



Chapter Presidents Zoom Call December 9, 2020 | 2 pm EST

Chapters Represented – Broward, Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Mary Ball Washington, Oklahoma City, Pensacola, Sacramento, San Diego, and Utah

Welcome

Thank you to all who participated in our most recent chapter presidents' zoom meeting. This meeting did record. The link to the recording is below.

<https://youtu.be/SnQetJBW918>

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Updates from Headquarters

Staff is back working from home until mid-January. You can still reach us via phone or email. Our office phones will alert us to all messages and staff will return calls promptly.

Please note the office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Staff is still focused on preparing programming, fundraising, and looking forward to a busy summer and fall of 2021 on campus.

Year End Reports

Year-end Reports – Reports were sent to Presidents and Treasurers. The reports are due on February 1st along with the most updated roster and officers list. If you have the officer list ready you can send at any time. Carolyn asked if everyone had received their electronic and hard copies. Several chapters indicated they had not yet received the hard copies. Carolyn will resend. If you have not received your hard copy packet, please let Carolyn know.

A major update to the 2021 report is that **chapter dues to headquarters – no longer required**. Effective immediately chapters do not have to submit dues with the year-end financials. You can ignore that portion of the year-end financials, but please still record the number of members in your chapter. Headquarters is eliminating the annual \$10 per person dues from here on out. Each chapter can still collect dues on a local level, but will not have to submit to national. Headquarters asks that you use that money to send more students or as seed money for chapter projects and fundraising to attract more members, students and teachers.

Volunteer Chapter Committee of National Board of Directors – Goals for 2021

The National Board Volunteer Chapter Committee has many plans for 2021. Just a reminder members of the committee include: Sandy Cook, Chair; Sally Brinton, Marvell Ruppel, and Diane Deshong. The first goal of the committee is creating a universal set of governing rules for chapters (by-laws). As some background information the current by-laws from headquarters are no longer in effect. Headquarters has revised the National By-Laws and chapter governance is not included. The hope was to give chapters more flexibility on the local level, but the committee is working on a new standard set of governing rules. This will include official mention of no dues required to be submitted to

headquarters. The by-laws will be presented to the full National board in February for approval and then distribution to the chapters.

The Committee is also working on a Best Practices Document. This document will share ideas on fundraising, student requirement, events and membership. Ideas will come from chapters who I will be surveying beginning in the New Year and also from outside sources and organizations. We plan to have this document available in May 2021.

The overall objective of both the universal by-laws and best practices document is to assist us in the establishment of new chapters. We want to make the process as easy as possible to help grow our network and participation on the student, teacher and award programs. David and the National Board have put a priority on growing chapters.

Phil from Dallas made mention of the recent passing of a dedicated member of the chapter who along with this wife made a great impact on the chapter. In his obituary, it was asked that donations be sent in his honor to the Dallas Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. This has not only brought some funds to the chapter but added connections across the country.

Education Updates

2021 Virtual Spirit of America

A progress report on the virtual Spirit of America program includes the lining up of all speakers with recordings beginning in January. Carolyn gave a brief content preview. This will not be like the current in person Spirit of America. We will still have Jefferson and Adams, but they will discuss the topic of the Declaration of Independence. There will be a more in depth look at important documents in US History like the Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution. The reason behind this is approach is to have the virtual piece be supplemental to Spirit of America in the future. Also topics of religious freedom, right to privacy, and free speech in schools will be discussed.

Carolyn asked in an informal poll who is looking to participate in the virtual program. The Volunteer Chapters represented on the call had a lot of questions and concerns about the Virtual Spirit of America Program.

- Costs involved to attend the virtual sessions
- When will a detailed agenda be available for the virtual program?
- How will students register?
- Will there be a Fall in-person Spirit of America program(s)?
- How will students get to interact with speakers presenting if they are just pre-taped recordings?

Carolyn did not have answers to these questions, but she will follow up with the education team and Dr. Halus to learn more and report back as soon as possible.

Overall there is an interest in the material that will be available in a virtual format, but many are hesitant to use the virtual platform with students in the traditional weekend program format as all students have online learning fatigue and the chapters do not see where it is

a reward or honor for students to attend yet another Zoom based program. Chapters see this is a really hard sell.

The exception is the Sacramento Chapter that is planning to host all 60 students in a resort for their program weekend at the end of April combining the virtual Spirit of America with local programming. Chapters found the Sacramento model interesting, but they have concerns about planning something to gather all their students in the Spring and then not be able to gather locally. Sacramento asked if headquarters will move forward with the virtual program even if the interest in participating now is low and the answer is yes. The virtual program is happening.

All see benefits in the virtual Spirit of America as a good tool moving forward to share segments with the schools, teachers and students even if they cannot utilize it right now.

2021 Graduate Programs – Application process is now open and acceptances will be going out in January. Please spread the word and encourage teachers to apply. Once we have acceptances out and rosters taking shape we will send chapters a list of teachers from their area so that you can make contact and start building a potential relationship. The question was asked about scholarships – yes we have scholarships available.

Awards Update

National Awards letter have been sent to all recipients unless you requested us to hold off on sending. Please note that we have all materials in hand if you need medals to honor student essay winners or conduct virtual programs. We can have materials shipped to you at any time.

The National Awards is looking to be a focus of the February annual appeal letter. The letter will showcase the outstanding work of our chapters on the program and list the 2020 Recipients to give them the recognition they deserve that is being delayed due to the pandemic. This mailing will go out to all chapters and donors.

Other News and Notes

We love sharing your programs with other chapters, please let us know how we can promote your activities. Examples include the Dallas Chapter and their speaker series and Chattanooga with postponed Constitution Day Program with the University of Tennessee.

Website Updates - I am looking to help chapters with their websites in 2021. A goal is to increase traffic to all FFVF websites in the New Year. If you would like any certain content on your webpage, please let me know.

Chapter Input – Open Floor

- Phil from Dallas talked about a possible upcoming program for the Dallas chapter on The Gardens of Mount Vernon at Christmas. This would be a Zoom presentation and all chapters would be invited to attend. A link to Dallas's most recent program with Susan Eisenhower was made available to all and sent under a separate email.

- Dallas and Utah Chapters asked to connect and discuss honoring student essay winners in their schools. Utah will be honoring their 7 essay winners in their schools some as early as December and others hopefully as part of Senior Awards Day.

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

On behalf of all of us at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge we wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy holiday season!

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3rd at 2PM EST

Carolyn Santangelo is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chapter Presidents Meeting

Time: Mar 3, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84921554606?pwd=V1Jibm94VnlldGtWQURxMk13TTNEQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 2155 4606

Passcode: FFVF1601