

EDUCATE | MOTIVATE | ACTIVATE

2015 ANCA WR ANNUAL REPORT





ANCA-WR | MISSION STATEMENT

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region is the largest and most influential Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization in the Western United States. Working in coordination with a network of offices, chapters, and supporters throughout the region and affiliated organizations around the country, the ANCA-WR serves all aspects of the Armenian Cause by organizing and developing local Armenian communities; promoting the political, legal, social, cultural, educational and economic interests and rights of the Armenian-American community at the local, state, regional, and national levels; seeking justice for the Armenian Genocide; supporting economic development and democracy in the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh; ensuring the right to self-determination and independence for the people of Artsakh and Javakhk; ensuring the return of Nakhichevan to its rightful owners; and advocating for all aspects of the Armenian Cause through grassroots mobilization, political relationships, media presence, and education.



Chair's Message

Reflecting back on what marked the most momentous year of grassroots activism throughout the world, there are so many vivid reminders of the challenges we face as well as the undeniable power we have as a collective force to bring justice and greater awareness in pursuit of our Cause.

With the Armenian Genocide Centennial and the multi-millions of dollars that the Turkish and Azeri lobbies and governments continued to pour in to purchase influence, falsify history, and promote their interests, the demand for our expanded reach and our work was greater than ever before. With limited financial resources and staff and our army of grassroots volunteers to meet those demands, we forged ahead by becoming more efficient, effective and also creative in our approaches.

In 2015, the ANCA-WR efforts expanded tenfold as we worked alongside our local chapters and communities and held over 700 meetings with elected officials and administrators; conducted townhalls in over 10 cities and 8 states to activate these communities throughout the Western Region; started new chapters in Arizona, Dallas, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and Sunland-Tujunga; engaged thousands in the democratic process by making Hye Votes, our voter registration and Get Out The Vote initiative a top priority; participated in the US delegation trip to monitor elections in Artsakh; expanded our regional internship program to provide hands on experience to our next generation of leaders; helped organize many Centennial commemorative events, marches and rallies in the region, and took a leadership role in the planning and execution of the March for Justice, the second largest march in the history of Los Angeles with over 166,000 activists taking to the streets on April 24th.

In addition, we witnessed an unprecedented response from our community as we organized our 8th Annual Advocacy Day in California with over 600 participants from across the State, the largest to date, and for the very first time held Advocacy Days in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah - bringing Recognition of Artsakh's Independence, the Armenian Genocide, and the Armenian Cause to the frontline of the legislative agenda.

These advocacy efforts resulted in positive ripple effects on the legislative front. From the Obama Administration's support for the Royce-Engel Proposals for Karabakh Peace, to South Dakota becoming the 43rd U.S. State to officially recognize the Genocide, to the City of Carson's rejection of a proposal to erect a monument to Ataturk, to the termination of contracts between the City of Los Angeles and the Port of Oakland and Genocide denialist lobbyists in Gephardt Government Affairs,

to having UTLA, the nation's 2nd largest teachers union, join countless cities, counties, school and college districts in unanimously passing Armenian Genocide education resolutions, to successfully advocating the California Department of Education to expand the Armenian Genocide Curriculum Framework, and to killing pro-Azeri resolutions in Colorado and Texas, our successes and victories were action packed and endless.

The efforts continued as we launched a traveling exhibit prepared in collaboration with the Near East Foundation entitled, "They Shall Not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief," partnered with four-time regional Emmy Award-winner Bared Maronian for the production of a documentary film about the humanitarian relief efforts of the Near East Relief, produced an educational handbook, and conducted presentations to thousands at private and public school and college campuses about this lost, proud chapter in American history. All the while, we continued our community development and service programs, providing networking opportunities for experts in every field, and defending the rights of our communities.

With the year of the Armenian Genocide Centennial coming to an end, we look ahead with a renewed commitment to protect and promote the independence and security of Armenia and Artsakh, pursue the just goals of the Armenian Cause, activate the strength of the Diaspora, and further develop and harvest our political capital. I am proud of the momentous milestones the ANCA-Western Region accomplished in 2015 and excited to continue to work with our incredible grassroots volunteers, Board of Directors, staff, committee members, donors, supporters and activists around the region as we write the next chapter of history for the ANCA-WR and our People. I invite you to march on with us in 2016 and beyond as we leverage our values, our vision, our collective voice and vote to take our Cause to new heights of distinction.

See you in the trenches.

In Common Cause,



Nora Hoysepian, Esq.
ANCA-WR Chair

Entering a New Era of Grassroots Activism

2015 witnessed a renewed commitment and a new era of grassroots activism at the ANCA-WR as we prepared for and commemorated the Armenian Genocide Centennial, marching on in our pursuit of truth and justice. With broad-based support of an unparalleled network of cultural, educational, athletic, charitable, and youth organizations, the ANCA-WR efforts expanded tenfold as we worked alongside our local chapters toward cultivating relationships with local public officials and entities, continued our community development programs, and helped promote grassroots activism on a local level to be utilized at the state, regional and national levels to advance the Armenian Cause.

From organizing historic rallies and marches demanding justice, working with local entities in recognition of Artsakh's independence and the Armenian Genocide, hosting free legal clinics and annual blood drives, to college preparation and financial aid workshops, to providing after-school tutoring, to registering voters and participating on city, county, and statewide committees, the ANCA-WR local chapters continued to serve as the glue of their communities and of the ANCA-WR.



