



Chapter Presidents Zoom Meeting Notes September 9, 2020 | 2 pm ET

Chapters Represented – Broward, Chattanooga, Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Mary Ball Washington, Oklahoma City, Sacramento, San Diego, Tucson, and Utah

Welcome

Thank you to all who participated in our most recent chapter presidents' zoom meeting. This meeting did not record, but the recap is listed below.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Updates from Headquarters

★ **Coronavirus:**

A quick update on where we stand. As many of you are aware, we made the difficult decision to close our campus to groups through January 2021. With so many restrictions on gatherings, schools across the country on various plans from all virtual to hybrid to in-person and local attractions only partially opened, we decided for the safety of our participants and to ensure them a complete experience, cancelling and waiting to resume full operations in February 2021 was the best decision. This also gives us more time to prepare the campus and lay out plans for the new normal. On a plus side, we do plan to continue our online speaker series that we ran with the graduate programs this summer and hope to have some to announce shortly. We also will be continuing our partnership with the Legacy Foundation of the Union League on their virtual speaker series. We are excited to offer these programs to all our supporters and could be one good thing that has come out of the pandemic.

★ **Gala:**

All of the closures has led to our Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Gala going virtual. It's this Saturday, September 12th at 7:30PM ET. It will be broadcasted out via Zoom and will also be available on YouTube. You can register to attend. It's a simple process through zoom to add your name and email and Zoom will send you a link to connect to the gala stream on Saturday. You can reach the registration link through Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge's website

I have already seen the segment with Dr. Arnn of Hillsdale and he is fantastic. Plus the Philly POPS have recorded some patriotic songs for the event so it will be really special and I hope you will tune in.

★ **Auction**

The auction is now live. You can bid on items. Not all the items are up yet so please keep checking back. We have some great items from artwork, to sports memorabilia and experiences like a vacation home in the Dominican Republic for a week and a private tour of Philadelphia. Plus a Kate Spade bag, custom men's suit and adorable animals made of flip flops. You can find the link to register to bid on our website too. You need a credit card to bid, but upon check out if you wish to pay by another method you can. The

bidding is done via cell phone. If you want to participate and cannot use that method, please let me know, you might be able to assist you.

★ Education Updates

We have the dates for the 2021 Spirit of America programs. There are 6 dates to select from. The additional dates will help accommodate any students from this year who were unable to attend because of COVID-19 as well as students from smaller sponsors and students from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia sponsored by the Connelly Foundation. This will just lead to more diversity in opinions and areas of the country.

The dates are....

- ★ February 25-28
- ★ March 4-7
- ★ March 11-14
- ★ March 18-21
- ★ April 15-18
- ★ April 22-25

The price remains the same at \$475. We will be holding the group size down to 80 right now including chaperones to assist with the social distancing. We are also looking at staggered meals and rooming students from the same chapters together instead of our traditional mix of students geographically. I will email the reservation forms and memo to you and your youth leaders later today. Hard copies will follow to the Youth and Education VPs. Brochures will be available soon. The Spirit of America program has always been open to all levels of high school students, but I want to emphasize this year that seniors are welcome to attend the program to make up for 2020.

I also want to mention that because of all that has happened in 2020 we are looking at key components of our Spirit of America program and seeing how we can update them to address current events. Our team of Dr. Lee and Dr. Murphy are working on a new Freedom Summit and the team of American Historical Theatre is always working to make the Jefferson/Hamilton/Adams debates bring current events to the Founding Fathers and Founding Documents perspective.

As a heads up for future planning, we are looking at some fall dates for Spirit of America and we will open those dates up to chapters as well. These dates are something to consider.

The essay Topic for 2021 that you can use to assist you in the process of selecting students is now available. It will be on the website the week of September 14th.

“What happens when a community no longer respects private property?”

This topic is timelier now more than ever and is based off the Bill of Responsibility *to respect the property of others, both private and public.*

2021 Graduate Programs – Topics have been laid out. We are still waiting confirmation on dates, but we will have 2 American Revolution: Philadelphia Campaign programs, the cancelled traveling program Union and Confederate Capitals, the Medal of Honor Legacy Program on Vietnam and a seminar of the Civil Rights Movement: Heroes and Heroines.

