

HARMONIE LODGE



June 12, 2013
Worshipful Daniel J. Di Natale
Installation Address

“We take good men and make them better, one man at a time. We teach using a timeless system of moral instruction, based in individual experience and built in the universal pursuit of wisdom and brotherhood.”

Brethren,

Last year I stood here and spoke of our challenges - I spoke of hurdles that had to be crossed in order for Harmonie to prevail.

I am proud to stand here now and tell you of our successes. I am proud to tell you that we have finished building the base work of our restorative efforts. When we started, five years ago, I would have never thought we would achieve so much in the face of so much adversity. Nothing halted us. We built higher and strove for better, no matter what was in our way.

We have codified our education program, this allows a standard process and class material to each successive class of Masons. We have finished reformatting our fiscal policy. We now have trustees who can function with the information necessary to guide us to further prosperity and security. We have completed the largest reformation of our by-laws. Our practice and policy now meets our laws and operations. We have finished our Lodge capital improvements plan. We replaced our 3rd Degree regalia, an effort that has not been undertaken in a century.

My final act of my 2012 tenure was to remove all pass code protections on the website library. All will have access to our growing online collection - none need permission to learn. All these things we have achieved for the sake of our Lodge. We have strived for all these lofty goals of building something better than what we had when we started, building the experience we wish we had when we entered the Craft with the access to information we wish we had.

Many of our wishes have come true. Some have not. In this progress many of our older members have fallen to the wayside. Our objectives last year were to build closer to the Lodge that we all wanted to share. This year, our goal is to make sure our membership knows all that has been built and share what we strived so long and hard to build. We are at a crossroads in Freemasonry. Our membership is aging and soon we will cross the path in which even our most active and influential elder Brothers will be unable to do as they once did because of the frailty of time. There is no easy answer for this problem, it is simply what happens with aging memberships. Yet you will hear the Mason who will say "Reduce your standards and bang the drum to get younger men in the door." This has never worked, will never work and will never be allowed in this Lodge.

We increased the demand on our new members and more came. We became more selective on those that knocked at our door and more came. We demanded that men rise up to our level without taking a step back, and they did. The next evolution of our Craft is not a return to higher membership numbers but a higher level of dedication, a seriousness of purpose that men can see and want to be part of. It is time Brothers - we are going to make every effort to reach out to each of our members and share with them their Lodge. It is time to remind them of what real living Masonry is.

Many are not able to attend because of illness and age. We must bring the Lodge to them. They served here, too. Though we might be too young to know it. Many had the same zeal and drive we do now. It is our duty to not only help, aid and assist but also to share with them their Lodge, which we know they held and still hold dear. We are going to do the same with our widows, we cannot forget those our Brothers' loved. Service to them is one of the noblest, purest and most core to our being as Freemasons.

We are conducting a Lodge census; each member will be contacted this year and have the opportunity to tell his stories of the Craft. We have increased the number of newsletters so that all will know what is happening here in their Lodge. Each year is bringing us closer to our 150th Anniversary. Planning is already underway to make that something wonderful, but the true perpetration is building higher and achieving more up to and beyond that day. This is a special Lodge - fate my Brothers brought us here.

It is an honor to have been elected for another year in the seat of Solomon. I know that with another year we will get closer to what we all have hoped and worked so hard for.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us, this great Republic and those that defend our freedom here and abroad.

Address given to the Brethren and guest of the 144th Installation of Officer by W. Daniel J. Di Natale