

ANANDA COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION OF WEST COAST, USA

(A California Nonprofit Corporation)

EIN: 46-1329747

acobawc@gmail.com

www.anandausawc.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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 educational goals of Ananda College, Colombo, Sri Lanka (“College”) and, in particular, provide assistance to needy students of the College in pursuing their educational programs in Sri Lanka and USA.
- Work with College Old Boys Association in Sri Lanka in furtherance of the above educational goals.
- Facilitate communication among former students and staff of the College living outside Sri Lanka, especially West Coast of USA, in order to organize events and programs in furtherance of the above educational goals.

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 from January 29th, 2023, to January 21st, 2024 are as follows:

Office Bearers for the Year 2023

Board of Directors

Hon. Chairman-	Dr. Nalaka Gunawardena
Hon. Corporate Secretary-	Shantha Suraweera
Hon. Chief Financial Officer-	Rakshita Dissanayake
Hon. Member-	Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara
Hon. Member-	Dr. Lasika Seneviratne

Executive Committee

Hon. President- Col Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd)
Hon. Vice President/President Elect- Dilash De Silva
Hon. Immediate Past President- Rakshita Dissanayake
Hon. General Secretary- Squadron Leader Rahim Mantara (Rtd)
Hon. Treasurer- Samantha Arambegedara
Hon. Assistant Treasurer- Nalin Kulasooriya
Hon. Assistant General Secretary- Major Chaminda Dabare (Rtd)
Hon. Secretary- Sports- Jeevaka Weerasinghe
Hon. Secretary- Member Development- Sanje Sedara

Committee Members

Dr. Stanley Wijesekera	
Dr. Gamini Gunawardana	Methinda Jayawardana
Brigadier Ganesh Perusinghe (Rtd)	Dr. Wije Wathugala
Thilanjan Vithana	Dr. Saroj Weeraratne
Ananda Mahinkanda	Chatura Hewavitharana
Asela Wickremasinghe	Chandana Wijayarathna
Sanjeeva Weerasinghe	Palitha Palpola
Pradeep Gunaratne	Malraj De Silva

Board And Committee Meetings

Annual General Meeting- January 29th, 2023. (Virtual)

EXCO & Board Meeting – March 5, 2023- 6952 Winter Night Ave. Fontana CA. 92336

- September 10, 2023- 6181 Fernwood Drive, Huntington Beach CA. 92648

Periodic meetings were held on Zoom to plan and execute various tasks that had to be done for our fundraiser dinner dance held in October. The meetings were held among the various sub committees(music & band, decor, ticket sales, donations, silent auction ,raffle, and entrance control) with the guidance of the main dance committee.

We also conducted zoom meetings to arrange the rest of the events organized throughout the year.

Community Activities

Ananda College Book Donation Program - 2023

The Program was initiated by the Ananda College Old Boys Association in Sri Lanka. Funds were collected through donations by ACOBA-WC members. A selected number of needy students of all grades were provided with school supplies, a pair of shoes and a backpack.

We donated **SLR 1,000,000** for the Book Donation Program held in January 2023. Our donation covered the cost of supplies for 100 needy students.

Contributions were made by Shantha Suraweera, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekera, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd), Dilash De Silva, Rahim Mantara, Dr. Stanley Wijesekera, Pradeep Gunaratne, Dr. Wije Wathugala, Manjula Vithana, Methinda Jayawardana, Sanjeeva Weerasinghe, Jeevaka Weerasinghe, Ananda Mahinkanda, Chandana Wijeratne, Dr. Saroj Weeraratne, Nalin Kulasooriya, and Rohan Thangaratnam.

We sincerely thank and appreciate the generosity of these members who helped us to help students in need of school supplies for their academic year.

Financial Support for Mrs. Ekanayake

We informed our members in April regarding a need for financial assistance for Mrs. Ekanayake who had retired from the staff and was sick from a terminal illness. Mrs. Ekanayake was known to most of our members who then donated funds to assist her. We collected \$2600 towards the fund.

We also received financial help to the cause from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous a sum of \$1500 for the teacher's first 6 months of care. The money was transferred to the ACOBA 85 group and payments of \$250 per month were made to the teacher through the ACOBA 85 group. All expenses were accounted by her son- Deepthi who was her caregiver.

The monthly payments were coordinated by Dr. Arampath Gunawardena, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne and Rahim Mantara.

Mrs. Ekanayake passed away on the 24th of December, 2023 and her cremation took place at the General Cemetery in Mount Lavinia on the 27th of December .

May she attain the supreme bliss of nibbana.

Fundraiser Dinner Dance- Saturday October 21st

The fundraiser dinner dance was held at the Castaway Restaurant/ Event Center in Burbank. We had 415+ guest and the event was planned from 7:00 pm. to 12:00am. The Guest artist was Falan Andrea from Sri Lanka backed by the Heat Beat group. The compere was Sanje Sedara. The day's events included several music/dance sessions, silent auction, raffle draws and draws for door prizes. We also had DJ Leo from Canada in addition to the Heat beat group.

The main dance committee comprised Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, Dilash De Silva, Rakshita Dissanayake, Dr. Nalaka Gunawardana, Chaminda Dabare, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Jeevaka Weerasinghe, Rahim Mantara, Nalin Kulasooriya, Sanje Sedara and Samantha Arambegedara.

There were also several sub committees that worked together to make the event a success.

A special appreciation note is made to Roshi Dabare who tirelessly worked with various committees to organize the day's events.

Funds to support junior rugby at Ananda College

We have financially supported the Junior Rugby Program at Ananda for the past several years. Our target is to donate \$2400 annually for the Program. Our members have continued to contribute towards achieving the target and any shortfall of up to \$800 has been covered by our ACOBAWC funds.

Members donated \$1250.00 towards the Program in 2023. We contributed a total of \$ 2050.00 (1250 +800) to the Program in November,2023.

Donations were made by Lakshan Wickramaarachchi, Dilash De Silva, Iranga Karunaratne , Dr.Nalaka Gunawardhana, Chaminda Dabare, Rakshita Dissanayake, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe, and Methinda Jayawardana.

Dr. Sri Welaratna and ACOBA-WC Scholarship Program

The Dr. Sri Welaratna Scholarship Program is awarded annually at Ananda College for Merit Base Performance for all grades, funded by the interest from a fixed deposit in Peoples Bank of Sri Lanka.

The 85 group of ACOBA is locally managing the scholarship program together with ACOBA-WC.

The interest earned through the fix deposit for 2023 was sufficient to provide scholarships for only 24 students for Merit Base Scholarships (SLR. 60,000 annually) and best O/L results.

The program initiated by the EXCO to promote individual members to donate added 31 more scholarships (SLR. 36,000 annually). These scholarships were awarded by recognizing the name of the individual donor, the family, or in memory of a loved one of the donor's choice. We were successful in adding 31 more scholarships for Merit Base through this Program. The cost of each scholarship was US\$ 130.00.

The total number of Merit Base Scholarships awarded were 54.

Scholarships were donated by Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara (5), Col. Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd) (3), Rahim Mantara (1), Dr. Stanley Wijesekera (4), Sanje Sedara (5), Dr. Wije Wathugala(4), Rohan Thangaratnam (1), Ananda Mahinkanda (2), Dr. Saroj Weeraratne (2), Samantha Arambegedara (2), Malraj De Silva (1), and Gamini Weeratunge (1).

The Need Base Scholarship Program to support Anandians who needed financial assistance whilst in school was also promoted in 2023. The students are nominated by a panel in Sri Lanka and we arranged to fund them with SLR 5000 a month for 12 months. Cost per student for 2023 was US\$200.00.

Donations for the program were made by Dr. Lasika Seneviratne (5), Dr. Nalaka Gunawardena (1), Sam Wijesekera (1), Dr. Wije Wathugala (2) and ACOBA-WC Fund(3).

The total number of Need Base Scholarships for 2023 were 12.

The presentation ceremony was held on December 8th at the Kularatne Hall amidst a large gathering.

Presentation of scholarships were made only to the winners of the Merit Base/Academic Excellence. The administration of the school has still not provided the list of students qualified for the Need Base scholarships. The ACOBA 85 group will continue to work on the details. Moneys collected for the program remains in the ACOBA-WC account.

We sincerely thank and appreciate the generosity of the members who contributed to the cause.

Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter-December 2nd

The event was held at the Woodley Park in Los Angeles on Saturday December 2nd from 10:30 am onwards. It was the turn of Nalanda College to organize the event with the assistance of Ananda College. The event was well organized with about 75 guests. The game was on live telecast and music was also arranged. Ananda College were the winners.

Chief Guest: Mr. Gamunu Goonawardena

Ananda Captain: Haridu Wijesekera

Scores: Nalanda – 92/9 (20 overs) Ananda- 95/2(17 overs)

Best Batsman: Susantha De Mel Best Bowler: Shihan Gunathilaka MVP: Haridu Wijesekera

Founders' Day- Meditation Program- December 10th

The event was jointly organized by the Anandians and Nalandians of the US West Coast and was held at the Mindfulness and Meditation Center, 1023 N. Glendora Avenue, Covina CA. from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The event was also programmed on zoom. We had approximately 85 participants.

The organizing team for the event comprised Col. Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd), Dr. Wije Wathugala, Ananda Mahinkanda, Dilash De Silva, Hasangith Kuruppuarachchige (President NACOBA), Dr. Arampath Gunawardena and Rahim Mantara.

Donations as below were made jointly by both OBAs to these Venerable Theros who conducted the program for the day. **Total Donation- \$1500.00**

Labunoruwakanda Aramya Senasanaya, Sri Lanka	- \$600.00
Mindfulness Meditation Center , Covina, CA.	- \$400.00
Ven. Makandure Dhammapethi	- \$100.00
Ven. Wilagama Dhammalankara	- \$100.00
Ven. Usgoda Dhammagaru	- \$100.00
Ven. Nepalaye Suwana Thero	- \$100.00
Ven. Thambalagamuwe Vissuddhi	- \$100.00

Ananda College Book Donation Program - 2024

Donations for the school year 2024 were collected in January24 (school year scheduled to start in February,2024)

Cost per student was US\$25. Members had donated enough funds to cover the cost for 101 needy students as on January 15th. Target was to for 130 needy students.

Donations were made by Shantha Suraweera, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekera, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Col. Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd), Dilash De Silva, Rahim Mantara, Dr. Stanley Wijesekera, Pradeep Gunaratne, Dr. Wije Wathugala, Manjula Vithana, Methinda Jayawardana, , Jeevaka Weerasinghe, Ananda Mahinkanda, Dr. Saroj Weeraratne, Samantha Arambegedara, and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

ACOBA-WC – Summary of Bank Balances. (As of December 31st,2023)

To be presented by the Treasurer.

Appreciations:

We sincerely appreciate:

- The support of the Board of Directors for their continued oversight of the Organization.
- 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.
- All the Donors who generously contributed to achieve our financial goals in all our funding events. Generous contributions made by Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Dr. Stanley Jayasekara and Sanje Sedara immensely helped us to achieve our targets.
- CFO -Rakshita Dissanayake for timely disbursement of funds at all events and taking part in all event 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
January 17th. 2024

Report Approved:
Proposed by:
Seconded by: