



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of West Virginia

Office of Edward E. Ball
M. E. Grand High Priest

December 31, 2023

Re: **Happy New Year**

Dear Companions,

As the year ends our thoughts traditionally turn to resolutions for the New Year. The resolutions we always hear about are ones about losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more, etc. etc. I ask that all Companions follow the tradition of making a New Year's resolution to strengthen their Chapters in 2024 by resolving to:

Attend meetings and practices

Learn a ritual part in at least one of the degrees

Mentor a new Companion(s)

Reach out to Companions who don't participate to encourage them to do so

Be welcoming, friendly and helpful to all who come to your Chapter

Be in constant communication with the membership (Chapter leadership)

It is also time when folks plan for the coming year. Planning for vacations or home projects is often done at this time. Chapter leadership, are you planning for Chapter activities in 2024? Having some social activities for the Companions and their families can really pay dividends by increasing fellowship. How about a hosting a "pot luck" Super Bowl watch party, Valentine's Day event to honor the Ladies, or a summer picnic at a local park. Think about your Chapter hosting a "family game night" with a meal from time to time. Be creative in thinking about what can be done by and for the membership. Ask the members what they would like to do and make it happen.

Also, do not forget to look for opportunities for your Chapter to serve the communities in which we live. Local charities always need volunteers for something. Helping a local charity as a Chapter increases visibility, fosters a positive view of our fraternity, and raises the interest of our younger generation Companions in participation.

We would love to see photos of your Chapter activities. Be sure to send photos to our WebMasters, Companions Ted Hatfield and David Browning (ramwv.org).

I wish all Companions and their families a Happy Healthy and prosperous New Year.

"Plans are nothing. Planning is everything." – Dwight D. Eisenhower