



180 Jaycee Lions Dr.

LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

Trestle Board — February 2026

LaBelleLodge379.org



Greetings from the East



Brothers all!

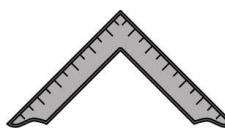
First, I would like to thank Worshipful Izzy Lopez for his leadership over the past few years: "You've done well, Boss!" I would also like to thank the unsung heroes of LaBelle Lodge: Illustrious Ed Lanham, our faithful Secretary and Bob Coleman, our faithful Treasurer. These two brothers, weather all the storms, the changes, and the ups and downs of the lodge year in and year out. Also. Honorable Kevin Gourley, for keeping not just LaBelle Lodge, but most lodges in our districts, informed through several Trestle Boards. These brothers are sometimes unnoticed, but indispensable.

I want to thank you for putting your trust in me one more time as Master of the LaBelle Lodge. Thank you! I look forward to a great year with a wonderful group of elected and appointed officers. I foresee great things happening in LaBelle No. 379 when I look over the up coming leadership of this great Lodge.

I pray that it is God's will that we have a banner year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill — Your 2026 Worshipful Master of LaBelle No. 379 F&AM
Phone: (863) 673-2192



The Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers is looking to enroll candidates for the 2026 Spring Reunion class on March 14th & 15th. 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. To be considered for the upcoming class email edgarlanham@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

George Washington has two birthdays because Great Britain and its colonies switched from the Julian calendar to the more accurate Gregorian calendar in 1752, adding 11 days and shifting the new year's start, which moved his birth date from February 11, 1731 (Old Style) to February 22, 1732 (New Style). This calendar change meant his original date was adjusted by a year and 11 days to align with the new system, creating two dates for his birth.

For the first two decades of his life, Washington celebrated on February 11th, but after 1752, February 22nd became his recognized birthday, a date that continued to be celebrated and eventually became a federal holiday (now known as Presidents' Day).

STATED COMMUNICATIONS SECOND & FOURTH TUESDAYS

February 10

6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Meeting



February 24

6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Meeting

Upcoming Degrees in District 24

An Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred at Tropical Lodge the evening of **Tuesday, February 17th**. Dinner is 6:30 p.m. / Degree begins at 7:30 p.m.

At Tropical Lodge, Tropical No. 56 and Cape Coral No. 367 are hosting a Master Mason Degree on **Saturday, February 28th** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** There will also be a chili cook-off contest that morning after the first section of the degree. *In addition, it is reported that Most Worshipful Grand Master Taleb Atala will be attending to help judge the chili and provide the Lecture!*



Statue of George Washington
George Washington Masonic National Memorial
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2026 LODGE OFFICER INSTALLATION



Installation Officers:

- ◆ Worshipful Rob Chatterton (Installing Marshal)
- ◆ Worshipful Tom Boardman (Installing Officer)
- ◆ Worshipful Elton Jonuzi (Installing Chaplain)



Come have a good time!!



OES FORT MYERS CHAPTER #31

ANNUAL

“BLINGO BINGO”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

Southwest Florida Masonic Center

10868 Metro Parkway

Fort Myers, FL 33966

Famous Chicken Salad Lunch at 11:30am

Followed by

“Blingo Bingo”

Tickets - \$10.00

For tickets contact Patricia Benedict: 239-939-5363 or 239-810-0474

Or send her a SASE to: 2248 Sunrise Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907

Or call Worthy Matron, Laurel Raulerson at 239-410-1446

An approximate headcount is needed for the lunch.



The Chili Cook-Off is back and the Lodges of the Tremendous 24th Masonic District are invited to compete and eat! Claim the glory for your Lodge!

With special guest judge Most Worshipful Tali Atala, Grand Master of Masons of Florida!!!

\$30 Entrance Fee

\$10 Bottomless Chili

When: February 28, 2026, approximately 11 am

Between the fist and second half of the Master Mason Degree

Where: Tropical Lodge No. 56

10868 Metro Pkwy, Ft. Myers, FL 33966

All proceeds to benefit charity!

