



ANNUAL REPORT *2019*

EDUCATE | MOTIVATE | ACTIVATE

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 Javakhhk; 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



As the ANCA Western Region diligently continues its work each year advocating for justice for the Armenian Genocide, harnessing support for the Republic of Armenia, urging recognition and support for the Republic of Artsakh, and developing grassroots programs to organize and lead the vast Armenian-American Diaspora community in the western half of the United States, every decision we make, every initiative we launch, and every policy we adopt is geared toward achieving at least one of these goals.

This past year has been no different. With a revamped Board of Directors and dedicated Staff in the office ably led by our new Executive Director Armen Sahakyan, the ANCA-WR has adopted a State-by-State strategy of activating our local chapters to strengthen our grassroots, promote Armenian Genocide education in public schools, encourage Sister City and Friendship City relationships with cities and towns in Armenia and Artsakh, and educate our elected officials and policymakers about our Cause.

On the political front, our non-partisan approach has led to great successes as we continue to reach out to officials from both sides of the aisle to promote our agenda:

- The ANCA-WR participated in both the **Republican** and **Democratic Party** state conventions with exhibit booths, educating hundreds of attendees about our issues.
- Our efforts over the past five years to pass the **Divest Turkey** bill, vetoed last year at the eleventh hour by Governor Jerry Brown, finally succeeded with the recent signing of AB1320 into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom.
- We have regularly held highly productive meetings with federal, state, county and city officials on issues of importance to our Cause, including the California Governor, Lt. Governor, State Superintendent, Secretary of State, County Supervisors, and Mayors of major cities, as well as the Governors in Colorado and Nevada, and elected officials and members of Congress throughout the Western Region.
- We have helped secure millions of dollars of government funding for the Armenian-American Museum, the Armenian Relief Society, Genocide education, and other worthy programs which service our community and advance our goals.
- We have helped our local chapters formulate candidate questionnaires, implement endorsement policies, and organize candidate forums, all of which will continue into the upcoming election season, to highlight the work of incumbents and the plans of candidates who want to address the needs of our community.

- We have hosted elected officials from California, Colorado and Arizona on **ANCA-WR Legislative Trips to Armenia and Artsakh** to introduce them to the unwavering bond between Diaspora and Homeland and to educate them first-hand about our history, culture, and progress. Our most recent Legislative Trip led by California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis directly led to the recent signing of the historic Framework Agreement between the State of California and the Republic of Armenia as well as the pending establishment of a California Trade and Services Desk in Armenia.

- Throughout the Western Region, we have organized and led successful **Advocacy Days** in various state capitols, including California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho as well as in Washington DC. Many of these visits have been combined with multi-state **ANCA-WR Road Trips** to gather community members for town hall meetings, spreading our message far and wide into more remote areas and empowering those smaller communities to express their collective will in the public sphere.

- We have re-launched our ***HyeVotes*** initiative to register thousands of new Armenian-American voters, provide voter education, secure government funding for Armenian language voter materials, and ensure a massive Get Out The Vote campaign in the upcoming March and November 2020 elections in order to assert our collective voice in service to the Armenian Cause.

- We have mobilized our local chapters and grassroots to increase the number of **ANCA Rapid Responders** and to support the federal agenda set by our ANCA-DC office. This has greatly contributed to the successful passage of critical funding and support bills for Armenia and Artsakh spearheaded by Members of Congress from the Western Region, including Congressman TJ Cox, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Brad Sherman, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

On the goal of developing non-Armenian community outreach, the ANCA-WR has taken concrete steps toward cultivating mutually beneficial relationships with coalition partners in other ethnic communities:

- We have signed Memoranda of Cooperation with our brethren in the Assyrian and Hellenic communities to formalize our partnership and institutionalize our joint advocacy on common goals such as justice for the Genocide and self-determination for Artsakh, Nineveh Plain, and Cyprus.

- We have built coalitions with Jewish, Korean, and Hindu community organizations to ensure inclusion of our collective experiences in the new Ethnic Studies Curricula being adopted for California public schools and universities.

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- We have developed a cooperative and mutually supportive relationship with the Japanese Consulate and community, highlighting the role of prominent Japanese figures in rescuing thousands of victims of the Armenian Genocide.
 - We have participated in conferences and advocacy efforts led by the multi-ethnic In Defense of Christians organization, seeking to protect and promote the rights of endangered Christian communities in the Middle East.
 - Our wonderful **ANCA-WR Education Committee** has made great strides in working with the Genocide Education Project to train hundreds of public school teachers throughout the Western Region on how to teach about the Armenian Genocide, in annually honoring dozens of public school educators from various states who go the extra mile to teach students about our history, and in expanding knowledge about the Armenian Genocide by participating in industry-wide conferences on education where thousands of teachers from all over the country attend to learn about new teaching techniques and topics.

On the issue of Armenian community leadership, the ANCA-WR has actively engaged in the developing goals of promoting community unity:

- We are an active member of the newly formed Pan Armenian Council of Western USA.
- We joined the coalition of organizations invited by the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia to help organize and host the inaugural visit of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to Los Angeles.
- We continue to work closely with church leaders and spiritual heads of the Western Prelacy, Western Diocese, Armenian Evangelical Union and Armenian Catholic Eparchy to activate their congregations in support of the Armenian Cause.
- We organized the fifth biennial **ANCA-WR Grassroots Conference** where hundreds of activists attended to hear engaging panelists and experts discuss issues related to our Cause, ranging from Justice for the Armenian Genocide, Homeland/Diaspora Relations, Artsakh, Civic Engagement, and Armenian Women in Media.
- Our reactivated **ANCA Professional Network** has taken the lead in providing resources and networking opportunities for young Armenian professionals, organizing tech panels, job fairs, workshops on resume writing and professional development, and joint events with other professional organizations in the Armenian community, including AGBU-YP, Armenian Professional Society, Birthright Armenia, Nerouj and Armenian Professional Network.

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- Our **ANCA-WR Internship Program** continues to prepare the leaders of tomorrow, providing intense training in the fields of media, politics, community organizing and advocacy.
 - We formed the first-ever **Armenian-American Complete Count Committee (AACCC)** consisting of over 30 Armenian community organizations to provide broad based outreach and education about the importance of participating in Census 2020 by having each person self-identify as “Armenian” in order to objectively assert the massive strength of this largest organized Armenian community anywhere outside of Armenia.

And finally, we are extremely pleased to announce the establishment of the Impact Media Institute (IMI), an initiative of the ANCA-WR designed to uphold and promote fundamental human rights for all people and to fight against hatred, bigotry, intolerance, and historical revisionism in all forms of media. Stay tuned for exciting developments and programs from this new project, which we are certain will take our Cause to a whole new level!

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our donors and supporters, the unwavering commitment of our grassroots and volunteers, the resources and assistance provided by our friends in elected office, and the strength of our just Cause. We thank you and ask you to continue to support our efforts, because Hye Tad - the Armenian Cause - is not just for our organization. It belongs to every single Armenian who believes in its mission and commits to its advancement. Together, united and with one voice, we can empower our community and overcome all those who seek to silence us. With two-thirds of our Nation living in the Diaspora, and the vast majority living right here in the United States of America, we must cherish and cultivate our national identity, preserve our history and culture, and do all that we can as Armenian-Americans to use our power to strengthen and protect our Homeland. As the character of our national identity continues to evolve, it is only through this collective effort that we will succeed in achieving our goals for Hye Tad. *Our destiny is in our hands.*

In Common Cause and Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nora Hovsepien', followed by a period.

Nora Hovsepien, Esq.

Chair



REGIONWIDE ADVOCACY DAYS

Arizona | February 16-18, 2019

ANCA-WR and ANCA Arizona held a three-day Town Hall series and Advocacy Day to educate and energize dozens of Arizonan Armenians to advocate for the Cause. The efforts culminated with recognition on the Arizona State House floor of the Arizona Armenian community, and a tribute to the Republic of Artsakh presented in the State Senate. Arizonan Armenians – led by senior regional and local ANCA leader Angela Heisel and others, and joined by the Republic of Artsakh Representative to the U.S. Robert Avetisyan – held dozens of meetings with state lawmakers, including House Speaker Russell Bowers, educating elected officials on issues of concern to the local Armenian community, as well as to put one lawmaker on notice for an absurd praise of Azerbaijan’s “multiculturalism and religious harmony.”

Nevada | March 20-22, 2019

Led by ANCA Nevada co-chairs Hera Armenian, Esq. and Lenna Hovanessian, Esq., a few dozen meetings were held with elected officials, including Governor Steve Sisolak, to discuss the importance of Armenian Genocide education and other issues. During the meeting with Governor Sisolak joined by ANCA-WR Board Member Sako Berberian, Government Relations Coordinator Serob Abrahamian, Community Development Coordinator Simon Maghakyan, and University of Nevada Las Vegas Political Scientists Dr. Nerses Kopalyan and Dr. Rafael Oganessian, the importance of teaching the Armenian Genocide to schoolchildren across Nevada was highlighted.

ANCA representatives and Armenian constituents were introduced on the floor of the Nevada State Senate by Sen. Dallas Harris. The event culminated with a screening of a short documentary on Near East Relief. In addition to lawmakers, several dozen staff members and interns stopped by to further interact with the Armenian delegation.

Texas | April 5, 2019

ANCA-WR hosted an Advocacy Day in Austin, Texas to promote the views and public policy priorities of the state’s Armenian American constituency, most of whom are concentrated in the Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas. Throughout the day, the ANCA team, which included author and activist Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, local activist Albert Davidian, and ANCA-WR Government Relations Coordinator Serob Abrahamian, led over a dozen meetings with elected officials and their staff to discuss the importance of Armenian Genocide education and the recognition of the Republic of Artsakh.

In 2017, Texas became the 46th state in the Union to recognize the Armenian Genocide through House Resolution 191. These renewed acts of activism followed the 2015 defeat of anti-Armenian resolutions as well as adoption of HR 1541, which recognized Texans’ contributions to the Near East Relief that saved 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Genocide.

California | August 28, 2019

ANCA-WR Board and Staff members traveled to California's capitol to meet with Governor Gavin Newsom to discuss policy priorities and issues and meet with the Governor's Appointments Secretary Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez, Director of External Affairs Priscilla Cheng, Director of Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships Maricela Rodriguez, and Legal Affairs Secretary Catherine E. Lhamon.

Following a meeting with longtime friend California State Senator Anthony Portantino, he introduced the ANCA-WR Board of Directors on the Senate floor, where several Senators and friends of the Armenian-American community welcomed the delegation.

During its meeting with Appointments Secretary Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez, who recently took on the responsibility of vetting and recommending over 3,000 senior staff as well as boards and commissions appointments to the Governor, ANCA-WR highlighted the need to ensure more equitable representation of the State's diversity by also considering qualified Armenian-Americans for a number of vacancies in State government.

In a meeting with Director of Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships Maricela Rodriguez, the ANCA-WR's HyeVotes initiative for voter registration and participation as well as its creation of the first ever Armenian-American Complete Count Committee (AACCC) for Census 2020 were discussed at length in order to find ways to maximize our community's participation in elections and in the upcoming Census.

Highlights discussed with Governor Newsom included the ANCA-WR's Divest Turkey initiative and AB1320, which he then subsequently signed into law; California's proposed ethnic studies curriculum and the need to include the Armenian experience in the final draft both at the high school level as well as at the university level through AB1460; and allocation of resources to ensure the appropriate teaching of the Armenian Genocide in public schools as codified in Education Code Sections 51220 and 51226.3. As a follow-up to the ANCA-WR's recent Legislative Trip to Armenia which included Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Governor Newsom's designated representative for foreign affairs, the discussion also included further deepening and institutionalizing bilateral relations between California and Armenia and identifying prospects of strengthening California-Armenia trade and economic relations, including the trade office proposal introduced by Senator Portantino as SB302 in the State Legislature. These efforts culminated with the historic signing of the Framework Agreement between the State of California and the Republic of Armenia during Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's inaugural visit to the Western Region in September 2019.

MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS

On March 18, ANCA-WR representatives met with Lt. Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis at the State Capitol to address a number of issues of concern to the ANCA-WR and the Armenian American community. Kounalakis expressed her solidarity with the Armenian Cause and her willingness to join a delegation to travel to Armenia, which she did a few months later.

The delegation also met with California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, joined by ANCA-WR Education Committee Chair Alice Petrossian, to discuss the importance of genocide education in public schools and its significance in combating denialist efforts that continue today. Superintendent Thurmond expressed his deep understanding of the need for genocide education and his support for the Armenian community of California, reaffirming his position to be a strong advocate for the needs of Armenian Americans in the sphere of education.

In July, the ANCA-WR Board of Directors met with the Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and Artsakh – Arman Tatoyan and Artak Beglaryan – who were visiting California to participate in the Armenian Bar Association’s 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Conference. In addition to the ombudsmen, the meeting also included the Permanent Representative of Artsakh Republic to the U.S. Robert Avetisyan and the leadership of the Armenian Bar Association. The ANCA-WR Board of Directors later met with the Armenian Ambassador to the U.S. Varuzhan Nersesyan who led a delegation which included Armenia’s Consul General to Los Angeles Dr. Armen Baibourtian and Counselor Varazdat Pahlavuni to update each other on their ongoing work and upcoming projects.





As part of the Congressional August Recess Month, ANCA-WR and local chapter leaders met with a number of Representatives, including Congressmembers Adam Schiff, Judy Chu, Tony Cardenas, and Linda Sanchez, to discuss the federal legislative agenda as well as issues of concern to the local Armenian-American constituents in the district.

ANCA-WR and the Armenian Relief Society – Western US (ARS-WUS) met with Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (5th District) and members of her staff in early September to tour the ARS Social Services headquarters in Glendale and learn more about the critical services they have been providing for decades free of charge to the local community, including wide-ranging programs and initiatives which offer critical support to a broad demographic, ranging from youth mentorship to English language classes for the elderly. Discussion included avenues to support this important mission and how to expand the reach and the breadth of the services provided.

Later that month, the ANCA-WR met with Los Angeles County Supervisor for the 1st District, Hilda Solis and her staff. A wide range of topics was discussed at the meeting, spanning from local to regional matters pertaining to the community including the ANCA-WR's upcoming 2020 Census Count initiative through the Armenian American Complete Count Committee (AACCC) as well as the recently relaunched ANCA-WR HyeVotes Initiative, which works to maximize the Armenian-American community's participation in the electoral process through voter registration and comprehensive nonpartisan education about the contests on the ballot.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla met with the ANCA-WR Board on October 3rd where the parties discussed matters pertaining to the new voting system, voter registration, Census 2020, and the importance of accessibility of voter information in the Armenian language.



DIVEST TURKEY MOVEMENT

Staying true to his word, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law AB1320, the Divestment from Turkish Bonds Act, spearheaded by the ANCA-WR for over five years, introduced by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, and vetoed last year by Governor Jerry Brown.

While this was a significant victory for the Armenian Cause after a long and hard-fought battle, the Divest Turkey movement continues to grow. Initiated by the Armenian Youth Federation and the All-Armenian Students' Association on college campuses throughout California, the ANCA-WR worked hard to bring it to the legislative floor. The ANCA-WR will continue to spread the message of Divest Turkey to other entities, now being able to use this newly enacted law as an example of how the State can align its human rights policies with its fiscal policies.

With its long history of divesting from countries that violate human rights, such as South Africa , Sudan and Iran, this law sends a strong message internationally that California demands justice for the murder of 1.5 million Armenians and that it is willing to take concrete steps to prevent the Turkish Government from using California investments to fund its ongoing campaign of Genocide denial.



COLORADO BECOMES 9TH STATE TO RECOGNIZE ARTSAKH REPUBLIC

Colorado's State Senate unanimously voted to designate April 24 as "Colorado Day of the Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide" through a strongly-worded resolution that also recognized the Republic of Artsakh and the recent cultural genocide in Djulfa, Nakhichevan.

Championed by Democratic Senator Dominick Moreno and Republican Senator Jack Tate through the efforts of ANCA-Colorado and Armenians of Colorado, Senate Resolution 19-012 recounts the historical background of the Armenian Genocide, recalls Colorado's WWI-era efforts in support of the Armenian Nation through Near East Relief, and references the ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide that impact the Armenian homeland on a daily basis, including "the Turkish-Azerbaijani blockade of the already-landlocked sister states of the Armenian homeland, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh." This recognition increases the number of American states that have recognized Artsakh to nine.

SR 19-012 also cites the recently-exposed cultural genocide in Nakhichevan as an outcome of impunity for the Armenian Genocide: "Turkey's unpunished denial of the Armenian Genocide and ongoing desecration of Armenian sacred sites without accountability has inspired and enabled the recent execution of an unparalleled cultural genocide of the entire indigenous Christian Armenian heritage in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan, where between the years of 1997 and 2006 the Azerbaijan Government eradicated every trace of the region's ancient Armenian past of an estimated 90 churches and 6,000 intricately-carved cross-stones, including the celebrated Djulfa khachkars, one of which was replicated in 2015 for the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Genocide Memorial Garden."

In addition to SR 19-012, the Armenian Genocide was commemorated through a gubernatorial proclamation. Colorado Governor Jared Polis recently proclaimed April as "Genocide Awareness Month," condemning genocidal policies and denial, highlighting the importance of teaching Colorado schoolchildren about genocides and crimes against humanity, and stating that "Coloradans find it important to remember and commemorate the 20th-century genocides perpetrated against Armenians, Jews, Cambodians, Bosnians, and Rwandans, among others, as well as the 21st-century genocide against Darfuris in Sudan, the ongoing brutalities against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, and the crimes against the indigenous Christians and Yezidis in the Middle East."

PRO ARTSAKH INTERNATIONAL FORUM

An international forum entitled “Pro Artsakh Forum: Cooperation for Justice and Peace” took place in Stepanakert from October 11-13, 2019. Representatives from over 30 countries participated in the Forum with the aim to expand and strengthen cooperation between the Republic of Artsakh and various administrative entities in different countries, giving a new impetus and practical nature to Artsakh’s existing international relations, as well as creating a united network of entities, political and public figures supporting it. The ANCA-WR was well represented with Board Members Lena Bozoyan and Raffi Sarkissian and elected officials from the western United States, including California State Senator Anthony J. Portantino, California State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, and Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian. Joining the delegation were ANCA-WR local leaders and advocates Zaroug Chilingirian Baltakian, Silva Kechichian, Garo Madenlian, and Nora Yacoubian.

Video statements saluting Artsakh’s democratic development and highlighting the importance of U.S.-Artsakh relations were sent by U.S. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) and members of the Congressional Armenian Caucus from the western U.S., including Representatives Judu Chu, Jim Costa, Brad Sherman, Jackie Speier, and Dina Titus.