There was a question among the chapter members on the call about airlines tickets and the experiences each individual chapter had with getting refunds or credits. The Broward County Chapter had a very good experience with Southwest Airlines and getting full credit for their two groups that went directly to the chapter and not to the individuals. Some

chapters had good experiences dealing with a travel agent and getting proper credits for their tickets. It was offered that Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Headquarters would provide the contact information for our travel agent if any chapters want to reach out to them directly to look at help booking in the future.

Boscovs Travel - Jennifer Redcay – jredcay@boscovs.com &
Laurie Cruz – lcruz@boscovs.com

★ Awards Update

National awards are being reviewed by the judges. Submissions were slightly down this year. Largely due to COVID-19. Headquarters was hoping for more because of all the good work taking place across the country, but it is difficult to nominate someone who you may not be able to meet with properly.

★ Other News and Notes

- President's Message Emails via Constant Contact. David has just sent out 2 recent emails marking the 75th Anniversary of the Japanese surrender. I hope you have received the emails and have enjoyed the messages. These messages and others by David can be found on our website under the **About** tab – President's Message. He will continue his series in the upcoming weeks and if you are not signed up to receive those emails, please let me know and I will make sure you get on the mailing list.
- Seeding New Chapters. The goal is to grow our volunteer chapters. We have exciting new leads in Idaho and Arkansas. If you know of anyone – a former chapter member, a program alumni, family who live out of your area who might be interested in starting a chapter, please let me know.
- Please send in dates of your rescheduled events
- If you have any updates you want to see on your webpage, please let me know.
- As we look towards future planning and goals, we will be turning to by-laws. The Utah Chapter has just recently revised their by-laws. And I know there has been past discussion on chapter by-laws. So thanks to the assistance of the framers of Utah's by-laws we are creating a template that will be shared out to all the chapters. This is still a project on the horizon, but will be coming soon. If you have up to date by-laws for your chapter, please send them to me to file properly.

★ Chapter Input – Open Floor

- Dennis from the Utah Chapter wanted to make special mention of Don Ward from the Utah Chapter who has been coming each year up to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for both student and teacher programs. Don has retired from Board of the Chapter. He has done so much of behalf of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and has been a familiar face to many. We wish Don all the best in his future endeavors.
- Phil from the Dallas Chapter discussed an upcoming Zoom meeting that his chapter is hosting with guest speaker, Jeffrey Engel, founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University. The chapter hopes to attract new members through this presentation.
- Larry from Sacramento talked about the latest project of the Sacramento Chapter. They just recorded a forum with 2 university professors on "Protecting the Constitution." This workshop recording will be offered to local high schools and universities to use. This is in place of the Mock Constitutional Convention they had planned. The plans for the mock convention have been pushed

backed due to the pandemic. The chapter still also hopes to hosts its annual Constitution Quiz Bowl.

- The Oklahoma City Chapter had an in person meeting recently with a guest speaker from the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs. The topic was the Electoral College. The Oklahoma City Chapter is concerned about getting young people involved. Perhaps looking to online meetings to attract them. The Oklahoma City chapter also reported on the passing of one of their founding members – Jose Freede.
- Attracting younger members and youth members was discussed. The Sacramento Chapter has 8 student directors on their board. The majority of who have attended a Spirit of America Program. Each student has an adult mentor on the board who works with them and assigns them tasks. It has worked really well and several other chapters are interested in trying to implement something similar. Recruiting parents is also a recommended approach to get younger people involved.
- Carolyn offered to all that if they are having a Zoom meeting and would like either herself or David to join in to give a greeting to all they would be happy to do so, just reach out and let us know how we can help.

With no further questions or comments the meeting was brought to a close. Thank you again to all who attended.

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, December 9th at 2PM ET

Freedoms Foundation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chapter Presidents Meeting

Time: Dec 9, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting -<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83273605697?pwd=dGxLcU1qVVZOYTBWUGoxRUIvUjdMZz09>