AFF celebrated its 20th anniversary at a conference and gala on May 27 in Washington, D.C. More than 350 participants heard from AEI president Arthur Brooks, listened to a panel discussion about AFF’s future, and enjoyed a gala celebration with food, drinks, dancing, and networking. AFF’s original founders Samuel Casey Carter, Adam Kaufman, Chris Siddall, Robert and Lisa Caldwell, and Mary Riner were all present to remember the first 20 years and help AFF look to the future. Thank you to the sponsors and participants for a wonderful event.

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AFF Welcomes New Staff and Board Member

Thank you for your support of America’s Future Foundation. We are pleased to report that more young professionals are networking, learning, and honing their skills to become effective advocates for liberty nationwide. We would like to introduce David Riggs, Leah Hughey, and a new role for Brit Vorreiter.

Board of Directors

David Riggs joins the AFF Board of Directors. He joined The Philanthropy Roundtable in 2014 as vice president of philanthropic strategy. Mr. Riggs previously served as executive vice president at the John William Pope Foundation, a private grantmaking foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina. Before that, he worked at the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, the Capital Research Center, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and the Center of the American Experiment. Mr. Riggs earned a B.A. at UNC Wilmington and a Ph.D. in applied economics at Clemson University. He has taught economics at George Mason University.

Staff

Leah Hughey joins AFF as Director of Programs. She comes from the Charles Koch Foundation, where she coordinated academic programs. She also completed the Koch Associate Program in 2014. Previously, Leah interned twice with the Foundation for Economic Education and earned her bachelor’s degree in government from Regent University. In this role, Leah coordinates AFF’s suite of DC-based networking, educational, and professional development programs. You can reach her at leah@americasfuture.org.

Brit Vorreiter assumes the new role of Development Officer, where she will coordinate communications with you and AFF’s growing network of supporters across the country. She spent the last 20 months as AFF’s Director of Programs and Membership. She remains the point of contact for AFF’s members, including the mentor program. You can reach her at brit@americasfuture.org.

Liberty TelegrAFF is the regular newsletter of America’s Future Foundation. To receive more frequent updates via email, please sign up at americasfuture.org.

To learn more about the whole AFF Team, please visit americasfuture.org/aff-team
AFF Brings Liberty Message with New Chapter in San Francisco

AFF San Francisco officially launched with a Happy Hour on Thursday, April 23. 40 liberty-minded locals gathered at the Slate SF lounge to toast liberty and celebrate AFF’s expansion to the West Coast. Located in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District – an historic and iconic cultural neighborhood – Slate SF provided an ideal setting to discuss and celebrate America’s history, exceptionalism, and future.

The evening began with a welcome from Paul Doherty, AFF San Francisco’s Chapter Leader, followed by remarks from Sally Pipes, President and CEO of the Pacific Research Institute. She discussed PRI’s mission and recent work regarding Obamacare and its alternatives. Pipes concluded that young people need to have an active voice for liberty in order to make real social change.

Indianapolis Chapter Launches During National School Choice Week

AFF Indianapolis launched in January during National School Choice Week with a special program featuring Robert Enlow, president of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. Led by Brett Bittner, AFF Indianapolis is gaining an increasingly noteworthy following. In the coming months, the chapter plans on hosting a panel discussion populated by Indiana legislators. This panel will be moderated by one of Indiana’s premier journalists. Bittner writes, “While the rest of 2015 is falling into place, we are very excited about 2016 and beyond, as we focus our efforts on showcasing the power of free markets and liberty in everyday life and how we can take part, in what our Board describes as ‘free market Ted talks for Central Indiana.’”

Other chapters are slated to launch in Sacramento, St. Louis, Denver, and other cities this year. To become more involved in your local chapter, or start a new one, please contact AFF director of chapter advancement Kathryn Shelton at kathryn@americasfuture.org.
A Special Note from AFF Ambassador Nick Miller

“I’m relatively new to working with AFF. I chose to volunteer precisely because I seek to be one of the difference-makers like the many distinguished AFF alumni. Already, I can foresee the difference working with AFF will make in my career. And I am excited to thank you for your support.

As a brand new liberty advancer in Washington, D.C. one of the first great people I met was Brit Vorreiter on the AFF staff. We talked about the opportunities AFF offers young leaders like me, and I knew right away that this is an essential organization. She asked if I would join a new outreach campaign, the **AFF Ambassador Program**, and I must say I was delighted to volunteer. I could learn new skills to boost my career advancing liberty, and work with an amazing organization in that fight? Sign me up!

