



Chapter Presidents Zoom Call

March 3, 2021 | 2 pm EST

Chapters Represented – Broward, Chattanooga, Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Pensacola, Sacramento, San Diego, Tucson, and Utah

Sandy Cook and Diane Deshong from the National Board Chapter Committee

Welcome

Thank you to all who participated in our most recent chapter presidents' zoom meeting. This meeting was recorded. The link to the recording can be found at the end of the notes. A special thank you to Sandy Cook and Diane Deshong from the National Board's Chapter Committee for joining us today.

Carolyn introduced Sandy Cook, the Chair of the Chapter Committee of the National Board and invited Sandy to say a few words. Sandy welcomed all the participants and told them the Chapter Committee was looking forward to calling each chapter president to talk to them and get to know them. The goal of the calls is to learn their chapter's strengths and weaknesses and what the committee can do to help. She concluded her remarks saying how impressed she is with all that you, the chapters, do for the organization.

Roll Call of Participants – See chapters represented above.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Update from Headquarters

Our offices remain closed, however we are still in line and on target to open the campus on June 1st for teacher programs and a couple of student programs this summer. We are also still on target with our fall Spirit of America dates.

We are preparing a COVID notice to be shared and placed on our website explaining our protocols. Items such as wearing masks, social distancing, sanitizer stations, extensive cleaning, and placing a minimum number of students in a room will be addressed. A room of 6 will no longer house 6 students. We will no longer mix students in rooms via geography. We will have traveling groups room together. We ask that when this statement is ready that you share with parents and any teachers you will be sponsoring.

We are very excited to open. Pennsylvania is relaxing restrictions and schools are going back by the end of March so things are really looking up all around.

Policies Governing Chapters

It was asked if everyone had a chance to review the documents.

Carolyn gave a little background to the new documents. The new governing policies were needed as our National Board created new by-laws for the organization as a whole and Article VI on chapters was not included in the new document so we needed to create a new governing document for the volunteer chapters. The result was the Policies Governing Local Chapters document.

Policies Governing Local Chapters will replace Article VI and the former Volunteer Chapter Policy Statement. The Policies Governing Local Chapters was adopted on February 16, 2021.

Thank you to the chapter committee of the National Board who worked hard on this document including committee member Larry Brasher, President of the Sacramento Chapter.

Action Item: Chapters must update their by-laws and standing rules to comply with the new Policies Governing Local Chapters and submit to national for approval by September 30, 2021.

The other new document shared was the Model By-Laws. This is a template to be used by new chapters and all chapters looking to update or revise their current by-laws. You do not need to use the Model By-Laws.

Carolyn shared her screen with the governing policies. Carolyn highlighted #7 Youth and Adult Protection. This section mentions a Youth and Adult Protection Policy. We are still finalizing this document. The document will require that chaperones attending SOA will have to sign the Responsibilities of Adult Chapters Document which has been in place. In addition to signing that document chaperones will be required to complete online training on abuse prevention. As part of our insurance requirements, as an organization that works directly with students this training is now mandatory. This training is all done online with Armatus. We will be able to provide a link to your chaperones to get on the Armatus system along with a User ID and Password. After they complete the training they will submit to us their certificate of completion for our files. It was asked if others like chapter board members could take the online training and the answer is yes. I just need names and emails to set up the training for any individuals you think should have it.

When will this document be available? Very soon. Just have to finalize some wording on the document, but the online courses are all ready to go. The staff has already completed training. If you would like to start the training for your chaperones or board, please send Carolyn a list of names with their email addresses.

Carolyn went through the rest of the policies document. Highlights include:

- National will no longer be collecting dues. Chapters can set their own membership dues
- Insurance – Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge does not provide chapters Director's and Officer's insurance. We recommend chapters to get their own. We can assist chapters if needed. Insurance for events is still provided.
- Please use the most updated logo. This design was introduced about 2-3 years ago. This doesn't mean you can't use extra pictures like George Washington in Prayer in promo materials or other images, just make sure you have the correct logo. Logos can be found on the website under the Chapter Tab. Here is the direct link - <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/chapters/chapter-resources/branding-marketing-materials/>

There were several questions that can be heard on the recording. The bottom line on the governing documents is that the important document is the Policies Governing Local Chapters. This is the document that chapters must use to update their current by-laws and

standing rules. The Model By-Laws are just a suggestion, a template to use for new chapters or chapters without by-laws. Your chapter does not need to follow the Model by-Laws, but must follow the Policies Governing Local Chapters.

A question was asked about chapters making future changes to their by-laws after being approved by National. Do chapters need to submit their by-laws for approval after each revision? The answer is yes, but it is recommended that the by-laws be general enough that they will not need regular updating. For example don't list each officer position in your by-laws just state you need to have a President, Secretary and Treasurer and others as needed. This give you flexibility to add Vice Presidents, etc... without having to change by-laws each time you add or remove an officer position.

Participants on the call asked for copies of all the documents including the National By-Laws. All of the governing documents can be found the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge website, under the Chapter Tab in the Chapter Resources Section. Here is the direct link to the page - <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/chapters/chapter-resources/governing-documents/>

Check out the Chapter Resources page for the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Logo, Chapter Logos, Letterhead Template, and coming soon the Best Practices Document.

