

**STATED
COMMUNICATION**

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

**February 4
February 18**

2025

OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Thomas Knafel, PM

Senior Warden

Aaron Averhart, PM

Junior Warden

Shawn Hubbard

Treasurer

Gene Sims, PDDGM

Secretary

Randy Crone

Senior Deacon

Andrew Silvia

Junior Deacon

Christopher Saxby

Chaplain

Joseph Setaro, PM

Marshal

Jerry Hamm

Senior Steward

Nicholas B. Gadbois

Junior Steward

Bruce Prescott

Tyler

John, Gavin, PM

Tropical No. 56 F&AM



**TRESTLE BOARD
FEBRUARY 2025**

10868 METRO PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL

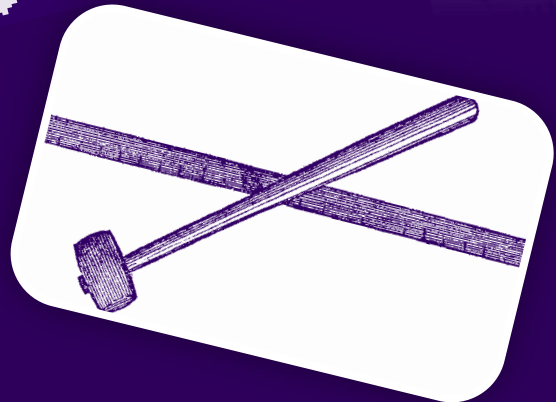
TropicalLodge56.org



PHONE:
(239) 334-6074

Entered Apprentice Degree

FEB 18th — 7:30 PM



Happy Valentines Day

Trestle Board Editor & Publisher: W.: Kevin Gourley, PM (2024-Present)

Greetings from the East



As I was considering what message I wanted to communicate for this addition of the Trestle Board, I received a message from the Grand Lodge of Indiana. It contained the following thought from the Grand Master of Indiana and I would like to share it with all of you...Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly:

Brothers, if you are not aware, Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Shops are filled with plastic red hearts, chocolate bars and cards that say, "Be Mine". All of these are designed to tell someone that you really care about them. This would be a great time to remember those forgotten ladies in our local lodges, our Masonic widows. These ladies have spent many nights alone while their husbands were attending lodge and many have been a tremendous support, team-member in all their husband's Masonic endeavors.

First, do you know where your Masonic widows are located? Unfortunately, after a death, many widows move. Sometimes they stay in the local community but other times they move near family members in other localities. This makes it extremely difficult to keep track of new addresses and, perhaps, even new phone numbers. However, many still retain a social media presence and can be reached via private messaging.

*I would encourage your lodge to put together a "Widows Contact List", if you do not have one. In your February stated meeting, I would challenge you to ask this question, "What are we doing to show our Masonic widows that we care?" Some brother or brothers may feel led to lead this effort or you may need to appoint a Widow's Oversight Committee. We took an obligation to care for the widows of our brothers. Give them a call, send them a card (Just Thinking of You), invite them to a dinner – do something to demonstrate that we are Masons, **and we really care!**" Be The Light"*

Fraternally,

Thomas Knafel, PM

Worshipful Master

(317) 379-6923

tknafel@gmail.com



Greetings from the West



I hope this finds everyone well. January was a fun-filled month with officer installations for the various Lodges in our district and beyond. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the ceremonies for Fort Myers Beach No. 362, Cape Coral No. 367, and Cypress

No. 295, and was there in spirit with our Brothers from La-Belle No. 379 and Noah No. 357. Congratulations to all the newly-elected officers and we wish you a wonderful year of service to your respective Lodges, District 24, and the community.

Please mark your calendars for some upcoming degrees as we welcome new members to our hallowed fraternity on **February 18** and pass a Brother to the degree of Fellowcraft on **March 18**. As usual, dinner will be served at 6:30 and the ceremony will begin at 7:30. We hope you will join us.

There is always something happening at Tropical Lodge and the SWFL Masonic Center. You can keep up with it all at www.tropicalodge56.org.

Aaron A. Averhart, PM

Senior Warden
(239) 995-8837

cmndraeverhart@gmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk



Brothers, if you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time to do so. If you cannot pay for a reason, call me at 239-340-2310 and we can talk and work something out. Remember, as in past Trestle Boards, you can pay by credit card in the Amity phone app.

