STATED COMMUNICATION
FIRST & THIRD
Tuesday

OCTOBER 6
OCTOBER 20
DINNER 6:30PM / MEETING 7:30PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD
OCTOBER 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



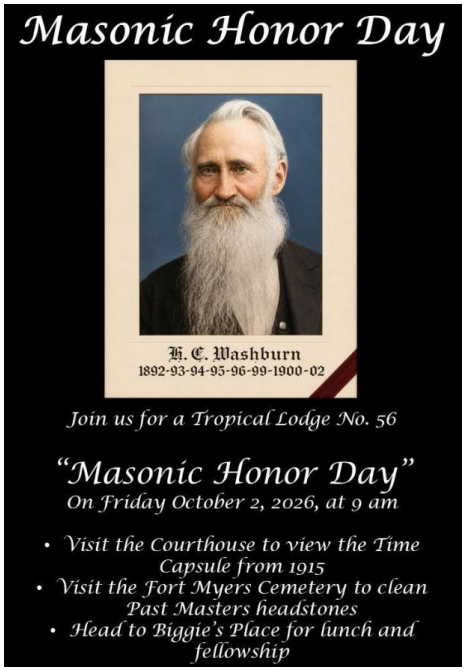
Trestle Board Publisher
W.: Kevin Gourley, PM
(2024—Present)

Happy Halloween!

Greetings from the East



Greetings from the East, Brethren. It's hard to believe it, but we're now entering into the final quarter of the year with October upon us. We started off September with a visit to our first meeting by Right Honorable Rick Pennewaert, District Instructor, who awarded me the Brown Proficiency Card. It was a lot of work but worth the effort. I highly encourage you to consider working on proficiency cards and putting those skills to use by getting involved in catechism instruction and degree work. September also brought us a Lodge workday, headed by Junior Warden Andy Silvia, to get things looking extra nice for the Grand Master's visit later that week, which went well for District 24. This past month has also seen us preparing for a Master Mason Degree, which we plan to confer on Friday December 11th. If you'd like to be a part of the degree team please let us know; we would love to have you! Also in September, we once again voted to adopt and support Lee County Sheriff Explorer Post #18 as part of our community involvement efforts.



Looking forward to October we have a "Masonic Honor Day" planned for Friday the 2nd. We will begin by meeting at the courthouse in downtown Fort Myers at 9 am, where we will view the items retrieved from the time capsule deposited during the construction of the second courthouse in 1915. Some of the things included were provided by Tropical Lodge, after we led the cornerstone laying ceremony, so this will be a great opportunity to celebrate our place in the history of Fort Myers. From there we will go to the old Fort Myers Cemetery on Michigan Avenue to clean up the headstones of some of our earliest Past Masters, officers, and family members. We will finish up by heading to Biggie's Place on Fowler for some fellowship and lunch. It promises to be a great morning and we hope you will join us! Before the year is out we will also have our Awards Night and Ladies Appreciation event, so stay tuned for more information to arrive via email.

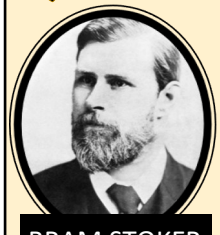
Thank you all for your continued support and for allowing me the opportunity to serve this incredible Lodge and you Brothers!

DID YOU KNOW?



Bram Stoker was initiated into London's Buckingham and Chandos Lodge No. 1150 in 1883, listing his occupation as "author" over a decade before publishing *Dracula*. While he never held a formal leadership role, his six years of active membership and his close relationship with prominent Masons heavily influenced his writing. Stoker subtly embedded fraternal phrases into his work and explicit references to a "tiled" room of absolute confidence in *The Lair of the White Worm*. Surrounded by Masonic literary peers like Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde, Stoker seamlessly wove the era's fascination with secret societies and ritualistic imagery into the fabric of classic Gothic horror.

Quote from a Famous Mason



BRAM STOKER

"WELCOME TO MY HOUSE! ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL!"

This is the Count's greeting to Jonathan Harker in *Dracula*, which carries both standard hospitality and a sinister, binding invitation for a vampire.

Aaron Averhart, PM

Worshipful Master
(239) 995-8837
cmndraverhart@gmail.com

"Historia est Magistra Vitae"





From the Secretary's Desk



The 2027 Tropical Lodge dues will be $145.00, plus $18.25 for LYPMGC for a total of $163.25.

