

STATED COMMUNICATION
FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

AUGUST 4
AUGUST 18
DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



TRESTLE BOARD
AUGUST 2026



10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

TropicalLodge56.org

PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

2026 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Aaron Averhart, PM

Senior Warden

Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

Andrew Silvia

Treasurer

Bruce Prescott

Secretary

Robert Lippek, PDDGM

Senior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Junior Deacon

Nicholas Gadbois

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Steward

Jerry Hamm, Jr.

Junior Steward

Robert Bennett

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM



DID YOU KNOW?

An obscure piece of Masonic history involves a unique splinter group called the **August Order of Light**, which was founded in 1882 by a British Freemason named Maurice Portman. Unlike regular lodges, this rare and separate group blended traditional Masonic ideas with Eastern mysticism and Indian mythology. Interestingly, the word "August" in their title does not refer to the month, but rather uses the older definition of the word, which means grand, noble, or deeply respected. It is not part of mainstream Freemasonry, but the order still exists today that only Master Masons are allowed to join.

Greetings from the East



July has proven to be another busy month for Tropical Lodge, which seems to be a recurring theme. Keeping pace with our incredibly active degree schedule, on July 21st, one month after we conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree, Tropical Lodge hosted District 24's Annual Senior Warden's Degree. This year the Senior Wardens of most of the district's Lodges gathered to help us pass Brothers Edward Matthew Willis and Nicholas Antonio Patino of Tropical Lodge No. 56, and Brother Jose Manuel Fernandez Lopez of Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 to the Degree of Fellow Craft. It was a great showing of Brotherly Love and support as

Brothers from across the district came out to support next year's leadership. Brother Rafael Morales of Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 very capably led the degree team from the East, and was assisted by Daunte Molski of Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362, Felipe Santos of Cypress Lodge No. 295, and George Benjamin of LaBelle Lodge No. 379. The remainder of the team consisted of Past Masters from Tropical and Cape Coral Lodges. We were once again assisted by Worshipful David Singer of Venice Lodge No. 301, who delivered another of his outstanding lectures, for which we presented him a Master's Award Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us!

Looking forward, at our August 4th meeting we will be presenting our Adopt a Teacher and Adopt a School certificates and checks, to Tice Elementary and two new teachers at Tice. It is always nice to welcome them back to Tropical Lodge and show them how much we value their place in our community. On August 18th we will see two Brothers prove their Master Mason proficiency, and assuming it meets the approval of the Craft, present them with their Masonic aprons and bibles. That night I will also be presenting my recent research on the place of L.C. and W.R. Washburn in late 19th century Fort Myers, L.C. being a charter member and the first Worshipful Master of Tropical Lodge, serving in that position for 8 of the first 10 years of our existence, with his son W.R. serving as his Secretary. It is sure to be an exciting and entertaining bit of history that you won't want to miss!



Anyone looking to do historical or educational presentations to the Lodge during one of the second meeting of the month, please reach out to me so we can put you on the schedule. Thank you s always for your continued support and helping to make Tropical Lodge the wonderful place that it is Brothers, and I look forward to the next time we may meet on the level.

Quote from a Famous Mason



"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

—Brother Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill was initiated into Studholme Lodge No. 1591 in London on May 24, 1901. Over the years, the lodge underwent several consolidations and mergers and is known today as Studholme Alliance Lodge No. 1591. He completed his Second Degree in July 1901 and became a Master Mason in March 1902. While he remained a member of the fraternity, his demanding political and wartime leadership responsibilities meant he never held a specific office within the lodge.

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master

(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com

"Historia est Magistra Vitae"



From the Secretary's Desk



Our 2026 dues remain \$127.30. If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns about payment, please contact me at the phone number below. I am always happy to speak with you and work through any situation.

As noted in previous Trestle Boards, dues may be paid by credit card through the Amity mobile app or by contacting the Grand Lodge directly.

If you have had any changes to your phone number, mailing address, or email address, please notify me by email at secretarytropical56@gmail.com so that we may keep our records up to date.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous year. See you in Lodge.

