



Los Angeles Founding Chapter

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

Editor – Tanya Caligiuri

December 2022

Across The President's Desk

Dear Members,

2022 was quite a year for our Chapter!

We had some challenges – and we had some fun!

COVID continued to affect our lives – going from a near-lockdown, only being able to communicate via Zoom, phone calls and emails – to getting together for events in October and December (no masks!) and changing the name to the Los Angeles Founding Chapter!

Reviewing some of the year's high points.

April – We had a well-attended student orientation for the students, parents and chaperones, before they headed off to Valley Forge. It was a delicious pizza and salad buffet that everyone enjoyed. For the first time in the history of the Los Angeles Founding Chapter, we sent a group of 29 students and 5 chaperones to Valley Forge for the four-day residential Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program. The students (and our chaperones) came back with lots of new-found knowledge. Our able-bodied Chair David Gibson and Co-Chairs Marilee Hawkins and Rosie Castro were responsible for the successful student trip to Valley Forge in Philadelphia.

May/June – The Students Luncheon at Maggiano's planned in early May shortly after the Valley Forge trip needed to be postponed until June 2 – and a good, healthy time was had by all!

October – We had an astoundingly entertaining and successful fundraiser at Whiskey A Go-Go for our student and teacher scholarships (due to the outstanding array of auction items and Auctioneer Leonore Deshong). Compliments to Chair Wendy Dio, her daughter Delilah, and her Committee who created this fabulous event.



Everyone dressed the part, including poodle skirts, saddle shoes, ponytails – and a guest appearance by Elvis!! Shirley Bradley, Board member, caught his scarf which he tossed to the swooning audience, among our other ladies who attended. It was great fun!

December – The Noel Luncheon was wonderful, in so many ways. At the luncheon we announced our Chapter's new name: Los Angeles Founding Chapter. Chairs Rosemary Licata and Beatrice Restifo did an outstanding job. Many members and guests attended and we received well over \$6,000 in donations.

We also presented the National FFVF George Washington Honor Medal to Kristin Muhl of the Foster Children Resource Center in Northridge, and to Dr. Coley King of the Family Clinic, who drives a van every day thru the streets where the homeless live to treat them.

2022 is behind us now...

In 2023 we are looking forward to a new year of our Chapter's creating opportunities for more high school students to learn about our principles of freedom and the people and ideas that shaped our great country.

Many thanks to you, Los Angeles Founding Chapter Board members, members and friends. Please think of others who value our mission and invite them to learn about us, and possibly become members to help continue our Legacy.

Here's to a great 2023!

All the best to you and your families for a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Trish Bowe
President



Our Students

We are excited to announce that plans are well underway to send 30 high school juniors, along with 6 chaperones, to Freedoms Foundation 2023 Spirit of America Youth Leadership program.

We will depart on Thursday, April 20, and return on Sunday, April 23.

Our student interviews at various schools will take place in January and February. Each student selected will also participate in Freedoms Foundation Youth Essay program as well.

Stay tuned for additional updates in the coming months.

David Gibson
VP, Education



In Memoriam

Ernest Cowell

Sarah Muller-Chernoff

A Note from Member Marilee Hawkins

I am enclosing a letter that my nephew wrote to his father after his tours of duty in Iraq. I'm so proud of him. Now retired, he is with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Dad,

I am perplexed by the fact that everyone wants me to try to get out of this. Don't take this wrong, but what does everyone think I have been doing for the past 17 years?

On 17 November 1989, I raised my right hand and swore an oath to protect my country against all enemies - both foreign and domestic. The same oath taken by my father and my grandfather before me.

There is not a day that has gone by that I have not thought of my commitment. My country is asking for me, and now is my chance to step up to the plate. It is inconceivable to me that I would try to shirk my duty.

Our freedom is a privilege. Maybe if I can give freedom to just one person, I will secure freedom for me and my family.

Best Regards,
Kevin



Students of 2022



**Fundraiser at Whiskey a Go Go
With Elvis**





Noel Brunch Peninsula Hotel







2022 Board of Directors



Diane Deshong and Jason Raia



Wendy Dio, Diane Deshong, and the view of Santa Monica, Malibu and the Pacific Ocean during a Board meeting