If you need to make any updates to your phone number or addresses please let me know by sending an email to secretarytropical56@gmail.com. Our 2025 dues are \$127.30 again this year.

Randy Crone

Secretary

(239) 340-2310

secretarytropical56@gmail.com



Message from the Senior Deacon



Brethren, I hope this finds you in good health and a lot warmer than it has been here lately. Just a reminder that the donation box for the Charity Of The Month will be on the Tyler's desk prior to every meeting. We were able to reach our goal in January and I have full faith that we can do it

again in February. Please remember to bring at least a single one dollar bill to donate. This is strictly voluntary but I know we shall not forget Faith, Hope and Charity.

Faternally,

Andy Silvia

Senior Deacon

(508) 728-7491

Asilvia64@aol.com



Menu from the South



Feb 4th

Chicken Cordon Blue
Rolls
Chicken gravy
Mashed potatoes
Salad
Desert

Feb 18th

Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Potato salad
Coleslaw
Baked beans
Salad
Desert



March 4th

Jerry Hamm's Famous Jambalaya
Chicken noodle soup
Cornbread
White rice
Rolls
Salad
Desert

March 18th

Corn beef and cabbage
Potatoes and carrots
Corn bread
Salad
Desert



Shawn Hubbard

Junior Warden

(239) 823-6034

motherhubbardscc@comcast.net





George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Pic courtesy of Kevin Gourley, PM.

2B1 ASK1



“To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”

— *Brother George Washington*

Let's Go To Lodge Tonight

By Unknown

My brother, let's go to Lodge tonight;
You haven't been for years.
Let's don our Lambskin Apron white
And sit among our peers.

I feel a kind of longing, see,
to climb those creaky stairs;
I know it'll be a thrill for me
to lay aside my cares.

We'll meet the Tyler at the door
and though he'll hesitate,
we'll hear him say just as before,
"Come in or you'll be late."

I'd like to get out on the floor--
Come on, let's get in line;
I want to face the East once more
And give the same old sign.

I want to hear the gavel rap
the Craftsmen to attention
and see the Master don his cap;
a night without dissention.

So come! Pass up that picture show,
or your wrestling bout or fight;
Switch off that TV set! Let's go!
Let's go to Lodge tonight.

32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry



For Master Masons looking to further their journey in Freemasonry, the **Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers** is looking for candidates for the 2025 Spring Reunion Class in

March. If you would like to be considered for the upcoming class, email Brother Andy Silvia at Asil-via64@aol.com, Worshipful Kevin Gourley at KLGourley1971@gmail.com, or speak with any other Brother you know who is a Scottish Rite member. There is an **online petition** on the Valley of Fort Myers website. Here you can learn about and become active in the 4th thru 32nd degrees of Freemasonry. If you enjoy ritual or the meaning behind it, the Scottish Rite may be for you.



District 24

District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Acey Edgemon, PM
(239) 860-4045

District Instructor

R.:H.: Bruce Rivera, PM
(239) 297-9400



Last Month



Brother Shawn Hubbard (left) is presented a Scottish Rite Sabel Palm Certificate by Brother Andy Silvia (middle). Kenny Vince (right) is the local Scottish Rite Foundation Representative.



In Person
Only

District Lodge
Development
All Lodge Officers
Encouraged to attend !

Training Seminar

This seminar
promises to be a
transformative
experience for
all Lodge
Officers .
Geared to the
Secretary and
Treasurers



Saturday March 22, 2025



9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location

Fort Myers Beach Lodge No. 362
17671 Pine Ridge Rd. Fort Myers Beach

Presented by

The Grand Secretary and other Knowledgeable Brothers



904-354-2339



Email for further information

richard.lynn@glflamason.org



amity.copiri.com/share/QuA3E4t8I

District
24



PAST MASTERS



TROPICAL No. 56 F&AM

1882

Present

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	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

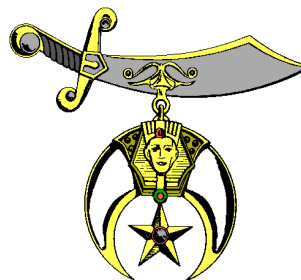
*Indicates Deceased



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Sojourners



Eastern Star



Grotto

Local Appendant
Bodies In Freemasonry