Pro Artsakh Forum participants issued a formal declaration supporting Artsakh’s freedom and its efforts to secure international recognition. The statement also announced the formation of International Network of Friends of Artsakh, with the aim of “raising awareness about Artsakh in the international arena, protecting the legitimate interests of its people, and promoting the involvement of Artsakh in international processes.”





PROACTIVE ADVOCACY YIELDS RESULTS

ANCA Western and Eastern regional offices partnered with 17 leading anti-genocide and human rights organizations to lead a successful letter campaign calling on more than 120 top media outlets in all 50 U.S. states to take a zero tolerance policy for the denial of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity in general, and the Armenian Genocide in particular. The letter encouraged editorial boards to be vigilant in ensuring that their publications do not become a platform for genocide denial through the adoption of a formal policy that would reject advertising that denies or trivializes great human tragedies, such as the World Trade Center bombings, the Holocaust, slavery in the United States, the Armenian Genocide, or Irish Famine.

The coalition letter campaign, which started in 2016, has not only raised awareness about the Armenian Genocide, but successfully prevented the publication of new Armenian Genocide denial advertisements in the media.

UNITED AGAINST GENOCIDE DENIAL

- A DEMAND FOR ACTION
- AMERICAN HELLENIC COUNCIL
- AJC - GLOBAL JEWISH ADVOCACY
- ANCA EASTERN REGION
- ANCA WESTERN REGION
- ANNE FRANK CENTER FOR MUTUAL RESPECT, USA
- DARFUR AND BEYOND
- DARFUR INTERFAITH NETWORK
- GREEK GENOCIDE RESOURCE CENTER
- HELLENIC AMERICAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
- IACT
- IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDE SCHOLARS
- JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS, PSEKA
- JEWISH WORLD WATCH
- THE GENOCIDE EDUCATION PROJECT
- THE NATIONAL JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE FOUNDATION
- THE PHILOS PROJECT
- TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



#goANCA
#ANCA360

LEGISLATIVE TRIP TO ARMENIA

ANCA-WR organized and led a regional delegation to Armenia comprised of California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Chief of Staff to Supervisor Barger Anna Mouradian; Arizona State Senators Paul Boyer and Otoniel “Tony” Navarrete; Colorado State Senator Dominick Moreno; and Colorado State Representative Daneya Esgar. The ANCA-WR Board Chair Nora Hovsepian was accompanied by fellow Board Members Sako Berberian and Lina Davidian, as well as ANCA-WR’s Community Development Coordinator Simon Maghakyan.

The visit featured meetings and in-depth discussions with Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Avinyan, Foreign Affairs Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Majority Leader of the ruling ‘My Step’ faction in the National Assembly Lilit Makunts and a group of legislative leaders, Deputy Foreign Minister Grigor Hovhannissian (former Armenian Ambassador to the US and Mexico and Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles), High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan, and First Deputy Minister of Environment Irina Ghaplanyan.





The delegation also visited the American University of Armenia, which was especially meaningful due to its direct affiliation with the University of California, on whose Board Lt.Gov. Kounalakis serves, thereby giving her the opportunity to learn more about how educational bridges can be expanded.

An emotional visit to the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute to pay respect to over 3 million Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek innocent victims of the Genocide included a tour led by the museum's director, Dr. Harutyun Marutyan, as the delegation members learned about the history and the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide and planted commemorative blue spruce trees in the name of each of the three U.S. states. The itinerary also included a visit to the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, as well as inspirational visits to the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and the Khor Virap monastic complex at the foot of majestic Mt. Ararat.

In the meetings, Armenian officials stressed the importance placed to further deepening the strategic relations between the United States and Armenia, including state-level partnerships, especially in the wake of the 2018 Velvet Revolution and democratic transformations taking place in the country. Special emphasis was placed on the role of the Armenian American community in cultivating and advancing the bond between the U.S. and Armenia by partnering to advance Armenia's democratic and economic development.

The Legislative Trip concluded with a press conference at ArmenPress, which was attended and covered by every major media outlet in Armenia, giving the delegation the opportunity to convey its impressions and plans for future relations with Armenia.

ANCA-WR ON THE ROAD

ANCA-WR undertook an extensive 5-city, 4-state community road trip through the American northwest to organize meet and greet events and ANCA360 presentations for local communities and hold meetings with organizations and Congressional offices during the August Recess month. ANCA-WR Executive Director Armen Sahakyan and Government Affairs Coordinator Serob Abrahamian, joined by ANCA-Idaho community activist and author Liyah Babayan, visited Armenian American communities in Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Boise, ID; Twin Falls, ID; and Salt Lake City, UT.

The road trip commenced on Sunday, August 18 with a visit and presentation at the Holy Resurrection Armenian Apostolic Church in Seattle where ANCA-WR representatives provided an ANCA360 presentation. Liyah Babayan discussed her new book, “Liminal: A Refugee Memoir,” which documents her family’s survival story of the anti-Armenian pogroms in Soviet Azerbaijan and their journey and adaptation to life in the United States as refugees in the early 1990s.

Joined by local community leaders, delegation members also met with the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA-9) as well as the office of Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7). Some of the legislative items in focus included the co-sponsorship of the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice resolution H.Res.296, Artsakh Travel and Communication resolution H.Res.190, and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) supporting the security of Armenia and Artsakh.





In Portland, OR, local community members congregated at the St. Kevork Armenian Church for a meet and greet and an ANCA360 presentation. Some traveled for over 3 hours to be present at the gathering. Delegation members and local priest Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian also met with Rep. Earl Blumenauer's office (D-OR-3) as well as with the Catholic Archdiocese of Oregon to discuss the priorities of the local Armenian American community.

Idaho stops included Boise and Twin Falls, where community members and leaders convened to discuss local priorities as well as plans for political advocacy in the Gem State. Both communities have erected Armenian Genocide memorial monuments. The delegation also met with the leadership of the Frank Church Institute at Boise State University to discuss matters pertaining to foreign policy. Joined by local community leader Mark Abajian, the delegation then met with Christian Welp, the Director of Diocesan Services at the Catholic Diocese of Boise as well as with the office of Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID-1).

The road trip concluded in Salt Lake City, Utah, with an informal community get together. Delegation members, joined by local community leaders, met with Jean Hill, the Director of Office of Life, Justice and Peace at the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City as well as with the offices of Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT-4) and Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT). ANCA-WR Road Trips will continue in the coming months to other areas, with the goal of regularly visiting and activating local Armenian communities in each of the 19 States comprising the vast Western Region.

BUILDING BRIDGES

ANCA-WR signed memoranda of understanding and cooperation with our coalition partners at the Assyrian American Association of Southern California (AAASC) and the American Hellenic Council (AHC), in an effort to further deepen and institutionalize relations with those organizations and communities. Signing ceremonies at the ANCA-WR Headquarters were followed by joint press conferences.

Recognizing the historic relations between the Armenian, Assyrian, and Hellenic communities, the parties will undertake joint activities and initiatives aimed at genocide education; divestment from Turkish government bonds, justice for the cultural and civilizational destruction in Nakhichevan by the Azerbaijani government; just and enduring reunification of Cyprus; self-determination for the Assyrians in their homeland in Nineveh; international recognition of Artsakh Republic; and a number of other priorities.

ANCA-WR Board and Staff members joined in the annual Assyrian Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony on August 7, 2019 organized by the Assyrian American Association of Southern California (AAASC). During the ceremony, ANCA-WR Executive Director Armen Sahakyan offered remarks on behalf of the Armenian American community. For the past three years, ANCA-WR representatives have attended and have accepted invitations to participate in the program at the Assyrian Memorial Day ceremonies.





In late August, ANCA-WR hosted the Executive Director of the Philos Project Robert Nicholson in Los Angeles. As part of his visit, Nicholson met with the Board, ANCA-PN, and a number of other groups. ANCA-WR Executive Director Armen Sahakyan hosted him on Horizon Armenian TV as well as at UCLA to discuss the mission and activities of Philos Project. In early October, Sahakyan presented at the Philos Project's Sky Ranch Summit in Gunnison, CO engaging with Syriac leaders in the Middle East and sharing experiences and lessons-learned from the Armenian-American community in securing pluralism in the region, especially as in regards to the indigenous Christian minorities.

ANCA-WR was also an active participant in the In Defense of Christians' annual advocacy day in Washington, DC leading a delegation of activists on Capitol Hill to discuss a number of legislative priorities. As in the years past, the ANCA-DC office was a sponsor of the 2019 IDC Convention.

ANCA-WR has also continued its engagement with the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles, regularly participating in different functions, including a recent event organized by the Western Diocese of Armenian Church highlighting the work and contributions of Diana Apar.

There has also been a growing partnership with the AJC – Los Angeles, Human Relations Commission of LA, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, and a number of other organizations aimed at tackling issues of mutual concern and interest in a united fashion.

Coalition-building remains one of the strategic objectives of ANCA-WR and will continue with renewed energy in the months and years ahead.

ADVANCING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EDUCATION

Luncheon

Hundreds gathered for the third annual Armenian Genocide Education Awards Luncheon on March 23, 2019 to honor and celebrate seven remarkable educators for their commitment and dedication to teaching the Armenian Genocide. Organized by the ANCA-WR Education Committee, guests included elected officials, superintendents, dignitaries, educators from all across the state, the outstanding honorees with their friends and family, and the 2018 National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning as the keynote speaker.

This annual event celebrates educators who have creatively taught the subject of the Armenian Genocide within their school communities, across different courses such as social science, English language, arts, music, art, theater, and film.

This year's honorees were:

Rubina Peroomian, Ph.D., UCLA
(Armenian Genocide Education Legacy Award)

Jack Fong, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
(Armenian Genocide Higher Education Award)

Beth Hudson, Austin Independent School District
(Armenian Genocide Education Award)

Jose Lara, Dale Junior High School, Anaheim Union High School District
(Armenian Genocide Education Award)

Levon Marashlian, Ph.D., Glendale Community College
(Armenian Genocide Higher Education Award)

Naira Panasyan, Northridge Academy High School, LAUSD
(Zaruhi "Sara" Chitjian Armenian Genocide Education Award)

Vahe Tcharkhoutian, Eleanor J. Toll Middle School, GUSD
(Zaruhi "Sara" Chitjian Armenian Genocide Education Award)



Jack Fong, Ph.D.
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Armenian Genocide Higher Education Award



Rubina Peromian, Ph.D.
UCLA
Armenian Genocide Education Legacy Award



Beth Hudson
Austin Independent School District
Armenian Genocide Education Award



Jose Lara
Dale Junior High School
Anaheim Union High School District
Armenian Genocide Education Award



Levon Marashlian, Ph.D.
Glendale Community College
Armenian Genocide Higher Education Award



Naira Panasyan
Northridge Academy High School
UNUSD
Zaruhi "Sara" Chigjian Armenian Genocide Education Award



Vahe Tcharhoulian
Eleanor J. Toll Middle School
GUSD
Zaruhi "Sara" Chigjian Armenian Genocide Education Award



Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region

Awards Luncheon

Armenian Genocide Education

Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:00 AM

De Luxe Banquet Hall
237 E Olive Ave.,
Burbank, California 91502

ancawr.org/luncheonrsvp



School Presentations

In April, as part of the “Armenian History Month” in LA County, ANCA-WR’s Education Committee members actively toured a number of southern California public schools throughout April educating students about the Armenian Genocide as well as discussing the unprecedented and often-overlooked American humanitarian assistance campaign through Near East Relief, which saved and sustained hundreds of thousands of Armenian Genocide survivors from 1915 – 1930.

As part of the ANCA-WR’s initiatives to commemorate and raise greater awareness about the Armenian Genocide, Education Committee representatives presented to thousands of students ranging from elementary to high school grade levels, upon the invitation of the faculty and staff of Montebello High School, John Burroughs High School in Burbank, John Muir Middle School in Burbank, Blair High School in Pasadena, Sierra Madre Middle School, Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, Mountain View Elementary School in Sunland, and Alliance Marine – Information and Technology.

On April 23, ANCA-WR Education Committee members Laura Michael Gaboudian and Dr. Kay Mouradian were joined by parent Anzhela Martirosyan to speak in support of a resolution that passed, proposed by LAUSD School Board Member Kelly Gonez, recommending the district to explore the designation of April 24 as a pupil-free or unassigned day in future school calendars.

Teaching the Teachers

As the nation celebrated the 4th of July, the ANCA-WR Education Committee was advocating for genocide education and presenting resources on Armenian Genocide to thousands of educators across the country at the 98th National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) and 157th Annual Meeting. In partnership with the Genocide Education Project and the USC Shoah Foundation, ANCA-WR Education Committee members were in Houston, Texas from July 2-7, hosting an exhibit booth full of educational resources for the thousands of teachers in attendance.

