



Chapter Presidents Zoom Call June 1, 2021 | 2 pm EST

Chapters Represented – Bay State, Chattanooga, Dallas, Greater Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Mary Ball Washington, Pensacola, Sacramento, Tucson, and Utah

Diane Deshong from the National Board Chapter Committee

Welcome

Carolyn thanked everyone who was able to join us today with the date change. We appreciate you taking the time.

There was a roll call with participants introducing themselves.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Updates from Headquarters

Today the state of Pennsylvania fully opened with no restrictions other than the mask mandate. The mask mandate will be lifted on June 28th. This means that stores, museums and other attractions are at full capacity. Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge does not have to worry about limiting the number of participants. We will still follow masking guidelines and cleaning protocols. Carolyn concluded that she hopes that is the last update she needs to give in regards to headquarters and COVID.

Passing of Kim DeBlase - Carolyn noted the passing of long time employee Kim DeBlase. Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and her family are honoring her by establishing a teacher scholarship in her honor. Chapters and chapter members can donate to the Kim DeBlase Teacher Scholarship Fund. If you visit the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge's website main page, you will see a link to more information and how to give. It is the Foundation's hope to award 2 scholarships in Kim's memory each summer to deserving teachers.

Staffing Updates - Katelin McAndrew will be joining the education team. She starts on June 17th. She will be focused on the Spirit of America program. She will be a vital contact for all chapters sending students to SOA. Carolyn will help with her training and will make formal introductions when she officially joins the team. We are currently interviewing candidates for the Director of Communications and Marketing and Foundations Manager and Grant Writer Positions.

Recent Board Meeting – The National Board of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge met on Tuesday, May 25th. Carolyn was proud to announce that one of our own, Larry Brasher was voted onto the national board at the meeting. He joins Ray and Barbara Blydenburgh as the newest members of the board. Highlights from the board meeting included the discussion of starting a \$7.5 million comprehensive campaign to address the needs listed in the campus master plan. The board will be conducting a retreat this September to discuss the starting steps of this process and laying the framework for the campaign. Speaking of the campus master plan, digging will start in July on Phase I connecting the sewer to the

public sewer system. The whole project required 9 permits. The project remains on schedule and on budget.

David's Travels – David is back on the road. He recently returned from visiting the Sacramento Chapter and participating in their Spirit of America Program. Carolyn noted that David was very impressed with the Sacramento Chapter's SOA program, the students, speakers, and activities. Congratulations were offered to Emily Matthews, President of the Chapter. After visiting the chapter, David continued his travels in Northern California to meet with current and potential donors. He is leaving for Dallas and Oklahoma City this week. He will meet with the Dallas Chapter leadership on Thursday and members of the Oklahoma City Chapter early next week. In between, he will be meeting with key donors and 2021 Distinguished Citizen Awardee, William Benac. Later in June David will visit St. Louis and Kansas City.

Best Practices Document

We have been working hard on this best practices document. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire and spoke with Sandy Cook or Marvell Ruppel. The document will be two parts. The first will be a collection of best practices from chapters and outside research. It will serve as a compilation of great ideas from everything from Sacramento's student board members to Valley Forge's step by step guide to a car show fundraiser to Utah's National Awards Ceremony. There are also 12 quick tips for recruiting new members, features on special events, and highlighted fundraising ideas included. The second part is from Sandy Cook with a profile on each president and chapter. It gives background on what each chapter is doing well and where they need help. Our goal is to create an environment of mentorship between chapters. To help make this a success we need your help to step up and say I want a one on one to learn about this or I see a chapter needs help and I will speak with them. The best way to get something from best practices is to participate and work with one another.

Example: Phil John of Dallas spoke with Pam Peterson Fronk of the Sacramento Chapter on working with their students. He got some great ideas and hopes to put some of these things in action in Dallas. Phil believes it is vital to get students involved and that is the way the chapters will survive. Phil spoke of his experience talking with Pam.

Best Practices will be placed on the website under Chapter Resources and distributed via email with the notes of this meeting.

There was discussion about student involvement on the board of directors such as what is the age of the students and if any chapters other than Sacramento have student directors. Emily from Sacramento briefly described their student board members who apply to the board after attending a Spirit of America program and serve during their senior year in high school. This gives the students a great leadership experience and attracts other students. The key to getting students active on your board is to give them a job. Let them help with your social media, newsletters, etc. The more they are involved the more connected they will feel.

Education Updates

Virtual Spirit of America – There is one more Wednesday remaining where we debut a new video for the virtual Spirit of America. Please note that the video series is available to all chapter members. You can find them via the link to our YouTube Channel or if you prefer

we could send your chapter a flash drive with all the videos included. You can use these videos in a variety of ways for in-person programming or to show students and parents prior to coming to Valley Forge the type of material they will be covering while at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

You Tube Link - [Virtual Spirit of America Video Series](#)

Phil John of Dallas asked about a promotional video for students. There is a Spirit of America video. You can find the video on our Spirit of America webpage. [Click here for the video.](#)

2021 Fall Spirit of America Dates – There is still space for our 2 fall SOA programs on September 30-October 3 and October 21-24. We have a good number of local students participating and would love to see more chapters participate if they are able.

2022 Spirit of America Dates – The spring dates are starting to fill in nicely. The brochure for the Spring 2022 programs will be available later this summer in time to distribute to schools in August and September as they are opening up for the school year. If you haven't made your reservations yet, please feel free to contact me to do so. The official letter for 2022 will go out with the brochures and the introduction to the new staff member.

2021 Graduate Programs – The teacher programs are all set to run in a couple of weeks. A list of programs still open can be found on our website.

Awards Update

The National Awards deadline is September 1st. Award ceremonies can occur anytime after November 1st through Spring of 2022. Thank you to all of those who have submitted nominations to date and for working on honoring both 2020 and 2021 award recipients.

Other News and Notes

Thank you to all the chapters working on updating your bylaws and standing rules. We have several revised documents on file. Just a reminder that the revised documents are due to headquarters by September.

The next edition of the Chapter E-Newsletter is being prepared for later this month. If you have any events you would like to report on, please send a small write up and pictures. We love to share with others the great work going on in our chapters.

Chapter Input – Open Floor

There were no questions or comments.

Carolyn reminded everyone to reach out with any concerns. She concluded with expressing her thanks to all.

Meeting Link -

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eIJ0pxrNz3pDD9AWoSDgLEUsUbSGID1GY_dGcYM60qBst9hk-QuC7Gc08dwORE6O.oZiGHTH5DW4JH4nl?startTime=1622570686000

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8th at 2PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84333305739?pwd=Y2lIT3RRSDN0RFBPZ0JCU2lnOXRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 3330 5739

Passcode: FFVF1601