

NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Location: Zoroastrian Society of Ontario. Meeting held at the Mehraban Guiv Darb-e-Mehr, 3590 Bayview Avenue, North York, Ontario. CANADA. M2M 3S6.

Date: April 6, 2012.

Members Present:

Jehan Bagli	Ontario
Farhad Bulsara	Ontario
Firdosh Bulsara	Ontario
Zaheer Bulsara	Ontario
Mehbad Dastur	Ontario
Soli Dastur	Florida
Cawas Desai	Pennsylvania
Kerman Katrak	Ontario
Gev Karkaria	Quebec
Nozer Kotwal	Ontario
Arda-E-Viraf Minocherhomjee	California
Khushroo Mirza	Ontario
Noshir Mirza	Ontario
Tehemton Mirza	Ontario
Gustad Panthaki	Ontario
Pervez Patel	New York
Kobad Zarolia	Ontario

Three Proxies were registered.

Meeting was called to order by President Ervad Kobad Zarolia after a short prayer.

- (1) Adopt the minutes of the Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting held at the Zoroastrian Association of Philadelphia and New Jersey at the Gibson House Community Centre, 984 Tuckerton Road, Marlton, New Jersey. USA.

Soli Dastur proposed and Pervez Patel seconded. The minutes were adopted.

- (2) Adopt the Financial Statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2011.

Treasurer Tehemton Mirza presented the Statements. Cawas Desai proposed to adopt the Statements and Nozer Kotwal seconded. Financial Statements were passed unanimously

- (3) President's Annual Report: President Kobad Zarolia highlighted NAMC's activities during 2011.

Lecture Circuit: The NAMC Lecture Team made up of Jehan Bagli, Soli Dastur, Behram Panthaki, Gustad Panthaki and Cawas Desai has once again provided yeoman service to the NAMC and to the Zarthushti community of North America. Several Lecture Events were held in different locations in North America.

NAMC "ATHRAVAN" Newsletter: Thanks to Soli, Khushru and all the contributing Mobeds, the Newsletter made its successful rounds in 2011. The Newsletter is distributed to all NAMC listed member mobeds, to all Fezana groups and to 190 mobeds in the North American diaspora. The President once again requested the members to participate more actively in this program by contributing articles researched personally and by commenting on the same. Cawas suggested that we include basic prayers with translations and transliterations. Khushroo suggested that we present our personal perspective and understanding of scholarly translations of prayers. Tehemton proposed that

we allocate/assign turns to each member to cover the four issues that we produce annually.

NAMC Mobedyar Program: Kobad mentioned that it is difficult to cater to requests from the community to train Mobedyars. The training requires a “one on one” arrangement with a Mobed and currently this is not feasible. We should restrict ourselves to offering this service to sparsely populated Zoroastrian centres in North America where no Mobeds are available readily. Tehemton mentioned that he was currently coaching two prospective candidates.

NAMC Website: The NAMC website is managed in India. It cannot be updated frequently for every little item that needs recording. Soli, Arda and Firdosh have volunteered to coordinate this item and collect all necessary information to be forwarded by Kobad to our webmaster.

(4) Discuss and adopt the “Atashkadeh” paper by NAMC

Soli has volunteered to spell-check the document and ensure that all names, titles are spelt consistently. Document to be returned to Tehemton. Cawas proposed an addendum to the document to include a list of inner and outer liturgical ceremonies with write ups about their performance.

Adoption proposed by Cawas and seconded by Gusti.

(5) New Certificate for Mobedyar Graduation : Kobad informed the members that the certificate design is complete and the new document would be available next month.

(6) NAMC recommendation to FEZANA to adopt the Fasli Calender : At this point in time NAMC should recommend celebration of all Gahambars to be synchronized with the relevant season. Tehemton has prepared a very well written paper which was published in the “Athraavan”. This paper should be used in NAMC's recommendation to FEZANA.