Bobby Lippek, PDDGM

Secretary

(941) 677-2342

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



MENU

AUGUST 4: Andy's

Asian Kielbasa, rice, tossed salad, and dessert.



AUGUST 18: TBD

Greetings from the West



Throughout history, many remarkable men have proudly called themselves Masons—George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Henry Ford, to name just a few. Have you ever wondered why men of such influence chose to become Masons? What was it they sought within our fraternity?

Despite their success and prominence, I believe they wanted the same things we all seek: true friendship, brotherly love, and a place where character mattered more than status. Within the lodge, titles and worldly accomplishments are left at the door. Here, we meet upon the level, and we are all equal.

While we have officers who occupy stations to help the lodge function, every Brother is equally important, and every voice deserves to be heard.

As I look around our lodge, I don't just see members—I see the great men of our own time. Each of you has talents and ideas that can help shape the future of our lodge.

So I ask you: What can we do to make our lodge better? What fresh ideas will strengthen our fellowship and keep the attention of the younger men of today? I challenge each of you to share your ideas with your Brothers. Together, we can continue building a stronger lodge for the future.

Let's make August a month of renewed enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and a commitment to making our lodge the very best it can be.

Shawn Hubbard

Senior Warden

(239) 823-6034

motherhubbardsc@gmail.com



Masonic Home of Florida

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES

The Masonic Outreach Services Program connects the Masonic Home of Florida to members of the Masonic Family, while also partnering with Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies to make a difference for their members and in their communities. Through the Outreach Programs, the Masonic Home is able to meet the changing and diverse needs of the membership through various assistance programs while working to strength, support and educate the Masonic communities throughout the state.

(727) 308-4228



www.masonichomefl.com



District 24



District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Jeff Zimmerman

(239) 895-5390

1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

District Instructor

R.:H.: Richard Pennewaert

(254) 258-4271

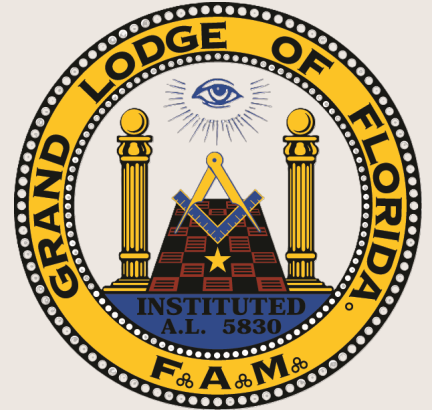
rpennewaert@gmail.com

Happenings Last Month

DDGM Official Visit

JULY 7: (Right) Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Jeff Zimmerman had his official visit at Tropical—seen here with his party and three potential new candidates in Freemasonry.

(Below) Congratulations to Shawn Hubbard, Andy Silvia, and Bruce Prescott for earning and receiving their Purple Cards.



JULY 21: Congratulations to our new Fellow Crafts, Brothers Nicholas Patino and Ed Willis of Tropical No. 56 and Brother Jose Fernandez Lopez of Cape Coral No. 367. It was a great conferral by the Senior Wardens of District 24, and, once again, a superb lecture by Worshipful David Singer.

Fellow Craft Degree



PAST MASTERS Tropical No. 56 F&AM

Established
1882

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*	Edgar M. Boyette*	Richard G. Simpson, Jr.*	Gordon A. Fore* (PDDGM & GLO)	John Gavin
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	Jeffery 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 & 2025
C.M. Storter* 1927	Roland O. Palmer* 1952	Ronald G. Frieden (PDI) 1975-1976	Bernard L. Flynn 1999 & 2001	Aaron A. Averhart 2024 & 2026
Robert T. Branham* 1928	Dana L. Brechtel* 1953	James P. Stephens* 1977	James L. Record (PDDGM) 2000	
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

1962-2021

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.



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

Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners

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REGISTER NOW



**FREE
ADMISSION**

MORE INFORMATION

- Date: August 15, 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 PM
- Location: Tropical Lodge No. 56
10868 Metro Pkwy
Fort Myers, FL 33966



Please RSVP at:
mmaosf@gmail.com