The Armenian Nation is today on a march to justice. We have, in the century since our near annihilation, risen up and rebuilt. We are today, having developed a powerful diaspora, saved Artsakh, and re-established our independence, starting this second century by demanding what is rightfully ours - not simply to honor our past but to serve our future. Step by step, we are working to realize our dreams."
- Aram Hamparian, ANCA Executive Director

TOURING THE REGION | PLANTING THE SEEDS | HARVESTING ACTIVISM

Staying committed to our mission of truly serving as the regional hub, the ANCA-WR kicked off 2015 with a whirlwind of activities in over a dozen states. Our staff was expanded to add a Denver-based Community Outreach Coordinator whose major responsibility is to educate, motivate and activate smaller Armenian communities in states outside of California. Town hall meetings were held in Austin, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, Santa Fe, and Phoenix to engage, re-energize and activate these communities and had an electrifying ripple effect as they resulted in the expansion of the Houston chapter, the launch of new chapters, the organization of networks, the creation of partnerships and grassroots activism in places like Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Alaska and Idaho. Given the remarkable response by local community members to attend the town hall meetings and their eagerness to start a local chapter or become involved with an existing one, the ANCA WR will continue to heavily invest in building and serving as a resource to the Armenian communities outside of its base in Los Angeles, California.



Commemorating the Armenian Genocide Centennial

The ANCA-WR played an integral leadership role in the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee – Western USA, helping organize the historic March for Justice on April 24 when more than 166,000 activists took to the streets of Los Angeles demanding justice for the 1.5 million lives lost during the Genocide of 1915, making it the second largest march in the history of Los Angeles. Amongst many other LA based commemorations, the ANCA WR worked hand in hand with the City of Los Angeles in its Genocide commemorative projects which included: display of light pole banners, 'America We Thank You' billboard displays across the city commemorating 100 years of philanthropy, planting of 100 pomegranate trees, a city-wide book drive and art contest, over 300 bus sign displays with artwork from the winner of citywide art contest, a special commemoration ceremony honoring a 104-year-old Genocide survivor living in Los Angeles, as well as the opening ceremony of the Armenian Heritage Square at the intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Western Avenue in Little Armenia.



Around the Region



Increasing Awareness and Advocacy

MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS

The ANCA WR along with its local chapters held an unprecedented 700+ meetings in 2015 with federal, state and local level elected officials representing the Western Region to educate and advocate on issues of concern to the Armenian-American community – more than doubling its number of meetings from 2014. In addition, dozens of meetings were held with appointed high level staffers, school administrators and teachers, all to educate them and encourage their active participation and assistance in our just pursuit of the Armenian Cause.





8TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA ADVOCACY DAY

The 8th Annual ANCA-WR California Advocacy Day organized by the ANCA WR Governmental Affairs Committee, was the most successful to date, galvanizing over 600 Armenian Americans from across the State of all ages and backgrounds who brought issues of importance to our community to the State’s Capitol while meeting with over 70 legislative and administrative offices in one day.

Showing their promise as leaders who will continue to pursue justice for the Armenian People into the future, students from Armenian schools all over the State proudly wore their school uniforms into the Capitol, representing the Rose & Alex Pilibos School in Hollywood, Ferrahian High School in Encino, Mesrobian School in Montebello, Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School in Clovis, and Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan School in San Francisco.

Groups of activists representing the ANCA-WR local chapters, the Armenian Relief Society, the Armenian Youth Federation, the Service Employees International Union, as well as members of the Sacramento Armenian community, ANCA-WR Education Committee and America We Thank You/Near East Relief Committee all joined the Government Affairs Committee, Board of Directors, staff and interns in achieving a day of well-organized grassroots advocacy.

Featured in the Capitol Rotunda was the ANCA-WR’s exhibit showcasing its “America We Thank You” tribute to Near East Relief, in order to educate the public about the role of the American People, and specifically the people of California, in rescuing hundreds of thousands of refugees and orphans who survived the Armenian Genocide. Many of the activists participating in Advocacy Day were the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of orphans who were saved by Near East Relief and had their own personal stories to tell.

The day’s events were highlighted by the unanimous adoption of Armenian Genocide resolutions in both houses of the State legislature, a special reception hosted by the newly established California Armenian Issues Legislative Caucus on the state capitol lawn, and a press conference announcing the launch of the California State Museum Armenian History and Culture Exhibit.



CALIFORNIA STATE MUSEUM OPENS LANDMARK ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE EXHIBIT

In late March, the California State Museum in Sacramento, opened its landmark exhibit capturing the Armenian people's journey through the Armenian Genocide, Artsakh, and the outstanding contributions of Armenians to California's culture and history. The exhibit titled "Armenian Journey: From Shattered Past to Prosperity" came just 20 days before the ANCA-WR's California Advocacy Day and was part of a long list of Genocide Centennial commemorative events sponsored by the California Armenian Issues Legislative Caucus and planned in partnership with the ANCA-WR, and in collaboration with Armenian Museum of Fresno Chair Varoujan Der Simonian at and around the State's Capitol.



EXPANDING ADVOCACY DAYS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

Building on our successful California Advocacy Days, the ANCA WR took the region by storm in 2015 by organizing, for the first time, Advocacy Days in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah to bring the united voice of the Armenian-American community to the frontline of the legislative agenda. From educating elected officials about the Armenian Genocide and the proud chapter in US History when the American people helped save the Armenian nation from annihilation during the 1915 atrocities to informing them about Turkey's and Azerbaijan's intolerant dictatorship regimes with gross human rights violations that continue to deny the Armenian Genocide and stop peace from reaching the region, the advocacy days in the varied states bore new heights of awareness, and resulted in both legislative and community successes throughout the region.

Equally important, the advocacy days provided community members with the opportunity to meet fellow human rights activists from every corner of their state to exchange ideas, organize their communities and ultimately strengthen the network of grassroots activism - which forms the foundation of the ANCA-WR.



