



The North American Mobeds Council

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held in person and electronically on May 17st and 18th, 2025, at Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAMC)

Attendees:

In person:

1. Ervad Tehemtom Mirza (President)
2. Ervad Mehbad Dastur (Executive Officer)
3. Ervad Ardaviraf Minocherhomjee
4. Ervad Kobad Zarolia
5. Ervad Pesi Vazifdar
6. Ervad Jamshed Ravji
7. Ervad Jamshed Antia
8. Mobedyar Boman Damkewala

By Zoom:

9. Ervad Behram Panthaki
10. Ervad Gev Karkaria
11. Ervad Nozer Kotwal
12. Ervad Kobad Zarolia
13. Ervad Fariborz Shahzadi
14. Ervad Adil Masani
15. Ervad Adi Unwala
16. Ervad Cawas Desai
17. Ervad Bomanshaw Sanjana
18. Ervad Adi Sidhwa (Treasurer)
19. Ervad Firdaus Dhabhar (Secretary)
20. Ervad Jamshed Dasur (Vice-President)
21. Ervad Kersi Antia
22. Ervad Kayo Sidhwa
23. Ervad Porus Pavri
24. Ervad Rustam Vazifdar
25. Ervad Sheroy Gonda
26. Mobdeyar Jamshid Pouresfandiary
27. Mobedyar Maneck Bhujwala

1) Welcome and Introductions:

NAMC President Ervad Tehemton Mirza welcomed all the participants, and the meeting was called to order, followed by a short prayer.

2) Read and Approve minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Following some discussion, the minutes were adopted

Moved by Arda Minocherhomjee, Seconded by Kobad Zarolia. Unanimously accepted.

3) Financial Statements and financial reports:

a) The Treasurer presented and elaborated on the financial statements.

b) Following discussions, the Canadian financial statements were approved.

Moved by Cawas Desai, seconded by Adil Masani. Unanimously accepted.

c) Following discussions, the US financial statements were approved.

Moved by Adil Massani, seconded by Cawas Desai. Unanimously accepted.

4) President's Report

President Ervad Tehemton Mirza presented his report of NAMC's achievements in the past year:

(a) Presentation at the North American Zoroastrian Congress 2024

(NAZC24) in Houston:

(i) A note of Thanks to Arda for sponsoring the NAMC segment at NAZC24

(ii) A panel discussion for unveiling of the Athravan Program:

- Panellists: Behram Panthaki, Khushrav Nariman, Porus Pavri and Tehemton Mirza
- The Athravan initiative was presented to the participants
- Lively Q&A and several standing ovations during the presentation

(iii) Presentation on the potential consecration of Atash Adaran in NA.

- NAMC outlined the challenges of setting up an Adaran in NA
- NAMC cautioned the participants on the commitment of an Adaran in NA

(iv) "Athravan Education Fund" was set up, and pledges of USD 160,000 were received.

(v) Several NAMC members participated in the Jashn at Bhandara Atashkadeh on the day following the NAZC24

(b) NAMC participated and presented at the FEZANA AGM in May 2025

5) NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies (NAMC IZS)- activities:

NAMC IZS has been operating for a few years, conducting courses, classes, lectures, discussion groups, podcasts, and 1on1 Discussions.

a) Registrar of NAMC IZS, Mobedyar Bomi Damkevala, presented an update:

i) All activities are open to all members and people of all nations and backgrounds.

