

**ANANDA COLLEGE OLD BOYS
ASSOCIATION OF
WEST COAST, USA**

(A California Nonprofit Corporation)

EIN: 46-1329747

acobawc@gmail.com

www.anandausawc.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The name of this corporation is Ananda College Old Boys Association of West Coast, USA. The name of the corporation may be abbreviated ACOBA – West Coast.

PURPOSES

This corporation has been formed for charitable purposes, to

- Support primarily the educational goals of Ananda College, Colombo, Sri Lanka (“College”) and, if funds permit, other educational projects in Sri Lanka and USA.
- Work with Ananda College Old Boys Association in Sri Lanka and the Ananda College administration to determine educational projects of Ananda College including, but not limited to, scholarships, books, educational materials and supplies, and educational facilities the corporation can assist in.
- Facilitate fellowship among Anandians (former students and teachers of Ananda College) living outside Sri Lanka and in particular in the west coast of USA as the unity and cohesion among them would in turn facilitate the corporation’s main objective of assisting educational needs of the College.

In addition, this corporation is formed for the purposes of performing all things incidental to, or appropriate in, the achievement of the foregoing specific and primary purposes. However, the corporation shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of its primary charitable purposes. This corporation shall hold and may exercise all such powers as may be conferred upon a nonprofit corporation by the laws of the State of California and as may be necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation. In no event shall the corporation engage in activities which are not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Records of the activities of the ACOBA-WC for the period of December 15th, 2019 to January 23rd, 2021 are as follows:

a. Board Members:

The board members for the period are as follows. (See minutes of AGM 2019/20)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Chairman | – Dr. Wije Wathugala |
| 2. Corporate Secretary | – Shantha Suraweera |
| 3. Chief Financial Officer | – Dr. Nalaka Gunawardana |
| 4. Member | - Pradeep Gunaratne |
| 5. Member | - Malraj De Silva |

b. Executive Committee of Officers:

1. Hon. President - Rakshita Dissanayake
2. Hon. Vice President - Methinda Jayawardana

The General Membership elected the following officers for the term. (See minutes of AGM 2019/20):

1. Immediate Past President - Dr. Lasika Seneviratne
2. Hon. General Secretary - Sqd. Ldr.(Rtd) Rahim Mantara
3. Hon. Treasurer - Samantha Arambegedera
4. Hon. Assistant Treasurer - Nalin Kulasooriya
5. Hon. Assistant Secretary- Sports – Dilash De Silva
6. Hon. Assistant Secretary- Member Development - Maj.(Rtd) Chaminda Dabare

c. Committee Members -

Colonel (Rtd) Lucky Rajasinghe	Dr. Stanley Wijesekera
Dr. Gamini Gunawardana	Brig.(Rtd) Ganesh Perusinghe
Thilanjan Vithana	Hiran Kuruppu
Ananda Mahinkanda	Chatura Hewavitharana
Dr. Saroj Weeraratne	Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara
Dulip Kaluarachchi	Sarath De Silva
Wg. Cmdr. (Rtd) Sanath Senaratne	Hema Amarasinghe
Eranga Gunsekara	Iresha De Silva
Asela Wickramasinghe	

Board And Committee Meetings

1. Annual General Meeting – December 14th, 2019
2. Exco. Meetings
 - January 26th, 2020
 - March 29th, 2020
 - May 10th, 2020
 - June 18th, 2020
 - July 19th, 2020
 - August 30th, 2020
 - September 28th, 2020
 - December 20th, 2020

Felicitation Event For Malraj De Silva

The event was held on Jan. 26th 2020 at the Peacock Restaurant in Diamond Bar CA. to felicitate the appointment of Malraj De Silva who was appointed as the new ambassador to the UAE. We were a lot of Anandians, his personal friends and representatives from various other organizations totaling up to 132 guests.

The event included speeches, lunch, music by DJ Jonny and social interaction. The whole event was funded by all those who participated contributing \$35 each.

Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Pradeep Gunaratne, Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara were the team that put the event together.

Annual Book Donation Program-2020

A total sum of \$1540 was collected as donations from the ACOBA-WC members to fulfill the target of \$3000. ACOBA East Coast also contributed \$1500. The total sum of \$3000 was donated to the Book Donation Program at Ananda in January, 2020.

Dr. Sri Welaratne Scholarship Program

The ACOBAWC annual scholarship at Ananda College is funded by the interest from a fixed deposit in Peoples Bank of Sri Lanka.

The 85 group of OBA is locally managing the scholarship program together with ACOPA-WC. Details of scholarship recipients for 2020 have been presented to the Committee by the Chairman of the Scholarship Program- Col. Lucky Rajasinghe. OFAC clearance have also been obtained for all the recipients, Individual bank accounts have been opened to each recipient and moneys will be transferred in monthly intervals.

Funding for the Sanitary Project-Junior Section

Total funding was approved for the sanitary project at Ananda (Junior Section) in July 2019. Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara were nominated to coordinate the project jointly with the 82 group of Ananda.

Commencement of the construction was delayed due to various administrative issues related to the construction site and COVID-19. We also prepared an MOU giving details of the areas of responsibilities for each group involved in the project. The concerns have been rectified and the construction was due to commence in October 2020.

No progress has been reported to date as the College is close due to the COVID-19 and the construction site is not accessible.

Community Activities

All activities related to social gatherings were cancelled during this period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as such only virtual events were held during this period using Zoom Meetings.

1st Community Event- COVID-19 Pandemic - Symptoms, Testing, Treatment, Precautions, Vaccinations and the future

Zoom meeting held on April 5th 2020 from 10:00 am to 11:00am

The meeting was held under the patronage of Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara- Clinical professor and specialist in Infectious Disease, Emanate and San Dimas hospitals, Chair of Infectious diseases. The meeting had a sign-in of 36 and a total of 81 attending that included ACOBA members and their families.

2nd Community Event- COVID-19- Where we are and where we are heading to

Zoom Meeting held on April 26th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Once the word got around our first zoom meeting, we received messages requesting for more meetings to educate our local community on the pandemic. We planned the second meeting adding another crucial member- Dr. Lasika Seneviratne (Medical Director of Southern California Oncology Research Consortium and former Chief of Oncology and Chief of Medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, California). The zoom meeting was held during the height of the pandemic and garnered 58 log-ins and an audience of over 100 with family members. The initial 30~40 minutes were allotted for the families to virtually meet and greet among friends. It was indeed a great party as everyone was in isolation, other than the medical professionals. Both Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara and Dr. Lasika Seneviratne shared their expertise and educated the audience with a Q&A session at the end of their presentation.

3rd Community Event- How our mothers and loved ones as healthcare professionals are coping with COVID-19?

Zoom meeting held on Mother's Day (May 10th), 2020 from 10:00am to 11:30am.

The meeting was organized to present the daily experiences and medical strategies of our own lady healthcare professionals related to COVID -19.

Dr. Lalini Perera (Anesthesiologist), Dr. Ayoma Gunawardana (Nurse Practitioner), Ms. Ranuji Wickramaratne(ER Nurse- Los Angeles County Hospital), Dr. Ashley Suraweera (Internal Medicine), and

Ms. Angela Suraweera (Operations Manager-Medical) spoke in detail of their experiences in performing their routine medical duties.

The moderator for the meeting was Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara (Clinical Professor and specialist in infectious Disease, Emanate and San Dimas hospitals, Chair of infectious diseases)

The event included a Q&A session moderated by Dr, Deepthi Jayasekara.

We had 161 participants from ACOBA West Coast, East Coast and invitees from various other colleges and organizations including the Sri Lanka Foundation in Los Angeles.

The organizing committee for the event included Lucky Rajasinghe, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara, Pradeep Gunaratne, Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara.

4th Community Event - COVID-19 and its Impact on Lives and Livelihood- Part 1

Zoom Meeting held on Saturday May 30th, 2020 from 10:00am to 11:30am.

These medical professionals presented their views and experience on COVID-19 to the audience followed by a Q&A session moderated by Lasika Seneviratne, MD. Consultant Hematologist/Oncologist, Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles.

Rasi Wickramasinghe, M.D, Ph. D, FACC – Assistant Professor of Cardiology, Houston Methodist/ Weill Cornell Medical College

Topic: COVID and your heart

Himanshu Wickramasinghe, MD. – Consultant Pulmonary and critical Care Medicine, Intensivist Henry Mayo Hospital, Santa Clarita , CA.

Topic: Managing the critically ill COVID-19 patient- an intensivist's experience.

Sumedha Jayasena, Ph.D – Former scientific Director in oncology, Amgen. Vice President of Translational Research at Soma Genics.

Topic: Where are we in developing a vaccine for COVID-19.

Kapila Marambage, MD. Asst. Professor of Addiction Psychiatry- University of Texas

Topic: Cabin Fever

Deepthi Jayasekara, MD. Clinical Professor and specialist in infectious Disease, Emanate and San Dimas hospitals, Chair of infectious diseases

Advisor

We had 165 participants for the event from ACOBA –WC, EC, NACOBA, members of other OBA s and the Sri Lanka Foundation.

Lucky Rajasinghe, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Rakshita Dissanayake, Pradeep Gunaratne, and Rahim Mantara were the members of the committee that put the event together.

5th Community Event- Covid-19 and its Impact on Lives and Livelihood- Part 2 -Economy

Zoom Meeting held on Sunday June 28, 2020 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

The virtual meeting was designed to educate the participants on the existing financial hardship and forecast the financial trends for the next few months and the future ahead.

Guest speaker 1- Ian C. Shepherdson, PH D in Economics (Founder and chief economist of Pantheon Macroeconomics, named as the best economic forecaster twice by Wall Street Journal.

Topic: Economy- New normal and insight to the future.

Guest Speaker 2-Scott A. Shay- Executive Chairman and co-founder Signature Bank and a leading advisor on Cashless World and Tax Reforms

Topic: Future of banking and the financial world.

Moderator- Dr. Shyama Mahakalanda MBBS, MEcon, EMHA

Coordinator- Nalin Kulasooriya – Founder of Asian Flavor and South Asian Flavor Companies.

76 persons logged –in for the event which was broadcasted live on You-Tube.

The event included a Q&A session moderated by Dr, Shyma Mahakalanda.

The organizing team for the event comprised Lucky Rajasinghe, Dr. Shyama Mahakalanda, Nalin Kulasooriya, Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara.

Check the Web Site for more details, <https://www.acobawcusa.org>

Founders' Day- Weekend of Mindfulness- October 24th-25th,2020

The event was jointly organized by the Anandians and Nalandians of the US West Coast. The virtual program was held on both days (Oct. 24th, and 25th) from 7.00 am to 11:30 am. The program was conducted from Nissarana Vanaya, Mitirigala in Sri Lanka by venerable Uda Eriyagama Dhammajiva Maha Thero, and venerable Panadure Chandraratna Thero.

A total of 241 guests from the US, Sri Lanka, Canada, England, Australia and several other countries registered for the event. Approximately 180 guests participated on each day. The program was well received by the participants and much publicity was provided to the **Sathi Paasala Program** strongly proposed to be introduced to our younger generation.

The moderators for the event were Dr. Wije Wathugala and Ananda Mahinkanda. The vote of thanks was presented by Upul Gunawardana.(President NACOB)

The organizing team for the event comprised Lucky Rajasinghe, Wije Wathugala, Ananda Mahinkanda, Upul Gunawardana(President NACOB), Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara.

The ACOBA and NACOB jointly donated \$1000.00 to Nissarana Vanaya. Individual donations for ACOBA were made by Lucky Rajasinghe, Rahim Mantara, Rakshita Dissanayake, Wije Wathugala, Ananda Mahinkanda, Methinda Jayawardana, Pradeep Gunaratne, Saroj Weeraratne, Dilash De Silva, and Lasika Seneviratne. Nacoba Contributed \$425.

Contributions made by Lucky Rajasinghe, Wije Wathugala and Ananda Mahinkanda in coordinating the presentation of the event on both days including Zoom controls is highly appreciated and is worthy of mention.

Funding for Rugby at Ananda- Junior level

We donated a sum of \$2400.00 (Sri Lanka Rs. 435,025) on November 12th to the Ananda College Junior Rugby Development Fund.

The donation will be utilized to retain experienced and reputed coaches, purchase of new equipment, organize practice matches with other schools and an award ceremony for outstanding performances.

The donation was made possible by the generous contributions by Dilash De Silva, Chatura Hewavitharana, Methinda Jayawardana, Deepal Wijesooriya, Rakshita Dissanayake, Iresha De Silva, Lucky Rajasinghe, Rahim Mantara, Manjula Vithana, Chaminda Wickramaarachchi, Udesha Wanigasundara, Gayanagith Batugahage, and Prabath Sirithunga. The total collection from these donors was \$1675. The balance amount (\$725) to fulfill the total donation (\$2400) was transferred from ACOBA-WC funds as previously approved.

We also appreciate the effort by Dilash De Silva, Chatura Hewavitharana and Nalaka Gunawardana in coordinating the collection of funds and facilitating the transfer of money in a timely manner.

Membership

A membership Drive was initiated in Nonember, 2020 by Rakshita Dissanayake, Rahim Mantara, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, and Pradeep Gunaratne in an attempt to update the existing Members List, and recover Membership Dues.

With a persuasive effort, the team succeeded in signing up **18 new Life Members** (Current Total at 47.) and 27 Regular Members (total of 74 Members). We appreciate the support of all these members

to boost our membership count and assist us to recover the membership dues from those regular members who have not done so to date (Dues for 2020 and 2021). The attempts of promoting Life Membership (\$250.00) amongst the regular members are very much appreciated.

Annual Book Donation for Ananda College-2021

A request was received from the OBA for donation of books, bags and a pair of shoes each for needy students of Ananda for 2021. The total requirement was for 150 students, costing approximately \$33 per student.

This is a joint venture that is annually funded by the individual donations of the members of ACOBA-WC and the East Coast members.

The members present at the Exco Meeting on December 20th, 2020 unanimously voted to contribute for 75 students (33x75) a total sum of \$2500. Notices were sent to the general membership requesting for voluntary donations and the shortfall to be covered by the ACOBA Fund.

A total sum of \$960 was collected through individual donations by Rakshita Dissanayake, Rahim Mantara, Methinda Jayawardana, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Dr. Wije Wathugala, Shantha Suraweera, Gamini Weerathunge, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekera, Dr. Stanley Wijesekera, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Dr. Saroj Weeraratne. The shortfall of \$1540 was covered by ACOBA-WC Funds. The total Sum of \$2500 was transferred to the OBA Acct. on January 4th, 2021 after approval by the BOD.

The members present also agreed to include a set amount for this program in the annual budget starting 2021. Requesting for individual donations on an annual basis will still continue and the shortfall will be covered by ACOBA Funds.

Death of Mr. Nihal Wijesinghe

The Members were informed on the death of Mr. Nihal Wijesinghe on December 16th,2020.

He was one of the Founder members of ACOBA-WC and the 3rd President of the organization.

His services and dedication to ACOBA -WC was fondly remembered by most of our senior members- Palitha Palpola, Dr. Stanley Wijesekera, and Dr. Gamini Gunawardana.

He was remembered with a minute of silence and words of appreciation by Dr. Stanley Wijesekera, and Dr. Gamini Gunawardana at the last Exco meeting held on December 20th, 2020.

A fund was initiated amongst the General Membership and a total of \$4000 was donated to the family. Rakshita Dissanayake, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Dr. Stanley Wijeserera, Dr. Gamini Gunawardana, Ananda Markalanda, Dr. Nalaka Gunawardana, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Gihan Ukuwela, Dr. Walter Jayasinghe, Ananda Mahinkanda, Dr. Saroj Weeraratne, Dr. Wije Wathugala, Pradeep Gunaratne, Shantha Suraweera, Methinda Jayawardana, and Rahim Mantara contributed to the total collection.

Appreciation

We sincerely appreciate:

The outstanding support, dedication and commitment extended to the organization by Col. Lucky Rajasinghe in planning and coordinating all the Zoom Meetings and guiding the teams in every stage of planning.

The consistent support extended by Samantha Arambegedara in maintaining the funds as treasurer and preparing the Annual Tax Returns ACOBA-WC for the past few years.

Prepared By

Rahim Mantara
General Secretary-ACOBA-WC

Report Approved:

Proposed by:
Seconded by: