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## Welcome Back!!!!

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It's been almost two years since the WHO declared a worldwide pandemic. We all had to make changes and adaptations that affected our lives in so many ways. One way was that our Chattanooga Chapter in-person meetings came to a stop. Those times are now behind us and our Board, which continued to meet via Zoom, elected a new slate of officers at our March 2022 meeting and we want to share national and local updates.

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### GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW Board Members

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#### President: Mrs. Charlotte Ellington

Charlotte is adjunct faculty with the School of Education at UTC since 2016. She retired the same year as a Chattanooga public and private school teacher, where she taught for over 25 years in early childhood and elementary education. Presently, she uses that knowledge base with her preservice teachers enrolled at UTC. Charlotte holds an undergraduate from Memphis State and her M.Ed. in Education from UTC. Additionally, she sits on the Tennessee Geographic Alliance Board, oversees the Giant Tennessee Map Program, and serves on the Board of the Freedom's Foundation of Valley Forge Chattanooga Volunteer Chapter. Additionally, she is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa teachers' sorority. She has a wonderful husband, Lucien Ellington, and two grown children, Eleanor and Bobby. She believes that building strong relationships is important in life, work, and the classroom. Outside the workday she enjoys her family, occupying the back porch with a good book, traveling, and attending various athletic events, including the UTC MOCS!!



Email:

[c-ellington@comcast.net](mailto:c-ellington@comcast.net)

#### Treasurer: Dr. Valerie C. Rutledge



Valerie holds a B.S., M.S., and Ed.D. and is Dean of the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies and a UC Foundation Professor at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Her career in education spans over four decades during which she has taught English, Latin, drama, and reading at all grade levels from sixth grade through college. She is also involved with several boards in the Chattanooga area, including Siskin Children's Institute, Chambliss Center, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation, and, most importantly, Chattanooga Chapter of Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge. Valerie is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa teachers' sorority. During her free time, she spends time reading, enjoying her family (children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren), and supporting the Chattanooga Mocs.

Email: [vrutledg@gmail.com](mailto:vrutledg@gmail.com)

#### Membership: Mrs. Jeannie Abbott



Jeanne is a retired educator. She has taught in all grade levels, pre-K through secondary school and adults. She has also been a supervisor and a principal for elementary and middle schools during her 38 year career. Her goals for retirement include painting, travel and more time with her family. Jeanne has an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a MEd from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Extra learning experiences were gathered from Harvard University and Menlo Park Education Research Center. IEARN- an international research association gave her valuable experience and the opportunity to travel to several countries. Jeanne has served on several boards throughout her career and is now an active board member for Alpha Delta Kappa, Chi chapter and the North River Civic Center. Hobbies and activities mostly center around her grand and great grandchildren, but she enjoys reading, painting, boating and any new

adventure. She is married to Jim Abbott and has two adult sons, six grandchildren and two greats.

Email: [jcabbott@comcast.net](mailto:jcabbott@comcast.net)

## Secretary & Youth Education: Mrs. Pam Fields



Pam holds a B.S. and M.S. in Education with certifications in both Special Education and Reading. She has 43 years of experience as a teacher and educational diagnostician, including 10 years of homeschooling her 2 daughters. Pam teaches all high school social studies courses, has helped develop nearly all of the Social Studies and History classes and has chaired the Social Studies Department at Hilger Higher Learning since 2004. Pam also is the Faculty Director/Lead Teacher at Signal Mountain Christian Homeschool Co-op, where she teaches History, Latin, Bible, and Study Skills for a group of Middle School students. Additionally, Pam teaches high school Social Studies classes for Scenic City High School Tutorial on Signal Mountain and continues her part-time private practice as a Learning Specialist and Educational Diagnostician. Pam has been awarded the Chattanooga Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Distinguished Teacher Award and is a Faculty Fellow with the UTC Center for Reflective Citizenship. She serves on the board of Student Venture, the Middle and High School Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). Pam and her husband Jim have been married for 40 years and have two daughters and sons-in-law, 1 granddaughter, and another on the way! Pam enjoys reading, hiking, and traveling. She has a passion for all things social studies-related, as well as missions and evangelism!  
*Email: [pdfields56@gmail.com](mailto:pdfields56@gmail.com)*

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### *FFVF Dues*

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In order to continue our mission, it is time to renew your membership with the Chattanooga Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation. Dues are used to provide teacher and student scholarships to attend the immersive educational experiences at the FF at Valley Forge. Remember, we'd love to have others join our Chattanooga Chapter and help us send more students to Valley Forge in the future. For your convenience, a membership application is included with this newsletter. Please mail your contributions or \$25 dues person to:

**Valerie Rutledge, Treasurer**  
**P.O. Box 21443**  
**Chattanooga, TN 37424**

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### *Spirit of America Essay Winners*

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This year, students across Hamilton County and the area were invited to submit an essay addressing the topic:

**Discuss one freedom that you enjoy as an American and the responsibilities that come with that freedom.**

These students will attend the Spirit of America program at Valley Forge April 28- May 1.

**Please join us on April 9, 11:00 am, at the Challenger Center on the UTC campus for a 'Meet & Greet' with our students.**

!!!!!!!Congratulations to Ezekiel Jones, Devin Grant, Katherine Sawyer, Mason Forrest, Annabelle Goff, and Brandon Price !!!!!

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### *National and Chapter Website*

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One of the biggest projects from our national office during 2022 is the creation of a new Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge website which will include all chapter sites. Sarah Rasmussen, Director of Communication, is leading the efforts. Each chapter will be included in this process. Please continue to access the website and monitor it for updates: <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org>

Presently, this is our chapter website: <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/tennessee/chattanooga-chapter/>



*Chattanooga Chapter Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge*

*Spring 2022 Newsletter*

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**CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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***Meetings:***

For 2022 we anticipate holding four quarterly meeting, the first of which will be our April 9-Meet & Greet at the Challenger Center on UTC's campus, 855 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Chattanooga, TN 37403. The Center is located at the intersection of Palmetto and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. The students who are going to Valley Forge and their parents will be there to get an update along with additional information before their trip. Please monitor your email for future newsletters and dates for the remaining Chattanooga Chapter Meetings.

***Events:***

Applications are being accepted for the following Teacher Institutes at Valley Forge:

June 19-24: First Amendment Seminar

June 26-July1: Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror

July 2-7: American Revolution North

July 24-29: Medal of Honor Legacy: WWII

July 31-Aug.5: Constitutional Convention and Ratification

All teachers interested need to apply at the FFVF website: <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/teachers/2022-programs/>

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**SPOTLIGHT**

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**Stephen Pike**

Please join the 2022 Board in thanking our outgoing Presidents for all their service and dedication to our Chattanooga Chapter! Their steadfast support of and belief in the values and goals of Freedom's Foundation helped shepherd us through this past two years. Well done, gentlemen!



**Lebron Sterchi**



**FREEDOMS**  
F O U N D A T I O N  
at VALLEY FORGE



**Chattanooga Chapter Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
Membership Application**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail Annual Dues to  
Valerie Copeland Rutledge, FFVF Chattanooga Chapter Treasurer  
P. O. Box 21443  
Chattanooga, TN 37424

Dues are \$25 per member per year, January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022

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Check below if you would like to serve on a particular committee:

Awards \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
Education \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_  
Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_  
Ways & Means \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Please note) \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks/Suggestions are Welcome

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