



California June 2024 Quarterly Newsletter



This past spring a multitude of hopeful seedlings were planted including the very first ACS CAN Affinity Group Roundtable with over 50 members in attendance. The groups held passionate discussions about pathways for interconnectedness between each of the national Affinity Groups and outreach to our sister groups within California. These groups are open to all who want to join. You do not have to identify with a group's particular cultural subset. The only requirement is eagerness, open-mindedness, and the desire to connect. Below is a list of the [Affinity Groups](#) now in existence:

- Black Volunteer Caucus (BVC): 3rd Mondays at 4:30 pm (PT)
- LGBTQIA+ & Allies Engagement Group: 2nd Thursdays at 4:30 pm (PT)
- ACSí Se Puede Hispanic/Latino Advocacy Alliance: 1st Mondays at 5 pm (PT)
- The Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Volunteer Caucus: 3rd Wednesdays at 5 pm (PT)
- The Young Leaders Caucus (YLC): [check their webpage](#)
- Indigenous Volunteer Voices: 2nd Mondays at 5:30 pm (PT)

For more information or an invite to the zoom meetings, please contact your Grassroots Manager.



Our collective goal is to create a foundation to improve health equity and make us stronger in our battle against this malicious disease.

*-ACT! Lead
Tina Tankka*

This newsletter features:

- **Cancer Action Day 2024:** Read below to see how many meetings we held!
- **Local Tobacco Progress:** Focus on protecting and engaging youth.
- **Our NEW Access to Care Advocacy Video:** featuring many volunteers!

Please join us on Wednesday, July 24th at 5:00 pm for the Summer Quarterly Ambassador Call - link below in the "Key Dates" section.

KEY DATES

July 16, 4:30 pm, [Power to Impact: Essential Briefing for Cancer Votes](#)

July 18th, 5:00-6:30pm **Charting a Course:**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- [Call your U.S. Representative today and urge them to increase funding for cancer research!](#)
- Watch MCED Ways and Means Committee Vote (Spoiler alert!! It passes 38-0!!) and thank your lawmaker publicly if they are on

Patient Navigation for Health Equity, [RSVP here](#)

July 24th, 5-6 pm, **Summer Quarterly Ambassador**
Call: [Zoom link here](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[2024 Call Calendar](#)

[New California Ambassador Hub](#)

[National Volunteer Home Page](#)

[CA Society of Emerging Leaders](#)

** [Volunteer Report Back Form](#) Please report all actions taken!

CALIFORNIA CANCER ACTION DAY

This spectacular day brought 111 advocates from up and down the state to the State Capitol in Sacramento for 102 meetings with state legislative offices to lobby for the four bills we are co-sponsoring this year:

- Every Woman Counts - SB 1213 (Atkins)
- Cancer Research Tax Donation Checkoffs - SB1172 (Grove)
- Illegal Tobacco Seizure - SB1230 (Rubio)

this [committee](#). Note the ACS CAN volunteer fan club in the audience at the end of **Vote**

Video: <https://f.io/y2jNq8w1>

- Learn about our [#storiesofhope initiative](#) and [represent your cancer journey using this worksheet](#), take a photo or video, and tag [@acscanstoriesofhope](#) on Instagram or email [Jamie Escoto](#).
- Cancer Votes is LIVE! Please see below for more info on ways you can support.
- Got feedback or ideas for the newsletter? Please send them to ACT! Lead for Congressional District 10 [Tina Tankka](#) and Communications Chair of the Society of Emerging Leaders [Melody McBride](#).



Pictured from left to right is Lupe Delgado (staff), volunteers Kathy Flaherty and Jackie Gash, and Angelica Garcia (staff).

- Flavored Tobacco Sale Prohibition: Enforcement - AB 3218 (Wood)

[You can read the full scoop on each of these bills here](#) and a detailed bill update is forthcoming.



Pictured above left to right are Kira Sano, Shreya Handa, Isabella Ramos, and Ananya Pinnamaneni. Ananya testified in committee on SB1230 at Cancer Action Day.

CALIFORNIA POLICY EVENTS

[View and register for either event here!](#)

Legislative Policy Roundtable on POSTPONED *and will let you know the new date as soon as it is confirmed* (virtual) This event will focus on the significance of the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program for breast and cervical cancer screening and the role it plays in fighting cancer. Panelists will include Senator Toni Atkins, and public health advocates and researchers will demonstrate the importance of continued funding to address health disparities.

Health Equity Policy Forum on July 18, 2024 at 5pm (virtual) The focus will be on

ACCESS TO CARE IN CALIFORNIA- YouTube Advocacy Video!

[Check out our new Access to Care in California – Advocacy YouTube video](#) featuring Dr. Jesse Nodora, Legislative Ambassador and Associate Professor at University of California San Diego School of Medicine, P. Kay Coleman, Treasurer ACS CAN National Board of Directors and Legislative Ambassador, and **MANY OF YOU!**

patient navigation to address health-related social needs and reduce health disparities for cancer patients. While patient navigation is a widely recognized intervention in addressing cancer disparities, equitable access to navigation services has been a challenge. The forum will highlight how practitioners, healthcare systems and the private sector are addressing these challenges, and how public policies and health systems can ensure that patient navigation is accessible and sustainable for all communities. We have invited Calif Congressman De Saulnier to talk about his Navigation bill he is introducing this summer.

CALIFORNIA TOBACCO NEWS



The [Stanislaus Tobacco Prevention Action Team](#) (STPAT) has been very busy!

