



Chapter Presidents Zoom Call December 8, 2021 | 2 pm ET

Chapters Represented –Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Pensacola, Sacramento, Utah, and Valley Forge

Special Guest – Sandy Cook, Chair of the Chapter & Partners Relation Committee of the National Board of Directors

Welcome

Carolyn thanked everyone who was able to join in on the call. It is a busy time of year and we appreciate you giving us some of your time to discuss the happenings at headquarters and in the chapters as we prepare for a successful 2022.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Updates from Headquarters

The COVID protocol established in September will remain in effect for 2022. All overnight participants 12 and older will need to provide proof of vaccination to attend a program. All participants under 12 will have to provide a negative COVID test 48 hours prior to arrival. This policy is in place to help ensure the safety and security of our participants who travel from all parts of the country. Carolyn thanked all who might not agree with the policy, but who are still working hard to select students and teachers to attend this spring and summer. We appreciate everyone's support on this matter. We will continue to revisit this policy as we move forward.

Phil from Dallas asked if chapters should notify teachers who are helping find the students about this policy. Yes, be upfront with all your contacts about the policy so they can better assist you in student selection process.

The National Board had an in-person meeting in November. This was the first time the board was able to meet face to face since 2019. The meeting took place over 2 days and included the board meeting and strategic planning sessions led by American Philanthropic. During the board meeting all staff members were introduced and the newest staff members gave reports. There was also an update on the status of the campus master plan. Phase I of the plan involving the connection to public sewer which has been on time and on budget has now fallen behind and gone over budget due to supply chain issues and other unforeseen issues such as the replacement of a sewer pipe behind the Martha Washington Building. We still hope to have this project completed by the time students arrive in February, but there is a good chance that the project will still be ongoing at that time. Carolyn reported that work has continued and they are behind the Martha Washington building right now digging up and replacing pipe. There was also a discussion about the proposed Phase II of the campus master plan which would be to upgrade the downstairs of the Martha Washington Building to include state of the art classroom space. The space would be larger with more break out rooms. This project would also include an upgrade to the heating and cooling systems plus electrical system. Finally the board

meeting included presentations by the various board committees. This board is a very active board. They are engaged to help support the mission, staff, and chapter members. The board committees include: Campus & Facilities which is currently overseeing the campus master plan; Finance & Audit which handles the Foundation's financials, budget, investments and yearly audit; Chapters & Partners which works with you our chapters and fellow partner organizations that support students and teachers; Programs which is a new committee working on improving our programs both with content and overall experience for participants; and finally the Personnel Committee which oversees the CEO and board. All committees made presentations on their goals and expectations for the upcoming year.

The board participated in a two day strategic planning session led by American Philanthropic. The sessions were meant to discuss the Foundation's future and how it can make the largest impact in today's climate. More details on this meeting will be shared as the process continues.

Carolyn asked Sandy Cook of the national board for comments on the board meeting. Sandy asked each chapter president to ask their treasurers to attend the first meeting of the chapter treasurers on Monday, December 13th. Future plans include have a treasurers' meeting twice a year to help new treasurers and share best practices.

Education Updates

Online registrations are open for all Spirit of America dates. The forms have been updated to allow students to upload their vaccination card. We ask that each chapter please send to Carolyn and/or Kate McAndrew your final list of students so that we can compare to the list of those registered.

The new programs committee of the board, in discussing ways to improve the Spirit of America program, is considering an earlier start time for the program on Thursday. This would mean a red-eye flight for west coast chapters. The committee asked that we poll presidents at today's meeting about the idea of the earlier start time. Carolyn opened the floor for discussion.

- The question was asked about what time you would now start the program. We are thinking around 4pm or 5pm instead of 7pm. If students arrive at the airport by 3pm, are on campus by 4pm, and starting at 5pm will help enhance the program greatly.
- Tanya of the Los Angeles Chapter asked when do LA students arrive now? Right now it's like 4/4:30pm. The Los Angeles Chapter does not think the earlier time would work for them.
- Emily from Sacramento said that the Sacramento Chapter has taken the red-eye the last couple of years prior to the pandemic. They arrived early did some touring in Philadelphia then got to campus in plenty of time for the students to take a quick nap and be ready to go right from the start. It has worked really well for them. She believes that they get about the same amount of sleep taking the red eye which leaves at 10pm or 11pm as compared to being at the airport at 4am to travel throughout the day. She is for moving forward with this idea.
- The questions was asked again about what time do West Coast students arrive? They arrive around 4pm, but arrive at the worst time so they don't get to campus until right at 7pm or later. Throwing their whole night off.
- Utah asked Sacramento about the time of flights. Utah is interested in the idea of taking the red-eye.

- Overall the chapters expressed wanting to learn more and are open to the possibility.

The earlier start time is just an idea that is in the early exploratory stage. We will keep you updated. Thank you for your input.

Graduate Programs - We will be opening up the application process for summer 2022 on December 20th. Teachers will be notified of their acceptance into a program beginning on February 28, 2022. Here is a list of the 2022 Summer Programs

- June 19-24 – First Amendment Seminar
- June 26-July 1 – Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror
- July 2-7 – American Revolution North (Traveling through PA, NJ, NY, and Boston)
- July 24-29 – Medal of Honor Legacy: World War II
- July 31-August 5 – Constitutional Convention and Ratification. This program is led by Dr. Allen Guelzo. If you attended the last Chapter and Partners Conference you will remember he spoke to the group about the 10 things everyone should know about American History.

