

**FEDERATION of ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS of NORTH AMERICA**

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

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT)

**Place:** Spring Hill Suites, Dallas DFW Airport North / Grapevine  
2240 West Grapevine Mills Circle  
Grapevine, Texas 76051

**Date:** Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, April 7, 2007

**Present at the meeting:**

**Executive Officers:**

President	<b>Rustom Kevala</b>
Vice-President	<b>Bomi Patel</b>
Secretary	<b>Rita Engineer</b>
Newly Elected Secretary	<b>Firuzi Poonevalla</b>
Treasurer	<b>Katayun Kapadia</b>
Assistant Secretary	Anahita Daryushnejad (absent)

**Representatives of the Member Associations:**

Atlanta Zarathushti Anjuman (AZA)	2	<b>Cyrus Aidun/ Farrokh Mistree</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston (ZAGBA)	2	<b>Jamshed Dubash</b>
Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC)	4	<b>Darayus Mistry</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Metro.Chicago (ZAC-Chicago)	2	<b>Hosi Mehta</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)	4	<b>Roshan Sethna</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY)	3	<b>Homi Gandhi</b>
Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)	5	<b>Niloufer Bhesania</b>
Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO)	5	<b>Sam Vesuna</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ)	3	<b>Dolly Dastoor</b>
Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware (ZAPANJ)	3	<b>Katayun Kapadia</b>
Zoroastrian Assoc. of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI)	3	<b>Behram Pastakia</b>
Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)	5	<b>Nazneen Spliedt</b>
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT)	3	<b>Kali Buhariwalla</b>
Zoroastrian Association of South Florida (ZAF)	2	<b>Er. Soli Dastur</b>
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**Representatives of the Committees:**

Awards	Framroze Patel Shehernaz Joshi Verahrami
Information Receiving and Disseminating	Firdosh Mehta Dolly Dastoor
Public Relations	Jim Engineer
Religion & Education	Lovji Cama

Interfaith and UN/NGO committees

Infrastructure  
Academic Scholarships  
Funds and Finance

North American Congress  
Coordination & Planning  
Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship  
Welfare Committee

Homi Gandhi  
Behram Pastakia  
Shahrokh Mehta  
**Dolly Dastoor**  
**Jerry Kheradi**

**Bomi Patel**  
**Bomi Patel**  
**Sherazade Mehta**  
**Hosi Mehta**

### **Observers**

Celeste Kheradi – ZAGBA  
Sarosh Collector  
Pearline Collector  
Navroz Gandhi  
Kersi Kapadia  
Rashna Mehta  
Jimmy Mistry (Parsi Resource Group)  
Cyrus Rivetna  
Rohinton Rivetna  
Roshan Rivetna  
Er. Bomanshaw Sanjana  
Fred Sarkari  
Arnavaz Sethna  
Anahita Sidhwa  
Jehangir Shroff  
Avan Shroff  
Ehler Spliedt  
Adi Vakharia  
Elher Spliedt

Rustom Kevala, President, opened the **first session of the AGM at 6:15pm on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007** and informed the group that during the first part of the session, Associations will present their reports and Fred Sarkari will facilitate the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the session on Development of our Community.

The meeting commenced with a short benediction led by Er. Soli Dastur.

Firdosh Mehta of ZANT took the floor on behalf of ZANT, the host Association, to thank Arbez, the woman behind the preparation and planning of this AGM. A round of applause for Arbez and her team. A few housekeeping issues were discussed and delegates were informed of the pizza dinner at 7:30pm. He further informed the group of the Operation Eyesight program and that collection of old eye glasses would be on for the entire period if anyone wanted to participate. Saturday's evening dinner was to be held at another venue and travel arrangements had been made to transport delegates to the dinner venue and back.

Kali Buhariwalla, President, ZANT expressed his thanks to his team for all the preparations of this AGM and said that he was excited to see it all come together.

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

**Hosi Mehta, ZAC, Chicago:** Hosi thanked the Dallas team for all their hard work in setting up this AGM. He hopes that in these few days of the AGM hearing of the achievements of all other Associations, that ZANT will have the extra inspiration to have their own center.

ZAC continues as a full service to the community as in the past years with regular hosting of Navjotes, Baby Showers, Youth Camps, Jashans, Muktaad, etc. and service extends from pre birth to post death. All this involvement of the youth in the youth camps resulted in the youths coming back as counselors and becoming advisors and role models to other youth in the association. ZAC has purchased an area in a local cemetery offering the choice to members to stay together even after death. ZAC currently has 15 priests who serve the community's religious needs. ZAC continues to support the sponsoring of priests to the US and has sponsored a priest and his wife from Iran who have just recently landed in Chicago. ZAC continues to participate in interfaith activities and host groups from schools and colleges and other organization interested in knowledge about the Z Religion and has even initiated a group for the next generation challenges. ZAC celebrates all local holidays and boasts of a youth group called ZAC-YAC. Monthly get together of Seniors continues once the weather gets better.

ZAC Darbe Meher will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and they are looking to having a grand celebration and invited all to share in this the Chicago Experience. ZAC has purchased a house next door to the Darbe Meher and would love to have FEZANA set up its headquarters bringing out a win-win situation for all.

**Homi Gandhi, President, ZAGNY:** Homi expressed his pleasure at the being a part of this AGM and thanked the ZANT team for their efforts and looking forward to the celebration party to be held on Saturday evening. Homi continued on to mention about FEZANA's search for an infrastructure, a place, a headquarters and informed the delegates that ZAGNY has such a place, with no mortgage attached and that they will make their presentation to the delegates the next day.

ZAGNY continues to serve the community by bringing increased awareness of everything Zoroastrian. He was proud to announce that NY, at the Navroz Function issued a proclamation – Navroze was declared as a special day in NY. ZAGNY continues to serve the community and moves further to impress upon the Z by finding ways to convey messages to the students and asking of them – What do you understand being a Zoroastrian? An essay contest on this topic brought about very interesting thoughts and in this endeavor ZAPANJ youth also participated and they too were awarded prizes. ZAGNY initiated the Dasturji Kutar award and 2 priests were the recipients. ZAGNY also hosted the Persian parade in NY and Homi expressed his sadness that Z Associations from other locations did not participate in this parade. ZAGNY continued participating in the Revlon Walk and also supported other causes outside of the Z community. Youth activities included Pedal for progress, ZCamps with an attendance of nearly 30 kids, full to capacity. They will be hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> camp in June this year. Annual picnic, Muktaad prayers for all five days, participation in the World Gujarati Conference where there was integration of cultures, and mobeds illustrated the Z culture, a Fashion parade and Gujarati plays. Raised funds for the Udvada Luncheon; Standup against Poverty, ZAGNY in the Guinness book of Records; Carrom competition, Marathon Race, Halloween Parades, New Year Dance, monthly

Religious Classes are some of the activities that keep ZAGNY very busy. Homi thanks Loviji Cama for his commitment to the religious classes and for all those who also came to teach at the religious classes.

**Roshan Sethna, Representative, ZAH:** ZAH continues to see a dynamic growth as Houston welcomes newcomers as well as families moving back! The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center continues to be the focal point of the growing community and the latest addition of a state of the art sound system and stage enhancement gives them the ability to use the center as a venue for theatrical performances. Religious classes continue to grow and in the past year 6 young men have become Navars, bringing the total number of mobeds to 22! ZAH Library continues its growth too and several workshops, seminars, plays and films related to the Z faith and culture are hosted. Mary Ann's work featured in the "Zoroastrian Tapestry" is scheduled to present an update on Zs and Kurds in Iraq-Kurdistan Today on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Essay contest organized by the Library and the winner will get to attend the World Youth Congress in Australia. The Library is also scheduled to host an annual gala, Oct. 21,22 with keynote speaker, Paul Kriwazcek author of "In Search of Zarathushtra". All are invited and encouraged to attend. The ZAH community continues to dazzle and dazzle with their creativity and superbly organized functions – like the upcoming Broadway extravaganza. The ZAH Congress 2000 Legacy Awards will be awarded for the first time this year. For further details and up to date information of all activities log on to [www.zah.org](http://www.zah.org) and click on Manashni, the ZAH newsletter. At this point Sarosh Collector was invited to present the ZAH directory to ZANT President, Kali Buhariwalla. Also sale of greeting cards- 10 cards for \$10.