HOUSTON AND ALBUQUERQUE HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS DISPLAY ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EXHIBITS

As the communities throughout the region, the nation, and the world prepared for the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, in late March and early April, the ANCA WR also worked with its local chapter in Houston, Texas, to bring to fruition the “Armen T. Wegner & The Armenian in Anatolia Armenian Genocide Exhibit” to the Houston Holocaust Museum. The launch of the exhibit was kicked off by a well-attended reception comprised of elected officials, community leaders and members.

All the while, now ANCA New Mexico co-Chair Ken Gleria, led efforts for the expansion of the Armenian Genocide Exhibit at the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque. Through these dedicated efforts of our local grassroots activists, thousands upon thousands of museum visitors were given the opportunity to learn about this dark chapter in world history.



DC ARTSAKH ADVOCACY DAY & CAPITOL HILL

With a favorable jet stream speeding their way, dozens of ANCA-WR leaders and activists arrived in Washington, DC in early December for a two-day Capitol Hill advocacy campaign in support of peace and freedom for Artsakh.

The cross country trip to the nation's capital was inspired by the ANCA Fly-In For #NKPEACE initiative, where participants met with the offices of over 70 U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to address a number of key issues – including the need for the U.S. Department of State to press the Aliyev regime in Baku to stop escalating violence and war rhetoric against the peaceful population of Artsakh and the need for the U.S. Government to support continued U.S. humanitarian and developmental assistance for Artsakh. The advocacy days concluded with the annual Congressional event marking Artsakh's commitment to peace and democracy, which drew a standing room only crowd. Powerful remarks were delivered by Members of Congress, followed by an address by Armenia's Ambassador, and a keynote speech by Artsakh's Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan.



US DELEGATION VISIT TO ARTSAKH

In early May, a delegation of United States election observers, comprised of ANCA-WR Board Member Nareg Kitsinian, Esq., and Government Affairs Director Tereza Yerimyan, elected officials Andreas Borgeas from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin, experts Karin Mac Donald, Director of the UC Berkeley Election Administration Research Center, Kristen Abajian from the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative, and Peter Abajian from Paros Foundation, all traveled to Artsakh in early May to closely observe what resulted in successful and democratic parliamentary elections, later evaluated by the University of California Election Observation and Technical Assistance Team as “a fair, accurate, and transparent election process.”



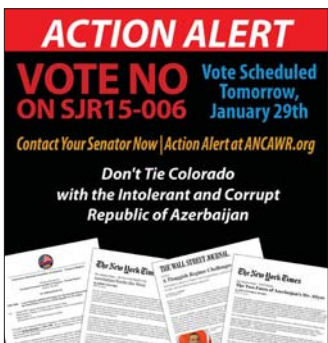
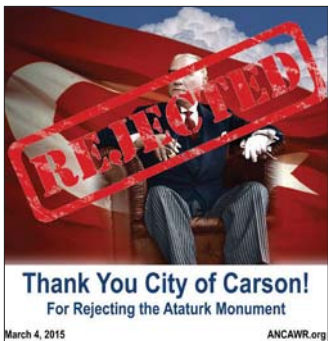
LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE SUCCESSES THROUGH GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

2015 marked an extraordinary year of accomplishments for the ANCA WR and the Armenian Cause in the area of legislative affairs. While the Turkish and Azeri lobbies dumped millions of dollars in pursuit of spreading false propaganda and genocide denial, the ANCA WR powered up its grassroots and continued to educate elected officials, hold regular meetings, cultivate relationships, and work on policy issues as they relate to the benefit of the Armenian communities in the region, Armenia, and Artsakh.

Working hand in hand with our Washington D.C. and our Eastern Region counterparts, the ANCA WR and its grassroots on the local level were able to defeat, month after month, anti-Armenian, anti-Artsakh and pro-Azerbaijani resolutions in the States of Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, New Mexico, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.

In addition, our local chapters took on local issues - demanding proper representation in their city and county institutions, partnering with their school districts to ensure that Armenian parents and students with language barriers were able to successfully navigate the education system, hosting free legal clinics and informative town hall meetings for the community, registering and getting out the vote for local elections, all the while serving as the bridge between issues in city departments and their Armenian-American constituency.

These efforts also resulted in back to back victories on the federal, state, and local levels for the Armenian Cause which include:



- Obama Administration Supports Proposals for Karabakh Peace
- South Dakota Becomes 43rd U.S. State to Recognize Armenian Genocide Centennial
- California Assembly and Senate Unanimously Pass Resolutions Commemorating the Armenian Genocide Centennial
- Nevada House of Representatives and Senate Unanimously Pass Proclamations Marking Armenian Genocide Centennial
- Utah Governor Proclaims April as Month of Remembrance of Armenian Genocide
- Colorado Governor Unveils Khachkar on April 24th on State Capitol Grounds in Memory of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide
- Texas Kills Pro Azeri Resolution
- Port of Oakland Refuses to Renew six-figure lobbying contract with Gephardt Government Affairs
- Utah Senate Commemorates Armenian Genocide Centennial, praises Near East Relief efforts, and welcomes ANCA WR and Utah Armenian community on to the floor
- Carson City Council unanimously rejects a proposal to erect a memorial monument for Genocide Perpetrator and Denier Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in the city's International Sculpture Garden
- ANCA-WR Leads Successful Effort To Sever City of LA Ties To Genocide Denial Firm – Gephardt Government Affairs
- Colorado State Senate Pulls Pro-Azeri Resolution
- Texas Passes Resolution Praising Near East Relief Efforts During Armenian Genocide
- UC Campuses Vote to Divest from Turkey for Continued Denial of the Armenian Genocide
- Nation's 2nd Largest Teachers Union, UTLA, Unanimously Passes Armenian Genocide Education Resolution
- California Department of Education Expands Armenian Genocide Curriculum Framework
- The California State Assembly Public Employment, Retirement, and Social Security (PERSS) Committee voted to adopt CA Assembly Bill 1410, calling for the divestment of the State of California's investments in the Turkish government

In addition, as our communities commemorated the Centennial of the Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, our local chapters across the region worked alongside their local institutions to move beyond just commemorative resolutions recognizing the Armenian Genocide to resolutions committing local cities, school and college districts to teaching about and hosting community and campus wide annual events surrounding the atrocities that took place during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. All the while the ANCA WR worked in concert with Armenian Student Associations and the Armenian Youth Federation throughout the state to pass similar resolutions on university campuses and lead a successful Divest from Turkey campaign.