About the ANCA-WR Education Committee

Comprised of dedicated community members from the field of education, the ANCA-WR Education Committee fosters and maintains relations with officials, administrators and representatives from community-based organizations that deal with education and youth matters. More specifically, the committee focuses on implementing Genocide Education curricula in public schools and works with local ANCA-WR chapters to address the needs of Armenian American teachers, parents and students at school sites by monitoring and proposing activities and programs.

REVISING CALIFORNIA ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULA

The California Department of Education's Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) unveiled a draft model curriculum for the instruction of Ethnic Studies in public schools, which entirely excluded any mention of Armenians and the Armenian Experience.

The ANCA-WR and ANCA-WR Education Committee were immediately engaged in the process, undertaking a number of activities to ensure that the Armenian Experience is included in the final version of the model curriculum. We sent thousands of Rapid Responder letters, specialized expert letters, engaged with the office of California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, published op-eds and submitted statements for TV coverage, sent a delegation to Sacramento to make the case directly to the IQC as well as joined a diverse coalition of Jewish, Hindu, Korean, and Assyrian organizations demanding a complete re-write of the model curriculum.

All these actions yielded their result, with the IQC scrapping the original draft and currently working on a new version. ANCA-WR will remain vigilant and engaged throughout this process to ensure that the Armenian Experience is included in the curriculum and California students are taught about the Armenian experience and contributions to the Golden State.



Diverse Coalition Urges Department of Education to Rewrite Ethnic Studies Curriculum



ANCA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

PN Talks

On May 8, the ANCA-PN launched its new video series titled: “PN Talks: Journey to Success.”

“PN Talks” is a video series that highlights well-known Armenian professionals, their experiences, and their journeys to success. It traces their path to success and introduces them on a more personal level, their habits, their everyday routines, and their work ethic.

Mixers

Earlier in March, ANCA-PN hosted a successful Speed Networking event. In the spirit of community unity and strength, the ANCA-PN, led by chair Shaunt Kevork and a dynamic board, hosted the 2nd Annual Armenian Young Professionals Summer Mixer jointly with the AGBU-YP, Armenian Professional Society, Birthright Armenia, Nerouj and Armenian Professional Network, attracting over 700 people and generating proceeds for the benefit of the Armenian American Museum.



Glendale Tech Week

ANCA-PN and ANCA-Glendale partnered to host a panel discussion during the annual Glendale Tech Week. Titled “Emerging Tech Hubs: Glendale and Yerevan,” the panel discussion informed Glendale’s residents and entrepreneurs about Armenia’s emerging IT industry. The event also aimed to establish a bridge between Yerevan and Glendale’s flourishing tech communities.

Speakers included:

Tania Sahakian, Regional Director, DISQO

Vach Hovsepyan, SVP, Customer Success, ServiceTitan

Shant Meguerditchian, Founder and CEO of Inovine

Ani Torosyan, Founder & CEO of DishDivvy

Anna Kachikyan, Founder of The Armenian Report



About ANCA-PN

The ANCA-PN is an association that connects thousands of Armenian American professionals and develops the next generation of leaders through social, educational, and community engagement programs and events.



AN ANCA-PN INITIATIVE



REACHING ACROSS THE AISLE

A delegation from the ANCA-WR together with the ANCA-San Francisco chapter and the Southern California Armenian Democrats (SCAD) was in San Francisco from May 31 to June 2 to participate in the 2019 California Democratic (CADEM) Party State Convention, hosting an exhibit booth and meeting elected officials and candidates throughout the Golden State to advance our public policy priorities. Over the course of three days, ANCA-WR delegation members met with a number of Democratic candidates for U.S. President, federal and state elected officials, as well as county and city politicians.

The ANCA-WR was also well represented at the California Republican (CAGOP) Convention, which took place September 6-8, 2019 in Indian Wells, CA. Hosting an exhibit booth and joined by representatives from the National Organization of Republican Armenians (NORA), delegation members met with hundreds of elected officials, candidates, and convention participants to discuss the importance of upholding the American values of freedom and liberty vis-a-vis Artsakh; promoting religious freedom and property rights; strengthening the U.S.-Armenia strategic relations, and seeking justice for the Armenian Genocide.



At both conventions, Armenian-Americans were the only ethnic group to have an exhibit booth, thereby providing the opportunity to educate hundreds of convention attendees, delegates, politicians, and candidates on the Armenian Cause and the community's immediate legislative priorities.

As the largest and most-influential Armenian American advocacy organization in Western U.S., ANCA-WR is nonpartisan in its activities and engages with all pertinent parties to advance the Armenian Cause without regard to party politics.



VOTER EDUCATION

ANCA-WR and three local chapters from Crescenta Valley, East San Fernando Valley, and Pasadena partnered with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and other elections officials to organize a series of Vote Center Community Meetings.

These Community Meetings allowed hundreds of attendees to learn about the new innovative and accessible voting experience and the implementation of vote centers that will provide convenient locations for voting anywhere in the County over an 11-day voting period. Each meeting included a presentation, take-home materials and an opportunity to ask questions.





On National Voter Registration Day 2019, the ANCA-WR announced the relaunch of **HyeVotes** Initiative in preparation for the 2020 Primary and General elections. Already in its 7th year, the HyeVotes Initiative will continue to register new voters, educate the community on the electoral process, and encourage Armenian American voters to participate in upcoming elections.

In coming months, the HyeVotes office and ANCA-WR local chapters will be planning massive voter registration drives and voter assistance outreach in areas with high a concentration of Armenian American constituencies. In order to successfully reach out to the community, HyeVotes will partner with local Armenian schools, churches, organizations, media, and various business institutions.

Since its inception in 2012, the primary goals of the HyeVotes Initiative are to increase the number of registered Armenian American voters, provide voters with comprehensive nonpartisan information about the contests on the ballot, and encourage civic engagement and volunteerism among the youth. To date, HyeVotes has successfully registered over 50,000 new Armenian American voters.

