

**FEDERATION of ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS of NORTH AMERICA**

**Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of FEZANA**

**Place:** SpringHill Suites by Marriott,  
239 Summit Park Drive,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

**Date:** Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29, 2005

**Present at the meeting:**

**The Executive Officers:**

President

**Firdosh Mehta**

Vice-President

Secretary

**Rita Engineer**

Assistant Secretary

**Farrokh Mistree**

**Representatives of the Member Associations:**

Atlanta Zarathushti Anjuman (AZA)

**Cyrus Aidun**

Zoroastrian Association of Alberta (ZAA)

**Firdosh Mehta**

Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston (ZAGBA)

**Sherazade Mehta**

Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC)

Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC)

**Khushroo Lakdawala**

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago  
(ZAC-Chicago)

**Hosi Mehta**

Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)

**Roshan Sethna**

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY)

**Homi Gandhi**

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)

**Kobad Zarolia**

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO)

**Afreed Mistry**

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ)

**Dolly Dastoor**

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey (ZAPANJ)

**Porus Cooper**

Zoroastrian Assoc. of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI)

**Behram Pastakia**

**Sarosh Olpadwalla**

Zoroastrian Assoc. of Pennsylvania (ZAPA)

**Houtoxi Contractor**

Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)

**Nazneen Spliedt**

Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT)

**Behram Irani**

**Representatives of the Committees:**

Awards

**Yasmin Pavri**

Congress TOR

**Afreed Mistry**

External Affairs

**Rohinton Rivetna**

Academic Education Scholarship Fund

**Dolly Dastoor**

Funds and Finance

**Jehangir Kheradi**

Information Receiving and Disseminating

**Khorshed Jungalwala**

Small Groups

Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC)  
World Body Working Group

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA)  
North American Congress

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce - Director  
World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce - Treasurer

**Roshan Rivetna**  
**Hoshedar Tamboli**  
**Kia Kaviani**  
**S. Ghandeharizadeh**  
**Khorshed Jungalwala**  
**Sarosh Collector**  
**Farrokh Mistree**  
**Rohinton Rivetna**  
**Afreed Mistry**  
**Bomi Patel**

**Sarosh Collector**  
**Rusi Gandhi**

### **Observers**

Celeste Kheradi - ZAGBA  
Arnavaz Sethna - ZAH  
Armaity Bamji - ZSO  
Susie Karani - ZACH  
Bonnie & Hoshang Karani - ZACH  
Farieda Lakhdawala - ZAC  
Farrokh & Daisy Presswalla  
Sarosh & Nancy Sukhia  
Elher Spliedt –ZANC

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce - Director  
World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce - Treasurer

**Sarosh Collector**  
**Rusi Gandhi**

### **Welcome by host association ZAPA**

Host Association, ZAPA President, Houtoxi Contractor offered a warm welcome to the visiting delegates. She welcomed everyone to her hometown of Pittsburgh, a city which is not what it used to be many years ago, but a very different and beautiful city which she hopes to show the delegates during their AGM stay. She thanked all the ZAPA members for their hard work in preparing for the delegates home cooked food and a special thanks to Lily Dastur, who started organizing for the event from Jan 2005, and without her hard work this AGM would not have come to pass. She thanked all the ZAPA ladies, S.Cama, Avi B., Zarin B., Kadwa (get names from Houtoxi) for their efforts and also mentioned that there were safe drivers to drive the delegates for the various evening activities. Houtoxi conveyed that ZAPA was a small association, but a cohesive one and at the end of the day, they all felt it was worth having an association which gave them an identity on this foreign home grounds. She hoped that other small groups would consider forming an association. She introduced Laila Contractor, her daughter as the youth coordinator who would take care of the youth delegates and observers during this AGM period.

The meeting commenced with prayer/benediction led by Firdosh Mehta.

Lily Dastur of ZAPA was then given the floor to discuss housekeeping issues. She briefed the delegates on the timings for lunch and dinner for the evening activities and gave out the cell numbers for emergency contact. The delegates were requested to show up in the lobby of the hotel at 6pm sharp that evening. She further informed the delegates of the City Tour at 3pm on Sunday and the dinner on Sunday night, dress code business casual as it was in a country club. She opened the floor to any questions the delegates may have.

### **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Quorum was established by President, Firdosh Mehta. He advised that 49 out of 69 Qualifying Votes were present, which was more than 2/3rd of the qualifying votes present in person. He thanked everyone present for attending the 18th AGM. He pointed out that FEZANA's AGM while open to observers, voting on issues discussed was only for the FEZANA's Board Members. The meeting would follow Robert's Rules (a copy of which was shown); Observers were welcome to make suggestion and partake in discussions. The Board needs to move on with the agenda as FEZANA's work is carried out through the various Ad Hoc and Standing Committees. The Board has the responsibility of passing the motions while Executives' responsibility is to execute those motions. Our committees have grown and hence their reports are important. All budget requests are brought to the table at the AGM.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Agenda was approved as amended with Homi Gandhi taking the floor to discuss Un-NGO activities and Sherazade Mehta to take the floor after him to discuss the Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship activities.

### **Election Results:**

The election results were announced; and since there were no other nominations for the post of Secretary, Rita Engineer was nominated to continue as FEZANA Secretary for another term. The ballots for the position of Vice-President were all counted and accounted for a day earlier, that is Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> by Farrokh Mistree, Assistant Secretary and Rita Engineer, Secretary and Bomi Patel was declared VP for the 2005-2007 term. Out of the 68 qualifying votes, 3 abstained/did not vote and 2 associations were not in good standing. Noshir Jesung received 15.2 votes and Bomi Patel received 50.8 votes. Firdosh congratulated Bomi Patel and gave him the floor. Bomi Patel, declared FEZANA VP for the 2005-2007 term thanked all present for their confidence in him and that he looked forward to his participation in the next two years as VP of FEZANA.

The question of the destruction of ballots was discussed and voted upon. Homi Gandhi, President, ZAGNY motioned that the ballots be kept for 30 days in lieu of the fact that Noshir Jesung was not present at the AGM. Dolly Dastoor, President, ZAQ seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion being passed, except ZACalifornia abstained. Secretary to destroy the Ballots at the end of 30 days from today.

### **Approval of the 2004 AGM Minutes:**

The 17<sup>th</sup> FEZANA AGM minutes were approved with the following changes:

Homi Gandhi, Page 5 under UNESCO... “The Master Plan has been set up and....”  
Should read as, “The Master Plan has been submitted....”

Homi Gandhi, Page 6, para after ZAAR, “ led by Rumi Mehta...” should read as “ led by Rumi Mohta..”

Roshan Sethna, Page 11, Line 5 under ZAH, ... “Currently have 2 librarians who....”  
should read as, “Currently have 1 librarian who....”

Rohinton Rivetna, Page 15, last para, remove the words: visited Dubai.

Bomi Patel, Page 11, line 4, “ active participation in the 30000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary..” should  
read as, “ active participation in the 3000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary....”

Jerry Kheradi, Page 16, Funds and Finance, line 7, “The second phase of this  
Program....” Should read as, “ The ultimate goal of this Program.....”

Porus Cooper, Page 12 under ZAPANJ, the name Roshni Kaser should be changed to  
Roshni Kasad.

Yasmin Pavri, Page 8, under para Sam Vesuna, the word “cash” to be added before flow.  
The sentence should thus read: “...to present the information on an accrual basis and  
include a **cash** flow statement.”

Hosi Mehta, missed being mentioned on the attendance of Welfare Committee.

Dolly Dastoor, missed being mentioned on the UN-NGO committee’s attendance by  
Behram Pastakia.

Firdosh requested for a motion for the approval of the minutes with above corrections.  
Roshan Sethna, of ZAH proposed the approval, Dolly Dastoor, ZAQ seconded the  
motion; all rest in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

### **Reports from Officers:**

**President Firdosh Mehta** welcomed everyone present and thanked Houtoxi Contractor, Lily Dastur and ZAPA members for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> FEZANA AGM and contributing their time and resource to successfully organize this event. With the support and cooperation from President Homi Italia and all members of ZSBC and the ZSC committee, Chaired by Bijan Khosraviani, the Z-Games in Vancouver in July 2004 was successfully accomplished. The North American Congress in San Jose in December 2004 was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of then ZANC President Bomi Patel and his very efficient committee comprising of the Ehlers, the Tarapores and others. He thanked Dolly Dastoor, Farrokh Mistree and Mahrukh Motafram for helping put

together a FEZANA Promo PowerPoint presentation. Thanked Sherazade Mehta and Negin Sharyari for moderating the Open Forum part of the session. He thanked Rashid Mehin for his Farsi rendition of the proceedings and acknowledged the hard work and efforts of Celeste Kheradi, Rashna Mehta and Afsaneh Mehin for looking after the FEZANA Table Top distribution and presentation. He thanked Ness Lakdawalla and his secretary Louise Pratt for preparing and shipping the new Rotating Trophies. He gratefully acknowledged the generous contribution to the Awards Committee Funds by the Joshi/Verahrami family and the family of Shirin Nariman Dastoor. He noted that the UN-NGO continued to grow due to the untiring efforts of Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia. The worldwide community now recognized the Welfare and Critical Assistance Committee as Houtoxi Contractor and Hosi Mehta continued their tireless efforts in providing services. These donations are possible in part by private donations and partly from the proceeds of the Damkevala Endowment. He thanked Freyaz Shroff for setting up the 1-800 hotline. He reported that the FEZANA Academic Education Scholarships Funds Committee, chaired by Dolly Dastoor continued to award several scholarships to students along with the proceeds from the Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment. He profusely thanked Jehangir and Celeste Kheradi for their generosity and their work on the Funds and Finance committee. Firdosh thanked and acknowledged all committee chairs for their active participation and hard work through the year and welcomed the new incoming Committee Chairs, Dr. Kia Kaviani for Small Groups, Fereshteh Banoo Khatibi for Public Relations and Bomi Patel for North American Zarathushti Congress. He commended the world-class publication the FEZANA Journal under the leadership of Khorshed Jungalwala and Roshan Rivetna. Firdosh mentioned that since the World Body meeting in July 2004 there seemed to be a convergence on the World Body issues with representatives of FPZAI, ZTFE and WZO.

**Secretary, Rita Engineer**, thanked the Executive team for their support in her role as Secretary and thanked FEZANA Member Associations for their support in the execution of her duties. She urged everyone to take a moment to put the subject matter in the subject line while responding to emails to enable track responses. The magnitude of incoming emails just forwarded made it difficult to track. Members were also urged to respond and acknowledge information sent to them.

**Assistant Secretary, Farrokh Mistree** reinforced the statement made by Rita Engineer with regards to email acknowledgements and using the subject header while responding. He informed the group that FEZANA web has been in consolidation mode and that there were lots of links from the FEZANA Website and everyone should take a look. He touched on the topic of search engines, specifically coining the word, “googling” to get a sleuth of information from the Internet.

**Treasurer, Rashid Mehin’s report** was presented by Firdosh who thanked Sarosh Collector and Framroze Patel for their assistance in the preparation of the Financial Statement and Report.

At this junction, Firdosh, referring to his report, apologized to Houtoxi Contractor, ZAPA of having missed in his report, mentioning and thanking Freyaz Shroff for the set-

up of the 1-800 line for the Critical Assistance. Firdosh also informed the group of his upcoming move from Canada to Weatherford, Texas and also that his daughter Sherazade was moving to Dallas, Texas from Boston.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Firdosh gave the floor to Sarosh Collector to present FEZANA's Financial Statement in absence of Treasurer, Rashid Mehin. Firdosh also pointed out that during the presentation, reference will be made to page 5 of the Financial statement which presented an easy breakdown of all the accounts.

Sarosh Collector informed the delegates of the process by which the financial statement was prepared. He conveyed that all checks collected including checks for the FEZANA Journal was transferred to Rashid Mehin, Treasurer, who then passes all this information to Framroze Patel, who then re-organizes all the income and expenses and gets the taxes prepared, and this is done on cash flow basis and is accurate. But Rashid Mehin presented the financial statement on an accrual basis. Sarosh pointed out that there were some entries not mentioned on this report as it was done in the past year. He said that there was a small discrepancy, and that is in the market value of the funds that has not been adjusted on the financial statement. Jerry Kheradi wanted to know to the timeline of the financial statement to which Sarosh replied, December 31, 2004. Firdosh interjected at this point saying that the market value was adjusted to the 3 endowment funds. He mentioned that Rashid did not pick up the increased market value.

Roshan Sethna, ZAH, pointed out to the Tapestry Expense of \$2,622, which was not reflected anywhere else on the financial statement. Sarosh conveyed that the totals were correct but the reporting method was different.

Hosi Mehta pointed out that FEZANA had adopted the accrual method of reporting to which Sarosh Collector responded that this was a modified accrual method of reporting. Sarosh further conveyed that receipts were created as a liability and when the receipts were paid up the liability was decreased.

Jerry Kheradi pointed out the Damkevala Fund on page 4 of the financial statement showed lesser funds – this was not misappropriated, just misplaced.

Firdosh Mehta interjected that maybe this should be taken off line in the absence of Rashid Mehin.

Homi Gandhi pointed out that since this was the first that everyone was seeing the financial statement, then let Sarosh present the financial statement and then discussions could be thrown open to the delegates.

There was a question raised for the difference in the amount of Postmaster refund (income) reported at 3373.22 and 800.00 – why this difference?

The total asset reported: \$480 but the market value: \$498. Liabilities have been recorded as income and as liability. The General fund of \$27,000 includes the \$10,000 generated for the Award Committee Rotating Trophies. The \$50,927 Journal subscription/donation, over period of time the overage has been adding up. Sarosh said that he was comfortable with the numbers as presented in the financial statement and requested for a motion of approval to be passed.

Hosi Mehta, ZAC -Chicago proposed the motion of passing the December 31, 2004 Financial statement as presented; Porus Cooper, ZAPANJ seconded the motion. All others in favor and the Financial Statements as presented were passed.

Homi Gandhi made a point that there should be a reconciliation between the numbers presented by Rashid and Framroze as questions has been raised to the difference. Also Dolly Dastoor questioned the expense amount for the FEZANA Academic Education Fund as she could not recall the expense. At this point the delegates were requested to address all financial questions directly to Rashid Mehin with a request that he send the answers to all.

Firdosh brought to the table the question of FEZANA's membership fee structure and if there was any move to change it or leave it.

At this point the issue of enforcing primary affiliation was discussed to get accurate membership numbers, especially for voting ballots.

The question of membership dues of \$25 for small groups was brought up and the same question of what are the small groups getting for their \$25.00. It was also pointed out that nowhere in the constitution was there a mention of membership dues for small groups. What was stated in the FEZANA constitution was membership for "corresponding member", relating to a group of individuals or individuals. This was not a discrepancy, but a misunderstanding of the constitution that just got interpreted as being membership dues for small groups.

The motion to keep the current fee structure was thrown open and Behram Irani, ZANT moved the motion to keep the fee structure as is and Afreed Mistry, ZSO seconded, all rest in favor and motion was passed unanimously.

### **Reports from Member Associations:**

***The Atlanta Zarathushti Association (AZA):*** **Cyrus Aidun** spoke of equal participation of Parsees and Iranians in the formation of AZA. AZA's history goes back only one year when AZA was formed based on "I have a dream.... Since their inception they have had many functions, events and prayers, both encompassing traditional and social, Iranian and Parsee. Thanks to Rustom Kanga for performing the various ceremonies.

The “I have a Dream” speech by Zareer Meherji Siganporia was a view of AZA moving towards the year 2020.

***The Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) Khushroo Lakdawala*** was very proud to present to all that the youth of ZAC were very very active and last year they put up a Youth show which was fully organized by the youth and for the youth and it was a very successful event generating considerable funds. Khushroo feels that the youth with their vision will soon take over and within the next 4-5 years they will completely run the association. He has full confidence. Besides this, ZAC hosted various religious events, such as ghambhaars, Noruz, Papeti. They also hosted a camp on a 7-acre plot which was a huge success. Khushroo ended his report with thanks to the host association, ZAPA for their warmth and great accommodations.

***Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area(ZAGBA) Sherazade Mehta*** thanked the host association ZAPA for their hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> AGM. As in the past, ZAGBA continued hosting several social and religious events such as picnics, jashans, etc. Children’s religious classes were going very well and they now had one every month. They still had to rent a hall for their events, which was working out well. ZAGBA had good links and connections with the community and the youth. A group of 30-40 college youth have formed into a youth group and have organized lectures and even took part in walks, such as the Boston Marathon, raising nearly \$3000. One memorable instance of a child giving up his birthday presents for this cause; Once again ZAGBA had FEZANA scholarship winners: Minoee Mody and Parendi Mehta. Sherazade informed the group that this was her last year representing ZAGBA as she was moving to Dallas, Texas. She truly enjoyed her term as President and is now looking to heading something different.

***Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) Homi Gandhi*** thanked ZAPA for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> FEZANA AGM. Homi continued to report of the religious classes held every first Sunday of the month which was very very successful. ZAGNY organized two big events, Noruz and Papeti. In addition they had their picnic and hosted a special event to felicitate Kaikhosrov Irani. ZAGNY continued to participate in local community events, such as the Revlon cure for cancer walk, Food drives and even participated in a Noruz parade for the second year. Homi commented that ZAGNY’s new board is represented by second generation of Zoroastrians and he is looking forward to this next generation taking over. He announced that the NAMC seminar was to take place in New York on the last Saturday in July 2005.

***Zoroastrian Association of Houston(ZAH) Roshan Sethna*** thanked ZAPA for hosting the AGM and commented that Pittsburgh was indeed a great city. Social events continue to be a big part of ZAH while the religious classes for Kids have been very successful headed by Sarosh Collector, who joined the YCEP which was hosted once a month when kids met at different religious places and were exposed to traditional foods and traditions of that religion. In March ZAH hosted this class. This exposure to different religions has brought to the children, knowledge of the different religions of the world and how to co-exist with these differences. ZAH website was up and running. Good information for those retiring in Houston. The ZAH Library very active and busy

with events every month such as Jimmy Engineer from Pakistan was invited, Babsy Sidhwa and Boman Desia were upcoming event at the Library. ZAH also boasts of a team of mobeds from within the association to whom the members look to for guidance on various religious matters and guide the community towards a proper Zarathushti way of living.

***Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc.(ZAMWI)***

**Sarosh Olpadwalla** thanked ZAPA the host association for their excellent planning and hosting of this AGM. He then further went on to ask what can Zoroastrians do for FEZANA. At ZAMWI with the help of donations of nearly \$95,000, a cemetery plot has been bought and any Zoroastrian wanting to buy a spot on this plot can contact ZAMWI. This is not selling the plot, just as donations. ZAMWI 's participation in the recent Bone Marrow drive has elevated and identified Zoroastrians as humanitarians. Anyone can set up this drive. The Embassy of Pakistan felicitated Jimmy Engineer; put up his painting and the proceeds were sent to charity. The Youth continued to participate in Inter-Faith activities, namely the Anacosta clean up day and Habitat for Humanity. ZAMWI, in spite of being a small group, made a huge impact as they leveraged activities with other like groups.

***Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago(ZAC-Chicago) Hosi***

**Mehta** thanked the host association ZAPA for their warmth and hospitality to all the delegates and for all the activities during and after the AGM. He further stated that ZAC as a strongly established association, continues to cater to the community needs right from birth to death and thereafter. ZAC has bought cemetery sites for the Zoroastrians, giving them a choice of burial, etc. ZAC continued their Child and Youth classes and also urged youth participation and involvement in community events. This year the youth celebrated Mother's Day by organizing a Breakfast fundraiser. This was completely planned and executed by the youths. ZAC membership is growing as there are 3-4 births every year to one death. The ZAC Seniors continue to be very very active special mention of Mrs. Jaloo Captain who continued to visit Chicago and kept the Seniors involved and energetic. ZAC's other subcommittees also continued their monthly activities in other areas of community involvement such as the Welfare community, InterFaith presentations, Youth seminars, College Student tours of Darbe Meher. Religious classes continued in different age groups as well as Adult discussion groups have grown in attendance and many members drive long distance to attend these discussions. Currently ZAC has 17 priests.

***Zoroastrian Association of Northern California (ZANC) Nazneen Spliedt***

thanked ZAPA, host association for their warmth and hospitality. She then thanked FEZANA for their staunch support during the Congress as well as the FEZANA Journal for the huge Congress spread. ZANC continued with various religious activities and events. They had a car rally, treasure hunt, Halloween Fancy Dress event and also Ghambaars supervised by Bomi. Two of their youth members became navars in Bombay- Cyrus & Zubin Bhandari. ZANC currently has an 18 year old on the Board, exemplifying youth participation and involvement at the very top. The Board also has a strong core of volunteers to assist in the various yearly activities. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, which

has been declared a Parsi Month by the Indian community, there will be pertinent displays and demos on Zoroastrians. ZANC membership is growing slowly but surely.

**Zoroastrian Association of North Texas(ZANT), Behram Irani** thanked the host association ZAPA for their overwhelming hospitality. ZANT history has spanned many years and has been inspired by the history of other associations around. Established in 1989 with about 230 members having 13 different activity groups and 3 priests, ZANT proceeded to grow in quantity and quality. Monthly newsletter and the website keeps the community together and informed. They soon started to talk about creating a ZANT center and has put a plan for fund raising by establishing a Fund Raising committee of 17 members, their goal being to raise 1.4 million for a ZANT Center, which is a strong push as they have been talking about this for the past 9-10 years. To give the Fund raising committee a direction of how to raise funds, 17 individuals went through training sessions of how to raise funds focusing on demographic areas. ZANT's membership is evenly comprised of Zarathushtis of Iran, Pakistan and India, with a strong core comprised of youth members. ZANT Seniors are beginning to participate in activities making for a strong and cohesive senior strength. As for the participation of youth at the Board level, currently 6 of the Board members are within the age group of 20-30, suggesting a strong involvement into the next generation. ZANT has hosted guest speakers, most recently, Cyrus Sigantoria who spoke on the subject of Dukhma restoration.

**Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania(ZAPA), President and host Houtoxi Contractor** informed the group of attrition of their membership from 100 to 53. But inspite of this attrition, ZAPA continues to be a very cohesive group and she thanked FEZANA for their support being a smaller association. The benefits of forming even a small association had its advantages. ZAPA continues to participate in Interfaith activities; the Adopt-a-family project continues to grow-this summer they helped a family conduct a navjote of their child. This year was ZAPA's 11<sup>th</sup> year participation in the Race for the Cure.

**Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey(ZAPANJ), Porus Cooper** thanked the host association ZAPA and said that he was impressed by their hospitality and warmth. He conveyed to the group that ZAPANJ's new President, Ketayun Kapadia had to cancel her attendance to this AGM due to personal reasons. ZAPANJ was a strong association of 50 to 60 families and they held several major functions throughout the year. ZAPANJ has a strong youth involvement and they have participated in many community events as well as FEZANA and association related events. To name a few, Park Clean up Day, a great participation of 50 to 60 members attended to discuss the World Body Discussion so that they could respond to FEZANA intelligently; organized Junior events along with ZAPA and ZAGNY; Mobed Malcolm's son organized a fund raiser for the cultural center.

**Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation(OZCF), Kobad Zarolia** thanked the host association for their hospitality and excellent AGM arrangements. OZCF's offer for the 10-acre land will be closing next month and they still needed to collect half a million and asked for donations. He conveyed that US does receive tax breaks for

charitable donations. OZCF is in its growing stage and continues to be very active with membership strength of 200 families. They have the usual functions throughout the year with a committed focus on fund raising and hence 80% of the events are fund raisers. The association is right now in its infancy stage, but in the next 2-3 years they will be ready to host a FEZANA AGM.

**Zoroastrian Association of Quebec,(ZAQ), Dolly Dastoor**, thanked the host association ZAPA. ZAQ has recycled the succession planning for the youth to take over the next generation of managing. ZAQ is a small but cohesive association, very active and very tuned to the needs of all the families. ZAQ has purchased a cemetery plot; the mobeds are all active and they receive a lot of respect from all the members; ZAQ has archived a book of records – records of navjotes, weddings, births, deaths right from the very inception of ZAQ. In addition, ZAQ continues to host and foster the usual yearly events, both religious and community related.

**Zoroastrian Society of Ontario(ZSO), Afreed Mistry**, thanked the host association for their excellent planning of the AGM. She conveyed that the President, Sam Vasuna was unable to attend the AGM as he was busy with the Green Ball, a big fund raising event. ZSO starts the year with calendar planning and they found that ZSO was utilizing the Darbe Mehr every day of the year. Five years ago this was not the case, which shows how the association has grown with a need to have a bigger center. The Building Capital Group is working towards re-building a bigger center, for which \$1.2 million is needed. Seniors continue to be very active; 130 kids regularly attend religious classes and these classes are organized in two locations to offer accessibility to all kids from all locations. They now have 12 teachers to assist in these religious classes. ZSO hosted an Elocution competition and 70 members participated. In the area of youth involvement, the kids organized a food sale and raised \$2,200 of which 33 1/3 was given towards feeding a friend, feeding the poor in Pakistan and Iran. This year there seemed to be fewer youths who participated and when asked to make their presence felt at this AGM, they did not want to as they did not like the way the AGM was conducted, did not feel they were being heard or any decision was being made. But Afreed felt that the youth would come back to the fold later.

**Zoroastrian Association of Alberta(ZAA), Firdosh Mehta** thanked the host association for all the planning and coordination in getting this AGM to a fine start. ZAA continued their participation in Interfaith activities and participated in prayer services for UN declared International Day for Peace, “Introduction of Zoroastrianism”, as part of creating awareness of our faith. He was requested to represent the Edmonton Interfaith Centre at the parliament of Worlds Religions in Barcelona, Spain in July of 2004. He was interviewed by CBC with respect to the Parsees, their way of life, doctrines, etc as part of their enactment on the radio of a book authored by Rohinton Mistry. ZAA continues to hold the annual religious celebrations of Ghambaars, Navrooz, Shahenshahi Navroze as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas. On May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005, ZAA celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a registered association where nearly 200 members attended and the Provincial MLA was the chief guest speaker. Similar program is planned in Edmonton around Jamshedi Navrooz in March 2006. ZAA has been involved

in charity work through WZO Trust Funds of India with donations towards medical assistance, relief of poverty and post-secondary education for Parsees in India.

## **REPORTS FROM STANDING & AD HOC COMMITTEES**

***Coordination and Planning Committee: Firdosh Mehta*** announced the new chair, Bomi Patel. The Calendar of Events for 2005-2007 was introduced and reviewed. The NAMC Seminar, July 29, 2005 in NY by ZAGNY was added to the Calendar.

***Funds and Finance Committee: Jerry Kheradi*** informed that 2004 was a good year; last year the committee had just reached the goal of 1000 points totaling \$100,000 and for the Thousand Points of Light Campaign 2 started in May of 2004, the committee as of March 2005 had already collected their second \$100,000 points of light which now brings them to the Thousand Points of Light Campaign3. So far the committee has collected a total of \$215,000. The year the Committee has come up with a new project and the Zoroastrian community is asked to consider FEZANA as a beneficiary during their Estate Planning. If there is anyone who would consider FEZANA as a beneficiary, then they need to contact Jerry Kheradi. Rohinton Rivetna has made FEZANA their beneficiary and the committee thanks the Rivetnas for yet another generosity from them.

The wonderful idea put forth by Houtoxi and Hosi last year to have a special fund raising for the Welfare Committee in Chicago was very successful by bringing approximately \$30,000 into that fund. The large number of direct mailings that were sent out for Navrooz and Pateti last year, had very good response compared to the response in 2003. FEZANA was also very fortunate to receive a large donation of \$15,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Hoshedar and Anahita Tamboli of Tampa, Florida as the first installment towards an endowment fund to be named in honor of his father. Also, the Kheradi family made a donation of \$18,000 in memory of his mother Morvorid, towards the Kheradi Endowment Scholarship Fund. The Financial Corner continues to be updated each quarter in the FEZANA Journal and he is consistently working with individuals who wish to establish endowment funds and those who wish to donate substantial amounts to the FEZANA Funds. The Committee's goal is to strive for a strong financial foundation for each of the FEZANA Funds so that the committees can continue their programs to help our Zarathushti community.

***FEZANA Welfare Committee, Houtoxi Contractor/Hosi Mehta*** thanked the support of FEZANA Executives during the year. Houtoxi thanked Jerry and Celeste Kheradi for their support at the Welfare Committee fundraiser and also thanked the Chicago association for their support in the planning, hosting and organization of the Welfare committee fundraiser. She specially thanked Hosi Mehta who has been an inspiration to her and without whose presence and guidance the Committee would not have reached these heights. She also thanked her husband, Farhad whose support and assistance was always there. The committee continues to receive requests for welfare help due to health and old age related situations, and has assisted number of people

with domestic violence issues, some with counseling, some financial help; one couple made a fresh start and are trying to get their life back together. On another front, the committee contacted a Zoroastrian social worker that volunteered three weeks of her time to help a group of fishermen rebuild their lives and livelihood in South India, and the committee was able to give her financial support to help her help people in need after the Tsunami tragedy.

Another new step was taken to help students with financial constraints. Just like the network to help domestic violence victims, this committee wants to setup a network to help students better themselves in their chosen field. The Scholarship committee helps a limited number of people, however, there are others who need help and the Committee feels it their duty to assist young people with higher education. The Committee approved \$500.00 each to ten students and would like to do more if extra budget is approved. The Welfare Committee is working in conjunction with the Scholarship committee for the selection of such deserving students. The Committee urges all members to advertise the 800 confidential help line: 800-265-7273.

Hosi Mehta added that any association could set up a Welfare Committee and that they would assist and advise in any way. There are people looking for help and it's a positive thing to do. He requested that FEZANA set up an Escrow account and put a procedure in place so that the Committee is able to help those in need by having the freedom to use available monies without having to go for approval when the need is urgent and imminent.

Firdosh clarified that the FEZANA constitution states that up to \$500 can be approved by the President without the approval of the Board. He further pointed out that there are already 2 Escrow accounts set up and both are handled by the youths, and yes both are still responsible and answerable to the Board. FEZANA does have procedures to set up Escrow accounts.

Kobad Zarolia asked the committee to define the use of these funds. Hosi Mehta conveyed that these funds were necessary when assistance was needed right away. The delay in getting approval would slow down the process, as timeliness was a factor. Homi Gandhi pointed out that this \$5000.00 in Escrow was just a usable amount, and there was no limit.

S. Ghandeharizadeh asked how confidentiality was maintained if documentation was required for the disbursement of the funds. The Committee and the group discussed that there were ways and means of maintaining documentation without confidentiality being broken and not by openly publicizing it.

**ZAA moved to set up an Escrow Account of \$5000.00 for the Welfare Committee and this was seconded by ZAMWI. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Besides the \$61,000 in Welfare funds, a question was raised about the earmarked funds not released yet, such as, the Tsunami funds. The families have received enough money

and no further requests were received. Sherazade Mehta opined that maybe we should not send money, but sponsor someone to go there and volunteer time and skills. Homi Gandhi mentioned that 2 youth volunteers went to Tamil Nadu , and did a lot of work.

Monies received for Nazneen Kohla medical assistance was discussed and it was felt that perhaps this amount could be re-assigned to another fund. Kobad Zarolia indicated that funds collected should not be specifically assigned, but should all be put under Medical Fund. Hosi Mehta said that we advertise for the cause and the need and also convey to the donors that monies not utilized will be rolled over into the Welfare Committee fund. Rohinton Rivetna cautioned the group about the IRS guidelines for such donations.

**A motion to roll the Kohla Fund into the Welfare Committee fund with the permission of the Kohla Family, (Homi Gandhi to approach the family and seek approval for transfer of funds), and per the IRS guidelines was put forth by ZAA (Firdosh Mehta) and seconded by ZAH (Roshan Sethna). All in favor; motion passed unanimously.**

Sarosh Collector suggested that the donors of the unused monies should be informed that the family does not need the money.

With respect to Mitra Irani, no receipts were received. Mitra needs to submit medical receipts in support and if receipts not received then the monies need to be rolled into the Welfare Committee fund.

Arnavaz Sethna, pointed out that the amount shown for Nargesh Daruwalla are FEZANA Journal subscription and not a donation for welfare.

Firdosh pointed out that Farhad's surgery is not an issue any more as he had passed away and the amount will be rolled into the Welfare Committee fund.

***Religion Education Committee:***

***Report presented by Firdosh on behalf of Kayomارش Mehta.***

The Religion Education Committee has remained active throughout the year. At the XIII NA Congress San Jose, Dec.04, a workshop of Religion Educators was conducted with over 30 participants representing 12 different areas in an interactive forum. All present were given a detailed questionnaire asking for their needs in different areas, so that FEZANA Religion Education Committee could forward appropriate information and/or assistance. The Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship awarded \$1000.00 each to the following candidates:

Zartosht Atropatene –Postgraduate student at University of London SOAS studying Zoroastrianism and Avestan Language.

Susan Karani -Postgraduate student at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
Beginning Ph.D in Old Iranian Studies

Mandana Moavenat –Postgraduate student at University of London, SOAS studying  
For Ph.D in Zoroastrianism

Bahman Moradian -Postgraduate student at University of Paris studying for Ph.D in  
Languages & Culture of Ancient Iran.

Burzine K.Waghmar – Postgraduate student at University of London, SOAS studying  
For Ph.D in Iranian & Central Asian Studies.

Religion Education on the Internet continues to grow as focus of disseminating the knowledge of religion on the internet has been channeled through regular posting on various web groups such as Ahunaver, Creating Awareness, Mainstream Zoroastrians, Traditional Zoroastrians and Zoroastrians. Interested members are asked to contact the Education committee in matters such as Zarathushti Religion Education Conference Calls, and Interactive Avesta Courses.

Firdosh questioned about the information that is disseminated. There are so many groups that are doing a good job of putting information out for all to read and we, FEZANA does a lot of social work but very little by way of religious work hence the resultant fact is that we are not recognized as such. Kobad Zarolia opined that the terminology, “All religions are the same”, should be removed.

Afreed Mistry stated that it is important that communication be at all levels and that all associations and religious classes should play an important role. With regards to materials for religious classes, ZSO has a lot of materials that they can share and for the Teachers Conference she conveyed that she does not recall ZSO being invited or the information being communicated at large about the conference. She offered that ZSO could host the next Teachers’ Conference.

It is for this reason, Firdosh stated that communicating information to all Associations is an important role for FEZANA, but from that point it becomes the duty of the Association to pass on this information to all their members.

To this point Farrokh Mistry added that not everything received by FEZANA was forwarded or communicated. A lot of the information received by FEZANA is filtered first and then forwarded keeping with the FEZANA policy. But important and pertinent information does get forwarded.

A motion to move the budget of last year to this year was presented with no change and no additional monies were sanctioned for the Z-learning Center.

### ***Academic Scholarship Program:***

Dolly Dastoor thanked the host association for their hospitality and thanked the Funds and Finance Committee, Jerry and Celeste Kheradi, who directed their annual Navrooz appeal for the Scholarship Program. During the academic year 2004-2005 the FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program Committee received 40 applications for the

FEZANA scholarships and the Mehraban & Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship. This was a 100% increase from the previous years. The growth in demand has been exponential. The Kheradi Scholarship was awarded for MERIT (\$5000) and the recipient named the FEZANA SCHOLAR. This is for both Academic Merit and involvement in community service. Financial need is not considered a requisite.

The \$5000 Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for Merit was awarded to Minoee Modi, a graduate of Cornell U, Harvard U and now majoring in Moral and Political Philosophy at Tufts University.

**FEZANA scholarships (\$1000 each) were awarded to the first 10 candidates**

Rodabe Amaria	Colorado, Medicine Col Health Sciences Center.
Fariborz Farahmand*	Iran/Atlanta, Computer Sc; Georgia Int. of Technology
Nina Godiwalla	Houston, Business, Wharton School of Business,
Anahita Dua	Chicago; Medicine/Masters in Public Health, St. George School of Medicine, NH
Noushin Isadvastar	Iran/California, Industrial Engineering; San Jose State U
Tushna Soonawalla	India/Alberta, Engineering Management, U of Alberta
Arya Goudarzi	Iran/California, Engineering, U of California
Parendi Mehta	Florida, Economics/Intl Relations, Brown U
Kaiser Cooper	India/Colorado, Accounting, CPA , Colorado State U
Ayesha Dua	Chicago, Chemistry, U of Wisconsin
Zebalda Bamji	India/Washington, Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Howard University, Washington DC

Declined\*

There were many more worthy candidates who would have benefited from a scholarship but our limited funds force us to draw the line at the first ten. The names of 10 applicants who were felt to be in dire need of financial assistance have been given to the Welfare Committee. It is recommended to the Welfare Committee that if any financial assistance is given then this should be considered as a gift from the welfare committee.

Dolly Dastoor continued to state that to provide stability of funding and not be dependent each year on the approval of budget at the AGM, a proposal by Purvez Rustomji was presented (copies given to all delegates) that 100 people pledge \$1000 over 5 years and 100 people loan \$5000 over 5 years. Thus generating enough funds to permit interest free loans to students. The monies are to be processed by the FEZANA Treasurer but the accounting be under the responsibility of the Scholarship Committee. Members felt that the proposal of collecting and raising funds was good, but when going in for loans, that aspect should be carefully considered.

Dolly Dastoor conveyed that they had a wonderful response from Dilshad Khambatta, a past recipient of the academic scholarship, who decided, “to pay back her interest free loan of \$1000” to the Academic Scholarship program as she was now in a financial position to do so. Another recipient who when offered the scholarship declined saying

that he was now able to pay on his own and hence that amount was then passed on to the next deserving candidate. All this was very heartening to the program.

There were discussions on the Indian Endowment Funds and Mr. Presswalla interjected that he thought the Indian Endowment Funds were offered with a view that the candidate on completion of his/her studies would go back to India.

**Dolly Dastoor then motioned and presented the Committee's request to FEZANA to allocate a sum of \$10, 000 for this program**  
**-\$5000 from the General fund and**  
**-\$5000 from the Academic Education Scholarship Fund (AESF).**

**Dr Kheradi once again expressed his wishes to allocate from the Kheradi Endowment Fund, one \$5000 scholarship for MERIT—The FEZANA SCHOLAR**

**ZSO seconded this motion; all in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

***FEZANA Information Receiving & Dissemination Committee, Roshan Rivetna*** presented the report in absence of Khorshed Jungalwalla. Roshan thanked the entire Journal committee members for their hard work and dedication and special thanks to Kershaw Khumbatta and Arnavaz Sethna for their dedication in managing the Journal subscriptions. Roshan informed the group that the Legacy of Zarathustra was on sale for \$9.00. She thanked Sarosh Collector for his donation of \$750 to reprint the flyer on "Who are the Zoroastrians", and that there was a box of 100 flyers for sale at \$ 0 .50 each. A box of 100 was given to each Anjuman, for a small donation of \$25.

The matter of the Journal Committee's involvement in publishing books upon requests was discussed at length and it was noted that it was risky for FEZANA to do such publishing. Kobad Zarolia suggested that all such requests for publishing of material/books with religious content should be forwarded to NAMC, who are better equipped to handle them.

Roshan then announced a change of leadership for the FEZANA Journal passing on the baton to Dolly Dastoor who accepted this leadership. At this juncture, Roshan Rivetna's dedication to the FEZANA Journal was recognized. The FEZANA Journal today is recognized for its interesting articles, pictures and information on Z all over the world and has grown to this recognition under Roshan's able and expert guidance. The group of all delegates gave Roshan Rivetna a standing ovation for her contribution to the FEZANA Journal.

**Khorshed Jungalwalla requested everyone to** distribute this information to all membership and encourage individuals to submit their names with their experience and qualifications to [kayj2@earthlink.net](mailto:kayj2@earthlink.net) by May 15, 2005.

The Five phases of the FEZANA Journal production was distributed to all delegates.

At this time there were no budget requests as the expected revenues of \$41,000 covered the projected expenses of \$35,700, as presented.

***Public Relations Committee:***

Jerry Kheradi read Fereshte Khatibi's report in her absence. Since her appointment to this Committee, she has been working on the Fasli translation of the FEZANA Promotional CD, anticipated to be completed in the near future.

***North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee:***

Bomi Patel reported on a very successful completion of yet another Congress. A total of 538 participants, with a 50/50 mix of Iranians and Parsees made this a very successful Congress. All sessions were well attended and well presented. The social side was well balanced. The FEZANA Award presentation was well executed and ZANC did not charge the guests. ZANC donated to FEZANA \$10 per participant and also gave ZYNA \$1000. Bomi thanked Roshan Rivetna for the excellent and in-depth coverage of the Congress in the FEZANA Journal. There was not a single negative feedback, in fact Dr. Farhang Mehr expressed that this was the best Congress ever!

It was announced that ZSO will host the next Congress in 2007 and in their presentation Afreed Mistry conveyed that their aim was to keep cost low and to get maximum attendance. She, that is ZSO was aiming for a high participation of nearly 1000! At this juncture Rohinton Rivetna suggested that maybe ZSO should host a joint Congress with OCZF. Afreed agreed to look into that possibility.

The NA Youth Congress TOR was presented by Afreed Mistry and after a detailed discussion it was felt that Firdosh will work with Afreed and reissue the TOR for approval.

**Kobad Zarolia put the motion regarding the matter of whether an Association should send US\$10 to FEZANA or Canadian\$10 to FEZANA. It was felt by all that this depended on where the Congress was held. ZSO seconded this motion; ZAH was against this motion; all others in favor.**

***Census & Survey Committee and N. American Directory, Chair Noshir Jesung:*** Firdosh Mehta read the report in absence of Noshir Jesung. In the year 2004, with the permission from FEZANA executive committee, the directory for FEZANA was published on a CD ROM for the first time and mailed to people; also it was emailed to whoever asked for it by email free of charge.

Approximately 150 CD directories were generated. 90 were given to the President to sell at the Conference, rest of them were distributed. Email directories were sent free of charge. 24 complimentary Directories were handed out at the AGM meeting. Since there was a lot of space on the CD, Zarathushti Images as well as a Zoroastrian book and some articles were also added.

The directory was also made available on FEZANA web site. For security purpose, the website was encoded with a password and the password was written for people to use on the web, and this prevented the Spiders (computer search engines) to look at the directory and store the data on their servers. Several precautions were taken so that the directory cannot be printed unless the secretary Farrokh Mistree was informed. Data backup is done whenever the directory changes and a backup CD of the whole database shipped to the Secretary. This is to safeguard the data in case of a crash or unforeseen events, which would make the original data not available.

The Committee also helped other organizations to set up their database on the same model as FEZANA with their own data. Request for printing labels when required for mailing for the whole of North America or by separate states was also handled. The Committee did provide demographic information when needed by FEZANA. Generated 30 new designs for the FEZANA logo to be used on the CD directory. The Committee is offering FEZANA associations a service to print labels for them and send it by email or print their directory and send it to them by email to be printed at their location. This service is available at no charge. Either we can pull the information by the States that the association provides us or after the census by their Association name. Some Associations have already taken advantage of our offer. We also provided individuals who asked for it, the names of Zoroastrians in their area.

A census form was made and sent for the approval of the executive committee. The form and its programming were completed a year ago. After getting the approval from the FEZANA executive committee, it was finally sent out in 2005. The committee's goal is to get as many Census forms to be filled out as possible to provide correct information.

Nazneen Spleidt asked if the census forms could be made available on line as there was no manpower or time for mailing out the forms to all members. The forms were made available on line but the form has to be printed and filled out manually and mailed. There was a box to check mark if any one did not want their number listed due to privacy or personal reasons.

***Small Groups Committee, Chair Hoshedar Tamboli*** thanked the host association ZAPA for the excellent arrangements. He further went on to convey that membership terms need to be limited. He informed the group that Dr. Kia Kaviani had agreed to take over as chair for the Small Groups Committee. Hoshedar felt that there is a need to reach out and meet Zoroastrians in different parts of the country to encourage them to form small groups. He conveyed that there was a general feeling out there that their voices are not heard at the table, since they have no voting rights. Hosi Mehta interjected that maybe they should be allowed to vote. Homi Gandhi shared his experience during his visits to various small groups and said that these small groups always had an excuse of why not to become a member of FEZANA or become a registered group. Rohinton Rivetna suggested an association of small groups might be a better idea. Hoshedar was requested to report at the 2006 AGM of how to increase involvement of Small Groups and whether a registered organization of Small Groups in NA should be formed.

**Awards Committee, Yasmin Pavri** thanked ZAPA for hosting the AGM. Yasmin conveyed to the group that 2004 was a year of transition for the Awards committee after many years under the very able chairmanship of Mr. Dinshaw Joshi. She thanked Firdosh Mehta without whose help and guidance the awards ceremony at the San Jose North American Congress would not have been possible. The Awards committee currently has three members: Yasmin Pavri, Trity Pourbahrami, and Arnavaz Sethna; since Trity has now moved to Pasadena, California, the Committee is actively seeking a representative from Canada. The committee collects nominations from the associations, selects judges, and tabulates the results. She thanked the families of Mr. Dinshaw Joshi and Mrs. Shirin Nariman Dastoor for donating new revolving trophies and \$5,000 each for the expenses incurred by the Awards committee. The Committee decided to add a new category of award – Outstanding N. American Mobed Award, and approached NAMC who agreed to the idea and gave the go ahead but with a stipulation that they would like to be involved in the process as they, NAMC do not want to be a part of FEZANA, but NAMC would provide judges for deciding upon the awardee. The Awards Committee did not ask for any budget this year as the next North American congress is not until 2007.

***Zoroastrian Sports Committee:***

Sharam Ghandeharizadeh, in the absence of Bijan Khosraviani, thanked the host association ZAPA for hosting the AGM. He then thanked the FEZANA Board for the set up of Escrow account, which was helpful to the committee. This year the committee was focused on gearing up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Unity Soccer Games to be held in September 2005 as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games in Los Angeles in July of 2006. In 2004, ZSC made a profit of \$2500 bringing their current balance to \$18,000. Firdosh Mehta informed the delegates that ZYNA had sufficient funds in their account and FEZANA would assist and support ZSC in an event their funds depleted. Shahram requested everyone to be on the look out for people doing well in sports and to send that information to [ZSC@FEZANA.org](mailto:ZSC@FEZANA.org) so that the Committee could recognize these athletes.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti games report was presented to the delegates in the absence of Homi Italia (attached).