Taking Armenian Genocide Education to New Heights

To ensure that the events leading up to, during and in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide find their rightful place in school textbooks and are properly taught for generations to come, the ANCA WR Education Committee, launched in 2014, continued on its journey to create partnerships with school districts, college boards, educators, administrators, local chapters, ANCA WR committees and community organizations throughout the region who in return helped fulfill that mission.

In 2015, the collective efforts of these partnerships resulted in an unprecedented number of school and college districts, not only passing resolutions commemorating the Armenian Genocide Centennial and reaffirming their commitment to its teachings, but hosting campus wide commemorative and educational events with thousands of teachers, students and community members in attendance.

Other major accomplishments include:

- Working closely with California school administrators to expand the State's curriculum framework as it pertains to teaching about the Armenian Genocide and incorporating the heroic response by the United States during the Genocide in American history coursework;
- Submitting expansive language on the Armenian Genocide to major textbook publishing companies to be incorporated in the next print of history books;
- Providing school districts with a speakers bureau list, a video library, Armenian Genocide education materials and lesson plans through the Genocide Education Project, literature lists for classroom reading for different age groups;
- Providing training for American and Armenian teachers on Armenian Genocide education; supporting efforts of Armenian youth involved in Armenian Genocide information campaign;
- Continuing its public information social media campaign entitled #100YearsAgoToday with daily NY Times and other American publication coverage by posting articles which were published in real time as the Genocide was taking place;
- Holding meetings with the Governor's office, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, K-12, college and university leaders to ensure incorporation of Armenian Genocide, history and culture within the public school system;
- Hosting community forums related to education matters;
- Strengthening and continuing its established partnerships with the USC Shoah Foundation and the Armenian Bar Association to meet common goals and to address serious education concerns as they relate to Armenian faculty and staff in Arizona and California respectfully;
- Working with teachers to ensure commitment on their part to teach about the Genocide, which resulted in the United Teachers Los Angeles, the nation's second largest union to do exactly that by passing a unanimous motion in late September.
- Providing resources and tools to be used in classrooms, and sharing the story of the Armenian Genocide and the "America We Thank You" initiative with more than 3,000 educators at the 2015 California School Boards Association Conference.



America We Thank You: *An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief*

Building on its successful “Golden Rule Sunday Dinner” educational tour throughout Armenian schools in California launched on Giving Tuesday, the ANCA WR America We Thank You Committee (AWTY), working hand-in-hand with ANCA WR Education Committee and local chapters, continued on its quest to educate students and adults alike in private and public schools, colleges, and community wide events about the humanitarian efforts of the Near East Relief. These efforts resulted in an estimated over 10,000 students, community leaders and members learning about the proudest chapter in American history, when the United States and the American people, through the Near East Relief, raised over 117 million dollars and helped save over one million refugees and 132,000 orphans during and after the Armenian Genocide.

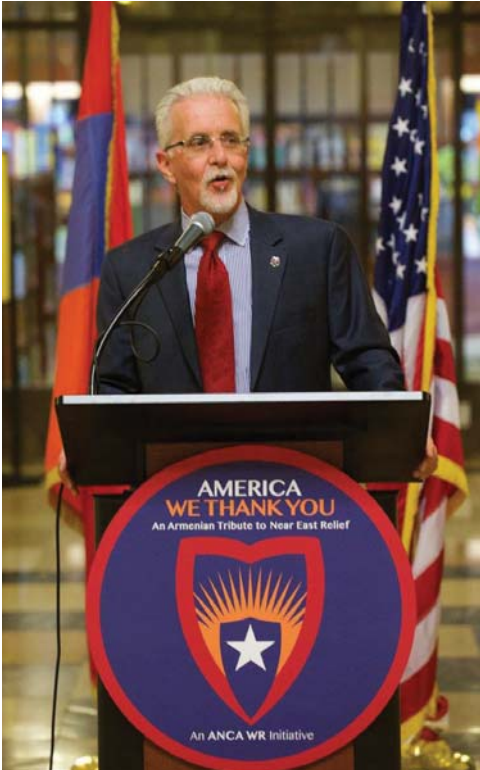
The presentations and forums were coupled with the production of an impressive education handbook highlighting presidential, state by state, and archival details of NER history as it pertains to the Armenian Genocide, and continues to be distributed to elected officials, educators, and community organizations throughout the country.

In addition, AWTY also launched a traveling exhibit prepared in collaboration with the Near East Foundation entitled, “They Shall Not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief,” which was displayed at the Los Angeles Public Library with an opening reception in late May. Over 300 community members, elected officials, and special guests accepted the invitation of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Krekorian for the premiere of the exhibit at the historic Los Angeles Public Library in downtown Los Angeles. Since then, the exhibit has been displayed at several libraries, capitol grounds, and community wide events throughout various Western Region states as it continues to serve as a piece of traveling history.

