

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

We are well into 2021 and I hope the year is off to a good start for you and your chapters. I know many of you are already conducting business and planning for the year. I am so excited that we are seeing signs of getting back to somewhat regular activity.

Thank you to the many of you who have already sent in your year-end reports. A reminder to others the deadline for reports this year is February 1st.

In our last update, we announced two in-person dates for Spirit of America this fall. Those dates are September 30-October 3 and October 21-24. We have had several reservations and are still able to take more. The education team is also working on the 2022 schedule. Things are being finalized now and we hope to announce Spirit of America dates for 2022 very soon.

Preparation for our virtual Spirit of America (SOA) program is moving along. There are nine components to the virtual SOA. Each component will consist of a pre-recorded lecture from a scholar of 20-25 minutes in length accompanied by a live session with a master teacher for 30+ minutes. So the overall program will run about nine hours.

The topics and the scholars include:

1. The Declaration of Independence - Thomas Jefferson and John Adams (American Historical Theater)
2. The Articles of Confederation - Dr. Stuart Leibiger, LaSalle University
3. Constitutional Debates - Dr. Colleen Sheehan, Arizona State University
4. Federalism and Separation of Powers - Dr. Jon Kincaid, Lafayette College
5. Religious Liberty - Dr. F. Graham Lee, Saint Joseph's University
6. Citizenship and Civil Rights - Dr. Rogers Smith, University of Pennsylvania
7. National Security - Prof. Kermit Roosevelt, University of Pennsylvania
8. Free Speech on Campus - Dr. Keith Whittington, Princeton University
9. The Right to Privacy - Dr. Bruce Allen Murphy, Lafayette College

Most of the pre-recorded material has been shot and is going through editing now. A reminder that the virtual Spirit of America will be able to be used in a variety of ways and well into the future to help prepare students to attend the in person program.

I mentioned in the previous update that the development team was working on a social media campaign for Presidents' Day 2021. The campaign would not only honor our Presidents but also focus on civic engagement and our National Awards program. I hinted that there would be a way for you and your chapter members to participate. Here is how you can get involved. As part of the campaign, we are doing short video messages from staff, supporters, alumni and chapter members. If you are

interested in recording a personal statement answering how you were influenced by Presidents Washington, Lincoln or Eisenhower to be of service in your community or simply tell a favorite story about them and how it affected you, please let me know. We would welcome your participation.

Program Invitation

The Dallas Chapter invites you and your members to a chat with Ken Hersh, CEO, George W. Bush Presidential Center this Wednesday, January 27th at 7pm CST. Mr. Hersh will talk about the things taking place at the Bush Institute and how they relate to the FVVF mission. The Zoom link to the meeting is below along with the meeting ID and passcode. We hope you will join the chapter for this event.

<https://zoom.us/j/97564183608?pwd=VTR5QzcyS0tRbzRtSXJMdS9BNDZkdz09>

Meeting ID: 975 6418 3608

Passcode: 766742

Finally, I am pleased to share another video this week in our video series. In late 2020, Congress officially recognized all of the "Rosie the Riveters" with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service during WWII. Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is honored to work with the "Rosie" who led those efforts for recognition, Mae Krier. The video below is Mae answering questions from teachers at our Medal of Honor Legacy: WWII seminar. Enjoy!

Mae Krier – Rosie the Riveter - <https://youtu.be/HNOG3u10x5k>

Thank you all for your continued service to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Be safe and stay healthy!

Carolyn E. Santangelo

Senior Director of Chapter and Partner Relations
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
610-933-8825 ext. 234

Educate

Honor

Challenge