Firdosh Mehta mentioned about the donation to the All Parsee Sports Foundation in Mumbai and the donation of \$500 to small groups and expressed that there was a need to create a Zoroastrian Sports Scholarship and hence FEZANA could earmark \$5000 towards Sports sponsorship and present a TOR to set it up.

**Hosi Mehta put a motion on the table to start this process of setting up a Sports Sponsorship, to set aside \$5000 and present the TOR at the next AGM in 2006. ZAGBA seconded the motion, all in favor and motion passed unanimously.**

**External Affairs Committee Chair, Rohinton Rivetna,** thanked the host association ZAPA for hosting the AGM. Rohinton pointed out what is and is not imperative for Interfaith work and conclude that the most important fact is to have connectedness with one another and with one's GOD that peace will prevail on earth.

There have been a large and growing number of interfaith and outreach events and activities by Zarathushti associations and individuals, throughout North America. Last year's initiatives by many FEZANA associations include (see "INTERFAITH-INTERALIA" section of FEZANA Journal) for example: Hosting visits of high-school and college students, church and community groups to the local darbe mehrs. Participation in seminars and making presentations at programs organized by local churches, community groups, schools and colleges; as well as participation in Interfaith services and events. Participation in neighborhood social /charitable /welfare /outreach project. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, India formed an Interfaith Committee and has 3 Zoroastrians on this Committee. Various other Committee activities include, follow up after the Peace Summit in Delhi, Interfaith session at the San Francisco congress, Police department diversity programs, Trustee of the Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR). At the Barcelona meeting of the Parliament of World Religions, nearly 8000 delegates attended, gave over 10 presentations, 3 morning prayers and a 10 minute "Zoroastrian Blessing" at the closing ceremonies. FEZANA and ZTFE shared an exhibit booth and diversity was abundantly evident both among the faiths as well as within the faiths. Continued and active participation at the National Conference for community and Justice, (NCCJ), participation at the UN, the United Religion Initiative (URI), North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), Harvard Pluralism Project, Taiwan Museum of World Religions, Faith-in-Place (FIP), and E-Group Network. (Read report for in-depth details)

#### ***WZCC Report:***

Rohinton Rivetna, FEZANA's special pride in spawning this Committee. The WZCC website continues to offers news, announcement, employment, business opportunities, classified ads and much more, thanks to Homi Davier and Yazdi Tantra. The new WZCC journal, "SynergyZ" produced by WZCC-ME was launched at a gala function in Dubai in March 2005; sponsors include Mr. Pallanji Mistry and Alayar Dabestani. All those wishing to subscribe to WZCC can email: [subscribe-zchamber@yahoogroups.com](mailto:subscribe-zchamber@yahoogroups.com), managed by Zareen Karani Araoz. This year's WZCC's Outstanding Entrepreneur award goes to Hosi Mehta of Chicago. To submit a name for this award, contact Homee Shroff at [homabs2004@yahoo.com](mailto:homabs2004@yahoo.com). Next WZCC AGM will be in London along with the Congress.

#### ***Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship Committee:***

Sherazade Mehta thanked the host association ZAPA for hosting the AGM. This is the first report from the FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship Committee and they have accomplished and completed the TOR for the functioning of the committee, the application form for scholarship drafted and circulated, and a committee meeting held on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 during the 13<sup>th</sup> N. American Zoroastrian Congress. The Committee decided that for the initial year 5 scholarships of \$1000 each would be awarded and the remaining \$5000 would be kept in reserve for future use. If 5 qualified and deserving applications were not received this year, then fewer scholarships would be awarded. This year the committee gave out only 4 scholarships, that is \$4000.00 hence next year they will award six scholarships of \$1000.00 each. The Scholarship awardees were: Shahnaz Shroff, Farah Bala, Kayhan Irani and Dinyar Vania. Since this was the first year for the scholarship, the committee decided that March 31 was a more

suitable deadline for receiving applications. Four applications have been received and are currently being evaluated. Applicants will be informed by May 31. The call for the next round of applications will go out in Fall 2005 and judging will occur during the October to December time frame as noted in the TOR.

***UN-NGO Committee, Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia.*** Copy of the report will be sent to FEZANA executives and the community and will also be placed on the web. The committee reported their involvement in the Millennium Development Project. The 49<sup>th</sup> Session of UN committee on women was well attended and represented. Dinyar Patel working with Shernaz Cama to bring UNESCO exhibition to the UN in 2006. The committee worked on setting up a FEZANA UN-NGO website, and urged greater Z-youth involvement. Behram Pastakia enumerated the various ways the ZAMWI youth were involved at local levels to promote the idea that we are Zoroastrians and it is right to be involved in such projects – World environment Day June 5, 2005, Clean up projects, bike rides on side of river to raise funds, etc. Shireen Cama spent 6 months with ZAMWI. He informed of the successful Operation Eyesight project. The eyeglasses were all sorted by power and labeled for easy distribution and this was done in a penitentiary in Calgary. This Operation has reached as far as Hong Kong. Behram Pastakia informed how faith based NGO's can raise funds and how associations are participating at their local level. As for raising funds, especially for Tsunami victims, Behram felt that it was more effective if we could facilitate a youth to go and work on Tsunami activities in India.

**ZAGNY proposed/motioned that \$2000 be assigned to the Committee. ZAA seconded, all in favour, motion passed unanimously.**

***3000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub Committee:***

Dolly Dastoor informed the group of the fantastic job that was done by every association and a CD of all compiled celebrations put together by Aban Rustomji was distributed to all. The 3000<sup>th</sup> Ad Hoc Committee now stands dissolved.

***Zoroastrian Youth of N.America (ZYNA):***

Afreed Mistry reported on the upcoming Miami NA Youth Congress December 2005. She said that ZYNA was working closely with the Florida local association, ZAF and monthly conference calls were conducted to keep abreast of all the planning. The Registrations forms, the domain name and newsletter will be out beginning of June 2005. Registrations will begin June 2005 with early bird registration deadline of July 31, 2005. Registration age to be between 15-35 and for those under 15 to have a registered guardian aged 21 or older. In the matter of Liability insurance for NAZYC, the cost of \$1200, the hotel will use its insurance policy at this time. At this time there was a discussion whether to purchase a liability insurance for the NAZYC. Homi Gandhi will send Firdosh the name of an insurance company dealing with not for profit insurance. Rohinton Rivetna opined that the insurance should be generated from Illinois as FEZANA was registered in Illinois.

**OZCF put a motion that FEZANA should investigate the purchase of adequate liability insurance for the entire year or for the 5- day congress period, up to \$1500. This was seconded by ZAC, all in favor, passed unanimously.**

ZYNA requested for a subsidy of \$250 for 10 youths totaling to \$2500.  
**ZSO moved this motion, AZA seconded, opposed by ZAC Chicago and OZCF, rest all in favor, motion passed.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress to be held in Australia, 2007. ZYNA needs the support from North America to support this congress and asks that 100 delegates from North America attend this congress. FEZANA asked to think on this matter.

The ZYNA ToR was presented by Afreed Mistry and the discussion of whether to break up ZYNA into two separate groups or leave it as it is. Afreed conveyed that ZYNA was not looking to break it but wanted to leave it as is and instead offered a suggestion of having two Junior Co-Chairs for the younger age group and the specific age groups could be added to the ToR. The sense of the Board was that the ToR needed to be re-visited. Kobad Zarolia felt that ZYNA needed directions in this matter. ZYNA will consider all the suggestions and will present the ToR again in 6 months.

**FEZANA Web Site** <http://www.FEZANA.org>

Firdosh informed the Board of the issue that was not addressed on the first day regarding the FEZANA Website, as he wanted to present Zubin Medora with a plaque in recognition for his service to the website. The FEZANA website is managed by Farrokh Mistree and reformatted by Zubin Medora in 2001. It is typically updated when changes are available or once a month.

The web has been designed to enable people with less powerful computers and modems to make use of the content. The key is to add functionality rather than investing time in making cosmetic changes that do not add functionality. The website also facilitates the ordering of the Journal with a credit card through the website. The biggest benefit is that Canadian and overseas subscribers can pay in US dollars, which avoids foreign exchange fees, bank charges and delays. The subscriber is able to see the current address and expiration date on the website, so that renewals and address updating will also become easier. Work is underway to put each issue of the FEZANA Journal on the website. The Cover and the Table of Contents will be made readily available for people to browse what has been published. Having found what they want they can download the PDF file and use what they need. A search engine will be written.

### ***Strategic Planning Committee:***

Dolly Dastoor informed the group that she would continue working in areas that did not require too much funding and areas where things can be accomplished. All the strategic planning issues were discussed in-depth during the Open Forum held on Friday and that there was nothing more to report at this time.

