“A Conservative is a fellow who is standing athwart history yelling ‘Stop!’”

William F. Buckley, Jr.’s words are now more poignant than ever. In the name of progress, the American Left openly endorses a future in which the government grows, and your freedoms shrink. To counteract this, we need more young people to embrace our message of freedom and inspire their peers to do the same.

That’s why you gathered more than 160 young leaders in Washington, DC, for the annual Buckley Awards. Originally founded and organized by the Young Conservatives Coalition from 2010-2016, the Buckley Awards recognize outstanding young professionals for their above-and-beyond service to the liberty movement.

The award is in honor of William F. Buckley, Jr. who, before the age of 30, became the leader of the early conservative movement by championing “fusionism” – a philosophy that brought together various strands of our movement to work together to achieve political success and conserve America’s founding principles.

This year’s winners, highlighted on page 3, represent just a small percentage of the young professionals you’re empowering every day to stand athwart history and yell “Stop!”

You hosted young professionals at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC in November for the annual Buckley Awards, where you recognized five young leaders for their commitment to advancing liberty among the Millennial demographic.
Bound for Bigger and Better Things

In the Words of Carl Helstrom

Thank you for your continued support of America’s Future Foundation. I’m honored to be the one to tell you officially about some significant new developments at AFF. After a thorough, nationwide search, the Board has named Cindy Cerquitella as our new executive director, beginning full-time on January 2. Cindy joins AFF after a distinguished career at the Atlas Network, where she worked with think tanks from across the globe to advance our message of freedom. Cindy writes:

“My work at the Atlas Network has given me the benefit of learning from the experiences of hundreds of non-profit organizations, the world over. With those successes, failures, and best practices under my belt, I am eager to turn my attention toward America’s Future Foundation. Over its more than 20 years in existence, AFF has developed the leadership skills of thousands of our nation’s current leaders. As I look at the highest ranks of America’s leading think tanks and media publications, I see AFF’s stamp throughout. I’m honored to amplify that legacy, and I’m grateful for your support, which makes all of this possible.”

In addition to Cindy’s arrival, I am also delighted to announce that Richard Lorenc, chief operating officer of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), took over as chairman of the board, effective December 1, 2017.

I am looking forward to remaining on the board and working with Cindy, Richard, and the entire AFF team to inspire another generation with the love for liberty that inspired us.

With these changes, I hope you are as confident as I am that AFF is bound for bigger and better achievements on behalf of liberty.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Carl Helstrom
AFF Board of Directors
Meet Your 2017 Buckley Award Winners

**Ashlea Frazier** is director of programs for Hillsdale College’s Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship, where she oversees the operations, budget, and staff of the center. She directs the development of the Kirby Center’s programs, focusing on bolstering the pedagogical mission of the college in Washington, DC, and building relationships with Capitol Hill. Additionally, Ashlea advises students and young professionals on career development, meeting with them one-on-one and by speaking at various events and venues around Washington, DC. Prior to joining Hillsdale College, Ashlea worked for The Heritage Foundation’s Center for American Studies as program manager, where she managed and developed the center’s educational programs.

**Adam Josefczyk** is the executive director of Forge Leadership Network, an organization that he co-founded with Justin Powell. Forge mentors, trains, and connects young conservatives to lead in politics, culture, and business. Prior to launching Forge, Adam served, at the age of 24, as a vice president of a leading public policy organization in Ohio. In 2013, he also co-founded Ohio Conservative Review, a web platform for conservative ideas to be discussed, debated, and promoted in the Buckeye State. Adam was a fellow at the 2017 Acton University, and he was the first-ever recipient of the Timothy Award from Citizens for Community Values in 2017.

**Kerri Kupec** serves as legal counsel and communications director with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). She oversees media communications for ADF, as well as all Supreme Court public-advocacy operations. She has appeared on ABC, CBS, CNBC, FOX News, FOX Business, and NPR, and has been quoted in many national print and online news publications. Prior to joining ADF, Kerri served as a law clerk to the Hon. William G. Petty of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. She also worked as a youth director in Queens, NY, and assisted in directing the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham University. Kerri obtained her JD from Liberty University, where she served on the Federalist Society’s executive team.

**Christopher Malagisi** is the editor-in-chief of the Conservative Book Club and has interviewed over 175 high-profile authors, thought leaders, and politicians, including presidential candidates. He is also a featured political columnist at Townhall.com and has a weekly recurring segment on The Mike Gallagher Radio Show. For eight years, Christopher served as president of the Young Conservatives Coalition. He previously served as the CPAC director and director of external relations at the American Conservative Union, where he organized CPAC 2012, CPAC FL, and CPAC Chicago. He also trained over 5,000 conservative candidates and activists as the Leadership Institute’s director of political and new media training, and taught History of the Conservative Movement at American University as an adjunct instructor for many years. He’s served on four US presidential campaigns, helping to lead their student and young adult coalition efforts.

