

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Happy May! I am excited to share the great news that Pennsylvania will officially be back open for business on Memorial Day with the lifting of restrictions. The state's opening will coincide with Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge's own opening. This is a really good sign that things are returning to normal. The mask mandate will remain for now but all businesses and attractions will be able to open to full capacity ensuring our teachers and students will be able to have a full experience when they come this summer for programs.

It is now official, the National Awards deadline has been extended. The deadline for award entries is now September 1, 2021. We will still be able to turn around the review process to allow for award ceremonies in November. Please note that nominations are currently being accepted. Your chapter does not need to wait until September 1st to send entries. Once you have a nomination prepared please submit. It will help eliminate back-ups in the registration process.

[Nominate Today!](#)

I am pleased to announce 2 additions to the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge National Board of Directors. Our newest board members are Raymond and Barbara Blydenburgh. This husband and wife team are from Berks County Pennsylvania located just west of Valley Forge. Ray and Barbara have a passion for our mission and for service. They will be great additions to the national board.

We continue to work on staffing at headquarters. The Associate Director of Education position still remains open. We are set to begin the interview process for the Foundations Manager and Grant Writer position with the hope to have this person in place by the first teacher program. Please visit and share our [job openings](#) on our website.

The next online session of the Virtual Spirit of America is coming up this Wednesday, May 12th at 7pm ET. We will explore freedom of speech with [Dr. Keith Whittington of Princeton University](#). To register for this session or any of the upcoming sessions please visit the [Spirit of America webpage](#). Thank you to all chapter members who have attended a session. We greatly appreciate your support and encourage you to share the upcoming programs with students, teachers, and fellow chapter members.

The best practices document is almost set for release. It will be shared prior to our next Presidents Zoom call. You still have time to get your chapter's program or procedure in this first addition. Please send all write-ups or feedback to csantangelo@ffvf.org.

Speaking of our next Presidents Zoom call, this call is being rescheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 2pm. I will be receiving my 2nd vaccine shot on our originally scheduled date

of June 2nd. Once I am finished with my shot, the entire Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge staff will be fully vaccinated. The meeting agenda and a link to the meeting will be coming later this month.

Finally, this week's video clip shows highlights from our Sea Cadets Program. The Sea Cadets will be the first student group to return to campus on July 2nd. This will be the Sea Cadets' 2nd program with us and is unique from other student programs. It combines components of Spirit of America, History Encounters, and the Medal of Honor Legacy Program. We are very excited to have this group back for an in person program.

[Sea Cadets Program](#)

Thank you all for your continued support. Please reach out if we can be of any assistance and please don't forget to send us any updates or events from your chapter.

Be safe and stay healthy!

Carolyn E. Santangelo

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