### ***NAMC Activities 2004/2005:***

A report was read by Firdosh in absence of Er. Jehan Bagli. It was decided at the last AGM to have a one-day Educational seminar. The seminar will be hosted by ZAGNY at their new Der-be-Mehr at Pomona Road on Saturday 30 July 2005 and will be open to all young and senior Mobeds as well as Mobedyars. "SEMINAR 2005" is planned as an educational session, by the Mobeds for the Mobeds. Mr. Maneck Bhujwala of Los Angeles was inducted as a Mobedyar on June 6, 2004. Mr. Bhujwala has already been providing his services through performance of Jashans and Final rites for some time. This event of induction was duly recorded with a photograph and a write up in FEZANA Journal, fall issue 2004 (pg 27). The publication of the book, Understanding and Practice of Obsequies is ongoing. Putting in the accents through the long list of prayers has been time consuming. This laborious job was undertaken and completed by Ervad Adi Unwalla. The book was reviewed by Dasturji Firoze Kotwal last December. He was also kind enough to write a 'Foreword' for the book, as he did for the first book of the series. Work has also begun, on a "Booklet on Congregational prayers". This will permit enhanced participation of the lay congregation in the community rituals performed by member organizations.

Several members of NAMC have participated in various interfaith activities in North America.

- ✓ "Future of religion in a Secular world" at University of Toronto (Ervad Dr. Bagli)
- ✓ Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of The Toronto Peace Garden (Er Yezdi Antia)
- ✓ Halton-Peel high school interfaith meeting. (Ervad Nozer Kotwal)
- ✓ Meeting of International Community Council of Cleveland, Ohio (Ervad Dr. Bagli)

On passing of Pope John Paul II, a letter of condolence was sent by e-mail, on behalf of NAMC to His Eminence Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, Vatican City, Europe, and His Eminence Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, President, and The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The addresses were provided through courtesy of FEZANA president Firdosh Mehta. In addition a letter was mailed on NAMC letter head to the office of His Eminence Aloysius M. Cardinal Ambrozic of Toronto, which was acknowledged by a reply from the Office of the Cardinal. We look forward to assisting FEZANA Award committee, in their deliberation of an Award recognizing the services of the Zarathushti Priesthood in North America.

***Historical Research and Preservation Committee Report presented by Firdosh Mehta in absence of Er. Jehan Bagli.*** Represented FEZANA and Edmonton Interfaith Center at The Parliament of World Religion held at Barcelona, Spain.(Mehta); A lecture "Reaching out in the Digital World" was presented at the XIIIth NAZC at San Jose (Varza); Presented the activity report of Montserrat/Barcelona on CD power point to ZAA members (August 2004) and to Edmonton Interfaith Center (December 2004). (Mehta) ; Formally initiated as Mobedyar by Ervad Zarir Bhandara at Zoroastrian Center in Westminster, CA . (Bhujwala); Interviewed in September 2004 by CBC Radio, Vancouver on the background information on Parsis (Mehta); Invited in

October 2004 by International Community Council of Greater Cleveland to give a talk on Zarathushti faith (Bagli); As a Mobedyar participated in two Jashan Ceremonies at Zoroastrian center in Southern California. (Bhujwala) ; Provided services for Jashan ceremonies to five families, and funeral services for two families in Southern California and Nevada. (Bhujwala); In January 2005 presented an introductory account on Zarathushti faith to students of Encounter World Religion group at Dar-be-Mehr in Toronto. (Bagli); Presented Zarathushtrian Faith to a class of World Religions at Centennial College, with a lecture, and video (Bagli); Gave a talk on 'Introduction to Zoroastrianism' at the Calgary Hindu Mandir (Mehta) ;

Interfaith activities continued at various levels and organizations; participated with other religious community leaders at a retreat at Montserrat before the commencement of The Parliament of World Religions (Mehta); participated in Bahai Interfaith Family day on the theme of "Elimination of Prejudice" (Dastoor); presented short prayer for "Hope for Humanity" on World Religious Day January 2005 (Dastoor); participated at Edmonton City hall for city's Centennial celebration by Edmonton Interfaith Center (Mehta); represented Zarathushtrian faith with Ervad Antia, in the commemoration ceremony of the 20th anniversary of Toronto Peace Garden (Bagli); Invited to participate in the Interfaith Panel discussion on 'Future of Religion in an Age of Secularism' at University of Toronto, during the visit of Swami Veda Bharati. (Bagli); Participated with Ervad Kotwal and encouraged our youth to present our faith at a High School interfaith meet in Halton/Peel area. (Bagli); Attended interfaith Prayer meeting organized by Bahai Group in Calgary. (Mehta); Represented Zarathushtrian faith at Huntington Beach interfaith Council at their monthly meetings. (Bhujwala); Presented a brief introduction of Zoroastrianism and a prayer at the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton for those victimized by Tsunami disaster (Bhujwala); Contributed "Plant life in Zarathushtrian Liturgy" for FEZANA Journal (Bagli); Continued posting (4th year) of Shah-nameh couplets in Farsi, and Gujrati with English translation, and of Epistles of Adurbad Mahrspand (3rd year) in Pahlavi and Gujrati with English translation on the Z-net (Bhujwala); Pursued and widely publicized the quest of Zubin Mehta for misuse of Fravahar emblem in the announcement of movie 'Alexander'. (Bhujwala)

Helped with the funding and fundraising for the Research and Preservation of Dari language, a project, submitted by Annahita Farudi and Maziar Toosarvandani from University of Virginia.

A report was presented at XIIIth NAZC, December 2004. (Mehta, Varza, Bagli)  
Assisted in facilitating the use of Vohuman School for the Research of Dari language project (Varza); Firdosh Mehta informed the group of this excellent report and that if anyone wished to have a copy to contact him.

FEZANA support to Malcolm Deboo of ZTFE, for work on restoration of manuscripts at the Meherji Rana Library was continued. (Mehta). Tahamtan Aresh donated funds for another trip to continue the project. With permission of Mr. Aresh, FEZANA used the funds to support Malcolm Deboo's trip to India. Reports were presented at the AGM in Boston and the NA Congress in December 2004 and all funds have been consumed.

As far as FEZANA was concerned the project was over.

Funding was requested for another project by the WZCF, by Homi Dhalla for the excavation of dakhma at Sanjan and for DNA testing of bones to figure out age of Dakhma, to be done in Oxford. Cost of Sterling pounds 2400 for each sample. Firdosh informed that the R & P Committee has about \$20,279.00 in their funds and that in Boston FEZANA had promoted this project and allocated \$3000. He said that we could fund for two samples with a request to report in time and up to a maximum of \$1200.

Hosi Mehta wanted to know what would we get by the DNA testing of the bones. Homi Gandhi responded that the DNA testing would establish if the remains were those of Parsis, and will help trace the genes back to those ages.

Kobad Zarolia questioned why India is not supporting this as it would be so easy for them with all the Trust Funds at their disposal.

Homi Gandhi responded that India used those funds for other more expensive projects.

Farrokh Mistree conveyed that ZAA is close to Dhalla and would like to support him and has supported him in other projects; but now to date the Dokhmas, it is obvious that they are Parsees and should we disturb the dead? Maybe that is the reason India is not funding this project. The only thing this project will prove is the date.

Homi Gandhi felt that our history is a bit sketchy and maybe this project will shed more light and bring something to the fore.

Everyone was in favor of the project but not with approving of the \$5000. Farrokh Mistree conveyed that Dhalla always delivered but he has run short on money. We can stipulate that we need feedback on the project and if not received funding will be stopped.

Homi Gandhi moved the motion, ZSO abstained, and all rest in favor.

### ***Constitution Committee Report:***

Firdosh informed the group that since the amendment did not pass, the committee will be discontinued.

### ***Corresponding Membership:***

Hoshedar Tamboli will pursue this issue with small groups and make a proposal for their official inclusion within FEZANA.

### **WORLD BODY**

Homi Gandhi took the floor with a brief overview of the appointment of WBAC (World Body Ad Hoc Committee) comprising of Sarosh Collector, Homi Gandhi, Khorshed Jungalwala (Chair), Farrokh Mistree and Purvez Rustomji. Homi Gandhi expressed his regrets that Khorshed Jungalwala could not attend this AGM due to personal reasons.

The WBAC had come up with a somewhat detailed report on the request of Firdosh to look further into the WB principles of operation as voted by FEZANA in the past meetings and put forth an explanation. Homi Gandhi then gave the floor to Sarosh Collector to explain to the members their findings.

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, Sarosh Collector gave a brief outline of the three opinions that the member associations were asked to comment/agree/disagree on and Sarosh presented the opinions of each responding association.

On an aside and unrelated to the WB, Firdosh pointed out to Hoshedar Tamboli the fact that a Small Group's chair, JR Udvadia's opinion on the issue of WB was taken note of, in spite of the feeling that the small groups are not heard or have no say.

The WBAC recognized FEZANA's endorsement and adoption of the One World Body with Two Independent Operating Arms construct. It detailed the five points in Slide 6 presented to the group. Sarosh explained that the WBAC was assigned to review these five points to see if they met the conditions and to come up with a condensed report. The WBAC went through each of the five points, one by one. WBAC discerned that Autonomy did not seem absolute and that autonomy was difficult to explain but WBAC have tried to explain this better in the report as it was not understood in different parts of the world. The Not-Withstanding clause should be removed or reworded. As explained in the earlier report the Veto power could not be fully understood. It was discerning to note that if one member disagreed then no decision was made and nothing accomplished. Members should be allowed to disagree but still stay with the region.

