

Welcome to 2022

by

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Well New Year's Eve has passed, the ball dropped in Times Square and a new year was ushered in. Do you feel any different? Maybe you had a little hangover from too much imbibing of the grape or grain. But that will pass.

We are all hoping that this next year will be far better than the past year. Hopefully we will see sensibility return to our leaders and nation as a whole.

As we reflect on the past three years we saw the results of our nation's social structure breaking down. Note the word "results" in the previous sentence.

The uncontrolled protests, riots, looting, assaults, rising crime, and the national divisiveness along political, economic, and racial lines over time, climaxed during 2020 and 2021.

While these events may seem to suddenly happen, they are not like the flash mobs that we have experienced since 2003. The eruption of sudden violence, and political and social demands have been called, erroneously, by the media as "flash" events.

Nothing is further from the truth. These events are well orchestrated and organized. You don't have to wait for in-depth investigations to know that these are not spontaneous events. The truth is evident by the "immediate" presence of the media.

While initiated by others, the media is equally complicit with its vitriol comments that subliminally support for such events.

Ironically during the 1960s as we entered the Information Age/Revolution, we saw the beginning of the demise of journalism. Notable newspaper and broadcast journalists made significant blunders in not factually reporting on current events. These blunders were the causation for the demise of newspapers and news broadcasts. Wait, but you say there are newspapers and there are news stations and broadcasts.

Wrong! For the most part these "rags" (print, digital, or video) report actual, factual news but rather present commentaries on news and other events. Read and listen carefully as to what the authors of these "rags" are proclaiming.

As a nation and as a people we have allowed the media false narrative to take control of the information we receive. We have also allowed politicians and national leaders to also direct our lives. The media, politicians, and leaders all point to the First Amendment as their right to say what they want to.

However the First Amendment has restrictions on free speech. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_free_speech_exceptions

While the First Amendment addresses free speech and a free press, there is nothing in the amendment or subsequent rulings or law that addresses factual and/or non-biased reporting.

As we move into 2022, in order to protect our democracy from crumbling, ALL of us have the responsibility to insure that the media, our politicians, and leaders speak the truth without a forked tongue, and avoid commenting on social events and actions.

To be successful in this endeavor, we MUST confront these individuals and organizations, and, demand that they curb their biased rhetoric. There are many action steps that we can take. Here are just a few:

1. get in their faces with facts,
2. write letters to the editor
3. create citizen review boards on journalist actions
4. impose economic sanctions on media organizations
 - a. inform the public about their actions
 - b. sell their stock
 - c. take action at stock holder meetings
 - d. speak before the board of directors
 - e. protest outside their doors
 - f. stop advertising with them
5. write letters to owners, editors and stock holders
6. change or implement rules, regulations, laws that make it easier to remove politicians and/or leaders from their positions.
7. change the way your local government operates – demand transparency
8. become involved

The ball is in our court, but if we let the criminals, media, politicians and leaders have it, then we have turned control over to them and have lost.

2022 can be a wonderful happy and better year. But for that to happen, you must act.

I wish all a Happy New Year