Direct link to Chapter Resources Page - <https://www.freedomsfoundation.org/chapters/chapter-resources/>

Best Practices Document

This is the next goal and focus of the Chapter Committee of the National Board. Along with the notes of this meeting, we will be kicking off our campaign to create a Best Practices living document. The survey touches on the themes of how to get and retain members, how to recruit students to attend SOA, how to keep students and parents engaged with the chapter, fundraising and event ideas, how to find potential award recipients, and how to involve awardees in your chapter. This will help not only current chapters but new chapters.

We encourage all to participate. Brag about your chapter.

We also ask the question – “Where does your chapter need help” This will allow us to know where we need to focus support.

Along with the survey you will be receiving phone calls from members of the chapter committee of the National Board. Sandy has already reached out to many of you.

The goal is to have this document available in May, but it will always be an ongoing project.

Education Updates

I am excited to announce that we have already established the dates for the 2022 Spirit of America programs. The chapter dates are as follows.....

- ★ March 3-6
- ★ March 10-13
- ★ April 7-10

★ April 21-24

With add one dates of February 24-27 and March 17-20 combined with local groups. If the Fall dates go well we hope to offer Fall dates in 2022 as well.

The fall dates for 2021 are still set – September 30 –October 3 and October 21-24. The response has been okay from both chapters and local organizations.

Question was asked about numbers. Are the 2022 dates going to have regular numbers or COVID numbers? We do not know yet, we will make the call once we see how the summer goes.

The question was asked to all about changing flights? Most airlines are giving a 2 year grace period. Chattanooga had to go through an American Airline's manager to release tickets for each student. Broward sang the praises of Southwest Airlines as being very flexible. The change for 2 years was the date the names were given. Be on the lookout and keep up to date on those changes. National's travel agency was mentioned, but no one on the call has used Boscov Travel.

The education team will be sending out reservations forms shortly for the 2022 dates.

A quick status update on the 2021 Virtual Spirit of America. The first two segments will roll out in mid-March. The first part is Mr. Thomas Jefferson and Mr. John Adams talking about The Declaration of Independence and the second part is Dr. Stuart Leibiger of La Salle University on The Articles of Confederation. There are a total of 9 parts to the whole virtual Spirit of America. All nine will be online and available by April 22nd. These can be used for students and adult education. You can use as you see fit.

If you would like a tailored program, the education team will work with you to include the nine video segments and teacher/staff interaction after each video.

These videos will always serve as reference that can be used for years to come, not just now.

2021 Graduate Programs

We currently have 170 and climbing registrations for our summer teacher programs. The programs on the American Revolution and the workshop on the Civil War Capitals are full, but the 3 seminars on campus still have spots available. Those programs are Medal of Honor Legacy: Vietnam, The Civil Rights Movement: Heroes & Heroines, and Presidency and Electoral Power.

I want to thank the Utah Chapter who has gone above and beyond for sponsoring teachers to attend by paying their tuition and air travel to the programs. It is greatly appreciated during this time and a great way to give back when the students programs are on hold for the spring of 2021.

Awards Update

I realize that many award ceremonies have been postponed to early 2022. That is fine and a great idea to honor both 2020 and 2021 award recipients together. The award materials are available, please advise me when you would like them shipped. Please note that the nominations for the 2021 National Awards are scheduled to be due on June 1st. Please note that considering we remain in the pandemic and it's very difficult to meet with and

find nominees we will be extending the deadline to September 1st again this year. It is not official yet, but will be shortly as the deadline date approaches.

Other News and Notes

- The audit is taking place this week. The audit like everything else is being done virtually. Thank you to all the chapters who got their year-end financial reports in on a timely manner. If you still owe use reports, please get them in as soon as possible.
- We will be publishing a Chapter E-Newsletter in March. If you have something you would like to showcase, please send them into Carolyn as soon as you are able.

Chapter Input

The floor was open to the chapters for comments and questions. Wes from Dallas asked about a Volunteer Chapter Conference for this year. The answer is that due to the pandemic the conference planned for the fall of 2021 has been postponed. We look to conduct a Chapter and Partners Conference in October of 2022.

Phil from Dallas mentioned good news. He saw a blurb in the Dallas newspaper that Congress was thinking of proposing a bill requiring the teaching of civics in school.

Sandy Cook gave some final thoughts and expressed that it is a pleasure working with all of you.

A final thank you to all for your work during this difficult time and the meeting was brought to a close.

Meeting Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cZydG4UQGrf7CUOw90dVKiai4h27LWHIG4bViYARitDug2ZjrehGkzWZEjmrZWFQ.hcd9sNFP-oT_yGX4?startTime=1614798417000

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2 at 2PM EST

Carolyn Santangelo is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chapter Presidents Meeting

Time: Jun 2, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452986894?pwd=NWc1KzJ5UmZhWmc0TitlbldxVnVWUT09>

Meeting ID: 814 5298 6894

Passcode: FFVF1601