Sarosh pointed out that the two arms did not seem alike and that the functions, operations, and timings were not similar. Each independent arm needs to be looked at deeper; currently the three entities showed non-compliance with these conditions. Sarosh further explained the need for the two arms to be similar if they were to operate equally under one umbrella and pointed out an example of businesses that were run on the same operating platforms no matter the location to maintain the structure and functionality of both businesses. In this respect the two arms of IZO should operate on a similar franchise basis. Sarosh further illustrated that the union of the two should be more like a marriage for it to work together.

On condition 2, slide 8, Sarosh emphasized the need to remove the dissolution of IZO clause as it was contrary to the One World Body with two independent operating arms construct.

Firdosh pointed out and agreed that there were some intellectual disconnects here and they needed to be addressed.

Afreed Mistry voiced her question saying that if we were moving towards a One World Body, why have a WZOI, which goes against the principle of One Body.

Farrokh Mistree took over the presentation from slide 13, setting a sense of the group rounding up that they, WBAC were given charge to scrupulously study the report and

poll opinions of member associations; and while things were tough, it has not affected the report or their findings and whatever decisions the group formulates, it should be a conscious one before finally endorsing.

Farrokh Mistree further mentioned that we, member associations need to strengthen Firdosh's arm to enable him to take this report to G10; give him the power to co-opt people anywhere to assist and work with him to present this report.

Rohinton Rivetna then took the floor and made his presentation "Coming Together-Some Points to Ponder"

Rohinton emphasized the importance of first getting the vision and then the details fall in place. He quoted that build the road and there will be a city at the end of the road when completed. The city may not be a strong evident but just a strong vision. He pointed out that at yesterdays meeting everyone was really working together and people felt that things were accomplished. Now imagine that people from all over world working together and discussing issues of importance. The most simple thing is to "come together" ... Coming together is the main thing. Hamazori – handshake of unity and strength and support, we have forgotten. We are a worldwide community without borders ... and that is our great asset. Read "inherent bonding ... one bounden duty ... in togetherness lies strength". Our mission is to "Come together in Hamazori".

Where we are now? "Khojeste Mistree stalled creation of World Body as we want it." We have a 52 page presentation sent around the world and 40 Anjumans of India petitioned FPZAI/BPP not to join WB. Rohinton continued that this became a non starter for us. Shows letter from the priests against India joining WB. Rohinton pointed out major fears and grievances that prevented the WB formation.(see PowerPoint presentation.)

Rohinton informed the group of the Parsi-Irani World Body, WAPIZ formed in India. Dinshaw Mehta supports it and maybe other BPP Trustees. Rohinton felt that people in India are not knowledgeable and they do things without much understanding. We should be bonding and not fragmenting. Our real threats were issues such as marry outside and they are leaving the faith situation much worse in India than in North America.

In closing Rohinton lay emphasis on A World Body Agenda; he said, "Much Work Remains ... let us just do things as a world community". He urged that everyone just get together to review some worldwide issues and put a moratorium on the WB situation.

Rohinton stated that process was most important; Idea-Development-Propogation-Concensus-Implementation; Regarding forming of WZPAI, Rohinton mentioned that "Khojeste had no process. They just decided one day and created it." To this Farrokh Mistree objected and later Rohinton offered his apologies for that statement.

Firdosh conveyed that G3 supported this notion and that we do positive things and get going.

Farrokh Mistree's protest towards Rohinton Rivetna's above mentioned statement; He explained that some process was followed by Khojeste and that this was being worked on for 20 years and Khojeste may have taken one year to bring it to fruition. Lasting solution is only through consensus. Rohinton accepted his explanation and apologized for his statement.

Lastly Rohinton Rivetna further pointed that his concept was an alliance, a picture showing all groups surrounding IZO, including WAPIZ. He felt all should have a place, similar to WZCC

Rohinton's – Proposal (Refer to handout document); Need of the hour is to build bridges; Pittsburgh is the place with the largest number of bridges in the world or whatever ; Pittsburgh is the place to start building the bridges. Build on what we agree and disagreement will fall in place. We want to be compassionate and understanding; we have to tear down the walls between and strengthen the arm of our President, Firdosh Mehta, an excellent negotiator.

Firdosh Mehta interjected his explanation that this proposal has been stated earlier and that to please understand this was not being received well by the other side.

Farrokh Mistree informed the group of the incidence when the word Inshallah was spoken causing the meeting to break up and it was construed that Khojeste Mistree had started or had orchestrated this hooliganism. Farrokh conveyed that Khojeste represented a movement and WZPAI should be a given due notice.

Kobad Zarolia of OZCF pointed out that FEZANA should ignore WAPIZ as WAPIZ is not a World Body and not get involved.

Firdosh responded that the FEZANA Executive agreed with him.

To this statement Bomi Patel responded saying that WAPIZ has approached members from all over the world to which Firdosh Mehta agreed that we do need to be aware of WAPIZ.

Arnavaz Sethna of ZAH pointed that it was unwise that we, FEZANA, NOT be aware of the fact that WAPIZ exists. We need to be aware and deal with it accordingly.

Firdosh commented that as of yesterday there were three World Bodies. Zoroastrian Assembly, WZO (kind of middle of the road) and now WAPIZ. He felt that we have tried to cater too much to the needs of the individuals.

Hosi Mehta informed the group that uniting the community as one was the reason for a World Body formation. He conveyed that we needed to work with people and show goodness and trust which will help overcome and win over time. He said that cycles changed and that we must be aware of what and how we speak so as not to build walls; togetherness should be a project.

Firdosh agreed that the WBAC is just his helper and will not make decisions and he is comfortable with that.

Afreed Mistry of ZSO stated that she supported Rohinton's model of Global Zarathushti Alliance and she felt that there would be other groups formed and they all needed a place. She did not agree with WZOI and felt it is totally wrong. Why are we working with WZO she asked?

Roshan Rivetna responded saying that we are too hung up on the One World Body; she felt we are too diverse and we are trying to fit everyone together. She felt we needed to soften the role of apex body, WB and all its objectives to be realized through its independent arms that need not be the same. Why should WZOI be forced to have the same structure ... we are only tying their hands ... each arm should be allowed to grow to meet its objectives.

Hoshedar Tamboli asked how WZO was different from WAPIZ

In closing Firdosh expressed that the first report gave a sound feeling and even got the party to read. But after presenting the documents it was not agreed upon. He felt that maybe they do not want to do all the things that way, we, WBAC sees it. He felt that we needed to come up with a guidelines type of document.

Firdosh pointed that this was not the final documentation and that FEZANA needs to present this in a united and practical way.

Homi Gandhi interjected that the group has been talking and discussing this issue for several years and its time to make history and make a decision of bringing us together in a timely manner. He said that the report needed to be redrafted and presented.

Yasmin Pavri commented that certain things needed to be the same.

Kobad Zarolia put a motion on the table to empower the President, Firdosh to represent FEZANA in the World Body Issue of taking the 5 points of principles/guidelines to the WB meeting and to conduct any negotiations.

Motion seconded by ZAC Chicago; ZAH abstained.

After further discussion, the motion was amended as under:

**MOTION:**

OZCF – We empower FEZANA President and his appointees to represent us at the World Body formation meetings as best as he can, taking last year's five point principle as guidelines and report back to the Board.

Seconded by: ZAC Chicago.

Outcome: ZAH, ZAGNY abstained

Roshan Rivetna's closing remarks. Looking at it from the FEZANA viewpoint. We have a big stumbling block in India. There will be no World Body if India is against it. We have to support Indian leadership. How can we make it happen? We have to support BPP and FPZAI.

**ZSO Symphony** request to re-sanction amount sanctioned at the last AGM. ZAC Chicogo moved the motion, seconded by ZAGBA, all rest in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Firdosh then invited Zubin Medora forward and presented him with a Plaque for his contribution and hard work on maintaining the FEZANA Website.

**Zubin Medora**, expressed being thus recognized by FEZANA and felt very honored and humbled and he said that he felt we all were here doing what we did because we all cared and we all do with purity of heart. He informed the group that he had his own Z-Store, which he created because his Mom was always looking for Z-items and could never find it so he decided to open a store. He passed on his store flyer and cards for all those in need of any Z-items. He would even personalize the items to make the gift even more precious. He profusely thanked the Board and everyone saying he felt truly very humble.

**Confirm host for the next AGM, 2006.**

Three associations had put in their bids for hosting the 2006 AGM: AZA, ZANT and CZC.

Cyrus Aidun of AZA and Behram Irani of ZANT made presentations as to why they thought their venue should be selected for the next AGM. The members and observers were shown power point presentations of Atlanta and Dallas and all the advantages of holding the next AGM in those locations.

Farrokh also indicated that they would utilize the hotel of a Parsee Zoroastrian and seek a discounted room rate for all.

A voting was conducted and the outcome was:

**2006 AGM was awarded to AZA, Atlanta**  
**2007 AGM was awarded to ZANT, Dallas.**

Since CZC was not represented a decision was not made.

Firdosh gave a vote of thanks to everyone and specially recognized Khorshed Jungalwala for her excellent contribution to the World Body report and hoped and prayed that she would be able to attend the London WB meeting. Firdosh thanked the World Body Ad Hoc Committee for their excellent reporting.

A vote of thanks to all present, including ZAPA for their excellent hosting of the AGM.

The next AGM will be held in Atlanta, over the 2006 Memorial Day weekend.

Minutes prepared by Rita Engineer, FEZANA Secretary and Farrokh Mistree, FEZANA, Assistant Secretary.

January 04, 2006

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_