(5) (7) JAMAs catching fire during Jashan ceremony : Members unanimously decided “NOT TO CHANGE THE DRESS CODE”. We should continue wearing the Jama. It is the carelessness of the Mobeds that causes these

accidents. The elder Mobeds participating in the ceremony should keep control of the situation. The most likely accident situation is during the exchange of flowers between the Zaoatar and the Raspi, when the latter has to lean over the fire. Kobad suggested that we change our practice of doing the Jashan sitting on the floor. Both Mobeds should sit on chairs and raise the fire and all implements and trays onto a table set between them.

(8) Additional Items permitted by the Chair :

(a) NAMC's Mandate : Recently there was an instance of a Mobed's widow in India desperately needing financial assistance to undergo cancer treatment. Kobad and Tehemton explained that NAMC cannot make a charitable donation towards this request from the Council's funds. Our mandate is strictly to preserve and promote Zoroastrianism.

(b) FEZANA Journal (25th Anniversary Edition) : NAMC has purchased a half-page ad in the Journal. Cawas and Zaheer will prepare a short write-up and suitable decoration for this insert and send the same to Kobad ASAP.

(c) Complimentary Hand-outs at FEZANA gala banquet : FEZANA President Bomi Patel requested NAMC to provide a few hundred lapel pins with a ZARATHUSHTRI motif. Members decided against this expenditure.

(d) <NAMC@yahoogroups.com> : Soli and Mehbad to jointly control all inputs to this "Yahoo Group e-mail". Use exclusively for notification only. No articles or lectures or seminar reports to be posted on this site. No replies to notification permitted. Soli and Mehbad to revise/refresh list of Mobeds.

(e) North American Zoroastrian Congress to be held in New York in Aug. 2012 : Pervez invited all Mobeds to participate in the Congress and especially requested that they join in the inaugural "Atash Nyaish" on 2nd Aug. 2012.

(f) Dastoor Minocherhomji's Jashan lectures in Chicago : Soli advised that a compilation of the respected Dastoor's Jashan lectures in Chicago, is available in book form through himself and/or Roshan Rivetna.

(g) Religion “Tel e-Class” from Florida: Soli advised that his tel-class was proceeding successful and attendance was improving. He invited all Mobeds to join in.

(h) Link NAMC to FEZANA : Once a year, Firdosh to submit a one page report to Fezana, listing all important NAMC resolutions, recommendations, lectures, seminars and events.

(i) Seminars / Lectures custom tailored for youth and young adults : Firdosh proposed that we make a serious, conscious effort to select and work on subjects that will interest our youth. All mobeds requested to give this some thought and send in their suggestions to Firdosh for compiling a list.

(j) Review of Articles for Athravan : Arda strongly suggested that articles published in the “Athravan” should be reviewed / edited / verified by a small committee of knowledgeable Mobeds from the NAMC pool. Kobad advised that the above is already being done by Kobad and Khushru. Respective names of the writers are also published with the articles.

(k) Message of Zarathushtra for a universal audience : Kerman proposed that we put on short, Zarthushti messages daily on SMS, Text Messages, e-mails to expose anyone who is interested.

(l) Topics for NAMC discussions in 2013:

Navar Ceremony

Inter faith Marriages - How we accept / react

Irani / Parsi divide.

Zarathushtra's message re: the environment.

Format for a short introduction followed by question – answer session for interesting contemporary topics.

(m)Letter of Thanks & Congratulations to Ervad Bomansha Kotwal : Noshir proposed that the President, on behalf of NAMC, send a letter of appreciation and thanks to Ervad Bomansha for his dedicated service to the Zoroastrian community for the past forty five years.

(9)Election of New Executive Committee :

President : Kobad Zarolia
Vice President : Arda-E-Viraf Minocherhomjee
Secretary : Gev Karkaria
Treasurer : Tehemton Mirza
Executive Officer : Khushru Bharda

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and our host association, the meeting was adjourned. May 10, 2012.