COUNT US ALL

In July of 2019, ANCA-WR became an official Census2020 partner organization to undertake a number of activities to raise awareness and to ensure a complete count of Armenian Americans. In line with its partnership agreement signed with the U.S. Census Bureau, the ANCA-WR formed and inaugurated the **Armenian American Complete Count Committee (AACCC)** in an effort to ensure maximum participation of the community in the 2020 census. It is the first time in history that there is a CCC formed specifically to facilitate outreach to Armenian Americans. The AACCC has had several meetings attended by representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau as well as a number of Armenian American faith-based and community organizations that have a broad grassroots reach and ability to spread the word effectively.

Parallel, ANCA-WR Board and Staff members have been making regular media appearances to raise awareness about the upcoming Census and the importance it has for the Armenian American community. In coming months, the AACCC and ANCA-WR will be undertaking a comprehensive campaign to ensure maximum participation of the community, especially highlighting the need to write in “Armenian” on the Census form to mark their ethnicity. An accurate count of Armenian Americans in the country will have a direct impact on our ability to advocate for the Armenian Cause, to qualify for various charitable grants and government funding, and to ensure that our collective voice is heard loud and clear with all its strength.

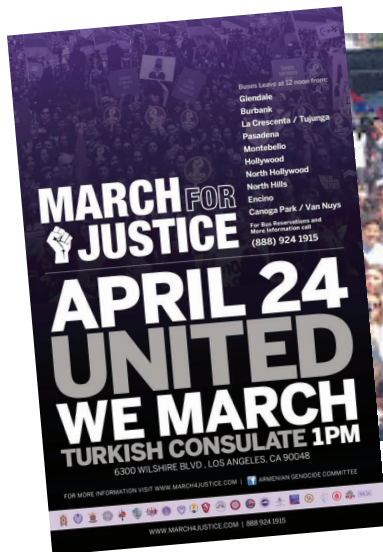


March For Justice

As in the years past, ANCA-WR was an active member of the Armenian Genocide Committee—a coalition of the major community organizations and religious denominations—working to organize the 2019 March For Justice. Tens of thousands of community members were joined on April 24 by leading elected officials and more than 50 coalition partners at the annual March for Justice in front of the Turkish Consulate General in Los Angeles to demand justice and righteously condemn Turkey's continued denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Pan-Armenian Council of Western USA

The Pan Armenian Council of Western USA announced its launch on August 16, 2019, with ANCA-WR as a founding member. Encouraged by the success of collaborative action, always mindful of the urgency of attaining national unity, and recognizing the necessity of gathering Armenian resources in service of our collective agenda, the 23 current signatory entities have resolved to form this coordinating Council to pursue the Armenian Community's collective interests and to further facilitate collaboration amongst them in the future.



Prime Minister Pashinyan's Inaugural Visit to Los Angeles

Nikol Pashinyan's inaugural visit to the United States as Armenia's Prime Minister symbolically started with Los Angeles. ANCA-WR was an active member of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Armenian Organizations, that in conjunction with the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles as well as the City and County of Los Angeles (led by LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and LA County Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda Solis) organized a number of events to mark the Prime Minister's historic visit.

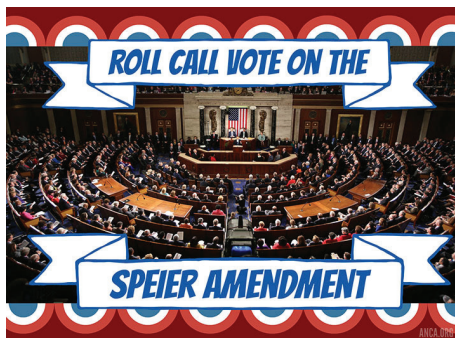
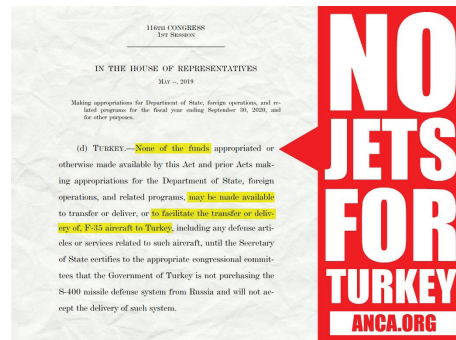
The public meeting at Grand Park in downtown LA attracted thousands who came out to welcome the Prime Minister in the largest organized Diaspora community in the world. Congressman Adam Schiff, CA Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, State Senator Anthony Portantino, State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and other elected officials were in attendance and offered welcoming remarks.

The organizing committee also put together the Gala Banquet reception and Business Symposium as well as coordinated the media coverage of the visit to ensure the success of the Prime Minister's visit.



ADVANCING THE ARMENIAN CAUSE ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL

The ANCA-WR actively supports the federal agenda set by our ANCA-DC office through constituent meetings, activation of ANCA Rapid Responders, phone campaigns and letter writing campaigns. As a direct result of these ongoing efforts, several ANCA-backed initiatives successfully passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, spearheaded by Members of Congress from the Western Region, including Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman TJ Cox, Congressman Brad Sherman, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier. These amendments and bills provide direct and ongoing financial support and acknowledgment of the needs of Armenia and Artsakh.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Campus Tours

In late 2018, ANCA and ANCA Western Region shared a 360-degree view of the organization's career development and student empowerment initiatives on six campuses throughout California, spotlighting internship and job placement opportunities offered through the Hovig Apo Saghdejian Capital Gateway Program (CGP) and Leo Sarkisian Summer Program in Washington, the Walter and Laurel Karabian Fellowship in Sacramento, and regional internships in Southern California.

Rising Leaders Program

Armenian American university students from across the U.S. visited the nation's capital from March 10th to 12th for ANCA Rising Leaders: Career Development and Civic Education 101 – the latest in a series of ANCA national and regional programs devoted to expanding youth engagement and empowering their exploration of careers in policy, politics and media in Washington, DC and across the U.S.

Hovig Apo Saghdejian Capital Gateway Program

Launched in 2003 and supported by a generous grant by the Saghdejian Family Foundation, the ANCA CGP has helped over 250 Armenian American professionals from across the U.S. explore career prospects in Washington DC. Gateway Program fellows are offered three months of free housing at the ANCA's Aramian House, located in the heart of Washington, DC. The Capital Gateway Program Advisory Committee (CGPAC), comprised of a rotating group of program alumni, coordinates a series of career placement workshops on a range of issues including resume and cover letter preparation, effective interview strategies and networking. The CGPAC also connects fellows with mentors most closely aligned with their career goals for one-on-one advice and encouragement.





