

STATED  
COMMUNICATION

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

May 7  
May 21

# Tropical No. 56 F&AM



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



TRESTLE BOARD  
MAY 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 get set to close out another month! April was busy with lots of activity at

Tropical Lodge.

The District Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: Michael O. Gardner, made his official visit on April 2. After hearing from his committeemen, he read the official message from our Grand Master, which was well received,

On April 16 we made local Masonic history when, for the first time, Cape Coral Lodge conferred the Entered Apprentice degree in a stated communication of Tropical Lodge. This wonderful cementing of our Masonic bonds is just another instance of our two Lodges coming together to do wonderful things. I would like to offer a special thank you to Worshipful Master Rick Pennewaert and his officers for giving their time and effort, and congratulate them on such an excellent job! I would also like to wish a Happy 55th Birthday to Cape Coral Lodge, who recently celebrated this milestone with a lovely dinner and ceremony, as well as a Past Master ceremony to honor the Brothers that have served them with such distinction—including our own Past Master, Jeff Zimmerman.

As you can see from our recent trestle boards, Tropical has had a hoppin' Spring! Summer is now upon us, so we have a few cool things for you to add to your calendars.

On Saturday, May 11, Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 will be hosting R.:W.: Joe Fleites for a dissection of the EA Degree. This is open to all Masons. Breakfast starts at 7:30 am and the lecture will begin at 9 am. Please reach out to any Tropical or Cape Coral Lodge officers to RSVP. You don't want to miss this enlightening experience.

May is also the time your elected officers travel to the annual communication of the Florida Grand Lodge in Orlando. We will be reviewing legislation on Tuesday, May 7 and hope you will join us for that important meeting.

Looking forward, June 18th is our Annual Houdini Night. Keep an eye out for more information on that as well!

You can keep up with all of the planned events at Tropical Lodge by visiting our website and opening up the calendar: <https://tropicalodge56.org/>

I leave you with the reminder that Tropical Lodge is conducting a food drive all year long. We can still use your support.

*Feeding Minds* is our initiative to provide food to financially insecure students attending FGCU (through their food pantry). This is an issue happening right here in our own bac

Contrary to the misconception that college is full of wealthy people, many of these young folks are there on student loans, working full time, and have economic circumstances we can't imagine. We're hoping to offer a little bit of faith, hope, and charity to our future nurses, educators, scientists, and civic leaders, but we need your help to do that. We hope that the next time you visit us for a Lodge meeting, Scottish or York Rites, Eastern Star, or whatever group you belong to, that you will bring a few canned goods for the food barrel.

Thank you for your continued support, Brothers and Sisters!

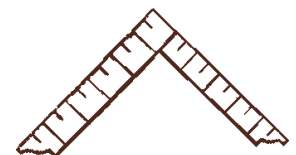
Sincerely & fraternally,

*Aaron A. Averhart*

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

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



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## Just a Little Lodge Room

*By George B. Staff*

Just a quiet little lodge room  
But a mighty force for good  
With its loyal band of members  
Learning more of brotherhood



Striving, stumbling but progressing  
Down a Pathway towards the right  
Just a humble bunch of plain folks,  
Reaching, seeking for the light.

Just a quiet little lodge room  
How it stirs the heart and soul  
With a thrill of great endeavour  
toward a high and common goal

With each pledge of faith and courage  
To maintain the forward fight,



[www.hopeforthewarriors.org](http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org)

Hope For The Warriors is a national nonprofit organization that provides assistance to combat wounded service members, their families, and fam-

## What's New?

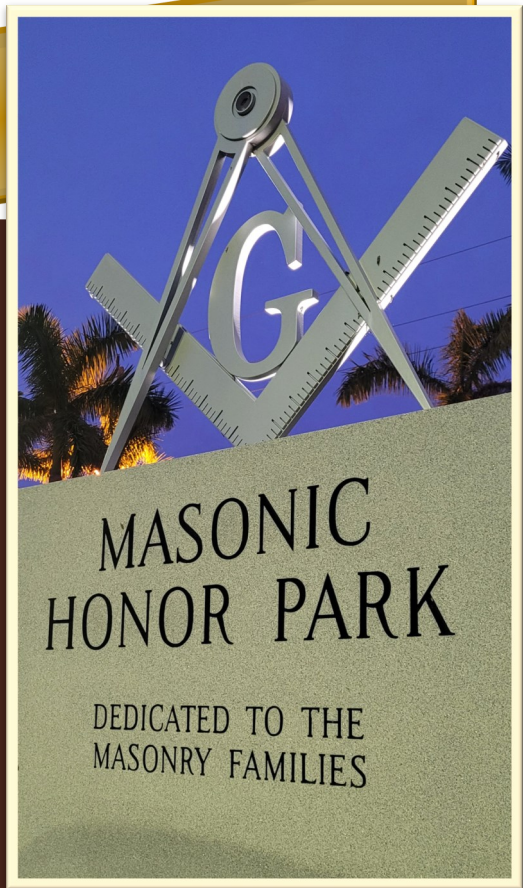


This is a fundraiser for the Masonic Home - \$20 donation gets you this very unique coin to add in your collection. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Masonic Home of Florida. Contact Jeff Zimmerman at 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com.

# Last Month



Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Michael O. Gardner made his second official visit to Tropical No. 56 on April 2nd.



**Entered Apprentice Degree—April 16, 2024**  
Congratulations to our new Entered Apprentice Brothers, and thank you to Cape Coral No. 367 for helping us make some local Masonic history by conferring the degree during our Stated Communication. We look forward to the many opportunities to grow closer as Lodges and Brothers!



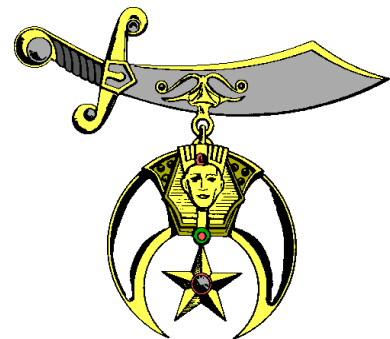
# Local Appendant Bodies In Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners

You've completed the 3rd degree and you are a Master Mason. Or, you've been through all the chairs in Blue Lodge. Now What? Apart from continuing to be an active member of your Blue Lodge, there are also appendant organizations within Freemasonry that might be of interest to you. The six listed above have chapters in the Fort Myers area. Information about each of them can be found online. You won't have to look far to find a Brother that is a member of one or more of these appendant bodies; they will be happy to provide additional information and tell you how to get involved.

***NOTE: The Sojourners is made up of current and former members of the United States Armed Forces (any branch) and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons.***