The efforts continued as we partnered with four-time regional Emmy Award-winner editor and producer Bared Maronian for the creation of a documentary film to serve as an educational tool given the current omission of NER’s rich history and legacy in the American education curriculum. The 30-minute film, which highlights interviews with historians, researchers, public figures and descendants of Armenian orphans rescued by NER efforts will accompany the Exhibit, which will travel for display at scheduled public libraries, university and college campuses, churches, state capitol grounds and community centers throughout America.

To top things off, inspired by the efforts of AWTY, Armenians of Colorado in collaboration with ANCA Colorado hosted the first ‘Colorado, We Thank You’ Gala in September celebrating a century long Colorado-Armenia Friendship. Amongst many other notable causes including the unveiling of the Khachkar on state capitol grounds, the event paid tribute to the State of Colorado for coming to the rescue of the Armenian nation.

“America We Thank You: An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief,” will continue to organize commemorative events and programs to honor the legacy of the NER. The various initiatives of the committee, in collaboration with the Near East Relief Historical Society and the Near East Foundation, will aim to express our community’s gratitude to the American people for establishing and continuing the tradition of being the most generous nation.



Investing In the Future

No other Armenian American public affairs organization in the United States benefits more from young activists than ANCA-WR. Hundreds of high school and college students and young professionals volunteer their time, energy, and talent to make the ANCA-WR the premier organization it is today.

Through its internship and development programs and its special relationship with the oldest and most active Armenian American youth groups- the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) and the Armenian Student Associations (ASA) on campuses across the Western United States, the ANCA-WR fosters a spirit of community service, participation, and leadership in our community's youth. These efforts provide a valuable foundation for creating a new generation of Armenian Americans who will be prepared and eager to advance Armenian issues for decades to come.

ANCA LEO SARKISIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In that same spirit, the ANCA WR also sponsored 4 students to participate in the prestigious ANCA Leo Sarkisian Internship Program in Washington, DC. The Internship program, now in its 31st year, provides Armenian American youth leaders from across the U.S. an opportunity to learn first-hand about the inner workings of the American political system during its eight week training session in the nation's capital.

ANCA WR WALTER AND LAUREL KARABIAN FELLOWSHIP FOR PUBLIC POLICY

In wrapping up the Armenian Genocide Centennial and building on opportunities already provided to youth and young professionals, the ANCA-WR also established the Walter and Laurel Karabian Fellowship for Public Policy. The year-long fellowship is the first Sacramento based program of its kind with the goal of preparing the next generation of Armenian-American policy leaders through policy research and analysis projects, and placements in state and administrative offices, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, labor unions and consulting firms, while also honing their professional and networking skills.



ANCA WR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Acknowledging the importance of providing a pipeline of support to the next generation of our community's leaders, the ANCA WR expanded its internship program in 2015 to allow for more students to participate in this hands-on experience, with a total of 17 participants between the spring, summer, and fall sessions – the largest to date. This selective, part time, leadership training program provides high school and college students as well as recent college graduates an opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of community issues as well as advocacy efforts on the local, regional, and federal levels. During their tenure, interns are given valuable opportunities to interact with public officials, develop leadership and advocacy skills, represent the ANCA WR at community and media events, organize various grassroots campaigns and events, work with staff, Board members, committee members, and local ANCA chapters as well as attend weekly educational lectures.

The multi-faceted internship compounds professional skill-building with networking opportunities to promote well-rounded individuals to serve in our community and on future ANCA Western Region and local chapter committees.



PATH TO COLLEGE PROGRAM (PTC)

Originally launched by the ANCA Glendale Chapter in 2007, the PTC program consists of a series of forums organized to educate the non-English speaking immigrant Armenian population about the multitude of opportunities available to secondary school students. Though the program is geared toward the non-English speaking immigrant population, it is open to all students and parents who need assistance. Given the success and the need in our communities for such services, the ANCA WR brought the PTC program on the regional level to help organize similar forums across the region using the Glendale model.

TEACHING DEMOCRACY 101 TO HUNDREDS OF CAMPERS AT AYF CAMP BIG PINES

With a spirit that would have been admired by George Washington, the ANCA-Western Region was busy this summer, like every summer, teaching hundreds of AYF Camp Big Pines campers that their vote in our democracy matters. Over the course of the summer of 2015 the ANCA-Western Region conducted seven mock congressional elections, where campers got real-time experience of what it is like to participate in a real election. The express purpose of the ANCA-Western Region mock congressional elections at AYF Camp Big Pines was to give the campers a genuine and first-hand perspective of what it is like to be a participant in an American election. The ANCA leadership, week in and week out, shared with the campers that elections are won by people who directly participate in them, not by bystanders. This fact, of the need to be directly involved in elections, by voting or campaigning for a candidate, represented the “teachable moment” that most AYF campers took away from their ANCA-Western Region mock congressional election experience.

ANCA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Composed of Armenian American young professionals in the Western United States, the Armenian National Committee of America – Professional Network (ANCA-PN) brings together and connects a diverse group of individuals with a shared passion for the advancement of the Armenian Cause. ANCA-PN members with expertise in every field, including law, medicine, politics, engineering, education, media, computer science, art and academia are brought together by heritage, social responsibility and a desire to expand the civic awareness and involvement of Armenian American professionals working in both the public and private sectors.

In 2015, ANCA-PN continued to host a wide range of social and networking events, gatherings and volunteer opportunities. Acknowledging the importance of providing much needed professional services to the community, the ANCA-PN relaunched Free Legal Clinics with the Armenian Bar Association, an initiative originally organized by ANCA-WR local chapters. During the clinics, volunteer attorneys from the Armenian Bar Association provided free legal guidance to members of the community, while law school students assisted community members with intake and communication with the attorneys. In addition, the ANCA-PN board renewed its commitment to giving back to our community and launched a successful Christmas Toy Drive which benefited countless families and children served by Armenian Relief Society and The Salvation Army Glendale in the local community, Armenia, and Artsakh.



Hye Votes: *Making Our Community's Collective Voice Heard in the Ballot Box*

Uniting the power of a community that votes, the ANCA WR made the expansion of its Hye Votes initiative, a region wide, non-partisan program to engage community members in the electoral process, a top priority.

Gearing up for key local races in 2015 and the 2016 local, state, and federal elections, Hye Votes along with area specific ANCA WR local chapters throughout the region –from Las Vegas, Colorado, Sacramento, and San Francisco to Hollywood, Pasadena, Glendale, the San Fernando Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, and all the way to South Bay and San Diego - coordinated a multi-faceted voter registration and civic participation campaign designed to walk first-time and disadvantaged voters through the entire political process. The components of the campaign included: voter registration, voter education, voter mobilization, voter assistance, voter research, voting rights advocacy and get-out-the-vote efforts, all the while continuing to build partnerships with community groups, serving on committees such as the LA County City Votes, and participating in National Voter Registration Day.

Combined with on-the-ground field organizers, advertising, direct mail, trainings, phone banking, and canvassing, these efforts resulted in thousands of additional registered Armenian voters since the launch of Hye Votes and an unprecedented turnout in the Elections by the Armenian-American community.

Building on the solidarity and determination of more than 166,000 members of our community who marched on the streets of Los Angeles and thousands upon thousands across the region, the ANCA-Western Region will continue its efforts to seek justice and advance the Armenian Cause by transferring the energy that our communities took from the streets to the ballot box in the 2016 Elections and beyond.



Wiring Up the ANCA E-Activist

Recognizing the power of the internet and social media, in 2015, the ANCA WR continued to build on its previous year's commitment to keep the community informed of critical issues through status updates, weekly and monthly newsletters, while providing tools and action items to make their voice heard.

The results of these efforts expanded the abilities of the ANCA WR e-Activist. From the comfort and convenience of their homes, workplaces and smart phones, these dedicated individuals have transformed the Internet into an effective tool to educate elected officials, the media and the general public on issues of concern to Armenian Americans while helping spread breaking news and ANCA WR initiatives to tens of thousands of Armenian Americans.

Whether it is the hundreds of thousands of individuals who visited the ANCA and ANCA WR websites, reached by ANCA WR email Action Alerts and email updates, or communicated through the ANCA or ANCA WR social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, Armenian Americans are better connected than ever to each other, their elected officials, the media, and the general public.



www.ancawr.org | twitter.com/ANCA_WR | facebook.com/ANCAWesternRegion | Instagram: ANCA_WR

A collage of activism-related graphics. On the left, a word cloud features terms like 'activism', 'change', 'social', 'growth', 'educate', 'vote', 'people', 'movements', 'political', 'system', 'often', 'need', 'may', 'many', 'issues', 'grassroots', 'economic', 'culture', 'concerned', 'actions', 'activist', 'also', 'activists', 'indeed', 'living', 'look', 'need', 'may', 'many', 'issues', 'grassroots', 'economic', 'culture', 'concerned', 'actions', 'activist', 'also', 'activists', 'indeed', 'living', 'look'. Below the word cloud is a silhouette of a crowd with raised hands. At the bottom left is the logo for 'I AM ANC' (Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region). On the right, a large black poster with a red banner at the top reads 'ACTION ALERT' and 'VOTE NO ON SJR15-006'. It also says 'Vote Scheduled Tomorrow, January 29th' and 'Contact Your Senator Now | Action Alert at ANCAWR.org'. Below the poster are several newspaper clippings, including 'The New York Times' and 'THE WALL STREET JOURNAL', with headlines related to Azerbaijan's political situation.

ANCA Grassroots Conference

In late October, the ANCA-WR held its third biennial Grassroots Conference composed of groundbreaking series of informative and inspirational panel discussions and workshops which brought together over 600 artists, academics, legal experts, and political officials with hundreds of activists from all over the world to explore issues related to the Armenian Cause. Designed to develop, educate and empower the community to become a more active and dominant force in our collective pursuit of the Armenian Cause, the dynamic 2 day conference included discussions on such topics as Advocacy Through Film & the Arts Panel, Western Armenia & The Hidden Armenians, Marching On For Justice, Road to Reparations, Armenians & Politics, and Alternative Activism. Renowned Grassroots panelists included Eric Bogosian, Aram Kouyoumdjian, Aris Nalci, George Aghjayan, Raffi Bedrosyan, Matthew Karanian, Elen Asatryan, Nora Hovsepian, Raffi Hamparian, Ara Khachatourian, Geoffrey Robertson, Karnig Kerkonian, Steven Dadaian, Congressman Adam Schiff, CA State Assemblymember and Congressional Candidate Katcho Achadjian, Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Glendale City Clerk and CA State Assembly Candidate Ardy Kassakhian, Scout Tufankjian, Paul Von Blum, Aram Hamparian, and Dr. Lucig Danielian.



ANCA-WR Gala

The ANCA-WR Weekend ended with a record breaking more than 1,400 elected officials, supporters, activists, and generous donors from throughout the country attending the organization’s premier fundraising event, its sold out Annual Gala, on Sunday, October 25 at the iconic Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in celebration of an unprecedented year of accomplishments, where tribute was paid to 5 honorees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in advancing the Armenian Cause. The 2015 honorees included Former CA Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Walter Karabian (Legacy Award), Attorneys Geoffrey Robertson and Amal Clooney (Advocates for Justice Award), the Armenian Youth Federation Western US (Vahan Cardashian Award), and Actor and Author Eric Bogosian (Arts & Letters Award).



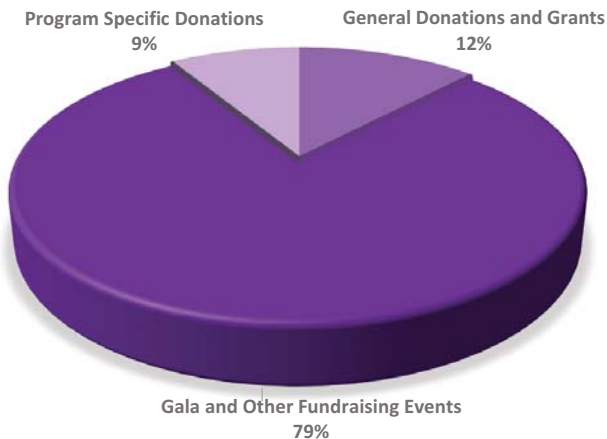
How does all of this happen?

IT'S SIMPLE...THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

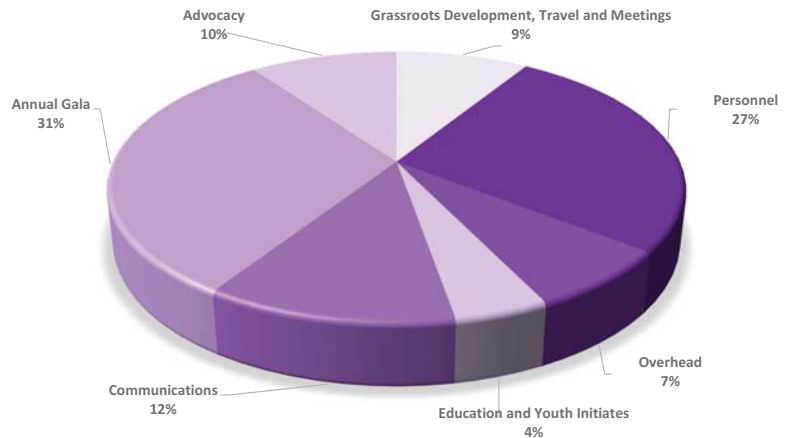
Because we have a proven track record and the work we do is so critical to the advancement of the Armenian Cause and the promotion of interests of the Armenian American community, we have hundreds of dedicated community members across the region who serve on our regional and local boards, committees, and subcommittees, while others graciously contribute financially to make our programs and initiatives possible. No matter the size of the group or task being completed, all of our dedicated volunteers play a vital role in helping us fulfill our goal of educating, motivating and activating our community, all the while demanding accountability, proper representation, and justice from our elected representatives.

Join us for a fulfilling, enlightening and empowering experience. Our strength lies in our numbers and the passion of our grassroots activists, donors, volunteers, and supporters.

2014 ANCA WR INCOME



2014 ANCA WR EXPENSES



DONATE

When you give to the ANCA WR you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping us continue our advocacy, community outreach, civic engagement, youth, and development programs.

You can be sure that we will stretch every dollar of your donation and ensure that your voice will be heard through local, state, and federal government agencies and grassroots action on the issues that matter to you most. The ANCA WR is completely funded by donors. If it weren't for the support of donors like you, we could not do the work that makes you proud. Be a part of it!

3 Ways to Donate



1. FRIENDS OF ANCA WESTERN REGION - *Our Monthly Giving Club*

We rely on region-wide monetary donations for the bulk of our operating funds. No matter how large or small, every donation helps keep our lights on and fuels our advocacy, community outreach, civic engagement, youth, and development programs. A \$40 donation allows us to purchase a case of paper, while a \$500 donation allows us to visit one of our communities to energize and organize.

Setting up a monthly pledge is easy for you, and efficient for us — You can make a general donation to the ANCA Western Region or give to the following specific program you care most about.

Operating Costs | Advocacy Efforts | Genocide Education in Public Schools
Community and Local Chapter Development | Internship and Youth Programs | Hye Votes

VISIT ancawr.org/friends CALL 818.500.1918





2. THE ANCA WESTERN REGION FOUNDERS' CIRCLE – *Our Annual Giving Program*

Your participation in this once a year appeal will allow us to plan ahead and provide annual operating funds for programs and grassroots efforts to advance the Armenian Cause.

This Annual Giving Program is designed with the donor in mind. Participation in one of the five levels of giving comes with the following benefits:

- Advance notice of all ANCA WR events and news updates
- Invitation to VIP Cocktail Reception with ANCA WR leadership and elected officials.
- Invitation to quarterly briefing socials and round tables
- Honorable mention in ANCA WR Annual Report distributed to over 150,000 households.
- Complimentary ANCA WR pin and pen
- Invitation to lunch with Executive Director
- Invitation to meetings and gatherings with elected officials
- The satisfaction that you contributed to the advancement of the Armenian Cause

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE LEVELS

Benefactor: \$5,000 | Patron: \$4,000 | Friend: \$3,000 | Supporter: \$2,000 | Activist: \$1,000



3. SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS – *Corporate Giving Program*

Foundations, corporations, and small businesses interested in a comprehensive brand alliance with ANCA-WR may consider a campaign grant contribution. In return, ANCA-WR offers far-reaching promotional and business development incentives, which will result in our corporate partners obtaining a new audience base with significant purchasing power including:

- Unique corporate inclusion on ANCAWR.org with over 10,000 unique visitors per month.
- Campaign promotion on ANCA-WR homepage
- Joint public relations ventures including press releases and media tie-ins
- Corporate endorsement via ANCA-WR social messaging outreach with over 70,000 followers nationwide
- Corporate endorsement and Ad placement via ANCA-WR E-News with over 60,000 loyal email subscribers
- Corporate endorsement and honorable mention in ANCA-WR Annual Report distribute to over 150,000 households.
- Invitation to meetings and gatherings with local, state, and federal public officials and ANCA-WR leadership
- One on one access to public officials
- Recognition and promotion through Annual Gala with over 1,500 attendees

To learn more visit ANCAWR.ORG/CorporateGiving

BECOME AN ANCA WR E-ACTIVIST

Get active online. Share and like our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn updates, re-tweet our Twitter posts and get your family and network of friends engaged in advancing the Armenian Cause. Becoming an ANCA WR E-Activist is just a click away.