All the dates are now on our website. We have scholarships. We ask chapters to help find teachers and if you can help teachers with travel expenses.

Marty from the Utah Chapter announced that the Utah chapter is submitting for a one time grant to the Utah state legislature for \$125,000 to fund teachers to attend the summer programs. It looks like this will go through. Congratulations to the Utah Chapter this is great news

Emily of Sacramento asked about the process for teachers and scholarships. Headquarters does provide scholarships to teachers and we ask chapters to help us find teachers and assist those teachers with travel stipends. We do not ask the chapters to provide scholarships to the teacher program because we know that money is tight for many chapters and they focus on bringing as many students as possible. However, if a chapter, like Utah, is able to support the teachers with tuition that is always welcome and helps headquarters with covering scholarship expenses.

Marty from Utah asked about updating numbers for Spirit of America. When does headquarters need those new numbers? January would be fine for updated numbers.

Awards Update

Everyone should have their list of recipients. National Award Ceremonies are taking place already. The Dallas Chapter held their awards dinner on November 8th and the Los Angeles Chapter is preparing to honor their recipients at their Noel Luncheon on December 12th. Carolyn noted that she has several dates for 2022 ceremonies and if you have not submitted your date, please send it to her so that she can make sure to have all the materials to your Awards VP in plenty of time and have correctly dated certificates.

Please note that in 2022 we will be returning to a June 1st deadline for submissions. It makes it easier for judges to review entries throughout the summer and gives chapters conducting a November awards ceremony more time to prepare and notify their winners. The website is now open for entries. You can submit at any time now for June 1st.

Marty from Utah brought up the submission of youth essays. Because of COVID, the Utah Chapter found great success in presenting the essay winners their awards at their schools'

yearend award assemblies. It gave great exposure to Freedoms Foundation and the Spirit of America Program. Student essay winners in the past have been honored well after they have written their essays and forget they even participated. Making a different timeline and deadline date for the youth essays could be beneficial to all chapters who participate and use the essay to help select students. Carolyn stated that she is going to look into a different timeline for essays to make it easier for chapters to honor their students in a timely manner.

Year End Reports

The yearend financial reports went out last week. Hopefully everyone has both the email copy and hard copy. Reports are due February 1st. As mentioned by Sandy Cook earlier, we will have a meeting for all treasurers on Monday at 2pm. When submitting your yearend reports, remember to include rosters both for membership and officers. The rosters are vital so that we can communicate with all chapter members especially via email. Finally remember the activities report and goals for 2022.

Other News and Notes

Freedoms Foundation is excited to announce a yearend matching gift challenge up to \$75,000 thanks to former Utah Chapter President and former National Board Chair, William Perry. To date we have \$15,750 in hand with some additional pledges. The campaign just kicked off on Giving Tuesday and we are encouraged by the support already.

Update on the Medal of Honor Grove. We know many of you and your chapter members are interested in the Medal of Honor Grove and we haven't given an update on things in the Grove recently. The Grove has been busy. This Saturday is the annual wreaths across the grove. Individuals can sponsor a wreath to be placed at a particular acre. The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove just finished a pole barn/education center on the helipad in the Grove. It will hold their equipment and be a place where volunteers can meet. There is a gazebo being built on the Pennsylvania acre and new signs have been installed talking about the various plants and tree life along with information on the Medal of Honor.

We are excited to announce that in 2022 we will hold a Chapters and Partners Conference. Mark your calendar now for October 6-9, 2022. Theme, topics to be discussed, and excursions are still to be determined. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know. We will be sharing more details and information on how to register in early 2022.

Chapter Input – Open Floor

Sandy Cook made a plug for the west coast chapters to come visit in October because the fall colors are amazing.

Carolyn welcomed Greg from the Valley Forge Chapter. He is a new president and we are glad he is able to join us today.

Phil from Dallas Chapter announced that the Dallas Chapter will be holding their annual fundraiser on George Washington's birthday. The keynote speaker will be Scott Stephenson, the President/CEO of the Museum of the American Revolution.

With no further questions, Carolyn wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone for joining and for all their hard work in 2021. It was great to see activity return in the end of 2021 and we are excited to see all that will happen in 2022. Happy Holidays to all.

Meeting Recording Link -

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SvdK0qWzJrK_R-LBcbHNc_dWZc8Rtr2wAhhmeC51-JqjJJuPJpnpBAIYH3s0ZgO.9Hrz7Z7DT8Dl5kDy?startTime=1638990283000

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9th at 2PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81240653898?pwd=Vm1rOXBTnROOG1LL1kwQmQweUpxUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 4065 3898

Passcode: FFVF1601

2022 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, March 9th at 2PM ET – Zoom

Wednesday, June 8th at 2PM ET – Zoom

October 6-9, 2022 – In Person Chapter and Partners Conference

Wednesday, December 14th at 2PM ET - Zoom