

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

(A California Nonprofit Corporation)
EIN: 46-1329747

acobawc@gmail.com

www.anandausawc.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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 01st, 2024, to December 31st, 2024 are as follows:

Office Bearers for the Year 2024

Board of Directors

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

Executive Committee

Hon. President- Dilash De Silva
Hon. Vice President/President Elect- Nalin Sampath Kulasooriya
Hon. Immediate Past President- Col Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd)
Hon. General Secretary- Manjula Vithana
Hon. Assistant General Secretary- Major Chaminda Dabare (Rtd)
Hon. Treasurer- Samantha Arambegedara
Hon. Assistant Treasurer- Wing. Cmdr. Sanath Senaratne (Rtd)
Hon. Secretary- Sports- Jeevaka Weerasinghe
Hon. Assistant Secretary-Sports- Iranga Karunaratne
Hon. Secretary- Member Development- Sanje Sedara
Hon. Assistant Secretary- Member Development- Chandana Wijyaratne

Committee Members

Dr. Stanley Wijesekera	Malraj De Silva
Dr. Gamini Gunawardana	Dili Nuwan Wijesinghe
Brigadier Ganesh Perusinghe (Rtd)	Dr. Wije Wathugala
Sqn. Ldr. Rahim Mantara (Rtd)	Dr. Saroj Weeraratne
Ananda Mahinkanda	Chatura Hewavitharana
Asela Wickremasinghe	Sanjeeva Weerasinghe
Palitha Palpolu	Rithmaka Karunadhara
Pradeep Gunaratne	Gihan Ukuwela

Board And Committee Meetings

Annual General Meeting- January 21st, 2024 Was held at 10316 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley CA. 92708

EXCO & Board Meeting – Were held as follows:

02/04/2024 - EXCO & Board Zoom Meeting

05/02/2024 - EXCO Zoom Meeting

05/26/2024 – EXCO & Board physical and Zoom Meeting – At 2861 Athens Cir, Corona, CA 92882

10/24/2024 - EXCO & Board Zoom Meeting

11/03/2024 - EXCO & Board physical and Zoom Meeting – 838 West Ridge Ave, Glendora, CA 91741

11/23/2024 - EXCO & Board Zoom Meeting

12/29/2024- EXCO & Board physical and Zoom Meeting – 726 Carriage House Dr, Arcadia, CA 91006

Periodic meetings were held on Zoom to plan and execute various tasks that had to be done for our fundraiser dinner dance to be held in February 2025. 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 sub-committee zoom meetings to arrange the rest of the events organized throughout the year.

Community Activities

(Please Visit ACOBABC, USA Activity Page for details - <https://www.acobawcusa.org/activities/activities-2024/>)

Ananda College Book Donation Program - 2024

The Ananda College Old Boys Association (ACOBA) in Sri Lanka initiated the program, which took place on March 31, 2024, in Colombo. Funds amounting to USD 2,575.00 was raised through donations from ACOBA-WC members. A total of 103 underprivileged students from all grades received school supplies, a pair of shoes, and a backpack.

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, Jeevaka Weerasinghe, Ananda Mahinkanda, Chandana Wijeratne, Rakshita Dissanayake, Sanje Sedara, Sanath Senaratne, Samantha Arambegedara, and Asela Wickramasinghe.

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

For details refer to: <https://www.acobawcusa.org/book-donations-2024/>

Funds to support junior rugby at Ananda College – May 2024

Since 2017, we have financially supported the Junior Rugby Program at Ananda. Our goal is to donate \$2,400 annually to the program. Our members have consistently contributed to this target, and any shortfall of up to \$800 has been covered by our ACOBAWC funds.

In 2024, members donated \$1,700, and the organization contributed \$700 towards the program. As a result, we contributed a total of \$2,400 (\$1,700 from members plus \$800 from ACOBAWC funds) to the program in July 2024.

Donations were made by Lakshan Wickramarachchi, Dilash DeSilva, Lucky Rajasinghe, Shantha Suraweera, Jeevaka Weerasinghe, Chaminda Dabare, Thilanjan Vithana, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara, Rahim Mantara, Iranga Karunaratne, Asela Wickramasinghe and Dill Nuwan Wijesinghe contributed towards the project.

The following members contributed an additional \$2,699.00 toward the coaches' salaries in May 2024:

Lakshan Wickramarachchi, Dilash DeSilva, Rajeev Serasinghe, Shaminda Hubert, Udesha, and Dumesh Subeappu Kankanamalage.

For details, please refer to <https://www.acobawcusa.org/rugby-development-2024/>

Dr. Sri Welaratna Scholarship Program

The Dr. Sri Welaratna Scholarship Program is awarded annually at Ananda College based on merit for grade levels 5 through 10. This program is funded by the interest from a fixed deposit at Peoples Bank of Sri Lanka.

The 85 group of ACOBA (Alumni of Ananda College) is actively managing the scholarship program in collaboration with ACOBA-WC.

In 2024, the interest earned from the fixed deposit was enough to provide scholarships for 24 students, which included four top students from each grade level, ranging from grades 5 to 10. Each merit-based scholarship was valued at SLR 60,000 annually.

One student, who has been a multi-year recipient of this scholarship scheme, excelled in the GCE (Advanced Level) Examination by achieving the highest marks in the examination. Additionally, two other recipients were ranked among the top ten students.