GET INVOLVED IN YOUR ANCA WR

Let us know you want to join in on the efforts. Submit form online at ancawr.org/getinvolved.

ANCA WR Local Chapters

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Burbank
Crescenta Valley
Glendale
Hollywood
Orange County
Pasadena
San Fernando Valley East
San Fernando Valley North
San Fernando Valley West
San Gabriel Valley
South Bay-Torrance
Sunland-Tujunga

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Fresno
Central Coast / Santa Barbara

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
Sacramento
Bay Area
San Jose

Alaska
Arizona
Colorado
Idaho
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Texas
Dallas
Houston
Utah
Washington

ANCA WR Committees

ANCA WR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Armen Garabedian, Esq., Chair

ANCA WR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Shant Sahakian, Co-Chair
Maral Karagozian, Co-Chair

ANCA WR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Alice Petrossian, Chair

HYE VOTES COMMITTEE

Karo Khanjian
Nareg Kitsinian, Esq.
Pierre Yenokian

ANCA WR AMERICA WE THANK YOU/

NEAR EAST RELIEF COMMITTEE

Vanna Kitsinian, Esq., Co-Chair
Hermineh Pakhanians, Co-Chair

ANCA WR GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE

Ayk Dikijian, Co-Chair
Ara Khachatourian, Co-Chair

ANCA WR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Oshin Harootonian, Chair

ANCA WR INTERN ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Tatev Oganyan, Co-Chair
Tamar Thomassian, Co-Chair



ANCA WR Leadership

ANCA WR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nora Hovsepien, Esq.
Chair

Steve Artinian
Treasurer

Arpie Jivalagian, Esq.
Secretary

Pattyl Aposhian-Kasparian

Raffi Kassabian, Esq.

Nareg Kitsinian, Esq.

Haik Petrosian

Pierre Yenokian

Souzi Zerounian-Khanzadian

Joseph Kaskanian
AYF Central Executive Liaison

ANCA WR ADVISORY BOARD

Steven Dadaian, Esq.
National Board Member

Raffi Hamparian
National Board Member

Aida Dimejian

Berdj Karapetian

Karo Khanjian

Levon Kirakosian, Esq.

Michael Mahdesian

Garos Madenlian, Esq.

Artin Manoukian

Harut Sassounian

Mourad Topalian

ANCA WR STAFF

Elen Asatryan
Executive Director

Tereza Yerimyan
Government Affairs Director

Haig Baghdassarian, Esq.
Chief Legislative Consultant

Anna Arakelyan
Hye Votes Director

Simon Maghakyan
Community Development Coordinator

Armine Der Grigorian
Accounting

Salpi Jejeian
2015 Banquet Coordinator

Tatev Oganyan
2015 Grassroots Conference Coordinator

Lori Sinanian
Programs Coordinator



A Grassroots Organization

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) is a grassroots public affairs organization devoted to advancing issues of concern to the Armenian American community. For nearly a century, the ANCA-WR has served to educate, motivate and activate the Armenian American community in the Western United States on a wide range of issues.

With its headquarters based in Los Angeles, California, the ANCA-WR enjoys broad-based community support through an extensive network of cultural, educational, athletic, charitable, and youth organizations. In addition, the ANCA-WR is tied to a variety of media, including several of the leading Armenian media organizations in America and the largest bilingual Armenian daily in the United States-Asbarez.

With chapters throughout the State of California and in over a dozen other western states, the ANCA-WR works in cooperation with its counterpart in the Eastern Region based in Boston, Massachusetts, and its national office in Washington, DC, to promote the concerns of Armenian American communities. The ANCA-WR is joined in these efforts by a far-reaching network of international affiliates in Europe, Canada, South America, the Middle East, Australia, Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

Whether the focus is empowering our community by registering voters through the organization's HyeVotes initiative, the drive for recognition, restitution and justice for the Armenian Genocide, educating the public on local, state, and federal legislation concerning issues in their local communities and the Republic of Armenia, or advocating the legitimate right of self-determination for the people of Artsakh, the ANCA-WR is a robust force in advancing the Armenian Cause in the greatest democracy on earth – the United States of America.

The main goals of the ANCA WR are:

- To foster public awareness in support of a free, independent and united Armenia;
- To influence and guide U.S. policy on matters of interest to the Armenian American community, including but not limited to justice for the Armenian Genocide, support for the independence of Artsakh, and ensuring that the voice of our community is heard in all policy-making arenas;
- To empower and represent the collective Armenian American viewpoint on matters of public policy, while serving as liaison between the community and elected officials, government institutions, media, as well as other advocacy groups and organizations whose goals and interests align with the Armenian Cause.

#goANCA

ANCA Western Region

104 N. Belmont, Ste. 200, Glendale, CA 91206

www.ancawr.org

facebook.com/ANCAWesternRegion

instagram & twitter: ANCA_WR

info@ancawr.org

(818) 500-1918