

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

(A California Nonprofit Corporation)

EIN: 46-1329747

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www.anandausawc.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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.

Record of activities of the ACOBA-WC for the period of January 24th, 2021, to January 16th, 2022, are as follows:

Office Bearers for the Year 2021

Board of Directors

Hon. Chairman-	Dr. Wije Wathugala
Hon. Corporate Secretary-	Shantha Suraweera
Hon. Chief Financial Officer-	Dr. Nalaka Gunawardena
Hon. Member-	Malraj De Silva
Hon. Member-	Pradeep Gunaratne

Executive Committee

Hon. President-	Rakshita Dissanayake
Hon. Vice President/President Elect-	Col Lucky Ranasinghe (Rtd)
Hon. Immediate Past President-	Dr. Lasika Seneviratne
Hon. General Secretary-	Squadron Leader Rahim Mantara (Rtd)
Hon. Treasurer-	Samantha Arambegedara
Hon. Assistant Treasurer-	Nalin Kulasooriya
Hon. Assistant Secretary- Sports-	Dilash De Silva
Hon. Asst. Secretary- Member Development-	Major Chaminda Dabare (Rtd)

Committee Members

Dr. Stanley Wijesekera	Jeevaka Weerasinghe
Dr. Gamini Gunawardana	Dulip Kaluarachchi
Brigadier Ganesh Perusinghe (Rtd)	Sarath De Silva
Thilanjan Vithana	Dr. Saroj Weeraratne
Ananda Mahinkanda	Chatura Hewavitharana
Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara	Asela Wickramasinghe
Wing Commander Sanath Senaratne (Rtd)	Gamini Weeratunge
Sanjeeva Weerasinghe	

Board And Committee Meetings

1. Annual General Meeting – January 24th,2021
2. Exco. Meetings
 - April 18th
 - July 18th
 - October 3rd

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.

Webinar on Covid 19- Vaccines, complications, and mental health -February 21st

Continuing the pioneering Covid-19 seminars in 2020, another Zoom Seminar was held on 21st February 2021, under the subject heading of 'Covid-19 Vaccines, Complications and Mental Health'.

President Rakshita's objective for this meeting was to boost confidence of the public on getting vaccinated in a timely manner and its preventive benefits. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Lasika Seneviratne and was spearheaded by our own Infectious Diseases' Consultant Dr. Deepthi Jayasekera and was well supported by Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Kapila Marambage.

The opening remarks were provided by Ambassador Ravinatha Ariyasinghe. The seminar was a huge success with almost 300 people joining the meeting.

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 ACOBA-WC. No payments were made for 2021 due to the disruption of the academic activities that resulted due to Covid- 19.

Funding for the Washroom Project-Ananda Elementary School

Total funding was approved for the washroom project at Ananda (Elementary school) during the presidency of Dr. Lasika Seneviratne and also approved by the BOD 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. BOD also prepared an MOU giving details of the areas of responsibilities for each group involved in the project. The amended project was approved by the EXCO and BOD in March 2021.

The construction of the project commenced in July,2021 and was completed by the end of October,2021. The building was ceremonially opened on November 1st, 2021(Founder's Day) by the college Principal in the presence of a restricted gathering of members of the 82 Group who worked very hard to accomplish the project.

A total amount of \$20459.64 was remitted to Sri Lanka through ACOBA-WC Acct in phases and the project is now complete.

Appreciate the continuous monitoring process of the Project Team led by Colonel Lucky Rajasinghe, Rakshita Dissanayake and Rahim Mantara throughout the project and the contribution made by Dr. Nalaka Gunawardena (CFO) in transferring the moneys in a timely manner.

Founders' Day- Weekend of Mindfulness- October 30th and 31st

The event was jointly organized by the Anandians and Nalandians of the US West Coast. The virtual program was held on both days (Oct. 30th, and 31st) from 7.00 am to 11:30 am. The program was conducted from the International Institute of Theravada in Sri Lanka by venerable Watagoda Maggavihari Thero, Walawe Sumedhaloka Thero and Palmadulle Vijithanandabiwamsa Thero.

Guests from the US, Sri Lanka, Canada, England, Australia and several other countries registered for the event. We had a total of 307 registered guests and approximately 141 of them participated on each day.

The moderators for the event were Dr. Wije Wathugala and Ananda Mahinkanda. The vote of thanks was presented by Nalin Samaratunge (President NACOBBA).

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

The ACOBBA and NACOBBA jointly donated \$1000.00 to International Institute of Theravada.

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.

Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter-November 14th, 2021

The event was held at the Woodley Park in Los Angeles on Sunday November 14th from 10:00 am onwards. It was the turn of Nalanda College to organize the event with the assistance of the Ananda team. The event was well organized with about 150 guests. The game was on live telecast via internet and recorded on YouTube. Live music was also arranged. Ananda college were the winners.

Manjula Vithana led the efforts for ACOBBA-WC, well supported by Asst. Secretary of Sports Dilash De Silva and Chaminda Dabare. The Organization would like to appreciate the hard work done by Manjula Vithana.

Total expenses for the event were evenly shared between both colleges. We paid \$2137.61 as our portion. Donations were made by Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Rakshita Dissanayake, Rahim Mantara, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekera, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Dr. Gamini Gunawardana, Dr. Saroj Weeraratne, Dilash De Silva, Air Commodore Ranjith Yapa (Rtd), Dr. Wije Wathugala, Sanje Sadera, Pradeep Gunaratne, Ananda Markalanda, Jeevaka Weerasinghe, and Dr. Stanley Wijesekera.

These members were awarded trophies for outstanding performance.

Best Batsman and MVP: Dhyan Ranatunge - Ananda

Best Bowler: Shihan Gunatilake - Ananda

Best Fielder: Harindu Wijesekere - Ananda

Winners: Ananda College

Other recognizable activities of ACOBA-WC members

- Malraj De Silva, a Past President and Board Member of ACOBA-WC is serving as the Sri Lankan Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.
- Dr. Gamini Gunawardana, a founder member, a Past President and a past Board Member of ACOBA-WC has been nominated as the Sri Lanka High Commissioner to South Africa.

Covid Relief in Sri Lanka – Fund activities outside ACOBAWC

- A Covid Relief Fund was established in May 2021 to assist Sri Lanka to overcome the Covid Crisis that was at its peak during the second surge. With the able support of the Sri Lanka Foundation in Los Angeles and many of the other nonprofit organizations in the west coast, a total sum of approximately \$140,000 was collected. Members of the ACOBA-WC contributed approximately \$51,000. Funds collected were used to purchase much needed medical equipment-oxy meters, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators etc. to many hospitals as requested by the Covid Task Force in Sri Lanka through Sri Lanka@Heart and Sri Lanka Foundation.
- Members of ACOBA-WC also contributed \$2600 for Covid Relief in Sri Lanka through SLAMANA.

Appreciations:

We sincerely appreciate:

Board of Directors for their continued oversight of the Organization.

Pradeep and Preeth Gunaratne for providing their School Premises for the organization to hold its physical meetings.

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: