

Over the next couple of months, I would ask that each Chapter and their officers spend time thinking about the type of leadership that your Chapter needs. Leadership comes in all different forms, but at the end of the day it is the leadership that moves a Chapter forward, just as a lack of leadership will cause a Chapter to stall. One of the biggest challenges to any leader is to engage your members and get them to utilize their talents. Within Masonry, I have seen many different styles of leadership employed but I have found that the best is a collaborative approach. Within the collaborative approach the High Priest or incoming High Priest is able to layout his plans and ideas for the Chapter, and this allows the Companions an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. I have also found that this type of discussion gives the Companions a chance to buy into the program and plan because they now feel invested in the plans. It is with the Companions invested in the programs that support for the plans is higher, turnout is higher, connection between the Companions increases because they are working together, and it builds excitement for the Chapter which in turn leads to higher attendance and retention of members.

Regardless of how you celebrate or what your faith tradition is, I hope that I have the chance during this time of joy to cross your path and bring you Season's Greetings in person. I will close with my faith tradition – Merry Christmas and from my wife Happy Hanukah!

Until I see you down the road...

James S. McNeely, IV

FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND MASTER

For unto us a Child is born

Unto us a Son is given...

Companions, Grace to you, Peace from God and from our Lord, Jesus Christ. I hope this Christmas letter finds you and your families well as you gather together on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of God's Son and our Savior, Jesus. Christmas has always been a special time of year for me. From my earliest recollections, it has always been a time to share with family, friends and those whom you love.

But it is also a time of remembrance. We should remember those less fortunate than ourselves, especially those who have lost everything. This year has seen hurricanes devastate several states and communities who are still in the process of recovering. California continues to be devastated by wild fires that rage out of control. Many have lost everything in these disasters, but one hopes that they will still find peace, love and some comfort during this holiday season.

And for our companions who are not of the Christian Faith, I wish for you a Happy Hanukkah.

Again, may your holidays be filled with friends, family, laughter, and hope, and may you all enjoy health and happiness in the year to come.

Charles D. O'Neill

YORK RITE WEB-SITES

Grand Chapter RAM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcram

Grand Council R&SM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcrsm

Grand Commandery KT of CT: <http://www.gcktct.org/>

Common to all three YR bodies: www.yorkritect.org

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