Chaplain's Corner



Last year while waiting in a doctor's office I picked up a ragged, torn piece of a magazine, I think it was the AARP, to glance at an article about a lady in

California who was rescuing horses. What struck me about the article was one of her quotes that most of us know but so few of us practice.

The writer of the article told how the woman had a glamorous career where she accumulated all the material and external things that are supposed to make us happy. But she wasn't content so at age 50 she quite her dream job and completely changed her life and lifestyle.

It was a nice and well-written article as most AARP pieces are, but as far I was concerned it was hinged with Ho-hum. In other words, I wasn't interested and didn't care that she changed her lifestyle. A lots of people quit jobs and move on to other careers. In fact, I know a lady in West Virginia who quit her long-time teaching job to begin writing stories about farmers, miners and the families of farmers and miners. Unfortunately her stories didn't sell so when she was

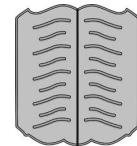


flat broke she married a city fireman and started driving a school bus.

At any rate, the California lady also got married and with her new husband bought a ranch where they could raise rescue horses. Still the magazine story lacked any great interest for me and just as I was ready to toss it back on the table, I saw the lady's quote: "Rescuing horses has taught me a lot about patience, forgiveness and living in the moment. But the main thing is you can't achieve happiness by collecting all the material things our world offers."

As Masons, we know she's right. Doing for others, animal and human, and seeing the light come back into someone's eyes is our greatest obligation and pleasure.

Phil Keyes
Chaplain
Phone: (863) 675-3813
Email: philkeys@embarqmail.com



2026 Officers

Worshipful Master
Bill Maddox, PM

Senior Warden
George Benjamin

Junior Warden
Ernest Hollingsworth

Treasurer
Bob Coleman

Secretary
Ed Lanham, PDDGM

Chaplain
Isidro Lopez, PM

Marshall
Antonio Weems, PM

Senior Deacon
James McVay

Junior Deacon
Matt Rentz

Senior Steward
Jacob Cuellar

Junior Steward
Mike Nguyen

Tyler
Kevin Gourley, PM



DISTRICT 24

District Deputy Grand Master

*R.W.: Bruce Rivera
(239) 297-9400*

rwbrc2025@gmail.com

District Instructor

*R.W.: Scott Peacock
(617) 271-4331*

peacockddgm@gmail.com

JAMES PENDRY*	1977-1978	J.S. HARRIS	1994	
CHARLES MACDOWELL*	1979	MIKE GUTHRIE	1995	
EDWIN RENOLDS*	1980	J. THOMAS PAXON*	1996	BRUCE ARMSTRONG
THOMAS K. WOOSLEY*	1981	JAMES JENNINGS*	1997	JOHN W. NELSON
KENNETH PICKLES	1982	JIM MARSHALL*	1998	M. MATT HECKERT
ROBERT P. MIDDLETON*	1983	CARL W. SWANSON*	1999	RAY NAVOR*
JOSEPH H. FUTCH*	1984	JIM CIANFRANI*	2000	NICHOLAS FIDANZA*
WILLARD BRYANT*	1985	JERRY HUBBART*	2001	GREG GUNTER
ROBERT P. MIDDLETON*	1986	STEVE POLHEMUS	2002	L.E. RICHARDSON, JR.
GLENN R. MICKEY*	1987	GLENN R. MICKEY*	2003	THOMAS BOARDMAN
EASTON BURCHARD*	1988-1989	RUSS BUCCINI*	2004	TONY WEEMS
LEWIS WHIDDEN*	1990	JACK ROSE*	2005	ADRIAN SANCHEZ
MICHAEL BOYLE	1991	KEVIN NELSON	2006-2007	ED LANHAM
L.E. RICHARDSON, SR.*	1992	HERBERT HOLLENBECK*	2008	BILL MADDOX
DOUG SCRATCHLEY, SR.*	1993	CURTIS DODD	2009	ISIDRO LOPEZ
				2023-2025

Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners