



Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Happy Labor Day Weekend, the unofficial end of summer. Though we may be looking to celebrate with family and friends this weekend, we need to take a moment to think about all our fellow chapter members and supporters dealing with nature's wrath. Our thoughts are with those affected by hurricanes in the south and east and fires in the west. Our local community surrounding Valley Forge saw historic flooding and devastating tornados this week. The campus held up well with only some minor water issues. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those facing challenges and loss.

A member of our FFVF team is moving on to a new opportunity. Gene Halus, Vice President of Education, will be leaving to return to the classroom. Gene has missed being in front of students and we wish him well on his new endeavor but hope to still work with him in bringing students and teachers to our programs. We thank Gene for his service to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Our 2021 Gala is fast approaching, and this year's auction looks to be the best yet. We have over 50 items that will be available for bidding. Highlights of this year's auction include a private winery tour, a personalized signed copy of President George W. Bush's book *Out of Many, One*, the return of the Dominican Republic vacation home, and many other fine items. Please make sure to visit our [auction website](#) to register and see a preview of some of the items.

Next week we will be shipping the 2022 Spring Spirit of America brochures. All presidents and education contacts will be sent copies along with an informational memo on this year's programs. Please note that we continue to live in a world with COVID, and we will be addressing that with some policy updates and practices for programs moving forward.

This Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is our fall Chapters Presidents' Zoom Meeting. The meeting will start at 2 pm ET. The log-in information is listed below. Our agenda will include a recap of the summer season, plans for the fall and spring, and how we all move forward in a time of COVID.

**Chapter Presidents' Zoom Meeting**

September 8, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84333305739?pwd=Y2lIT3RRSDN0RFBPZ0JCU2lnOXRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 3330 5739

Passcode: FFVF160

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 843 3330 5739  
Passcode: 45850391

Finally, in honor of the upcoming gala, I am sharing a video from our 2019 event. This clip is a performance of "God Bless America" performed by Tyler Perry of Utah. Tyler is the son of past national board chairman and Utah chapter member, Bill Perry. Enjoy this beautiful clip.

[Tyler Perry – "God Bless America"](#)

Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to talking with many of you on Wednesday.

Be safe and stay healthy,

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

Senior Director of Chapter and Partner Relations  
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
610-933-8825 ext. 234

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