



**EDUCATE
HONOR
CHALLENGE**

Volunteer Chapters Newsletter

January 2017

Greetings!

Happy New Year! I hope 2017 has been off to a great start for you. There are many exciting things and updates happening on campus this year. 2016 was a great year at the Foundation and we look forward to an even stronger 2017!

At this time of year, many chapters are busy preparing for awards season to present both chapter and national awards, while also gearing up for trips to Valley Forge with students for Spirit of America.

This awards season is even more exciting as we received nearly 400 essay nominations for the 2016 deadline! This is DOUBLE from 2015! Thank you for helping keep our National Awards Program strong!

Cheers to a wonderful year of educating, honoring, and challenging!

Louise

[New National Website!](#)

This past fall we rolled out a brand new look for our website and national branding system.

The new branding comes with an idea for some friendly competition. Starting in February, I will be recognizing a different chapter each month as the "Brand Champion of the Month!" The more your chapter incorporates our new branding system, the more chances you have to be the champion of the month! Need help utilizing the new branding? No problem! Check out the [Style Guide](#) or contact me with questions.

Chapter of the Year

Sacramento Area Chapter

Congratulations to the Sacramento Area Chapter for being named the 2016-2017 Chapter of the Year at the 2016 National Volunteer Chapters Conference! The Sacramento Chapter has done a great job of growing their "friends of" membership style, community partnerships, and education programs.

Spirit of '76 Lifetime Achievement

San Diego Chapter

San Diego chapter member and former secretary to President Nixon, Marje Acker was awarded the Spirit of '76 Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifelong passion of giving back and her remarkable career. In 2013, Marje reached a lifetime milestone of logging over 11,500 volunteer hospital hours. From being an active member in the chapter to participating in countless other noteworthy organizations, Marje is a true leader and patriot.

William O. Perry Volunteer of the Year

Valley Forge Chapter

The late Arthur Russell was awarded the William O. Perry Volunteer of the Year Award and was accepted by his loving family. With the help of headquarters and selected friends, Art was able in just a few years to bring the Valley Forge Volunteer Chapter back to life. Even through his declining health, Art worked tirelessly to build a new foundation for this chapter. His hard work and passion for our mission helped reinvent the chapter.



Broward County Chapter

Fort Lauderdale, FL

The Broward County Chapter hosted their annual holiday party on December 9, 2016 at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Past students, chapter member and their families came together for a fun night of dancing and holiday celebration.



The chapter is getting ready for the 44th annual George Washington Birthday Fundraiser Gala which will be held on February 24th. This year's guest speaker will be Sergeant Carl Arfa. Sergeant Arfa, a World War II veteran, has received many honors including the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the

Dallas Area Chapter

Dallas, TX



The Dallas Area Chapter hosted their annual Fall Dinner on December 1, 2016. They welcomed attorney and author Talmage Boston as the keynote speaker. Mr. Talmage's book *Cross-Examining History: A Lawyer Gets the Answers about our Presidents from the Experts*, was recently published in September.

Orange County Chapter

Orange County, CA

The Orange County Chapter will be celebrating their chapter's 50th anniversary at their awards ceremony on February 16th. The chapter is excited to welcome OC County Chairperson Michelle Steele, OC County Register, while honoring [Bruno Serato](#) owner of the White House of Anaheim and local hero.



Pensacola Chapter

Pensacola, FL

The Pensacola Chapter is gearing up for their annual awards banquet on February 28 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. The chapter, who prides itself on a strong awards program, will be honoring an impressive 19 George Washington Honor Medals in addition to 7 certificates of merit!



Announcements!

Updates from National

2017 National Chapters Conference dates announced!

Drum roll please...

Thursday, September 14 - Sunday, September 17, 2017

All chapter members are welcome for a fun-filled, informative weekend as we celebrate the 230th anniversary of the United States Constitution and YOU! Our volunteers!



An Evening with the Medal of Honor



Your chapter has the opportunity to host Cory Etchberger, son of Medal of Honor Recipient Dick Etchberger, and author Gary Williams, in your community for an interesting and educational talk on the Medal of Honor, valor, patriotism, and character. Contact Louise for more information!

Graduate Teacher Program

The application process for the 2017 Graduate Teacher Program has opened! All teachers are welcome to apply. Look for the [Teachers section](#) of our website for more information on the programs being offered this summer and how to apply.

Upcoming Events

Here's a look at what's happening in 2017:

Events

- ["Politics, Hacking, and the New Russia"](#) with Homeland Security expert Jack Tomarchio: January 25
- *An Evening with Freedoms Foundation: April 27th*
- *WWII Event: May 6-7*
- *National Volunteer Chapters Conference: September 14-17*

Student Programs

- *February 23-26: Partners Spirit of America*
- *March 2-5: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *March 16-19: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *April 6-9: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *April 20-23: Military Order of the World Wars Spirit of America*
- *June 15-18: VFW Voice of Democracy*

- July 6-9: National Sojourners Spirit of America
- July 30: August 4 - Service Learning in Public Policy (SLiPP)

Seminars

Graduate Teacher Programs

- June 18 - 23: Medal of Honor Legacy: WWII
- June 25 - 30: Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror
- July 9 - 14: Biography and Character
- July 16 - 21: Medal of Honor Legacy
- July 23 - 28: Medal of Honor Legacy: Vietnam

Workshops

Graduate Teacher Traveling Programs

- June 24 - July 1: Civil War South
- July 15 - 21: American Revolution South

Treasurer's Chest

January's Fundraising Idea!



Valentine's Day is on it's way!

Why not make responsible citizenship your valentine this year?!

Ask local vendors to make in-kind donations of products or a lower cost. Ask chapter members, family, friends, and your community to purchase fun Valentine's Day themed gifts or attend a love- (for Freedoms Foundation) themed event!

Taking advantage of an upcoming holiday or season is a great way to put a quick fundraising drive together. Many will be buying chocolate, flowers, and candy hearts in the coming weeks. Why not use it as an opportunity to fundraise for your chapter?!

- Flower Sale
- Candygram Sale
- Valentine's Day gift basket raffle
 - Movie tickets
 - Bottle of wine
 - Restaurant gift certificate
 - Spa gift certificate
 - Box of chocolate
- Host a wine tasting event
- Offer babysitting for a parents' night out for a donation to your chapter



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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever

Stay Connected



has."

Margaret Mead

