



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

June 2, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

The story of the re-birth of Sycamore Lodge #129 (Hayward) is inspiring. It shows that if we are innovative and flexible, and think outside the box, Lodges can be re-charged and revitalized, and perhaps even re-instituted.

The story begins with Frank Goulart, an historian, who lives in Hayward. Back around 2005, Frank (who was not an Odd Fellow at the time) met an Odd Fellow at a Historical Society Dinner - the Lodge was being presented an award for the preservation of the building. Frank had previously visited the Lodge and had seen a large signature of Leander Linekin, an important figure in Hayward's history. Frank was aware that Linekin had also served as treasurer of the Encampment for about 30 years, and Frank was thirsty for information about Odd Fellows. But at the Historical Society Dinner, Frank did not get his questions answered. Nor did that Odd Fellow ever open the building for Frank. The Lodge was essentially closed off to the community, and the Lodge dissipated.

Fast forward to 2010. Frank was looking to include the Odd Fellows Building on his history walk of B Street, and Frank still had that thirst for information about Odd Fellows. At a Thanksgiving Dinner, Frank met Daniel Honnibal. Frank told Daniel that he was an historian and wanted to get into the Odd Fellows Lodge in Hayward for some historical research. Daniel told Frank that the Odd Fellows building had been sold. Frank also said that he had purchased a building, made a lot of repairs and made it an historical building. Frank had wanted to see if any artifacts could be shared from the Lodge to be displayed in Frank's historical building. Frank is an advocate for preserving the historic City of Hayward, and in their conversations, Daniel learned that Frank knew many people in Hayward who were prominent in the community. As the evening wore on, Daniel learned that these prominent people also shared another passion: music. So Daniel put 2+2+2 together and realized that organizations and musicians have a common need - a place to meet and to perform.

After some continued discussion, Daniel asked Frank: "If you could rent a 5,000 square foot building for \$60 per year, would you be interested? All you have to do is learn to be an Odd Fellow and all I need to start a Lodge is 12 of your best friends." Well, Daniel answered a lot of Frank's questions about Odd Fellowship. According to Frank, "Friendship, love and truth were very appealing as a calling card, and I began to see the potential of the Hayward Lodge



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becoming the 'point guard' for the arts in our community of Hayward."

The result of these casual conversations? Sycamore Lodge #129 was re-instituted. Frank Goulart became Noble Grand. And at the end of 2010, the Lodge had 71 members.

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Dave Rosenberg