

**STATED  
COMMUNICATION**

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

**July 2  
July 16**

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD  
JULY 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**

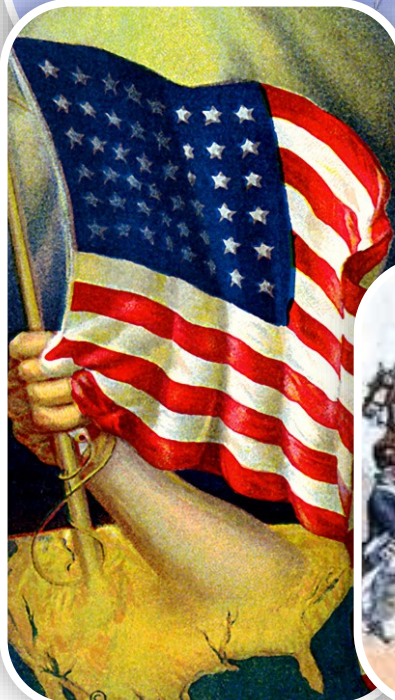
Nicholas Gadbois

### **Tyler**

John, Gavin, PM



## **Happy 4th of July!**



# Greetings from the East



It's incredible to realize another month has passed, yet here we are, meeting at the Trestleboard once again. I would like to personally thank everyone who came out to support our Third Annual Houdini Night on June 18th, helping to make it such a success. We had 60 adults and three children in

attendance, a new record for this event; it was wonderful to see so many happy faces. I would like to offer a special thank you to Brother Shawn Hubbard for his invaluable help in the kitchen, and the star of the hour Brother Brian Apfel for his incredible performance. Brian's continued sacrifice of time and energy has allowed us to create a wonderful evening of wholesome entertainment and education, while helping to raise awareness about local food insecurity and supporting our Lodge's food drive.

On June 22 some of our Lodge officers and family members donated our time and energy to the Midwest Food Bank, in our continued effort to combat local food insecurity. Joined by Worshipful Master Rick Pennewaert of Cape Coral No. 367, we worked to sort through donated materials, bagged bulk foods, and had an incredible time in the process. We were warmly welcomed by the volunteer staff, our help was greatly appreciated, and it was good to see us volunteering in our community. Once more I would like to thank Brother Brian Apfel, who graciously arranged this event for us.

Please keep an eye on the Lodge calendar and your emails for announcements of more opportunities to visit the Midwest Food Bank for continued volunteer work. Tuesday July 2nd will be our official District Deputy Grand Master's visit, and we encourage you to join us for a wonderful meal and evening, culminating in the Grand Master's message. We will also be holding a CPR/EAD class tentatively on Saturday August 3rd. On Saturday August 17th will have our Past Masters and Awards Night, and Saturday September 28th will be the Grand Master's official visit to the 24th Masonic District. More communications will be sent out regarding these events as they near, but you can always keep up with the latest by visiting the calendar on our website at [www.tropicalodge56.org](http://www.tropicalodge56.org).

*Aaron A. Averhart*

**Worshipful Master**

(239) 995-8837

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

## Ten Master Masons

*By Unknown*

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine;  
One listened to a rumor, then there were nine

Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late;  
One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight

Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven;  
One joined too many clubs, then there were seven

Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks;  
One grew discouraged, then there were six

Six Master Masons, all very much alive;  
One lost his interest, then there were five

Five Master Masons, wishing there were more;  
Got into a great dispute, then there were four

Four Master Masons, busy as could be;  
One didn't like the programs, then there were three.

Three Master Masons, was one of them you?  
One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.

Two Master Masons with so much to be done;  
One said "What's the use," then there was one

One Master Mason, found a brother -- true!  
Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two

Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore;  
Each brought another, then there were four.

Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate;  
By showing others kindness, then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright sheen;  
Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen

Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true;  
Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two

So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door;  
It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore

Don't fuss about the programs or the "Master" in the East;  
Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.





## 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, and 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)



Photo Courtesy of  
W.: Kevin Gourley, PM

### District 24

#### Grand Lodge Officers

##### District Deputy Grand Master

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

##### District Instructor

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



### Charity of The Month

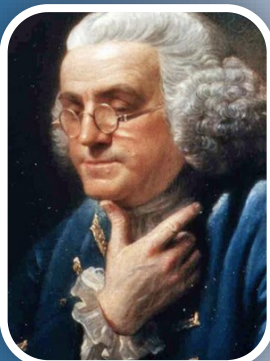
Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort in Kissimmee, Florida, that provides week-long, cost-free wish vacations to critically ill children and their families from around the world who want to visit Central Florida.



<https://gktw.org/>

### Quote of the Month

*"Love of country is the Mason's deed;  
world citizenship is his thought."  
—Benjamin Franklin*





# Last Month

Worshipful Tom Knafel is presented his Past Master apron by Worshipful Master Aaron Averhart.



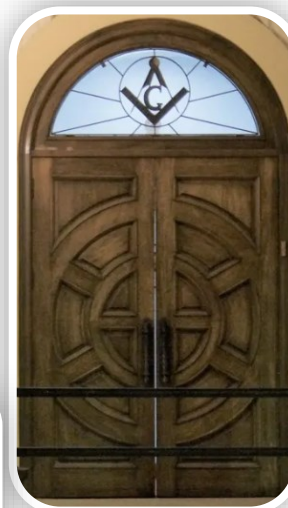
Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our **Third Annual Houdini Night**, which was a great success. A very special thanks to Senior Warden Brother Brian Apfel who literally brought the magic, and Senior Deacon Brother Shawn Hubbard who helped us provide a lovely and well received meal.

Thank you to the officers, family members, and Brother Masons like Cape Coral Lodge's Worshipful Master Rick "Scooter" Pennewaert, who came out to support [Tropical No. 56](#) as we work to help fight local food insecurity at the Midwest Food Bank!

One team packaged 400 lbs of macaroni while the other team packaged a variety of food and hygiene products! We had a great time, leaving us all feeling happy to have helped others in need! After all isn't that part of being a Mason?



Midwest  
FOOD BANK.



# 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	Michale 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	

\*Indicates Deceased



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

\*Indicates Deceased

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



- **August:** Cypress Lodge is planning to have a *Master Mason Degree*; the exact date has not been set yet. The Worshipful Master of Cypress has agreed to perform courtesy work for our Fellow Crafts.
- **August 17th:** *Past Masters & Awards Night* — This will be 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 other recognitions.
- **September 28th:** *The Grand Master's Official Visit* to District 24. More info will be provided as September approaches.
- **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 applicable 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.