The one thing I most wanted to learn is how to best manage volunteers - and the Ambassador Program provided me with that exact opportunity! For this year’s 20th Anniversary Gala, I managed a group of six volunteers who made the event stand out with exemplary customer service.

Both of us know how effective AFF’s programs are at training young professionals like me. And that’s really why I wanted to tell you about this experience. **Your support of America’s Future Foundation has paid, and will continue to pay, dividends many times over.**

I look forward to the day when I can write you again and tell you more about the ways AFF shaped my career.”

Leave a Legacy of Liberty 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 members heard an exclusive briefing from Congressman Paul Ryan on May 19 in Washington, D.C. Congressman Ryan, chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, discussed economic policies that will help move the country away from debt and entitlements toward prosperity and long-term growth. He also explained how conservatives should be pro-market as opposed to pro-business, and return the federal government to its proper, minimal, constitutional role. Attendees asked specific questions about changes to the budget process, mandatory spending caps, and other fiscal issues.

AFF’s Writing Fellows Program trained eight rising young writers in Washington, D.C. this spring. Attendees heard from guest speakers including Ben Domenech from the Federalist and Matthew Walther from the American Spectator. Participants learned from experts about how to publish an op-ed, write concise editorials, and do investigative reporting about waste, fraud, and abuse, among other topics. Jared Meyer, one of the participants, has already used lessons of the course in his professional career. He has published in the Federalist and City Journal as a result. He writes, "I am definitely going to recommend this program to my friends."

A new series called “Let’s Talk” made its debut this spring. Participants heard from scholars and communication experts about specific ways to discuss difficult policy issues including health care, education, and environment. They also had a unique opportunity to practice their arguments in small groups led by a “skeptic” who repeated commonly used progressive objections to free market solutions. Guest speakers included Beverly Hallberg from District Media Group, Robert Ewing from the Mercatus Center, and Greg Reed from the Institute for Justice. The series will culminate with a communications competition in front of a panel of judges.
Experts Give Networking and Career Advice at Welcome to Washington Panel

More than 150 interns and entry-level staff attended a panel in conjunction with the Heritage Foundation and Leadership Institute entitled “Welcome to Washington.” It can be difficult to meet people and develop professional skills when college graduates arrive in the nation’s capital to begin their career. This panel featured established DC experts who told the audience about lessons they learned and provided valuable advice to move up the ladder in public policy or other careers.

Panelists were Karin Agness from the Network of Enlightened Women, Chris Malagisi from the Conservative Book Club, Joe Lupino-Espósito from State Budget Solutions, Erin Siefring from the office of Congressman Dave Brat, and Sean Kibby from the Heritage Foundation. A dynamic networking reception followed the panel discussion.

“So, You Want to Be a __________?” Series Provides Career Guidance

A pilot program in Washington, D.C. for ambitious free market advocates began in January. Chad Thevenot, executive director of the Institute for Humane Studies, and Sabrina Schaeffer, executive director of the Independent Women’s Forum, spoke about their journey to become an organizational leader. In particular, Thevenot stressed the 80/20 principle and encouraged attendees to find their “20% activities” per the Pareto Principle. Schaeffer emphasized the importance of patience and people skills when managing employees, the board, donors, and other stakeholders.

A second iteration of the series focused on social media and communications directors. Rebecca Heisler from Targeted Victory, Patrick Ruffini from Echelon Insights, and Ali-Jae Asselstine from Google gave specific tips about careers in social media and communications. Panelists talked about online branding and how forethought about communications can lead to improved results rather than reactionary posting on social media that you may regret later.
AFF 20th Anniversary Photo Spread

AFF founders, donors, members, and friends gathered on May 27 in Washington, D.C. for the 20th anniversary conference and gala. More than 350 participants remembered the past and learned about AFF’s vision to create life-long effective advocates for free markets. Here are some highlights.
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.

(Clockwise from top left) Melanie Hildreth from the Institute for Justice teaches donor stewardship to new development staff at Cultivation Crew, Patrick Nightingale discusses marijuana policy at AFF Pittsburgh, Katie Kallam from the Center for Shared Services gives career advice, and Dr. Roy Cordato of the John Locke Foundation teaches public choice theory to AFF Raleigh based on the television show House of Cards.