**Russ Vought** is the senior advisor to Director Mick Mulvaney at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and has been nominated by the president to be deputy director of OMB. Notably, Russ displayed tremendous courage at his confirmation hearing, when he was attacked by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for his religious views. Before his work at the OMB, Russ spent seven years as the vice president of grassroots efforts at Heritage Action, working with thousands of conservative activists across the country. Before working at Heritage Action, he spent over 12 years working on budgetary issues on Capitol Hill – serving as the policy director for the House Republican Conference, under then-Chairman Mike Pence, and as the executive director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling. He previously served as the RSC’s budget director under two other chairmen.
Meet Some of Your Fall 2017 Writing Fellows

It’s no secret that American media overwhelmingly support Big Government.

According to The Center for Public Integrity, a progressive media watchdog organization, 96% of all political donations made by journalists, reporters, editors, news personalities, and media executives ended up in Hillary Clinton’s campaign coffers in 2016.

This year’s news coverage has given us the clearest indication yet of just how disconnected and how untrustworthy the mainstream media actually has become. Thankfully, you’re addressing media bias directly by supporting America’s Future Foundation and its mission to inspire Millennials, America’s largest demographic, with the ideas of freedom.

AFF now trains freedom-friendly writers across the country, both in-person at the Washington Examiner offices in Washington, DC, and remotely via a digital component that allows Fellows to attend sessions anywhere in the country.

Next year, because of a generous grant from the Rising Tide Foundation, as well as continued investment from the Ronald A. Krieger Charitable Foundation and supporters like you, AFF’s Writing Fellows Program will become a full-time, year-round endeavor. Long-term, this means that you will train more aspiring journalists to promote the principles of a free society across media.

You made it possible for these talented young people to graduate from the most recent session:

Jerrod A. Laber is the academic talent development director at the Institute for Humane Studies. As a writer, Jerrod has been published in the Washington Examiner, The Federalist, and The American Conservative, among other outlets, and has appeared on Fox 5 DC. Jerrod is a former classical singer who has performed in opera, musical theater, and concerts across the eastern and midwestern United States, including multiple performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He was born and raised in Appalachian Ohio, and received a BA in history from Marshall University.

Krisztina Pusok is a research associate at the Reason Foundation, where she focuses on environmental and development policies. Krisztina earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Missouri and has been published in peer-reviewed journals. She holds a Master’s in international security studies from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Krisztina was a 2016-2017 Frédéric Fellow at the Mercatus Center. Originally from Transylvania, Krisztina is fluent in 3 languages.

Daniel Press is a policy analyst at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, where he focuses on financial regulation, international development, and trade. Daniel has had his work published in Forbes, Investor’s Business Daily, and U.S. News & World Report, among other outlets. He is also a regular contributor to CEI’s OpenMarket blog. Originally from Perth, Australia, Daniel received a BA in political science and economics from the University of Western Australia.
Lights! Camera! AFFtion!
Your Innovative Efforts to Reach Millennials with Liberty

Politics is downstream from culture. Andrew Breitbart was right. The stories we hear, and the media that tell them, effectively shape political discussion in America.

Progressives in Hollywood and the news media want to control politics with their stories. They want to craft narratives that celebrate bigger government and collectivist ideology. They need to be stopped. And thankfully, you’re willing to stand up to the Left and do something about it.

In October, you sponsored SmashCut CineFest in Washington, DC, where more than 240 young professionals and AFF donors gathered to view six, award-winning short films that celebrate liberty. The event, also sponsored by Taliesin Nexus and the Charles Koch Institute, illustrates what you’re doing to bring the ideas of freedom to the next generation.

Millennials are growing increasingly bored with traditional media, instead opting for on-demand news and videos via smartphones and tablets. Always searching for the next viral sensation, young people want to be reached quickly and efficiently. And films like iSpy, which was screened at the event and addresses government surveillance, accomplish that by telling stories that resonate with a younger audience.

Through fun and innovative events like this, you’re inspiring young professionals to embrace our principles and reject the overwhelmingly progressive messages that come from Hollywood and those in the news media. The next generation is moving culture towards the ideas of freedom. Thank you for making this possible.

Ingenuity in Action
How You Helped AFF Midland Reach New Audiences

Creativity - it fuels the world around us. And it’s something that we, at AFF, take very seriously.

Because of your support, young leaders across the country are embracing creativity. They’re experimenting with new ideas and discovering new approaches to spreading liberty. Take AFF Midland, for example.

Bryson Hotopp, Chapter Leader of AFF Midland, is one of the many young leaders you inspire. This fall, Bryson was encouraged by your support to speak at WakeUp! Midland, an event hosted by Midland’s Chamber of Commerce. There, he introduced more than 200 young professionals to AFF and encouraged them to think about the importance of liberty. He spoke with many of the attendees, passed out hundreds of pieces of material, and received several sign-ups for AFF Midland’s email list. AFF was even featured on a local radio station, WMPX/WMRX.

Since Bryson’s talk, AFF’s Facebook post about the event has reached more than 16,900 people digitally – a true testament to what your inspiration is accomplishing.

With Bryson’s success, we are now looking into similar events around the country at which young liberty advocates can share our message of freedom with other young professionals, and network with community leaders.

Thank you for supporting America’s Future Foundation and leaders like Bryson. Because of you, young people are embracing a culture of innovation to reach new audiences with the ideas of liberty.

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Charging Forward: Your Year in Review

What if you could inspire more than 9,000 Millennials with the ideas of liberty? And what if you could do it in more than 30 cities, in just 12 months?

It seems improbable when you think about it. But that’s exactly what you accomplished this year by supporting America’s Future Foundation.

By the end of the year, you will have hosted more than 185 programs in more than 30 cities. This means that, on average, you will have reached more than 170 young professionals with the ideas of freedom each week. Not bad for seven days.

You will have grown the number of AFF chapters, from 22 in 2016, to 27. This year, you launched new chapters in Boston, Jacksonville, Portland, Provo, and Rhode Island. In the process, you reached more than 500 new faces with the ideas of freedom.

You will have partnered with more than 40 free-market organizations to inspire Millennials across the country. Notably, you fostered new collaboration with State Policy Network-affiliated think tanks in Oregon (Cascade Policy Institute), California (Pacific Research Institute), and Louisiana (Pelican Institute).

You will have hosted a variety of speakers to educate and train the next generation to promote and defend liberty at every step. Speakers have included Robert Shibley of FIRE, Matt Kibbe of Free the People, Larry Reed of the Foundation for Economic Education, T.K. Coleman of Praxis, and a number of local politicians and business leaders.

All told, 2017 has been a tremendous success because of your support. At AFF, we’re excited to see what 2018 has in store for our movement to promote free markets and limited government. And we’re grateful to have you accompany us. Together, we’re ensuring the future of freedom. And you’re just getting started.
Alumni Spotlight: Wen Fa

Most lawyers understand that they’ll never argue before, or even work on, a case that has been accepted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

AFF alumnus Wen Fa isn’t most lawyers, however. And recently, he received news that his case, *Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky*, will be heard by the Supreme Court this session.

An attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation, Wen has always had a passion for promoting and defending liberty. From his days as an undergraduate student in Dallas and his time studying under Chandran Kukathas in London, to his earlier legal work at the Institute for Justice, Wen’s commitment to our principles has never wavered.

When Wen left the Institute for Justice in Texas to join the Pacific Legal Foundation in California, he identified a major problem with Sacramento’s fledgling liberty movement: the individual pieces were in place, but there was nothing to connect them.

That’s when you came into the picture.

You helped Wen launch AFF Sacramento in September of 2015. Since then, the chapter has grown, providing a unique community in the capital of one of America’s most liberal states. Wen, who now serves on the board of AFF Sacramento, writes:

“AFF is an extremely important organization for young liberty-minded individuals to connect with each other and share their ideas. AFF Sacramento, in particular, helps grow the liberty movement to counteract the largest state bureaucracy in the nation.”

With your help, freedom-friendly young professionals, like Wen, are beginning to have their voices heard across the country. Together, we’re empowering the next generation to amplify our message of free enterprise and individual liberty, one city at a time. Thank you for making all of this possible.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

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, advise, and bequeath to America’s Future Foundation, tax identification number 52-1928321, 3434 Washington Blvd. 1st Floor, Arlington, VA 22201 (insert percentage, amount or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for educational purposes.”

Please notify Heather Pfitzenmaier, at (202) 331-2261 or heather@americasfuture.org, when you decide to make a legacy gift, so you can receive special recognition in AFF’s Legacy for Liberty Society.
America’s Future Foundation’s mission is to recruit and cultivate young professionals to become effective, lifelong advocates for liberty.

All gifts are tax-deductible because AFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

Because of your generous support, more than 160 young leaders gathered at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC to honor five young professionals for their tremendous service in promoting liberty among young people. As a snapshot, here are some photographs that highlight the evening’s festivities.