

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

September 3
★ **September 17**

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2024**

10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL 33966



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

**Entered
Apprentice
Degree**

**September 17
7:30 p.m.**





Greetings from the East

I hope this finds you well and in good health. Tropical Lodge has been busy this summer and we would like to thank everyone for their participation and support.

On August 5th, several officers and members of Tropical Lodge delivered an impressive 498 pounds of canned goods to the FGCU Food Pantry! This was made possible by food donations at the Lodge, and food purchased with the generous monetary contributions collected during our *Third Annual Houdini Night*. Added to our cumulative total of 530 pounds, we have now donated 1028 pounds of food to the FGCU Food Pantry through our *Feeding Minds* food drive.

On August 11th we held our second Level and Square Market and had a great turnout. We would like to recognize our Junior Steward Nick Gadbois for his initiative and hard work in accomplishing this, and his inspirational support of our Masonic charities.

On August 11th some of the officers and members of Tropical Lodge also visited our Brother and former Chaplain Augie Luce, to celebrate his 70th year as a Freemason. He was delighted to have the company, and the visit brightened his day, especially the cake! I would like to thank our Distinguished Brother Kurt Wagner for arranging that fantastic afternoon for us.

On August 17th we held a *Past Masters and Awards Night*, where we gathered to celebrate the Brothers who have risen above and beyond in their service to the kitchen, as well as the Master Masons of the Year who inspire us with their extreme dedication and contributions. Lastly, we honored the Past Masters of Tropical and Lehigh Acres Lodges for their service as Lodge officers, and their current guidance as Past Masters.

On August 24th Tropical Lodge No. 56 and Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 came together again to host the Lee County EMS, who instructed us in the latest techniques in CPR and how to properly use our AED. This was incredibly valuable information, and we want to thank everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to help our fraternity grow stronger and more prepared. Thank you to Worshipful Rick Pennewaert for taking the lead on this, and for reaching to work together yet again.

What an incredible Masonic month we have had, I want to personally thank everyone who helped make it possible!

September promises to be as action-packed as August. We look forward to seeing you at the *Level and Square Market* on Sunday, September 8th, from 10 am- 2 pm, as we grow this wonderful event. Saturday September 14th will mark the first Open Books at Tropical Lodge. Breakfast will be served at 8 am, and study and instruction will be from 9-12. *Open Books* will also be held after the *Master Mason Association* meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 6-9 pm, the first will be on September 25th. On Tuesday September 17th we will confer an *Entered Apprentice Degree*, welcoming several new members to our fraternity. On Saturday September 28th, the 24th Masonic District will welcome to Tropical Lodge, Most Worshipful Donald Cowart, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, and his party. This event will be hosted by Right Worshipful Acey Edgemon Jr. and Cypress Lodge No. 295. Please mark your calendars for these events and join us as we embrace another exciting month!

Thank you for your continued support & enthusiasm. It is an honor to serve you and I look forward to what the remainder of our year has in store for us!

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Aaron A. Averhart

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



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 then follow the 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.



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

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 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



Quote of the Month



"Freemasonry has no dogma or theology. It offers no sacraments. It teaches that it is important for every man to have a religion of his own choice and to be faithful to it in tongue and action. As a result, men of different religions meet in fellowship and brotherhood under the fatherhood of God. I think that a good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by membership in the Lodge."

— The Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, 33rd Degree

Upcoming Masonic Leadership Training (MLT) Courses

Hosted online via Zoom

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. EST:

(7) Petitions and Investigating Committee, (8) Communications, (9) Budgeting and Finance

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0ldO6prD0qGNGJiECFQI8DpfKJCGHbhKzK>

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. EST:

(10) Membership, (11) Lodge Renewal, (12) Ritual

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtduCpriwpGdcLwcUKijcM45p8odnmdAPD>

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. EST:

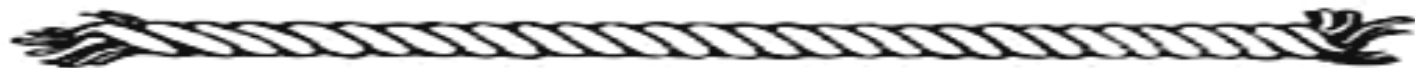
(13) Service, (14) Event Organization, (15) Public Speaking

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlud-CqrTkvHtDEPmaF_SNNsq7VzcAnVJBF

IMPORTANT

Participants must provide your Grand Lodge Membership Number from your dues card to register.



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



September 17th: *Entered Apprentice Degree* — This will be a called communication for the purpose of work and instruction and welcoming new members to our great fraternity.

September 28th: *The Grand Master's Official Visit (GMOV)* — This will be a tiled Lodge meeting that will require the district Lodge Masters to sit in the various officer chairs. This needs to be well attended by Lodge members and their families; GRAND LODGE WILL BE DOING A LODGE HEAD COUNT.

October 12th: *Cypress Lodge Master Mason Degree* (Saturday) Cypress will be doing courtesy work for some of our Brothers. This is an event I am asking all officers and the Brethren to attend. They will need people to fill chairs for the second half of the degree and are looking to us to assist them. As a way of showing our gratitude, Shawn and I will be going down to help with breakfast and would take any assistance you can offer with that as well

October 27th: *Trunk or Treat* — Worshipful Jeff Zimmerman has agreed to head this up again, which will be a district-wide production and needs support.

November 9th: *Widows/Ladies Night* (Saturday) will be a celebration of the women that help enrich our lives and organizations; this will include Masonic widows, wives, girlfriends, OES, etc; more details will follow

November: *Thanksgiving Dinner Charity* — This is something being led by Senior Deacon Shawn Hubbard; more details will follow.

Early December: *Year End Event* will be a gathering to celebrate our year together, and reflect on our progress; more details will follow

Last Month

Past Masters & Awards Night

Past Masters



Lewis Fish [Lehigh Acres], Ben Flynn, Mike Lewis, Bobby Lippek [Lehigh Acres], John Gavin, Kevin Gourley [Lehigh Acres], Gene Sims, Joseph Setaro, Alex Guilday, Jeff Zimmerman, and Thomas Knafel



Gene Sims (Left) is presented the special "Master's Award".



Kevin Gourley and Nicholas Gadbois were selected as the "Master Masons of the Year" for 2024.



Kurt Wagner is presented a "Master Mason of the Year" award and Randy Crone is presented a "Master's Award".



Our new Masters of the "Knife & Fork": Gene Sims, Ed Sanchez, Aaron Averhart, and Shawn Hubbard.



Jermaine Johnson (Candidate), Jerry Hamm (FC), Aaron Averhart (WM), Bruce Prescott (FC), and Shawn Hubbard (SD) - Kitchen duty.

Last Month Continued...

70 Years A Mason



Congratulations to our dear Brother, Augie Luce, on his 70th anniversary as a Mason!

Many of us gathered at his home to celebrate and he was presented his official 70-year certificate and lapel pin by Worshipful Master Aaron Everhart.

Thank you, Brother Luce, for all your years as a Brother and a Mason!



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&AM from its beginning way back in 1892 to the present day. These Brothers will continue to be honored here for their past service & 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 FS&M. 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

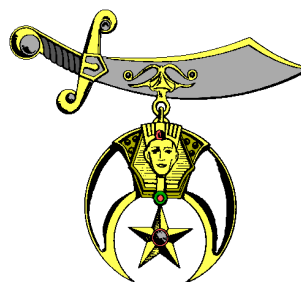
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant Bodies
In Freemasonry

