



Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Program season is in full force. We had our first chapter sponsored Spirit of America group in last weekend. The group was 100 plus strong. The Spirit of America program was immediately followed with 40 plus 8<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Therese Academy for a History Encounters Program. They will be leaving on Sunday and Monday we welcome 100 plus 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Paradise Canyon Elementary for another History Encounters Program. If things weren't busy enough in Valley Forge, on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Founding Forward will be conducting its first Good Citizen Day Program at the Union League with 200 plus students from the Philadelphia area for a one-day program on civic engagement. It feels great to be so busy and impacting so many students.

Teacher acceptances have gone out for the summer programs and the response has been tremendous. Our *Freedom, Opportunity and History of Immigration* Program has already reached capacity and others are close. You may have received an email(s) from teachers in your area looking for assistance with travel to Philadelphia for one of these programs. The education team was inundated with requests for assistance with travel stipends from teachers. We do not have money available for stipends this year, so we encouraged teachers to reach out to their local communities, schools, civic organizations, and local chapter if they are near one. You should not feel pressure to assist teachers with travel stipends. If you can assist that is wonderful, but if it's not in your yearly budget you are free to say sorry, we cannot help this year. I also highly recommend that if you do assist a teacher, you ask for their support in other ways such as help in recruiting students for Spirit of America, joining the chapter, or offering other forms of support and promotion of your programming.

Many of you had some big events in February and March. I am preparing the Spring Chapter E-News and would love to share photos and information about your events. Please send materials to me at [csantangelo@ffvf.org](mailto:csantangelo@ffvf.org). Even if the event was small, like a student Spirit of America airport send off, please send me information so that can be included. This is your chance to highlight your programs and share your successes with other chapters. Please send all materials to me by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for all the essay submissions for March 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a record number of entries. All the essays are currently being reviewed and we will be able to share with you the winners from your chapter in early April. Thank you again for your continued support of the student essay program.

This has been a winter of change. Thank you for your patience and support as we transition to Founding Forward. It will take some time to fully change over. I still answer the phone with Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and then I remember to say now



Founding Forward. As we continue this transition, I ask that for all upcoming events, please be sure to start using the Founding Forward logo for your chapter. We are currently working on getting each chapter a set of podium signs that you can display at events. We are also working on a Founding Forward swag order form. You will be able to order merchandise right from us like pins, pens, pocket Constitutions, and more. Each chapter president was sent a goody bag with some items. If anything caught your eye or if you need something before the order form comes out, please let me know. Attached is a PDF copy of the new Founding Forward brochure. Please use and share as needed.

Along with signage and use of your new chapter logo, we also ask that if you are looking to show a video at any of your upcoming functions, please use either the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video or the new Founding Forward video. You can find both videos on YouTube and through the links below. If you need these sent directly to you as an MP4 file, let me know and we can send via WeTransfer.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video – [Click Here](#)  
Founding Forward Video – [Click Here](#)

Some reminders....

- Send in your member rosters. We want to be able to communicate important information to all our members with the latest news.
- The National Award deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be here before you know it. Be looking for worthy candidates.
- If you have an upcoming event, please let us know. David Harmer and John Meko are out visiting chapters and want to see you.

Finally, we skipped our quarterly Presidents call in March since we had so many zooms in the first part of the year. We are looking to have our next meeting on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm ET. We will update you on all things happening with Founding Forward and allow for a lot of questions and answers to help address any concerns with the changes to Founding Forward. Below is the link and meeting information. An agenda for the meeting will be sent as the date approaches. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Topic: Chapter Presidents Meeting  
Time: Apr 10, 2024, 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84041563622?pwd=VXFueXlhbUF3Qk4rdzg1UklBclRFdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 4156 3622



Passcode: 492067

Wishing you all a safe start to Spring and success with all your upcoming programs and events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need any materials.

Be well and stay safe.

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