



## EDUCATE HONOR CHALLENGE

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Can you believe its November already? The year has flown by and in the blink of an eye the holiday season is upon us. We are wrapping up our programs with the final Spirit of America this weekend sponsored by AMVETS and we will have St. John of the Cross Elementary from San Diego, California arriving on November 14<sup>th</sup> for a week long program. Even though the on campus programs are coming to a close for 2022, we are in full preparation mode for 2023 as are many of you. Keep checking your emails for updates on summer teacher programs and other new initiatives from the education team.

The primary focus of this update is to bring you some staffing updates. I am excited to introduce you to two new team members at the national office. This is their first week and they are enjoying sitting in on their first Spirit of America Program.

Joining the education team is Staci Bell. Staci is our Education Program Manager. She will be working with our teachers on the application and registration process for summer graduate programs and coordinating our schools for History Encounters, while offering general support to the education department. Staci is a Pennsylvania native and attended Kutztown University where she studied Art Education. She has two children and spends much of her free time making meals and baking treats for friends. You can reach Staci at ext. 231 or [sbell@ffvf.org](mailto:sbell@ffvf.org).

Joining the advancement team is Lara Forgy Kennedy. Lara comes on board as the Advancement Manager. She will be handling our annual fund mailings and donor relations, along with supporting the overall advancement team. Lara is a professional classical singer, and completed a performance residency at St. Paul's cathedral in London this past summer. Lara can be reached at ext. 271 or [lkennedy@ffvf.org](mailto:lkennedy@ffvf.org).

All of us at headquarters are happy to have Staci and Lara on board. However, with these new additions, we also must announce we are saying goodbye to team member Collin McClain. Collin has accepted a position at Fidelity Investments and will be moving to Utah with his family. His last day will be November 17<sup>th</sup>. While he is sad to leave his Freedoms Foundation family here in Valley Forge, he is looking forward to the new opportunity and is excited to find ways to become more involved with the Utah chapter. We will all miss Collin, but wish him and his family all the best on this next chapter.

Other items of note...

- National Awards materials are being sent out over the next few weeks. It took longer than usual to get all the award pieces, but everything is in place now and ready to be sent to chapters for upcoming ceremonies. We have several ceremonies in November and December and look forward to pictures and full reports.
- It is that time of year again, where we will be sending yearend reports. Please be on the lookout for the financial and year-in-review forms coming to you and your treasurers via email and mail later this month. We will also be conducting a treasurers' Zoom call in

December to review the financials and go over any questions or concerns. All treasurers and presidents will be invited to attend.

- Remember as you conduct fall and holiday activities send us pictures and updates that we can share on your webpages. Also send us information on any upcoming events so we can post them online. Please note we are able to link to registration forms and PayPal accounts from your webpages.

I usually like to share a good mission video with you in the updates, but I am changing things up today. I am sharing some before and after photos of our beloved George Washington in Prayer statue. He recently had a facelift thanks to the Pennsylvania Freemasons who gifted the statue to the Foundation in 1967. The statue was in need of a good restoration. As you can see through the photos below, the end result is stunning. You can read more about the restoration by [clicking here](#) for the latest newsletter of the Masons. We hope all of you will consider visiting soon to see the transformation in person.



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



Thank you again for all you do for Freedoms Foundation especially when it comes to the students. As you gather applications and conduct interviews over the next several months, please know your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by many and will have a lasting impact for generations.

If headquarters can be of any service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be safe, stay healthy, and take care.

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

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**Educate**  
**Honor**  
**Challenge**