Leo Sarkisian Internship

Established in 1985, the ANCA Leo Sarkisian Summer Internship (ANCA-LSI) program, provides student leaders and activists an opportunity to participate in an eight week intensive program in Washington, DC designed to give them the tools necessary to effectively advance issues of concern to the Armenian American community on the federal, state and local level.

The participants work on a wide variety of projects based on their individual interests, while gaining hands-on experience within the American political system, including bi-weekly lectures featuring distinguished Members of Congress, Ambassadors and Armenian American leaders.

Walter and Laurel Karabian Fellowship

The Walter and Laurel Karabian Fellowship is a nine-month experience in Sacramento, California that offers young Armenian Americans the opportunity to enhance their leadership and professional skills. The purpose of this fellowship is to produce professionals in the public policy and political arenas.

ANCA Western Region Internship Program

The ANCA Western Region Internship Program is a selective part-time leadership program, which introduces high school graduates, college students, and recent college graduates to all aspects of the public affairs arena. The program provides an opportunity for student leaders and activists to gain an in-depth understanding of the American political system, Armenian American issues and advocacy efforts on the local, state and federal levels.

TEACHING HYE TAD 101 TO HUNDREDS OF CAMPERS AT AYF CAMP

With a spirit that would have been admired by the pioneer of Armenian American political activism Vahan Cardashian, the ANCA-WR was busy this summer, teaching hundreds of youth at AYF Camp the importance of civic engagement and democratic participation. Over the course of the summer of 2019, the ANCA-WR with the help of summer interns, gave an overview of Hye Tad and of the work of the ANCA through various presentations.

As a hands-on exercise, campers were tasked with designing their own country – with a flag, symbols, and constitution – in an effort to have them think about the importance of institutions and the rule of law. Each week, ANCA leaders shared with the campers that in order to make a difference in their communities, they need to be directly involved and civically engaged in elections and the democratic process.



WALTER & LAUREL KARABIAN
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SIGNATURE MOMENTS

ANCA-WR Annual Gala

The Annual Gala is the premiere event for the ANCA-WR and the Armenian-American community, where activists, supporters, donors, and public officials come together to acknowledge the work of the organization and pay homage to annual honorees whose contributions to the Armenian Cause are recognized each year. The annual dinner provides crucial financial support to the ANCA-WR, which serves as a vital center for advocacy, activism, education, and community development. 2019 honorees were U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu (Legislator of the Year), LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (Woman of the Year), H.E. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America (Khrimian Hayrig Award), Araksya Karapetyan (Excellence in Media Award), and Special Tribute recipient, philanthropist and benefactor Hacop Baghdassarian (in memoriam).





2019 Grassroots Conference

The dynamic 2-day biennial Grassroots Conference was the fifth in a groundbreaking series of informative and inspirational lectures which brings together artists, academics, legal experts, and political officials with hundreds of activists from all over the world to explore issues related to the Armenian Cause and to develop and promote new avenues of leadership and civic engagement.

The Armenian Women in Media panel featured Araksya Karapetyan from KTTV Fox 11's Good Day LA, Anna Kachikyan from The Armenian Report, Ella Sogomonian from KRON ON, Ellina Abovian from KTLA 5 News, and Sona Movsesian from The Conan O'Brien Show as moderator.

Homeland and Diaspora panel included Zareh Sinanyan – Armenia's High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs; Taron Lizagub – COO of US operations at GG; Antranig Kasbarian, Ph.D. – Director of Development Tufenkian Foundation; Nerses Kopalyan, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor UNLV; and Asbarez Editor Ara Khachatourian as moderator.

Civic Engagement panelists were Alex Padilla – California's Secretary of State; Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez, Esq. – Appointments Secretary for CA Governor Gavin Newsom; Dean C. Logan – LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk; and ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian as moderator.

Arstakh and Activism in the United States panel featured Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Artsakh Armine Aleksanyan; Amasia Zargarian – Grants and Development Manager of the Halo Trust; and Simon Maghakyan – Djulfa Expert and ANCA-WR Community Development Coordinator.

Panel on Turkey was divided into two sections. Turkey and the Armenian Genocide: Consequences and Resolution sub-panel included Ani Hovannisian - Director, Producer, and Filmmaker as well as Heghnar Watenpough, Ph.D. - Professor at UC Davis. Turkey's Invasion of Syria: Impact and Ramifications panelists were Edvin Minassian, Esq. - Legal Expert and Khatchig Mouradian, Ph.D. - MESAAS Lecturer at Columbia University.

ELEVATING MEDIA PRESENCE

The latest initiative of the ANCA-WR is the launching of the Impact Media Institute (IMI), which will serve to uphold and promote fundamental human rights for all people and to fight against hatred, bigotry, intolerance, and historical revisionism in non-Armenian media.

With new threats and challenges facing the Armenian Nation, both in the Diaspora and the Homeland, it is imperative to have a dedicated media-focused entity to effectively promote and present our issues to regional, national, and international media outlets to further raise awareness about the issues of concern to our community.

ANCA-WR spokespeople continue to make regular bilingual appearances throughout Armenian print and broadcast media to keep our community informed about activities pertaining to the advancement of the Armenian Cause and to motivate participation and action.

ANCA-WR social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter also serve to inform the public about issues of concern as well as our accomplishments.





JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Become an ANCA Rapid Responder

The ANCA has made it easier than ever to ensure your voice is heard in the Halls of Government on the federal, state and local levels, with the ANCA Rapid Responder System.

By signing up, you allow the ANCA to automatically send pre-written letters on your behalf to your legislators. This system ensures that your views and values are shared immediately with key decision makers, every time that the ANCA posts an action alert. This is especially vital when events develop quickly and every minute counts. (We will, of course, forward you a copy of the letter sent on your behalf for your files.)

To learn more and to register, visit: www.anca.org/rapid

Support ANCA Western Region

Join our Founder's Circle Annual Giving or Friends of ANCA-WR Monthly Giving program to elevate our advocacy and programming to new heights, in pursuit of the Armenian Cause.

Visit our website www.ancawr.org or simply call us at 818-500-1918 to learn more.

Text2Donate

Supporting the work and mission of ANCA-WR is easy as ever!

*Simply text **4ANC** to **41444** to join our \$15/month support program.*

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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

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Fresno

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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COLORADO

HAWAII

IDAHO

Boise

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NEVADA

NEW MEXICO

OREGON

TEXAS

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Houston

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GET INVOLVED WITH ANCA-WR

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



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