhart*

**Worshipful Master**

(239) 995-8837

[cmndraverhart@gmail.com](mailto:cmndraverhart@gmail.com)





*"Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man."*

—Douglas MacArthur

## From the Secretary's Desk



Just a reminder if you have not paid your dues for 2024, you can now pay them with a credit card. Just go to your phone and download the app **Amity**. After you download, sign in or create an account (if you are a first time user). Once you have signed in, look to the top left of the app and press the three lines. A drop-down menu will appear and you will see the word **Pay Dues**; click this option and follow instructions.

If you are not sure if you paid your dues, please send me an email to the address below and I can take a look and let you know.

**Randy Crone**

**Secretary**

(239) 340-2310

[secretarytropical56@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com)



## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

### Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

[calusanature.org](http://calusanature.org)

The Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium is a private, not for profit, environmental education organization located in Fort Myers, Florida. Its 105 acre site has a museum, three nature trails, a Planetarium, butterfly and bird aviaries, a gift shop and meeting/event space and picnic areas.

### District Deputy Grand Master

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



### District Instructor

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

## 24<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Committeemen for 2024-2025

- W.: Richard Pennewaert: **Endowment Procurement**
- W.: John Reilly: **Masonic Education**
- W.: Mark Vardakis: **Public Education & Citizenship**
- R.: W.: Scott Peacock: **Masonic Youth Activities & Child ID**
- R.: W.: Gene Sims: **Grand Master's Charity**
- W.: Carlos Valverde: **Perpetual Membership**
- W.: Lou Kenyon: **Public Relations & Publicity**
- Bro. Robert Zimmerman: **Membership Development**
- Bro. Corbin Kidd: **Masonic Leadership Training (MLT)**
- W.: Kristopher Weber: **Fraternal Admin. Endowment**
- W.: James Paschall: **Grand Master Coins**

## The Brethren

**By Edgar A. Guest**



The world is needing you and me,  
In places where we ought to be;  
Somewhere today it's needing you  
To stand for what you know is true.  
And needing me somewhere today.  
To keep the faith, let come what may.



The world needs honest men today  
To lead its youth along the way,  
Men who will write in all their deeds  
The beauty of their spoken creeds,  
And spurn advantage here and gain,  
On which deceit must leave its stain.



The world needs men who will not brag,  
Men who will honor Freedom's Flag,  
Men, who although the way is hard,  
Against the lure of shame will guard,  
The world needs gentle men and true  
And calls aloud to me and you.



The world needs men of lofty aim,  
Not merely men of skill and fame,  
Not merely leaders wise and grave,  
Or learned men or soldiers brave,  
But men whose lives are fair to see,  
Such men as you and I can be.





## Message from the Editor & Publisher



Brethren: There is a **Members Portal** on the Grand Lodge of Florida website where you can create an account & review your past Masonic history. You can even take the Master Mason I, II, and III courses online right from the website. If you do not already have one, you will need to first create an account; you will need to provide your member number from your dues card for verification. The web address for the **Members Portal** is <https://members.glfiamason.org/>.

*Kevin Gourley, PM*

Social Media & Web / Zone 6 Chairman for Membership Development

[KLGourley1971@gmail.com](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com)



Cape Coral and Tropical Lodges will be hosting the Cape Coral Fire Department at the SWFL Masonic Center. They will instruct us how to properly use our AED unit, as well as provide the latest CPR techniques. This is valuable information for all of us to possess, considering most Lodges own an AED, and we encourage you to invite your members to join us for this unique opportunity.

Note that this is not a Red Cross certified CPR session and there will be no cards issued. We would however like to offer this again next year, as a Red Cross certified course, and will be using this year's attendance as a barometer for that idea. Please help support this so that we can make it even better!



On Saturday August 24, 2024, at 10 am, **Cape Coral Lodge No. 367** and **Tropical Lodge No. 56** will welcome the Cape Coral Fire Dept. to the SWFL Masonic Center. Please join us for instruction on how to use our AED, as well as the latest CPR methods. You can RSVP to the WM of either Lodge, and we hope to see you there!





**The Masonic Home of Florida Service Guild**  
**Corky's Cupboard Wish List**  
*(New items only, please)*

Mouth Wash  
Cologne or Body Spray (Men & Women)  
Denture Adhesives & Cleansers  
Tissues  
Body Lotion (Men's & Women's)  
Body Wash / Shower Gel (Men's and Women's)  
Facial Cream - Pond's Blue or Green  
Panty-Liners -Long Length  
Baby Wipes/ Wipes refills  
Tooth Paste  
Dental Floss  
Soap (Bars or Liquid)  
Deodorant  
Disposable Razors (Men's & Women's)  
Liquid Hand & Body Soap  
Hairspray  
Emery Boards / Nail Clippers  
Nail Polish Remover  
Electric Shave / Pre-shave  
Cotton Balls / Cotton Pads  
Room Freshener & Disinfectant Spray (No Push-up)  
Fabric Softener / Dryer Sheets  
Small Liquid Laundry Detergent  
Eye Glass Lens Cleaners (Individual Packages)  
Lined Writing Paper  
Scotch Tape  
Jewelry (All Types of Women's and Men's)  
Unique items / Knick-Knacks for the Gift Shop  
Un-used Greeting Cards  
Postage Stamps  
Cash Donations

Send donations to: The Masonic Home of Florida  
3201 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.E. St. Petersburg, FL 33704 Toll Free#: 1-866-868-6749



COME SUPPORT  
MS CENTER OF SWFL

LEVEL AND SQUARE  
MARKET

11 AUGUST

10:00AM - 2:00PM

BEAT THE HEAT AT  
THIS **INDOOR** EVENT

TROPICAL LODGE NO. 56 F & AM  
10868 METRO PARKWAY.  
FORT MYERS, FL 33901



To Become a Vendor, contact Nick at (786) 859-1121  
[backyardhealthfl@gmail.com](mailto:backyardhealthfl@gmail.com)



Fort Myers Chapter No. 31 Order of the Eastern Star  
cordially invites you to join them in honoring our  
founder, Dr. Rob Morris



DR ROB MORRIS 8/31/1818 -7/31/1888

**Saturday, August 31, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.**

Carry-in/Potluck Dinner – Bring a covered dish  
to share

Southwest Florida Masonic Center  
10868 Metro Parkway  
Fort Myers, Florida 33966



# Last Month

District 24 Endowment Procurement Chairman, W.: Rick Pennewaert, awarded Tropical Lodge with the *Let Your Pennies Make Good Sense* Trophy for this year.



## Father & Son Masonry

W.: Edward Sanchez was elected to be an *Honorary Perpetual Member* of Tropical No. 56 F&AM on the same night his son, R.:W.: Christopher Sanchez, was elected to become a *Dual Member* of the Lodge.



July 2nd—Official Visit from Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgemon, Sr.



# PAST MASTERS

# TROPICAL No. 56 F&AM

1882 ————— 2024

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	<p>This page is dedicated to the Past Masters who have served Tropical No. 56 F&amp;AM from its beginning way back in 1892 to the present day. These Brothers will continue to be honored here for their past service &amp; dedication to our Lodge and Freemasonry.</p> 
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	



1962

This section is dedicated to the Past Masters of the former Lehigh Acres No. 344 F&AM. 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

### Tropical No. 56 F&AM Planned Events for the Remainder of 2024.

- **August 17th:** *Past Masters & Awards Night* — An evening to recognize not only the Past Masters of Tropical Lodge, but the Lehigh Acres Past Masters as well. We will also award the Master Mason of the Year and highlight some others.
- **August 24:** Cape Coral and Tropical Lodge host the Cape Coral Fire Department for AED & CPR.
- **September 17th:** Entered Apprentice Degree
- **September 28th:** *The Grand Master's Official Visit* to District 24.
- **October 27th:** *Trunk or Treat* — Worshipful Jeff Zimmerman has agreed to head up this district-wide event again.
- **November 9th:** *Widow's & Ladies Night* — This will be a celebration of the women that help enrich our lives and organizations. It will include widows, wives, girlfriends, OES, ladies' groups of the Shrine, and other organizations.
- **Early December:** *Feeding Minds Year End Event* — This will be some sort of gathering to celebrate our food drive and may involve a group trip to FGCU, and a few other things.