Scholarship award ceremony was held at the Kularatna Hall, at Anada College, Colombo on 26th September 2024. Our past president Colone Lucky Rajasinghe was invited as the chief guest.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sri Welaratna for his support.

For details of student recipients refer to <https://www.acobawcusa.org/2024-sri-welaratna-scholarship-recipients/>

ACOBAWC, USA Scholarships

The program initiated by the Executive Committee (EXCO) aims to promote and recognize individual members and expand merit-based scholarships beyond Sri Welaratna Scholarships.

This year, an additional 36 scholarships, each valued at SLR 48,000 annually, were added. Six new merit-based scholarships were awarded to students per grades 5 through 10. These scholarships were given in recognition of individual donors or their nominees. Each scholarship costs US\$ 175.00.

Scholarship award ceremony was held at the Kularatna Hall, at Ananda College, Colombo on 26th September 2024. Our past president Colone Lucky Rajasinghe was invited as the chief guest.

We are grateful to our donor members for continuing support.

For details of donors and student recipients refer to: <https://www.acobawcusa.org/2024-acobawc-scholarships/>

The Need-Based Scholarship Program

The Need-Based Scholarship Program, launched in 2024, aims to support Ananda students who require financial assistance while attending school, particularly those arriving on scholarships from outstation areas. Students are nominated by the principal of Ananda College in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and we arranged to fund them with SLR 5000 per month for 12 months. The cost per student for 2024 was \$200.00.

Donations for the program were made by Dr. Lasika Seneviratne (5 scholarships), Dr. Nalaka Gunawardena (1 scholarship), Sam Wijesekera (1 scholarship), Dr. Wije Wathugala (2 scholarship) and ACOBA-WC Fund (3 scholarships). We sincerely thank and appreciate the generosity of the members who contributed to the cause.

The presentation ceremony was held on 26th September 2024, at the Kularatne Hall amidst a large gathering.

For details of donors and student recipients refer to: <https://www.acobawcusa.org/2024-acobawc-scholarships/>

Visit by Sri Lanka Airforce Commander

On April 21, 2024, an alumnus of Ananda College, Air Marshal Udeni Rajapaksa, the current Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, made a courtesy visit to California. Retired officers of the Sri Lanka Air Force, along with ACOBAWC, USA, organized a felicitation lunch to honor the visiting Air Marshal. President of ACOBAWC, Dilash De Silva presented him a memento on behalf of the organization. Air Marshal Udeni Rajapakse briefed all the Anandians about the ongoing project concerning the Science Center of Excellence at Ananda College.

Please refer to - <https://www.acobawcusa.org/sl-air-force-commanders-visit-2024/>

GCE (OL) Scholarships

These scholarships, each valued at SLRs 70,000.00, are awarded annually to the three students with the best results in the GCE (OL) Examination. The scholarship program was initiated by the Founder Organization in 1988 and expanded to include three scholarships in 2015. Due to a delay in the release of the GCE (OL) exam results, these scholarships have not yet been awarded this year. The process is currently in progress.

Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter

We were unable to organize the annual Maroons cricket match due to ongoing administrative issues among Nalandians in the USA. We look forward to playing the game in early 2025.

Distribution of the Medical Book Among the Libraries of Olcott Schools

Ananda Mahinkanda and Dr. Deepthi Jayasekare initiated a project to distribute Dr. Harris Pathirage's book "Daru Suwa Diriya" to Ananda College and other Olcott schools in Sri Lanka, aiming to raise awareness about issues related to children's health.

ACOBAWC successfully collected \$700 for the distribution of Dr. Pathirage's medical book to Ananda College and other Olcott schools. This project was approved by the Board of Directors and managed by

Nalin Kulasooriya. The funds have been collected and transferred to Dr. Pathirage, and a ceremony for the book donation at Ananda College is pending scheduling.

Project Details: <https://www.acobawcusa.org/distribution-of-medical-book-2024/>

Founders' Day- Meditation Program – 23rd November 2024

The event was organized by the Anandians of the ACOBA West Coast, USA and was held at the Sabuddhaloka Buddhist Vihara in Moreno Valley, California from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Meditation program was conducted by Omalpe Shobitha Maha Thero visiting from Sri Lanka. The event was also programmed on zoom. We had approximately 60 participants.

The organizing team for the event comprised of Dilash De Silva, Dr. Wije Wathugala, Ananda Mahinkanda, Nalin Kulasooriya, Lucky Rajasinghe (Rtd), Thilanjan Vithana and Rahim Mantara.

For details visit: <https://www.acobawcusa.org/founders-day-2024/>

Financials

Please refer to the financial report 2024.

Organization has completed State and Federal tax filing for up to year 2023 and is in good standing.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Lalitha Seneviratna – on 06/10/2024 - Wife of our late teacher Mr. Tissa Seneviratna and mother of our members Asitha Seneviratna and Dr. Lasika Seneviratna.

Mr. Upendra Kannangara - 02/06/2025 – President our brother group in Sri Lanka.

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 Dilash De Silva and Thilanjan Vithana 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 Pradeep Gunaratne, Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara, Dr. Lasika Seneviratne, Dr. Stanley Jayasekara, Jeewaka Weerasinghe 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 CPA Samantha Arambedara in maintaining the funds as treasurer and preparing the Annual Tax Returns ACOBA-WC for the past few years.

Prepared By

Thilanjan Vithana
General Secretary-ACOBA-WC
23rd March 2025

Report Approved:

Proposed by:
Seconded by: