

# Liberty TelegAFF

## The Newsletter of America's Future Foundation

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AFF members and friends gathered in Washington, D.C. for “Martinis with Charles Murray” on November 18. Acclaimed scholar **Charles Murray** of the American Enterprise Institute gave informal remarks about his recent work on American social demographics. He also gave his suggestions on how to reach new people with the ideas of liberty and answered questions from the crowd. After the remarks he mixed drinks and taught attendees how to craft the best martini. AFF thanks the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Charles Koch Institute, Young Conservatives Coalition, Patrick Gleason, Rachel Kopec, the American Enterprise Institute and Roger Custer for their sponsorship.

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regular newsletter of  
America's Future Foundation.  
To receive more frequent  
updates via email, please sign  
up at [americasfuture.org](http://americasfuture.org).*

## Robert Levy and Carl Helstrom Join AFF National Leadership

AFF is excited to welcome Robert Levy and Carl Helstrom to its leadership. Both have been involved with AFF for many years and we look forward to their expertise and guidance as AFF grows.

### Advisory Board

**Robert A. Levy** joins the AFF Advisory Board. Levy is chairman of the Cato Institute board of directors. He joined Cato as senior fellow in constitutional studies in 1997 after 25 years in business. He also sits on boards of the Institute for Justice, the Federalist Society, and the George Mason University School of Law. He founded CDA Investment Technologies, a major provider of financial information and software, and was its CEO until 1991. Levy has clerked for judges and served as an adjunct professor of law. His writing has appeared in major publications and he has discussed public policy on national radio and TV programs. Levy received his Ph.D. in business from the American University and his J.D. degree from the George Mason University School of Law.



Robert A. Levy

### Board of Directors

**Carl Helstrom** joins the AFF board of directors, after serving for many years on AFF's advisory board. He is Executive Director of the JM and Milbank Foundations in Princeton, NJ. The Foundations support ideas, organizations, and policies that encourage personal responsibility and private initiative. Before becoming a foundation administrator, Carl held various positions with Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Capital Research Center, and the Foundation for Economic Education. He has been a Program Consultant for The J. M. Kaplan Fund, a Trustee and President of the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society and a Trustee of the Foundation for Economic Education. Currently he is a Director of The Roe Foundation, a Director of the A. P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation, and Chairman of the Board of State Policy Network. A 1984 graduate of Grove City College, Carl and his wife, Jane, are the proud parents of three sons and live in central New Jersey.

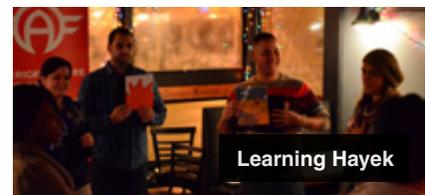
**To learn more about the whole AFF Team, please visit [americasfuture.org/aff-team](http://americasfuture.org/aff-team)**

## AFF Launches Kansas City Chapter with Interactive Seminar on Hayek's Ideas

On Thursday, December 11, AFF launched its Kansas City chapter with an innovative simulation exercise. Drawing on Kansas City's rich tradition of entrepreneurship, Chapter Vice Chairman **Jon Bachura** led an interactive simulation highlighting the importance of Nobel Laureate economist F.A. Hayek's "local knowledge problem" as it related to participants' goals, careers, and daily lives. Key takeaways were that—in virtually every facet of society—knowledge is scattered locally among unique individuals whose outputs are impossible to harness via central planning.

Participants learned this firsthand as they joined forces along a hypothetical book factory assembly line and were each given a single, numberless page of a larger picture book to be produced. At first blush, collaborating side-by-side to order the book pages correctly seemed easy. But there was a catch! The "factory workers" could not reveal their individual pages to colleagues; they had to describe page contents verbally, strategize, and arrange themselves accordingly—all without a visual picture of how the finished book product should look. Each "factory worker" had an individual vision for the book project based on the image in front of him or her but could only execute that vision by learning about, communicating with, and relying on others.

In all, event attendees overcame the "knowledge problem" on a small, low-stakes, simulated scale. Yet, the results achieved, lasting lessons learned, and new friendships formed left them wanting more. The good news is that the Kansas City chapter is just starting and looks forward to reaching more young professionals with fun and innovative ways to network and learn the ideas of liberty. Please contact chapter chairman **Patrick Parkes** to learn more at [patrick@americasfuture.org](mailto:patrick@americasfuture.org).



## Chapter Leaders Meet to Discuss Best Practices

AFF chapter leaders met in Dallas October 24-25 to discuss best practices during the annual retreat. Leaders from 17 cities gathered for a day and a half of learning from each other, including interactive workshops with AFF staff on the basics of running a chapter. Additionally, chapter leaders heard from economist and professor **Robert Lawson** of Southern Methodist University. He discussed the economic freedom of the world index and how countries with more economic freedom have cleaner environments, less poverty, and better quality of life for everyone.



## “AFF has proven to be an invaluable resource in my pursuit of advancing liberty”

### Member Profile: Seneca Gates

My name is Seneca Gates, and I recently moved up to Washington, DC from Florida after deciding that I wanted to pursue a career in the liberty movement. I moved to DC not knowing a single person, nor did I have any idea of how to go about navigating a career change in a new and large city.

America's Future Foundation was—and still is—the bridge that has enabled me to make a smooth transition and has acted as an invaluable support system. AFF has allowed me to connect with like-minded people and find opportunities that would otherwise be both unavailable, and overwhelming to someone who is pursuing a new career path. Also, I was recently paired up with a mentor through AFF's mentor program which is providing me with both guidance and tools for professional development.

AFF has proven to be an invaluable resource in my pursuit of advancing liberty. Not only has AFF allowed me to channel my passion for liberty into practical applications such as the newly established ambassador program, but has also provided me with the resources to further my knowledge of liberty through its various events and lectures. *Only through your support of AFF has this been possible, and for that I would like to personally thank you.*



## Leave a Legacy of Liberty for Future Generations with a Gift to AFF in Your Will

What kind of legacy will you leave for future generations? How can you preserve and expand liberty for your children and grandchildren so they have the same or more opportunity than you did?

One way is to consider a planned gift to America's Future Foundation. By leaving part of your estate to AFF, you will ensure that young professionals nationwide will be educated about the ideas of liberty. Your support will ensure for decades to come that free markets, limited government, and individual liberty are preserved and defended.



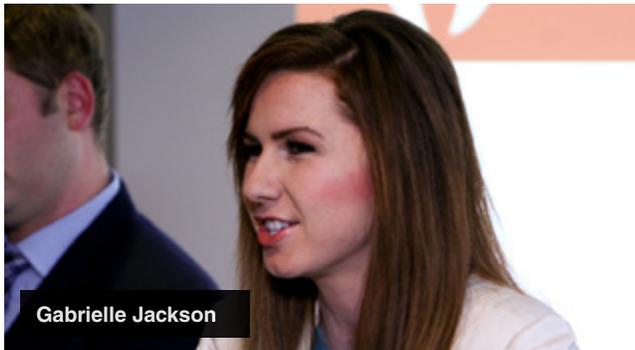
To make AFF a beneficiary in your will, simply contact your attorney and insert the following language: *“I give, devise, and bequeath to America's Future Foundation, tax identification number 52-1928321, 1513 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (insert percentage, amount or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for educational purposes.”*

Please notify us when you decide to make a legacy gift so you can receive special recognition in AFF's Legacy for Liberty Society.

# AFF in Brief: Awards, Speakers, and Special Events in the Nation's Capital



Buckley Award Winners



Gabrielle Jackson

AFF's executive director, **Roger Custer**, received the prestigious Buckley Award from the Young Conservatives Coalition (YCC). In their citation, they said, "Custer has helped AFF greatly expand in recent years, helping to identify and develop liberty-minded young professionals in DC and around the country." AFF has made great gains over the last year, thanks to your support and Roger's leadership. Together we are creating life-long effective and engaged advocates for free markets and liberty by providing unique networking and professional development programs.



Patrice Lee

AFF co-sponsored an event on October 30 with Generation Opportunity on specific "real world" skills that college simply doesn't teach. Panelists **Gabrielle Jackson**, **Patrice Lee**, **Joe Mansour**, and **Joe Wood** presented tips on avoiding unemployment, managing finances, being an entrepreneur, and how to get ahead of the curve. AFF and Generation Opportunity thank Microsoft for providing space to host this event and **Suhail Khan** for moderating.



Cynthia Bell

The latest installment of "Cultivation Crew" – AFF's professional development lunch series for young development officers - was held November 18 in conjunction with the Competitive Enterprise Institute. **Nicole Hoplin** of Young America's Foundation, **AI Canata** of Competitive Enterprise Institute, and **Cynthia Bell** of Reason gave tips on how to plan profitable events for nonprofits. Each of the panelists uses a different strategy for events so the combined resources gave attendees a robust variety of new ideas to try at their upcoming donor events.

