



THE COUNCIL OF LEBANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

Founded in 1989 to serve the USA and Lebanon.

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CLAO

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PR051117

CLAO's Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV

The Council of Lebanese American Organizations (CLAO) held its annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. With the momentous liberation of Lebanon behind us, representatives from member organizations met to discuss future direction for CLAO and potential course of action to assist in the recovery of Lebanese society at all levels.

The attendees discussed CLAO's current state of affairs, 16 years into its life, and surveyed operational challenges and potential opportunities to keep CLAO prominent by serving the Lebanese American Community and strengthening US - Lebanese relations. The attendees would like to reaffirm the following:

- CLAO would like to express its immense gratitude to the International Committee and the US Administration in particular, for their support in forcing the withdrawal of Syrian Occupation Forces. CLAO shall continue to lobby the International Community to assist Lebanon in recovering its full sovereignty and reestablishing its democratic institutions.
- CLAO will continue to stress fostering friendship and collaboration between the United States and Lebanon to promote the principles of democracy and human rights. However, with the threat of foreign occupation subsiding, CLAO's mission and charter will evolve to reemphasize aid for the socio-economic recovery of Lebanon.
- Chairs for the various committees were appointed and tasked to develop an action plan. Initial drafts for action plan are due the office of the chairman by 1st week of December. Committee chairs are:
 - Media: Pierre Selwan
 - Humanitarian: Samar Bou-Ghazale
 - Fund Raising : Dolly Malek
 - Government Affairs: Nabil Sahlani
 - Diaspora Affairs: Elie Najm
 - UN Affairs: Janah Risha
 - Grass Roots Recruiting: Elias el-Murr
 - Business Ops : Hussein el-Bizri
 - Education Programs: Joe Nacouzi

SCALA – Southern Calif. Assn. of Lebanese Americans – CA

LACLV – Lebanese American Committee of Las Vegas–NV

LACSF-Lebanese American Club of San Francisco-CA

ALCNJ-American Lebanese Club of New Jersey-NJ

VLAC-Vermont Leb. American Committee - VT

*CLAO Students ***** - USA*

*Texans for Lebanon ***** - TX*

LACNC – Lebanese American Council of N. Carolina – NC

ALI – American Lebanese Institute – Washington, D.C.

LID –Liberty Independence Dignity for Lebanon–NY

ALOHA – American Lebanese Ohio Assn. - OH

ALC – American Lebanese of the Carolinas – NC

BTL – Bridge to Lebanon – USA

AFL-Americans for Free Lebanese-CT

Elie Najm, Chairman ** Elie Elmurr, Vice Chairman ** Pierre Selwan, Secretary ** Dolly Malek, Treasurer

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