- ii) Over the last 5 years, 27 courses, 29 lectures, 17 discussion groups, and 18 podcasts were offered by NAMC IZS.
 - iii) An honorarium of \$100 is given to each instructor per class of each course.
- 6) Update on Athravan program:
Several enquiries for Athravan are received
4 formal nominations have been received and are being processed
“Athravan Education Fund” was discussed, and several ideas were raised to ensure the fund’s long-term relevance and viability.
- 7) An Investment Committee:
The following resolution was passed:
“Be it resolved that an investment committee be formed, consisting initially of Ervad Arda Minicheherhomjee, Ervad Adil Masani and Ervad Tehemton Mirza to manage the investments of NAMC with the power to invest the amounts as determined by NAMC Executives, using Prudent Investment Policies, with no personal liability to the committee.”
Proposed by Pesi Vazifdar, Seconded by Cawad Desai
– Resolution was unanimously accepted.
- 8) Gen Z survey responses and concerns as they relate to Mobeds were discussed.
Terminology: NAMC supports and uses the term “Zoroastrians” to describe the followers of the Zoroastrian faith.
Calendar: NAMC recommends aligning the celebration of Zoroastrian rituals, traditions and festivals with the appropriate seasons, using the Fasli calendar
Initiating Zoroastrians: NAMC believes that Mobeds are free, at their discretion, to perform the Navjote or Sudreh-Pushi for children with a non-Zoroastrian mother or father.
Shortage of Mobeds: NAMC has addressed the future availability of Mobeds via the Athravan initiative.
Religious training: NAMC-IZS addresses religious education for the Mobeds and the community.
Co-ordination between NAMC and FEZANA: NAMC co-operates with and supports FEZANA
- 9) Congregational Prayers:
Mehbad presented a PowerPoint compilation of congregational prayers for the use of Mobeds and will be made available on the NAMC website.
The following resolution was proposed by Mehbad, seconded by Pesi Vazifdar and unanimously accepted:

“ WHEREAS, congregational prayers play a vital role in fostering spiritual connection and community engagement

WHEREAS, payers should be meaningful, accessible and relevant to the occasion being celebrated

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NAMC recommends that the congregational prayers:

- **be event specific, align with the purpose, time and theme of the gathering**
- **ensure they are concise and impactful**
- **Participating Mobeds recite in sync, with Joti taking the lead**
- **align with the seasonal (Fasli) calendar**
- **provide meanings of prayers to enhance understanding and spiritual enrichment;**
- and**
- **involve the congregation, encourage active participation and share devotion.”**

10) Presentations:

Ervad Kayo Sidhwa, President of FEZANA, addressed the meeting and reassured them of co-operation between FEZANA and NAMC.

Ervad Dr. Firdaus Dhabhar made a presentation on methods of stress relief

Ervad Adil Minocheherhomjee presented his article on “Flattened Priesthood, Forgotten Rituals, and the Sacredness of Survival.”

11) Brigadier Ervad Behram Panthaki and Ervad Jal Panthaky were nominated for NAMC’s “Distinguished Scholar of Zoroastrianism” Award. The membership unanimously approved their nomination, and the President was authorized to present the awards at appropriate events of the recipients’ local associations.

12) After a brief discussion, the following resolution was passed:

Be it resolved that the FEZANA President or their representative be invited to address the NAMC AGMs and/or attend, as an observer, during the proceedings of the second day of the AGM.

Proposed by Arda, Seconded by Cawas Desai – Passed unanimously

13) The following topics were discussed amongst the members:

a) Should Tao Ahmi Namane or Yao Visadh be recited in Darar Ahura Mazda Kardo?

- There was a consensus that Tao Ahmi Namane is for Khuhali nu Jashan to derive blessings
- Yao Visadh is for the Ravan
- Therefore, they should be appropriately recited for the purpose.

b) Should 40 minutes be added to Standard Time to get the exact time of the location to determine the change of Geh

- This is a practice in Mumbai and not applicable to North America
- Each city should adjust their time for the change of Geh.

- c) Members agreed that NAMC should perform due diligence before a Mobed's name is added to the NAMC website, including confirmation from the Atashkadeh that the Mobed or Mobedyar was initiated, and the NA Association they belong to.
- d) Should Sarosh nu Patru be performed only after sunset?
 - o Considering some parts of NA have very long days during summer (and some locations have constant sunlight for a few weeks), the members felt that it was unreasonable to perform this ceremony after sunset.
 - o Some Associations have formed a practice of performing this ceremony after 6 pm throughout the year
 - o For those objecting to reciting Sarosh Yasht Vadi during sunlight, it was agreed that Sarosh Yasht Hadokth be recited during sunlight
- e) . Members suggested to the Executives that, where and when appropriate, arrange a meeting of Mobeds of each Association for fellowship and discuss matters of their common concerns.

The meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks to the host Association.