

**STATED  
COMMUNICATION**

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

**March 5  
March 19**

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



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



**TRESTLE BOARD  
MARCH 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



I hope this finds everyone well as we head into Spring and get closer to Easter. It's a bit unbelievable how fast the year is going, and that we have entered March already. Tropical Lodge has been buzzing with activity this past month, and it has been a fantastic thing to be a part of. I would like to congratulate Worshipful Jeff Zimmerman and the team that helped him confer the Fellow Craft degree at a February 20th called communication. It was wonderful to see so many Brothers in attendance. We enjoyed the company of the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of the 23rd Masonic District, the Worshipful Master of Punta Gorda No. 115, and several of their Brothers, who came to support one of their own going through the degree. We also enjoyed the company of our own Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master and Right Honorable District Instructor. February has also seen

I hope this finds everyone well as we head into Spring and get closer to Easter. It's

Tropical Lodge working with Cape Coral No. 367 to host Fish Frys. We anticipate doing this again next Lenten season, with all the proceeds once more going to charity. Thank you to those who came out to support it, and make sure to look for it again next year.

We hope you will join us on March 19th for another called communication, as we confer the Entered Apprentice degree and welcome a new group of men to the fraternity. That will also be Tropical Lodge's Kilt Night, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. You are encouraged to attend and wear your kilt if you own one. I'm also reminding everyone that we are conducting a yearlong food drive, and I'm asking that you bring a couple canned goods to Lodge when you visit. Our initiative "Feeding Minds" benefits the Florida Gulf Coast University food pantry. There are a large number of food insecure students there on loans and maxed out, without traditional support sys-

## **Called Communication**

**MARCH 19**

### **EA Degree & Kilt Night**



6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Degree

tems to cover those gaps. The FGCU food pantry assists an average of 150 students a week, and could help more with the resources. So, I'm reminding everyone that this is a yearlong event, and that we could use your continued support.

I would like to close by thanking you again for your confidence in me. It's such a privilege to serve you, and I could not be more proud to be a member of this family. Thank you all for helping to make this a wonderful year!

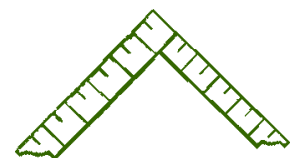
Sincerely & fraternally,

*Aaron A. Averhart*

**Worshipful Master**

(239) 995-8837

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



"Historia magistra vitae"

# From the Secretary's Desk

Hello Brothers, Please be reminded that when you move, change phone number, and/or your email address. It is very important to update your information to your lodge right away. This way you can keep up with all the events happening at your lodge. Please remember dues are due for 2024. If you want to mail you dues. You can at Tropical Lodge #56, PO Box 60069, Fort Myers, Florida 33906.

If you have not done so. you may want to download the app called "Amity". It is the new Masonic App. that has replaced Circumscribe. There you can change your profile, receive masonic dates, and pay your dues on-line. Check it out!

*Randy Crone*

Secretary

(239) 340-2310 / [secretarytropical56@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com)



*"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.*

— Benjamin Franklin

## Charity of the Month



### Corky's Cupboard at the Masonic Home

Here are a number of items on Corky Cupboards Wish List: *Colongne or body spray, tissues, body lotion, lipstick, face powder, blush, emery boards and nail clip-pers, electric razors, jewelry, post- age stamps. Cash donations are always welcome as well.*



Last Month



**Congratulations to the following Tropical No. 56 and Punta Gorda No. 115 Brothers on being Passed to Fellow Craft at our Called Communication of February 20th: William House, Jerry Dean Hamm, Jr., Joseph Ponce, David Tender, Bruce Prescott and John Bean.**



## Greetings from the West



Happy March, my brothers. Did you know that March holds significance in Masonic history? It marks the anniversary of the initiation of

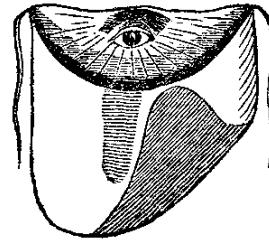
Brother George Washington, a pivotal figure in both American history and Freemasonry, into the Craft in 1752.

This month, I would like to thank Brothers Ken Jordan and Fred Wright for the prestigious (yet unofficial and unqualified) award presented to me. However, the attention should not be on the

evening's entertainment, but rather on the success of the "For the Children" event they put together. Congrats, brothers, on an outstanding event. I am humbled to be a mere stone in their very successful edifice.