- They made a series of three presentations on flavored tobacco to a total of 1,200 students at Pitman High School in Turlock providing educational materials at lunch and a giveaway to engage students to boost the project's social media presence.
- In collaboration with the VIVE and VIVA teams, they hosted a virtual event in Spanish called "Taboco de Sabores: No tan dulce como se mira" featuring speaker, Dr. Sarah Lopez from Zocalo Health, and a volunteer to a crowd of more than 40 people from the Central Valley and Southern California who expressed an interest in becoming volunteers and attending future events hosted in Spanish.
- They led a Lunch and Learn Advocacy and Spokesperson training at the Modesto City Hall conducted entirely in Spanish and provided information on

federal, state, and local government advocacy, followed by a tour of the chambers, where volunteers had a Q&A session with city staff. Eighteen people attended.

The [RICE- Rooted in Community Empowerment- team](#) along with the youth decoys from San Pablo Police Department conducted Young Adult Tobacco Purchase Surveys in Emeryville and Hercules. Eighteen of the nineteen stores surveyed had unlawful flavored tobacco products for sale. Five of the stores sold to the underage decoys. At least six had price promotions.

If you'd like to be involved in your local Tobacco Control Coalition, your Grassroot Manager can get you connected!



Pictured left to right: Tim Gibbs (CFTFK), Senator Rubio (author), Sabrina Toor (Ambassador & Modesto HS student, Autumn Ogden Smith, & Kesa Bruce (ALA). Sabrina testified as an expert witness regarding unlawful flavored tobacco products.



Pictured left to right: Ananya Pinnamaneni (Ambassador & recent HS graduate), Senator Rubio (author), and Tim Gibbs (CFTFK). Ananya testified as an expert witness regarding unlawful flavored tobacco products.

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS: Elevate!



What are our 2024 Goals?

NEW AMBASSADORS

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

- Paolo Alvarez - District 19
- Cheryl Bailow - District 13
- Ashley Brown - District 50
- Angel Cardenas - District 15
- Diya Chivikula - District 14

1. To demonstrate the **power of ACS CAN California Ambassadors** by engaging 100 different volunteers in completing and reporting 500 distinct actions to move our lawmakers.

Progress to date: 293 of 500 actions have been submitted (58% toward our goal) and 122 volunteers have used the report-back form to share actions taken. Yay! Goal achieved!

2. To demonstrate the **support behind our mission - to end cancer as we know it for everyone** - by raising \$115,000 through volunteer fundraising and Lights of Hope.

Progress to date: California volunteers have raised \$9,946 in funds towards Lights of Hope fundraising (8% toward our goal). If you haven't started, you can set up your fundraising page [here!](#)

3. To build a collection of **your powerful cancer journeys** to inspire action against cancer. These stories will be featured on our Instagram Hub [@acscanstoriesofhope](#) in either images accompanied by written word or videos.

Progress to date: 8 of 100 journeys are currently featured in the Instagram Hub (8% toward our goal).

- Marie Cunningham - District 17
- Sneha Doddapaneni - District 9
- Ahilan Eraniyan - District 10
- Audel Guizar - District 24
- Ashton Noeul Havens - District 25
- Anna Holland - District 14
- Ani Janakiraman - District 19
- Mapalo Kateule - District 6
- Roshni Kurup - District 16
- Pearl Lakhani - District 19
- Lori Miller - District 13
- Rudra Naresh - District 9
- Alyssa Nicholas - District 17
- Claudia Perez - District 25
- Srija Prabhu - District 17
- Myra Punia - District 19
- Bharat Raj - District 19
- Eddie Sammaniego - District 52
- James Gerad Scelfo - District 51
- Jazzy Shah - District CD4
- Sophia Tra - District 10
- Sophia Tran - District 14
- Nathan Tran - District 11
- Rohan Upadhyay - District 3
- Ruth Vinall - District 6

VOLUNTEERS IN THE NEWS

Kudos to our amazing volunteers in the news:

Stefania Sesock, [Tobacco Retail Licensing Program Aiming to Protect Youth from Illegal Tobacco Sales, Curb Tobacco Use Takes Effect Today](#)

Ernesto Martínez & Guadalupe Ramírez, [Horchata vape juice? Modesto group worries big tobacco is targeting Latino communities](#)

Idonia Ramos,

[ABC7 en español, California: Activistas piden a legisladores de California ampliar acceso a servicios contra el cáncer](#)

[Activistas instan a los legisladores de California a aumentar el acceso a las pruebas de detección y tratamiento del cáncer de mama y cervical, y combatir la venta ilegal de productos de tabaco con sabor](#)

Mercy Campos, [Fontana breast cancer survivor travels to Sacramento to advocate for increased access to breast and cervical cancer screenings and treatment](#)

CANCER VOTES OPPORTUNITY

Cancer Votes 2024 is LIVE - you can participate in Cancer Votes activities now with the primaries and through the November election. Anyone nationwide can participate and efforts will focus on federal races - presidential, Senate, and House. Our goal is to increase ACS CAN's power to impact public policy & build ACS CAN's relevance, capacity, and volunteer engagement by building relationships with candidates on all sides of the aisle, so whoever gets elected already knows about ACS CAN and the importance of cancer issues! We'll be asking candidates to sign the "Cancer Promise" to pledge their support for evidence-based policies. Here are your three steps to get started:

1. Take the training <https://www.cancervotes.org/training>
2. Receive your CV Volunteer Kit in the mail (includes a T-shirt, yard sign, button, and palm card with the Cancer Promise and questions)
3. Check your inbox for Cancer Votes assignments, campaigns, and incentives throughout the year!



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