

Volunteer Chapters Newsletter

September 2018

Greetings!

In this issue:

[National Conference](#)

[National Awards](#)

[2019 Youth Essay Topic](#)

[Oklahoma City Chapter](#)

[Pensacola Chapter](#)

[Chapter Newsletters](#)

[Chapter Happenings](#)

[Treasurer's Chest: Fundraising Ideas](#)



National Chapters & Partners Conference

September 13 - 16, 2018



Thank you for all who attended! We welcomed 28 volunteers from 11 chapters and four partnering organizations to campus on Sept. 13-16.

This was the 50th annual gathering for chapters and marked the first time Freedoms Foundation's partnering organizations were invited. The hope was to spark collaboration and the sharing of ideas on communications, fund-raising and student recruitment. The partners in attendance

were AMVETS, the Knights of Columbus, National Sojourners and Ruritan National.

The weekend kicked off Friday morning with a State of the Foundation address by President and CEO David Harmer. A bus trip to Philadelphia followed, with lunch at City Tavern and a private tour of the Union League's art collection.

The sessions on campus Saturday covered communications, fund-raising and "friend-raising," and finding students for the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program. Five members of Freedoms Foundation's Board of Directors spoke to the group.

The Red, White, and Blue Banquet on Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend, with awards both light-hearted and heartfelt presented:

Utah was named **2018 Chapter of the Year**, with Dennis Randall accepting on behalf

of the chapter.

The **William O. Perry Volunteer of the Year Award** went to **Virginia Syverson** of the San Diego Chapter.

The **Spirit of 76 American Patriot of the Year Award** went to **Bob Stevens** from the Greater Cincinnati Chapter.

The fun prizes:

- **Yvonne Serrano** of Broward County Chapter and **John Grout** of New Orleans Chapter for Best Dressed: Red, White and Blue.
- **Larry Brasher** of Sacramento Chapter took home Most Likely to 'Run' an Event Without Prior Experience (Sacramento is sponsoring its first 5K fun).
- **Tanya Caligiuri** of Los Angeles County Chapter - who gave away red, white and blue wrist bands all weekend - was declared Most Likely to Be a Patriotic Entrepreneur in Her Spare Time.
- **David Thompson** from Ruritan National won Most Likely to Sponsor More Students in 2019 (the group hopes to restart sending students next year).
- **Molly Wehrenberg** of Oklahoma City Chapter - renowned for her networking skills - was deemed "Most Likely to Know Someone Who Knows Someone."
- The "Unexpected Upset" went to Friday night's Cowboys trivia team, which included **Dennis Randall** of Utah, **Shirley Smith** of Dallas, **Virginia Syverson** of San Diego, **David Thompson** of Ruritan National, and **Theresa Bradley** of Cincinnati.

The weekend culminated with a chapel service organized by the attendees. It included patriotic readings and songs like "God Bless America."

[See pictures here!](#)



National Awards

Nomination Deadline: October 1

[Nominate your local community leaders today!](#) Deadline is Monday, October 1.



[2018 Youth Essay Contest Topic](#)

2019 Student Essay Topic

And the topic is...

How does being a productive member of society help to strengthen the nation?

[2019 Youth Essay Nomination Form](#)

The 2019 topic is based on the 4th Bill of Responsibility: "To do our best to meet our own and our families needs. There is no personal freedom without economic freedom. By helping ourselves and those closest to us to become productive members of society, we contribute to the strengthen of the nation."

Oklahoma City Chapter

Spirit of America Scholarship Dinner

On September 11, the Oklahoma City Chapter hosted a 200 person dinner at the Oklahoma Christian University: Spirit of America Scholarship dinner. The chapter welcomed not only President & CEO, David Harmer but also their keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Allen B. West (ret.). The goal of the evening was to raise funds for student scholarships to attend Spirit of America in 2019 while spreading the mission of Freedoms Foundation to educate, honor, and challenge. The evening was a great success! See more pictures [here!](#)



Pensacola Chapter

POW / MIA Luncheon

On September 18, the Pensacola Chapter hosted their 20th Annual POW / MIA Luncheon at the Pensacola Yacht Club. The event welcomed nearly 200 guests and honored the member of Captain John L "Blackie" Porter, III. He was an Army Air Corps Pilot and leader of Blackie's Gang. The afternoon's guest speaker was Ellen W. Vinson. David Harmer was able to attend this wonderful event as well!





Chapter Happenings

See Upcoming Events in Your Chapter Area!

Dallas Area Chapter

[Friends of Freedom Dinner & Program](#)

Keynote Speaker: LCDR Michael E. Thornton, MOH Recipient
Old Red Courthouse Museum

Thursday, October 11

6:30 pm Reception 7:00 pm Dinner & Program

Valley Forge Chapter

[1st Annual Car Show](#)

Freedoms Foundation Campus

Saturday, November 10

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Chapter Newsletters

Click below for recent newsletters

[San Diego Chapter](#)

September 2018 Newsletter

Treasurer's Chest

September Fundraising Ideas!

Happy Fall!

Check out the fundraising ideas that were given out at the Chapters & Partners Conference!

[Fundraising Ideas Throughout the Season](#)
[Fundraising Ideas](#)



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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Stay Connected



Margaret Mead