



Los Angeles Founding Chapter

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

Editor – Tanya Caligiuri

June 2023

Across The President's Desk

Dear Los Angeles Founding Chapter Members,

I just blinked – and six busy event-filled months have passed! Wasn't last week still December 2022?!

No doubt, we're relieved that COVID is all but behind us that allows us to get on with our business – more than ever – full steam ahead!



Here's a quick review since December 2022...

- **December 18, 2022**

Annual Noel Holiday Luncheon at the Peninsula Hotel, Beverly Hills

Rosemary Licata and Bea Restifo produced a wonderful event that included a wine reception, luncheon, and fabulously elegant boutique along with a Christmas musical program.

2023

- **March 19**

Nostalgia Event at the Valley Relics Museum, Van Nuys

Wow, the event committee, Wendy Dio and Delilah Gimenez, created a fabulous, fundraising event! We had many guests, including Jason Raia, Chief Operating Officer from Valley Forge. From the museum's website, *"Our one of a kind pop culture museum features neon signs, classic cars, rare documents, yearbooks, restaurant menus, art, western clothing, vintage BMX bicycles, a playable retro arcade and much more!"* Everyone was decked out in fashions and enjoyed food from the 1930's to 1950's!

- **April 16**

Students Orientation, Brookdale Ocean House, Santa Monica

Rosie Castro hosted this late afternoon dinner orientation event that was well-attended by students, parents, chaperones, teachers and Freedoms Foundation board members. There was an abundance of enthusiasm among all who had been awarded the scholarships who were going to Valley Forge the following week for their Spirit of America program.

- **May 4**

Students Awards Luncheon, St. Monica's Parish Community Auditorium, Santa Monica

Thirty-six students, parents and chaperones along with our Los Angeles Founding Chapter members were guests at the luncheon organized by Rosie Castro and committee. Eight George Washington Honor of Medal Awards were announced. Plans are already in the works for 2024 Scholarship Program.

- **May 10**

Partnership with Union League Legacy Foundation announced.

We're looking forward to this being positive for the Freedoms Foundation organization and our Los Angeles Founding Chapter. We will be keeping our chapter posted as we learn more.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2023 and then 2024...

2023

- **June 12 -- White Elephant Fund Raiser**
- **Summer TBA -- Alumni Picnic**

2024

- **October -- 75th Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
Downtown Jonathan Club Benefit**

The Los Angeles Founding Chapter thrives because of you, our members and member volunteers who are so deeply committed! Thank you for ALL of your time, effort and donations.

Let's continue supporting the Freedoms Foundation values by introducing more people and growing our membership!

Trish Bowe
President





2023 Board of Directors



**Welcome
New Members**

Alec Gaska

Holly Hicks

Karlene Taylor

Talitha Wegner



In Memoriam

Jacque Heebner

Joyce Skinner

Our Students

123 essays were submitted nationwide. 36 students were awarded the George Washington Gold Medals for their essays. Eight of our students received the George Washington Gold Medal for their essay submission.

Trish formed a committee to read the eight essays, and they selected the top three. Each of these students will receive a \$500 scholarship. These students are Annie Cai from Abraham Lincoln HS, Jillian Leary from Pacifica Christian HS, and Alessia Lavardo from La Reina Catholic HS.

We're already planning for next year's Spirit of America Program and anticipate that our chapter will sponsor students for the March 7-10, 2024 session. This will give us adequate time to put together the Awards Luncheon in late March or during the month of April, thus avoiding AP seminars and exams and final exams in May.

David Gibson
VP, Education



Fundraiser at the Valley Relics Museum

The Los Angeles County Chapter took a step back in time with a nostalgic fundraising event at the Valley Relics Museum. The event was a trip down memory lane with vintage pinball machines, retro-inspired décor, and relics from around the Los Angeles San Fernando Valley. Attendees dressed in their favorite throwback attire while enjoying delicious food and placing bids on exclusive auction items. Like Valley Forge and Freedoms Foundation, the Valley Relics Museum is a true treasure. Ways and Means VP Wendy Dio organized this successful fundraiser to help support sending students to Spirit of America and honoring patriots and friends.



