



Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. Here is hoping that we will soon be able to gather together again in 2021!

This is just a brief update to start the New Year.

We are pleased to announce two in-person dates for Spirit of America this fall. We will be conducting programs on September 30-October 3 and October 21-24. The dates are open to all chapters and program partners. If you are interested in sending students, please reach out to me and we will send you more information.

Reminder that year-end reports are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Even if you have not been able to conduct business in 2020, we still need a report for our auditors. Also note no dues need to be submitted to headquarters, but we will still need a membership count and list with contact information. A list of officers for 2021 is also vital for communication and listing on the website. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in getting all of these materials to us by the deadline.

It is not too early to be thinking of award nominees for 2021. I realize that recipients from 2020 have yet to be formally recognized, but we don't want to miss the opportunity to recognize continued great work in our communities and individuals showcasing civic responsibility. You can always recognize both your 2020 and 2021 recipients together in either the fall of 2021 or by February 2022. The National Awards webpage is updated and ready for 2021 submissions – <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/awards/national-awards/>

This leads me to a new initiative by headquarters. The Development Team is working on a social media video campaign for Presidents' Day 2021. Presidents' Day has always held special meaning to Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge as it has marked the honoring of the previous year's National Award recipients. Many of our chapters have kept up with this tradition. The campaign will focus not only on our presidents, but also on civic engagement represented by our award recipients and our leaders. More details on how you and your membership can participate will be coming in the next update.

Finally, I am pleased to share another video this week in our video series. We will continue to explore Valley Forge and this week George Washington. Freedom's Foundation's Graduate Program Director, Mr. Arch Hunter discusses the George Washington statue in the park and the unique way a copy of this statue made it over to England for display.

Arch Hunter at George Washington Statue - <https://youtu.be/aytvlcuH1XU>

I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year to move our mission forward and continue to bring civics education to the next generation.

Be safe and stay healthy!

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

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