



California August 2025 Quarterly Newsletter



It's impossible to ignore the anger and heartbreak we all feel when we see proposals to gut cancer research funding by 37% or to cut Medicaid for over 12 million Americans. **These aren't just numbers; they represent real lives, real families, and the future of cancer care.** Still, I have hope, because I see your unwavering commitment to continue our fight – through your calls, emails, meetings with lawmakers and through your social media posts. **We are here, united, because we refuse to back down.**

Last month, as we celebrate **Pride Month** and acknowledged 35 years of progress, let it serve as a reminder of what allyship and collective action can achieve, inspiring us to support vital initiatives like Kick It California's cessation services. **Our newly structured ACS CAN staff is here to empower you further,** and events like the San Francisco Lights of Hope show the world that our advocacy shines bright.

This is a critical moment for our federal and state legislative priorities – from protecting vital cancer research and treatment access to expanding tobacco control. We face strong headwinds, but **our collective voice is our strength.** Now, more than ever, we must use it. Let's rise up, on behalf of cancer patients and their families, together—in our communities, at the state Capitol, and in Washington. As Harvey Milk said, "**Hope will never be silent.**" Let's ensure our

hope, and our voice, thunder for those who need us most.

In Gratitude,

Your State Lead Ambassador, Jamie Escoto

****COMMUNICATIONS NOTE****

Aiming for efficiency, we send only one email on any given day and will not send a state communication the same day as a national email.

KEY DATES

September 8th, 11:59pm ET,
***Lights of Hope Fundraising
Incentive Deadline***

September 11th, 6:00 pm, **ACS
CAN Book Club**, Currently
*Reading: The Book of Alchemy by
Suleika Jaouad*
[Click here to RSVP!](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[2025 Call Calendar](#)
[California Ambassador Hub](#)
[National Volunteer Home Page](#)
[CA Society of Emerging Leaders](#)
**** [Volunteer Report Back Form](#)**

Please report all actions taken!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- Are you participating in an event and looking for resources to engage your local community? Well, look no further! [The Grassroot Team has prepared a link to campaign resources on our California Ambassador Hub!](#) You can go here to find petitions and fact sheets on relevant and timely campaigns.
- Please continue to circulate the [Protect Cancer Cures Research Funding petition](#). We will be delivering petitions to district offices in October and hope to have a big stack for every office.
- Send your feedback or ideas for the newsletter to Stephanie Gordon-Rivera stephanie.grivera@gmail.com or Tina Tankka tinykung74@gmail.com

LIGHTS OF HOPE UPDATES

If you haven't yet set up your LOH page there's still time! As we all know California is the champion when it comes to rallying and pushing towards the finish line. Let's do it Golden State!

If you do not plan to set up your own Lights of Hope page please consider supporting one of your fellow volunteers. You can search their page [here](#).

Resources:

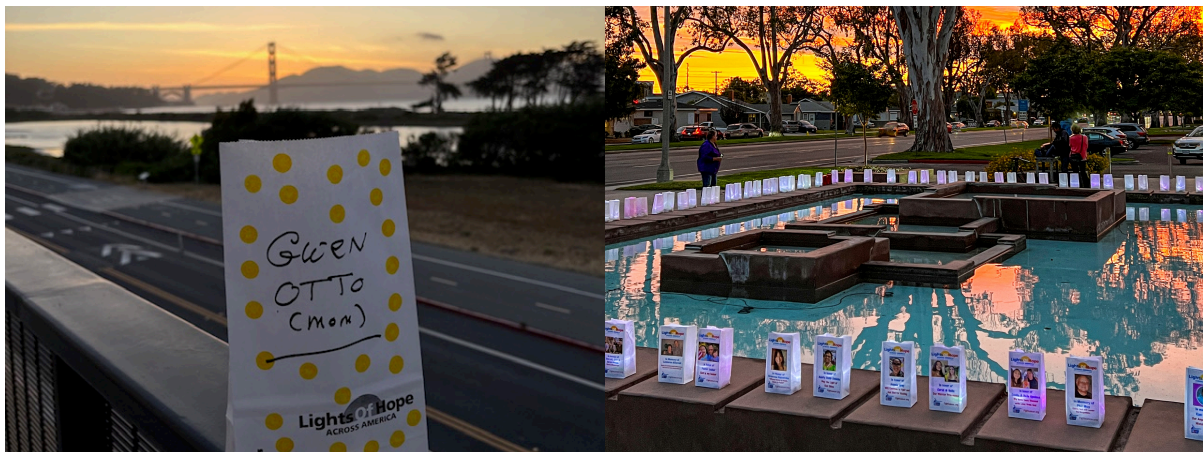
The [2025 volunteer fundraising toolkit](#) is ready to be shared.

The [2025 Lights of Hope sponsorship packet](#) and the [Spanish sponsor packet](#) are both available.

We'd like to take a moment to spotlight two of the fabulous displays. From left to right, Janet Alvarado hosted a display at the Presidio in San Francisco on May 31 with the Golden Gate bridge as the backdrop and John Schmitt hosted a display around the fountain at Torrance City Hall on August 16.

Next up a Lights of Hope display in southern California hosted by our up and coming State Lead Laura LaRose. All are welcome and bring your bags to display!

A Night of Remembrance, Resilience and Hope at Providence Saint John's
Providence Saint John's Health Center
Jimmy Stewart Rose Garden
2121 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, CA
Sunday Sept. 7 4:00-8:00 pm [RSVP here!](#)



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & LOBBY DAY

For Ambassadors who will be representing ACS CAN, put on your running shoes, draft and practice your stories, don those ubiquitous blue shirts and make your voices reverberate through those halls. Those of us at home will be rallying behind you! The fight this year is a big one!

