

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

I hope this email finds you and all your members doing well. Fall has come to the campus and the brilliant fall colors are on full display. We are preparing to welcome a group of high school students for a Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program on November 4-7, 2021 and our board of directors for an in-person meeting on November 10-11, 2021. Our vital programs continue as we see our way out of the pandemic. The board will be gathering not only for a board meeting but also an in depth strategic planning session on the next phase for Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge as we approach our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Earlier this month, we welcomed the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary to our campus for their semi-annual Americanism Conference. The ladies visited Valley Forge and Gettysburg during their stay. They also learned more about the Spirit of America program with a presentation from Kate McAndrew, Associate Director of Education and a performance by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. The AMVETS Auxiliary are one of our largest partner organizations. They have raised money for many projects on campus over the years. Their newest project focuses on raising funds for new windows in the MacArthur building. We are really excited to have them on board and wish them great success on their campaign which will benefit all who visit Freedoms Foundation.

Congratulations to all of our 2021 National Award recipients. All chapters have been notified of their recipients and letters are going out to all the winners. I know many of you have selected dates for your in-person award ceremonies and we are so very excited. If you have not done so already, please let us know when you have a date for your award presentations. Medals, certificates, and project entries will be sent to your awards vice president for your ceremonies.

Sarah Rasmussen our new Director of Communications has been hard at work revitalizing our social media, sending out press releases and media advisories for various events and programs. She has also started talking with web design companies. We are looking to streamline our website and make it more user friendly. This includes our chapter sites. We will be sharing updates with you and seeking your input as we move forward. Please start thinking about what you want from your website and how your chapter can best use this resource.

Our preparations for spring programming are underway. Along with our returning Spirit of America programs, we also are planning on the return of History Encounter programs. I know many of you are in the recruitment and selection process now. The registration links with the forms for students to fill out prior to attending the programs will be available on our website by mid-November. Please remember that as you finalize your participants for the Spring, send us the list so we can make sure all students and chaperones have completed all the necessary registration paperwork.

Finally, our video for this week takes us back to our virtual gala in September. The clip is the Distinguished Citizen Award acceptance speech by Richard Graber, CEO of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. I hope you find his words as inspirational as we here at headquarters did.

[Richard Graber, CEO of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, acceptance speech](#)

Thank you all for your continued support. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Be safe and stay healthy,

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

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Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
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**Educate**

**Honor**

**Challenge**