

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends Committee on National Legislation Representative Report to Annual Session 2021

SUMMARY

Friends connected with FCNL have been extremely active since last year's PYM gathering in lobbying and other efforts of FCNL's to achieve "the world we seek."

FCNL's Annual Meeting

For the first time in FCNL's 77 years of history, its Annual Meeting was held virtually rather than on Capitol Hill. Some 88 Friends from California, Nevada, and Hawaii attended the Annual Meeting November 14-17, 2020. Most were from Pacific Yearly Meeting. As in the past, those who attend the Annual Meeting spend one day lobbying their congressional representatives and senators. This year there were a total of 28 lobby visits by Friends from those three states during the Annual Meeting. In those visits, Friends advocated for the George Floyd police reform bill.

FCNL has announced that its 2021 Annual Meeting will also be held virtually, November 17-20.

FCNL Advocacy Teams

For the past five years, FCNL has encouraged Friends to launch local groups, called Advocacy Teams, to lobby on issues identified by FCNL staff. FCNL provides training and support for these teams. There are now more than 200 Advocacy Team members in 10 different districts in California and Nevada. Specifically, there are teams in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Sonoma, and Las Vegas. In the past year, these teams have conducted a total of 43 lobby visits (not including the ones held during the Annual Meeting). This year's issue has been the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorization of Military Force legislation which has been used to justify the numerous US interventions in countries throughout the world.

The local Advocacy Teams are part of FCNL's nationwide network of 120 teams with approximately 2,000 members. Team members throughout the country meet monthly via Zoom with FCNL staff and special guests to learn more about the issues and exchange stories and tips on becoming more effective lobbyists.

All members of PacYM's FCNL Representatives attended FCNL's Annual Meeting: Michelle Shields (Honolulu), Allison Kirkegaard (Claremont), Carolyn Levering (Santa Cruz), Klara East (Sacramento), Mary Klein (Palo Alto), Robert Levering (Santa Cruz), Convener.