I would especially like to congratulate our newly passed Fellowcraft brothers, as well as the degree team for an outstanding job on 2/20.

Brothers, as a Fellowcraft, you are tasked with delving deeper into the teachings and symbolism of our fraternity. This degree encourages you to continue your quest for self-



improvement, to cultivate wisdom, and to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of our society. Embrace this stage of your Masonic journey, for it is through

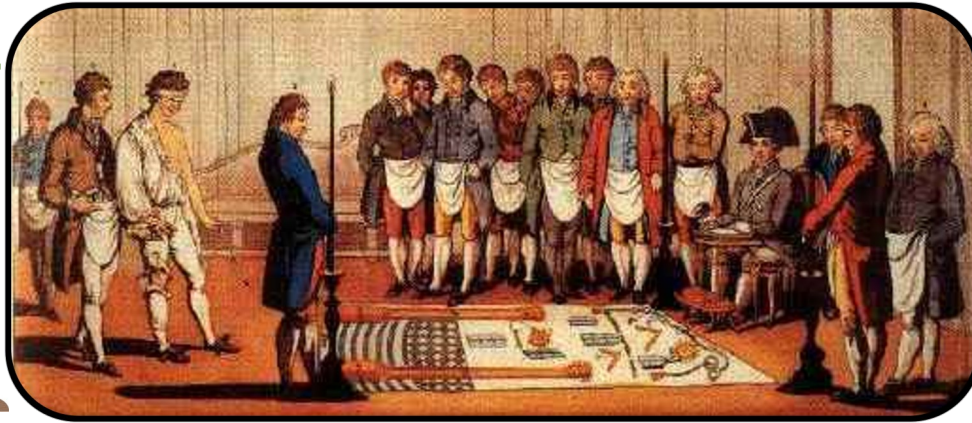
the lessons learned in the Fellowcraft degree that you will continue to grow and evolve as a Mason and as a man.

Fraternally,

*Brian Apfel*

Senior Warden

(845) 264-2802 / [brianapfel@gmail.com](mailto:brianapfel@gmail.com)



## Greetings from the South



We are into the end of the first quarter of the year. It seems impossible that time is flying by so quickly.

As I stated last month

I am still trying to wrap my mind around the needs of the building. At the first meeting in March I will try and have a report for you from the building committee outlining what we will be spending your money on this year for maintenance and a rough guide for the construction of the future lodge/all-purpose areas of the building.

I plan to meet with vendors to deter-

mine what is needed both from a maintenance perspective, and an upgrade to commercial status for our kitchen. Speaking of the Culinary Castle the following is my plan for March:

**Stated Communication on March 5th**  
*Ham & cheese sliders, potato salad & mixed lettuce salad and a simple dessert.*

**Called Communication on March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
*The menu is yet to be determined, but afterwards we will have cake, ice cream, coffee and iced tea to celebrate our newly-initiated Entered Apprentices.*

Priority repairs this month of March necessary are preventive repairs of

the AC units. They seem to be running better and need to be maintenance before they break down again. The Lodge needs to build for the future and as such transform our building into one that is rentable for special events.

Building Committee includes Shawn Hubbard, Andy Silvia, Chris Saxby, Dave Foote and Aaron Averhart.

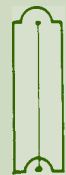
Have a special request for meals? Please reach out to me at Lodge or send me an email to [bobzimm@comcast.net](mailto:bobzimm@comcast.net).

Fraternally,

*Robert Zimmerman*

Junior Warden

(480) 600-3100 / [bobzimm@comcast.net](mailto:bobzimm@comcast.net)



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY KILT NIGHT

Join Tropical Lodge No. 56 as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our first ever official Kilt Night! Stay tuned for details to follow, and start preparing now!

## WHEN

March 19th, 2024  
Dinner 6:30/Lodge 7:30

## WHERE

Tropical Lodge No. 56  
10868 Metro Pkwy,  
Ft. Myers, FL 33966



[WWW.TROPICALLODGE56.ORG](http://WWW.TROPICALLODGE56.ORG)



## FOOD DRIVE

Don't forget to bring a couple canned goods to help support the

Tropical Lodge  
2024 Food Drive

"Feeding Minds"

## SPONSORS

If you are interested in sponsoring a food barrel at your Lodge, church, or place of business, please contact :

WM Aaron Averhart  
239-995-8837 or  
cmdraverhart@gmail.com

## BENEFITING

The FGCU Food Pantry, which is used by up to 150 food insecure students a week, a worthy cause that is worth supporting