## New AFF Writing Fellowship Inspires Young Writers and Pairs Them with New Mentors



AFF Writing Fellows Learn from Established Mentors

Seven young writers enjoyed the first session of AFF's new Writing Fellows program during fall 2014. **Adam O'Neal**, a writer for Real Clear Politics, led the sessions and mentored the writers. Special guest speakers included **Phil Klein** from the *Washington Examiner*, **Mollie Hemingway** from the *Federalist*, and **Jim Antle** from the Daily Caller News Foundation.

**Alexis Simendinger** from Real Clear Politics covered the basics of journalism but also went further. AFF writing fellow **Ari Schaeffer** recounts how, "Simendinger stressed that, regardless of what topic was being covered, it was crucial to find a "human to tell the story." Whether discussing the most intricate details of the Export-Import Bank or the impact of Obamacare on the economy, finding a person to help tell the story dramatically improves the quality of any news article."

## Best-Selling Writer and Congressman Chris Stewart Advises AFF Audience

It is not often that a member of Congress speaks without mentioning politics or public policy. However, AFF's writing fellows program closed on November 17 with just such a talk by Congressman Chris Stewart of Utah. Stewart recounted his journey from writing as a hobby to having an agent to being recruited by major publishers for large projects. He advised attendees to keep writing, even if it doesn't get published right away, and to find a mentor. Stewart's writing includes the best-selling *Great and Terrible* novels, the *Wrath and Righteousness* series, and several non-fiction titles.



Rep. Chris Stewart

# AFF 20th Anniversary Photo Spread

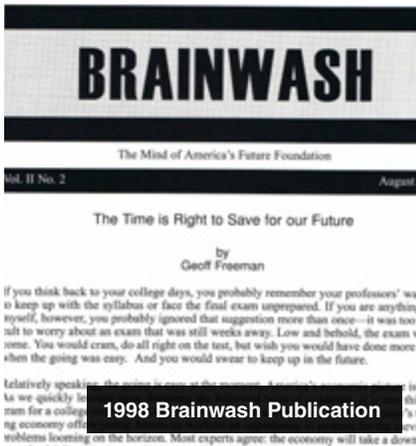
Save the date for May 27, 2015 in Washington, D.C. for a special AFF 20th anniversary conference and gala. Here is a sampling of AFF's most notable moments through its history.



2005 Capitol Hill Panel



2007 Gala



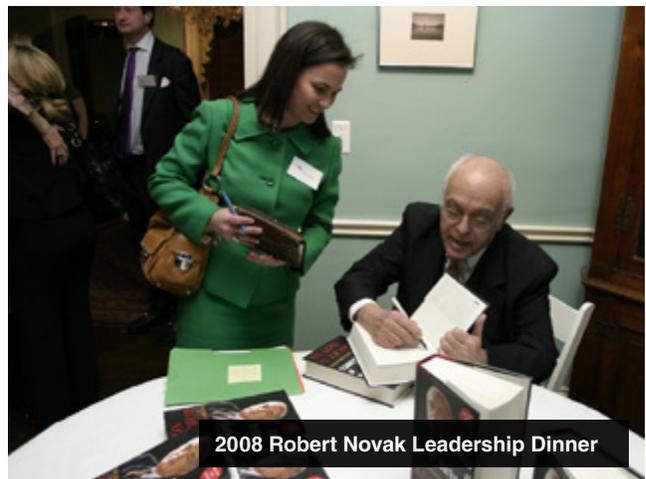
1998 Brainwash Publication



2009 Crabfest



2002 Happy Hour



2008 Robert Novak Leadership Dinner



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(Clockwise from top left) AFF New York attendees mingle during a November happy hour event, Martin Avila, CEO of Terra Eclipse, encourages the use of creativity to advance liberty during remarks at a DC roundtable, Bob Ewing from the FEE alumni board gives ideas on how to stay involved after graduation during a joint FEE and AFF happy hour in Arlington, Virginia, and free market health care activist Dr. Matt McCord speaks to AFF Southeast Michigan about local, patient-centered solutions for health care.

America's Future Foundation's mission is to identify and develop young professional leaders for liberty by offering unique professional development, education, and networking opportunities.  
All gifts are tax-deductible because AFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.