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Los Angeles County Chapter

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

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Editor – Tanya Caligiuri

April 2022

## Across The President's Desk

Dear Members,

I am so proud to be member of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge – Los Angeles County Chapter – at this time – more than ever, and I'm sure you are too! Our city, state, country – and world need us – more than ever – to be promoting and supporting the values and principles on which our great United States of America was founded. The good news is – we are an active, enthusiastic Board that is carrying out this important mission.



Students, their families and teachers are hungry to learn about the importance of the Constitution and what it stands for. During this time, more students are being home-schooled, so we want to be reaching out to them, as well. We have home-schooled students going on the trip, too.

Our Chapter is raring to go and envisioning helping students achieve and excel. Our first introductory event of the year is scheduled in April. Rosie Castro is hosting the event.

### Social Media

Our website is getting energized and will be including information about what we're doing and how to get involved. We're wanting to attract more members including younger people to bring in new vitality and ideas.

### Corporate Sponsorships

With corporate sponsors, we can reach out to more students and teachers. We are approaching corporations to have them be a part of our scholarship program for students and teachers.

### Alumni Picnic

This is in the works for June. It's a great opportunity for past Valley Forge students and teachers to share their benefits and experiences. Interested students and parents are encouraged to come to the picnic to learn – and have fun! Details will be forthcoming.

In closing, this is our time to really help get the Freedoms Foundation message across! As David Harmer, Chief Executive Office of Freedoms Foundation, wrote in his February email:

**A More Perfect Union:** *“In these times of division and discord, polarization and partisanship, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge focuses on what unites us as Americans: our founding ideals, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, and as pursued, however imperfectly, from the Revolution through the present day. We educate students and teachers about the rights and corresponding responsibilities of American citizenship, including the civility and mutual respect that must characterize fellow citizens in a free Republic. We envision an America where the rising generation loves their country and understands, appreciates, and defends its founding ideals...”*

It couldn't be said any better than David Harmer did. Let's continue to make our vision an even greater reality!

Trish Bowe  
President



**Welcome New  
Members**

**Charlotte Gibson**

**Delilah Gimenez**

**Joann Gottlieb**

**Jacqueline King**

**Calendar**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

General Meeting  
With Our Students  
Maggiano's

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Ronald Reagan Library  
Luncheon  
Followed by a Tour  
of the  
World War II Exhibit



**In Memoriam**

**Marian Hope**

**Marilyn Sherrill**

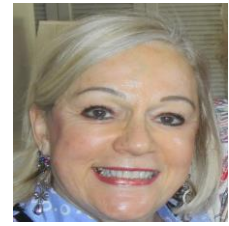
**Jean Warner**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Noel Luncheon  
Peninsula Hotel  
Beverly Hills



## Past President's Message



Hello, Everyone, and welcome back to life as it used to be! Over the past almost-three years the world had an experience that kept us out of touch. However, things seem to be on the move, and we are so happy to be getting together again for our meetings and events.

Our last *Westwinds* was published in June 2019, and a lot has happened in those almost-three years since.

In July 2019 Rosemary Licata and Beatrice Restifo arranged for another wonderful luncheon at the Reagan Library, and an open tour of the Da Vinci exhibit. We were able to have three Board meetings, and had our always-fabulous Noel Luncheon at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills (again thanks to Rosemary and Beatrice) with our special guest Jason Raia, Executive Vice President from headquarters in Valley Forge.

As Covid-19 crept into society, we were not able to have our fundraiser at Lakeside Country Club in October.

In March 2020 we were able to attend a dinner for our students and parents at the Santa Monica Catholic School. During the year we had five in-person Board meetings, and three Board meetings via Zoom. As the year progressed, sadly we were not able to have an Awards luncheon, a luncheon with the students, a fundraiser, no fun field trips, and no Noel Luncheon.

In 2021 we had two in-person Board meetings and three via Zoom. Happily we were able to have our fundraiser in October at The Oaks at Lakeside in Encino, put on by Wendy Dio and her great crew. We all dressed up in our best western wear. Also attending were special guests Jason Raia and actress Ruta Lee.

It was so wonderful to enjoy again the beautiful Noel Luncheon at the Peninsula Hotel – this year our special guests were David Harmer, President and CEO from Valley Forge, and his lovely wife, Elayne. In addition, we awarded eight George Washington Honor Medals from Freedoms Foundation, and a special award certificate from our chapter to our member Ernie Cowell, who among other things has been in four different wars.

Two chapter updates were instituted: We adopted the new set of Standing Rules and By-Laws from headquarters in Valley Forge, and we changed our fiscal year to January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. as requested by Valley Forge.

Another activity that we were unable to do during at this time was to send students back to Valley Forge. However, there are plans to send 30 to VF this year.

At last - 2022 is here! We are excited to welcome our new President, Trish Bowe, who will get us back into our original routines of meetings and events.

The best to everyone – and stay well!

Tanya Caligiuri  
Past President



**Fundraiser  
The Oaks at Lakeside  
October 3, 2021**









**Noel Brunch  
Peninsula Hotel  
December 12, 2021**











**Wendy Dio at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin TX, where she displayed film footage of her late husband, Ronnie James Dio.**

**Ronnie fronted the rock bands Rainbow, Black Sabbath and Dio.**

**A documentary of his life is in the works.**