



Chapter Presidents Conference Call Notes

March 4, 2020 | 2 pm ET

Chapters Represented – Chattanooga, Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Mary Ball Washington, Pensacola, Sacramento, Tucson, and Utah.

★ **Welcome**

Carolyn welcomed everyone onto the call and thanked them for taking time out of their day to join in. Carolyn remarked that the year has gone by fast already and that headquarters and chapters have been very busy with conducting award ceremonies, special events and selecting and preparing students to attend Spirit of America. She thanked everyone for all their hard work to make Freedoms Foundation look good.

★ **Freedoms Foundation Updates from Headquarters**

★ **Coronavirus: Prevention and Preparedness**

Carolyn went over David's statement on the Coronavirus and all the efforts being taken by Freedoms Foundation. The statement went out via Constant Contact. In case you did not receive it, a copy of the statement is included with these notes. In addition to what is written in the statement, Freedoms Foundation has taken measures to keep our participants safe and informed. In all the common areas (classrooms, lobbies, dining hall) we have hand sanitizer dispensers. We have cleaned down every surface and will continue to do so. In each bathroom on campus is a sign about Coronavirus and what to be on the lookout for and how to protect yourself such as washing your hands. Anti-bacterial soap is in each bathroom. Rooms will be reserved on campus for anyone that becomes sick even with a cold. The education team and Carolyn are available to talk to any parent/guardian that has concerns. Please share with your parents the statement from David and assure them that Freedoms Foundation is taking every precaution to keep our participants safe.

★ **Gala – April 1st**

★ Hopefully everyone has received their invitation to the Gala. We sent you an invite so you can see the activities we are doing on campus and who we are honoring - Dr. Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College, Dr. Rogers Smith and the Philly Pops. Thank you to those of you who have donated towards the Gala with either an auction item or a monetary contribution. All proceeds go towards our education programs and allow us to offer the teacher scholarships. One way that everyone can still participate is through the online auction. You can bid on some amazing items and we will ship them to you if you win. Details will be coming out via constant contact this week please be watching for this email. Freedoms Foundation is using a company named Give Smart to help us with our online auction. The company offers a variety of services to assist with your fundraising efforts. If you are interested in information on Give Smart for an upcoming event/fundraiser in your chapter, Carolyn will be happy to provide the contact information.

★ **Financial and Chapter Reports**

★ The auditors are in the office right now conducting our annual audit and preparing our financial statements. Thank you for all who sent in your reports in a timely manner. We are still missing a few and you should have already heard from me if we are missing anything. The sooner the missing reports are in the smoother our audit will be.

- ★ Future of National Chapters & Partners Conference
 - ★ During and after this year's conference a survey went out to participants. We have seen declining participation over the last few years. It was suggested and we are moving forward with a plan of action that includes a National Chapters & Partners Conference every other year. The next conference will be October 14-17, 2021. We hope that having a year off will generate more attendance. In the meantime, we are looking to conduct a couple webinars open to all chapter members on topics of interest. Carolyn asked for any suggestions on topics from those on the call. A webinar on Salesforce was recommended. If there is an topic that would be of interest to you, please let Carolyn know. Anything from "how to run a success awards program" to "how to attract new members" are possible topics. Please don't hesitate to reach out with ideas. And mark your calendars for October 14-17, 2021 for the Chapters and Partners Conference.

★ Education Updates

- ★ 2020 Graduate Programs
 - ★ Applications and Registrations have been outstanding. All the programs are full except for our entrepreneur program running July 19-24. This program is in conjunction with the Leavey Awards so if you know any teachers who might be interested please direct them our way. Thank you to the chapters who are helping support the teachers with tuition, travel and recruitment. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.
- ★ Spirit of America Updates
 - ★ First program is this Thursday. We have some great groups from Utah, Sacramento, Broward and Valley Forge attending this first session. All the SOA programs look to be very strong with an average of 90 students in each. If you are a returning veteran chaperone, you will see some new faces with program staff and of course Rachel Schy is leading the efforts from our offices.
 - ★ We are aware of problems with the registration system. If a student is having a problem, please contact Rachel Schy at rschy@ffvf.org or extension 231. She can help guide students through the process. We are noticing that it might be an operation systems problem where if a student is working from a phone or computer without Chrome it could be causing problems with submission. In this still new process, if you are having any problems, please report them to us so we can learn and fix them for the future.

