



EDUCATE HONOR CHALLENGE

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

I hope this email finds you enjoying the start of the Fall Season. It seems like summer is a distant memory as we prepare for several fall programs in October and November including 3 Spirit of America Programs and a History Encounters program with St. John of the Cross from San Diego. Along with running programs, the staff is currently focused on the preparations for the 2023 season, putting together the end of the year annual appeal, and hosting both a donor appreciation breakfast and fall open house for local teachers.

After the decision to move our annual chapters and partners conference to a virtual event, we have been focused on creating an informative and productive experience. We have some great sessions lined up and I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to learn and share ideas during these opportunities. The schedule with registration links is listed below. You may register up to 30 minutes prior to the start of each meeting. Please share with all of your members. We look to have strong participation from the chapters.

Thursday, October 6

Noon

Welcome and Virtual Conference Overview

Presented by Carolyn Santangelo, Sr. Director of Chapter & Partner Relations

State of the Foundation Address from David Harmer, CEO

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uduyvrTouGdZYlfBNnM9Qeu1cS7YbyS59>

3:00 PM

The Future of FFVF Education Programs

Presented by Dr. Jeff Scott, Vice President of Education and Deepak Bhagat, Associate Director of Education

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlVf-itqD8tGtC3Hj8TLO0Bq3Am7nsl5mwz>

Friday, October 7

11:00 AM

Fundraising, Finances, and Fiscal Responsibility

Part I – New Stewardship Guidelines for Chapter Financials presented by Jon Nehlsen, Freedoms Foundation Board Treasurer

Part II - How to raise money to fund your chapter - An open discussion of best practices led by Carolyn Santangelo, Sr. Director of Chapter & Partner Relations.

Part III – How Can the Chapters Work with Headquarters to Support National Fundraising Goals presented by Jack Wyman, Vice President of Advancement

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrceapqD0uE9LpvTjl_QCEAhEuseNX7GT-

Saturday, October 8

**11:00 AM Coast to Coast Brunch - Bring your coffee, bagels, and best ideas
75th Anniversary Celebration Planning Session**

Led by Jason Raia, COO and Carolyn Santangelo, Sr. Director of Chapter & Partner Relations.

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdOGoz8tHtYIOkfURtWWfxDVCZGe9jHe>

By now, I trust you have all had a chance to visit the new website. We are very pleased with the new site and have received a lot of positive feedback. We want to keep the website new and fresh. You can help us by providing updates for your webpage including details for upcoming events, pictures, newsletters, student information, and anything you want to show off to the world. All updates and changes can be sent directly to me at csantangelo@ffvf.org.

The Spring 2023 Spirit of America programs are filling up nicely. The March 9-12 and April 20-23 are almost full. We still have spaces available for March 2-5 and April 13-16. If your chapter has not reserved your spots, please do so soon. In regards to Spirit of America, we now have a new and improved online student registration process. The online registration forms are to be completed by the students who you have selected to attend. We will provide you with a direct link to your program date's forms that you can share with your students.

If you have used our registration forms in the past as part of your student application process, we have created a template application that you are free to use. The template is attached to this email. It was recently created for the Mary Ball Washington Chapter, but the form can be customized to fit your chapter's needs including logo, essay topic, deadline dates, reference requirements, etc.. Please feel free to make the changes directly or send notes to me so that I may update for you. More details on the registration process and Spirit of America logistics will be covered during the education session on Thursday, October 6th at 3pm ET. Be sure to register with the link above.

I am happy to share some good news updates with you.

- At the 77th annual AMVETS National Convention, AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary presented Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge with a check for **\$86,615**. The funds were part of the AMVETS Auxiliary National President's Project and Americanism Campaigns to raise money to replace the windows in the MacArthur building, **THANK YOU AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY AND NATIONAL PRESIDENT JOAN SIREK.**
- This summer along with conducting successful teacher programs, we also had a very successful Joshua Chamberlain League (JCL) Membership drive. Ninety percent of teachers attending this summer joined the JCL totaling nearly \$19,000 in donations. All funds received through membership are used to pay it forward in the form of teacher scholarships for 2023. **THANK YOU JCL MEMBERS.**

- The Los Angeles County Chapter at their most recent board meeting voted to send headquarters a contribution of \$10,000 to support our efforts in remaining an independent organization after the end of merger discussions. **THANK YOU LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHAPTER.**

The generous support of our chapters, partners, and alumni make us a stronger organization, and we thank all of you for your continued efforts on our behalf.

I always like to leave you with a short mission based video. This time around we call upon our friend, MSG Leroy Petry, Medal of Honor Recipient and current President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, to deliver some inspirational words from his presentation to the teachers at this year's Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror Seminar. His message here is important for our students to hear just as much as our teachers. A good lesson for all.

MSG Leroy Petry - [Click Here](#)

Thank you again for all you do for Freedoms Foundation. I really hope that I see all of you next week during our Zoom sessions. It's important that we gather together to hear about our foundation's future and how you will play a vital role in that future.

In the meantime, be safe, stay healthy, and take care.

Carolyn E. Santangelo

Senior Director of Chapter and Partner Relations
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
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Educate
Honor
Challenge