If you missed the update about who is attending this year, search your inbox for an email from Spencer Lyons titled ***Announcing our CA LS&LD Delegation***

PRIDE MONTH

We celebrated 35 years since the first marches were held. New York, Chicago, LA and San Francisco among the pioneers a year after the [Stonewall Riots in New York](#).

Allyship is listening, learning, respecting and supporting

- #Pride or #Pride2025 or #PrideMonth
- Show up
- Network, share your allowing photos and reshare Pride postings
- Learn how to be an effective Ally

In partnership with Pride Month, Let's Kick Tobacco and Nicotine Together **Kick it California** (KIC) promoted free nicotine and tobacco cessation services. KIC offers safe and affirming coaching for all Californians who want to quit commercial tobacco and nicotine. For more information, visit kickitca.org



NEW AMBASSADORS

Let's give a warm welcome to our new volunteers!

- Aarush Merla- District 27
- Aarna Merla- District 27
- Aditi Ramaraju- District 41
- Adriana Clark- District 27
- Alisha Paul- District 5
- Amber Truong- District 45
- Asseal Abdu- District 36
- Audra Elaine Mcleod- District 20
- Bowie Krawczyk- District 50
- Brianna Hutchens- District 10
- Britta Kleitsch- District 24
- Cadence Chan- District 28
- Kiley Murakami- District 45
- Kimber Elise Evans- District 27
- Kim Gerrish- District 48
- Krisha Mehta- District 45
- Lena Schulze- District 29
- Leslie Rodriguez- District 20
- Lilia Brack- District 42
- Loren Thompson- District 42
- Mahima Wuppalapati- District 47
- Manojna Moganti- District 10
- Marbely Olivo- District 48
- Marcella Price- District 36
- Marinda Htoon- District 9
- Michael Lee- District 27
- Michelle Noriega- District 22
- Nadhi Balaji- District 5
- Natalie Chambers Doud- Dis. 15

- Carlen Yuen- District 46
- Claire Xuan- District 28
- Celine Li- District 28
- Cheryl Gu- District 17
- Chloe Phan- District 17
- Chloe Tsang- District 36
- Diya Sriramagiri- District 50
- Dolly Lin- District 40
- Douglas Peters- District 2
- Emma Ashworth- District 36
- Emilie Butterworth- District 36
- Hassan Tariq- District 36
- Julie Liu- District 36
- Karolina Ramirez- District 34
- Kavya Gangasani- District 16
- Kelsey E Dimka- District 36
- Kiarra Garcia- District 47
- Natalie Lia- District 40
- Nimian Bauder- District 32
- Noah Kaleekal- District 17
- Olivia Reyes- District 51
- Omer Mescioglu- District 37
- Ovyaa Anburaj- District 10
- Prairie Park- District 38
- Reet Saini- District 3
- Ruby Honjol- District 47
- Ruhani Dhillon- District 3
- Samar Lal- District 9
- Tashu Vakil- District 40
- Ugne Koveraite- District 37
- Vyom Shah- District 26
- Yasir Chaudhry- District 38
- Yue Yang- District 15

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

State Priorities One-Pager

A California State Legislative Update is headed your way soon! In the meantime keep your eyes peeled for two key action alerts for AB 573- one for the Senate floor vote and then the Assembly floor vote.

AB 573 (Rogers) CDTFA Tobacco Retail License Fee- A bill to increase the tobacco retail licensing fee to expand reach of annual inspections and increase capacity to seize illegal flavored tobacco from stores.

The **2025 Federal Priorities One-Pager** is now available on the right column of the California Ambassador Hub! [Go check it out!](#)

A BIG WELCOME BACK + A FOND FARWELL

Welcome Back!

Jasmine Buenrostro and Chakoma Haidari have officially returned! Both took some time away to bond with their little ones, and we couldn't be happier to have them back with us. We know many of you have been asking, and we're thrilled to share that they are here and ready to reconnect with you.

A Fond Farewell.

Calyn Kelley will be departing on **August 26th**. Many of you had the pleasure of meeting him while he was serving as our interim. We are deeply grateful for his

dedication, energy, and support during this time, and we wish him all the best in his next chapter.

Thank you for being such an incredible community of leaders and advocates. Your continued commitment inspires us every day, and we're so glad to have you alongside us as we move forward together.

ACS CAN STAFF STRUCTURE REORGANIZATION

Hopefully you were able to read the June 5th email sent by Mary Kemp. It's about an exciting restructuring of staff, aimed at giving the ambassadors improved information flow so we can be more effective, more organized and better able to advocate for our priorities.

Each volunteer will have two dedicated staff partners.

Federal Grassroots Manager: Spencer Lyons will support all 52 ACT Leads with actions and initiatives related to federal policies and nationwide campaigns.

State and Local Grassroots Manager: Southern/Central Grassroots Managers, **Jasmine Buenrostro**, and Northern Grassroots Manager, **Chakoma Haidari**, will assist you with actions and initiatives related to state and local policies, ensuring that our efforts are impactful at every level of governance.

More information can be found on the Grassroots Restructuring FAQ document [here!](#)

WRAPPING IT UP

Cancer is no longer the dreaded “C” word or a secret to be kept, like it used to be. When the diagnosis is cancer, we now roll up our sleeves and arm ourselves for the fight. Pat yourselves on the back Ambassadors, and let's continue the legislative fight to keep research, funding, and medical advances alive.





©2022 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network works daily to make cancer a national priority.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).