★ Awards Update

- ★ **National Awards** – Just a reminder the deadline is June 1st for nominations. I know it's a quick turnaround since the majority of you just held award ceremonies. If you need extra time, please let me know as we can grant extensions. A concern was brought up from Pensacola in regards to needing copies of the nomination form and one page summary of all entries from their chapter. They need this information for their award ceremonies. Some people are nominating on the website without the chapters knowledge and they are looking for a record of the submission. National can provide chapters with this information. If your awards VP is not sending them all together or needs a record of nominations from your area, please let us know and we can provide all the needed details. It is rare that someone will submit a nomination without going through a chapter, but it does happen especially with youth essays.
- ★ **Leavey Awards** – The deadline for entries just passed. We are still collecting the data, but this looks to be a competitive year. This will be the last year of the Leavey Awards Program with the Leavey name. The Leavey Foundation has decided to end its association with the award program. They are not asking for the endowment money back. It will be ours to use as we see fit. Our plan is to

continue an entrepreneurship teacher award but what that will look like in 2021, we are still determining. This includes looking for another benefactor to support the program. The future name of the award has not yet been determined. A lot will depend on if we are able to secure another supporter.

★ **Other News and Notes**

- ★ The Chapter Relations Committee of the Board has been working hard on identifying possible new chapters. They are currently looking at these locations - Lodi, California; St. George, Utah; Phoenix, Arizona; Minnesota and St. Louis, Missouri. If you know anyone in these areas who might be interested in joining a chapter, please let us know or if you know anyone across the country who might have interest in starting a chapter, please contact Carolyn and she will have Sandy Cook or Sally Brinton contact them with more information and support.
- ★ Carolyn is currently working on a Chapter E-News March issue with many of the recent chapter events highlighted. She is going to follow the March issue up immediately with an April issue around Easter to showcase another round of chapter events. There are a lot of chapter events to brag about. We would love to showcase your events so remember to send in pictures and reports so that we can include in the e-newsletter. Also remember to keep headquarters up to date on events so we can work on having someone join you from headquarters or the board. David loves visiting with our chapters.
- ★ Website and Staff Updates – If you have any updates you wish to make on your Freedoms Foundation website – please direct all requests to Carolyn at csantangelo@ffvf.org. Deb Woolson has retired from Freedoms Foundation and Kevin Ferris has joined the Fox News Website team in New York. With this void in our Marketing/Communications team Carolyn and Jason Raia will be trying to fill in until a new team member is hired. If you need any assistance with press, social media or the website, reach out to Carolyn.

★ **Chapter Input – Open Floor**

- ★ Dennis from Utah was concerned that a representative from headquarters was not at a recent Utah event. There was some misinformation between headquarters and a board member and we apologize for the non-representation.
- ★ Gerry from Mary Ball Washington brought up a concern about their chapter elect president not being able to accept his full duties until January 2021 instead of June 2020. Carolyn assured her that it would not be an issue. Carolyn addressed those on the call that though headquarters appreciates a chapter following all the by-laws and Roberts Rules of Order, that since we are a volunteer organization strict adherence to those laws are not enforced. We need to give volunteers the flexibility to do the best job possible for their chapter and the organization as a whole. Please do not worry about strict constraints we are flexible to ensure success.
- ★ Finally Betty from Pensacola asked if David Harmer had a term limit. He does not. He serves at the will of our Board of Directors and as long as he wishes to continue. He is a great spokesman for our organization and loves helping the chapters spread the message of why Freedoms Foundation is so important with the hopes that new members will join our chapters and partners.

With no further comments the conference call was brought to a close. Thank you to all who attended and remember if you need anything or have any questions, Carolyn is just a phone call and email away – 610-933-8825 ext. 234 or csantangelo@ffvf.org

Next Call – Wednesday, June 3rd at 2PM EST



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Statement from the President

Coronavirus: Prevention and Preparedness

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is carefully monitoring issuances from federal, state, and local health agencies regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

No case of coronavirus has been reported anywhere in Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), the gateway airport to our programs, is not among the airports designated as a "screener airport" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

PHL is one of 20 airports across the United States that houses a CDC quarantine station. CDC officials at PHL monitor for illness and provide educational materials for travelers arriving from areas affected by COVID-19. No traveler to PHL has been quarantined due to the coronavirus or associated illness.

Thus, Freedoms Foundation's student programs, teacher programs, annual gala, and all other campus events will proceed as scheduled. As of now, there is no reason to alter any travel or program plans. If that changes, we will promptly advise affected parties.

Meanwhile, we're taking extra precautions to disinfect common areas, distribute hand sanitizer, and otherwise minimize the risk of transmission of any disease, even from asymptomatic individuals.

Thanks for your continued support.

David Harmer
President and Chief Executive Officer
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
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