Dues notices for 2027 will be mailed out this month, so please keep an eye out for yours.

Payment Options:

- **Check or Money Order:** If mailing a check, please include your Grand Lodge ID number in the memo line so your payment can be properly credited.
- **Credit Card:** Pay through the Amity mobile app or by contacting the Grand Lodge directly.

If you are experiencing any difficulty or have concerns regarding payment, please contact me at **941-677-2342.** I am always happy to speak with you and work through any situation.

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

Bobby Lippek, PDDGM
Secretary
(941) 677-2342
secretarytropical56@gmail.com

Greetings from the West



I reflect on how fast the year has gone by! We get so busy with lodge commitments and family that it just flies by.

As we look at everything it takes to keep our lodge thriving, my question to everyone is: **How many brothers do you think it takes to run the lodge?** I will answer that question for you! **It takes everyone!**

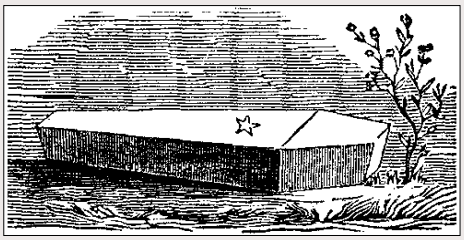
Right now, we tend to have ten or so brothers who end up carrying the day-to-day operations. While we love seeing a great turnout on Tuesday nights and during our degree work, there is so much more happening behind the scenes.

My challenge to all Masons of Tropical Lodge No. 56 is to look at where and what you can do to add to our numbers. You don't have to take on a massive commitment—just offering a hand with one small task makes a world of difference. Whether it is helping in the kitchen, assisting with building upkeep, or mentoring a new candidate, your lodge needs your unique talents. Let's step up together to share the load and build a stronger fraternity.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Shawn Hubbard
Senior Warden
(239) 823-6034
motherhubbardscc@gmail.com





Culinary Greetings from the South



After 2 months of not attending lodge (injury), it felt fantastic to be back within the Temple. I am not sure how many of you can stay away from the brotherhood and fellowship that we have. As we enter October let's make an effort to attend the meetings and be involved. Tropical Lodge succeeds because of you, our members. I look forward to being with you and shaking your hand.

Andy Silvia
Junior Warden
(508) 728-7491
Asilvia64@aol.com

MENU

OCTOBER 6:
Chicken pot pie, roasted potatoes and veggies.

OCTOBER 20:
Italian sausage on rolls with peppers and onions, potatoe salad and Caesar

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



Brown Card Proficiency

SEPTEMBER 1: Congratulations to Worshipful Master Aaron Averhart on earning the Brown Proficiency Card, being presented here by Right Honorable District Instructor Rick Pennewaert.

The Brown Proficiency Card is a ten-year certification awarded to a Master Mason who demonstrates memorization and mastery of the Chaplain's duties. To earn it, a brother must know the specific prayers and esoteric work required for the office of Chaplain.





Grand Master's Official Visit

SEPTEMBER 11: Tropical Lodge was recognized as the #1 Lodge in District 24 for Let Your Pennies Make Good Sense. (Above) Most Worshipful Grand Master Haskell Vest, Jr. was presented his Honorary Perpetual Member Certificate for Tropical No. 56 F&AM. (Right)

One of 99

SEPTEMBER 15: Worshipful Luis Tulier and Worshipful Kevin Gourley, pictured here with Right Worshipful Rob Estell, Senior Grand Warden, represented Tropical No. 56 at Placid Lodge No. 282's Annual One of 99 event.

Masons from more than 40 lodges gathered for the occasion, with a total of 130 Brothers in attendance. The evening began with a delicious meal, followed by the presentation of several Lifetime Achievement and recognition awards, as well as numerous door prizes—including a numbered America 250 / One of 99 commemorative coin.

It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, recognition, and celebration among Brothers from across the fraternity





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* 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	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	



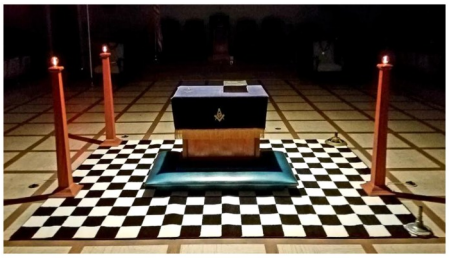
*Indicates Deceased

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 Freemasony

Scottish Rite | York Rite | Shriners | Eastern Star | Grotto | Sojourners

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