Rustom Kevala, President, informed the delegates that FEZANA received \$7000 from ZAH from the 2000 Houston Congress- a very successful congress and a congress that made money too while keeping attendance costs at reasonable levels!

**Kali Buhariwalla, ZANT:** ZANT is a young and growing community due to their large population of youth. He expressed his appreciation of Porus Bulsara and his efforts in the community. ZANT Center project is an undertaking solely due to the youth. A group of 5 individuals comprised the Building Committee and moved towards the building project. Today they are on their way into getting this realized. ZANT continues to serve and host social and other various gatherings. Fund raising events also continue. ZANT has an external auditor. Monthly religious classes continue to serve the growing population of kids and while members, Sherezade, Pearl and Nina use different locations to host events, ZANT has realized that a special place is needed rather than going from one home to another. All events are celebrated and this year nearly 200 attended the Navroz function. Youth Camps, Career Workshops, Fathers/Mothers Day, Sports Day, Picnic are just some of the events hosted by ZANT including and involving both parents and their kids. Many fund raisers – Anand Bazaar. Falooda Store raised nearly \$4000 profit! ZANT has its many monthly meetings and hosting the AGM has been an added challenge.

ZANT Center project has been a part of their by-laws. In November of last year property was purchased and paid from the funds raised from within the community. ZANT invited Cyrus Rivetna, an architect who has studied temple architecture and worked with him on the building design. ZANT continues to be in a fund raising mode as the project has still a long way to go.

At this point, Cyrus Rivetna was invited to present to the delegates the building design. Cyrus said that he felt honored to be invited for this building project and feels privileged. The land is nearly 2.6 acres and the very first thing that must be done- dig a well as that is what the religion requires that the temple should have. The rest of the architecture was designed with a view of

the Zoroastrian temples in India and Iran. The space and floor plan are designed keeping in mind the growing community. The community is now small but continues to grow.

Firdosh Mehta mentioned that ZANT has brought the entire Rivetna family together here for the AGM.

At this juncture, Rustom Kevala, announced the arrival of Jimmy Mistree of the Parsi Resource Group, and thanked him for coming to this AGM all the way from Mumbai.

***Katayun Kapadia, Representative, ZAPANJ:*** Katayun thanked ZANT for their excellent organization of the AGM and specially the Easter Basket, which was just the perfect touch. ZAPANJ had a full year of activities. Currently they have 7 practicing priests in the community. Several religious and non-religious activities such as Community Service Project, a park clean-up raising nearly \$400 donated to ZACUCE of Delaware valley by the youth; annual Jashan and Gahambar fully catered event at a banquet hall owned by a fellow Zarathushti. Zs from Washington DC and New York also attended this very successful event. The super raffle of the Mercedes Benz was organized by ZACUCE. A combined prayer class between ZAPANJ and ZAGNY when nearly 40-50 adults and kids participated and this reciprocated when ZAPANJ went to New York for a similar event. The main topic was “What Good Thought, Good Words and Good Deeds mean to me?” There have been an increased number of kids at the monthly religious classes due to the fact of several young families joining and moving in. A Day of Remembrance and set up of Haft-Seen table were two of inclusions in the religious classes. ZAPANJ ladies attended a day long seminar to discuss curriculums for religion classes where Lovji Cama of ZAGNY, on behalf of FEZANA organized this seminar. This was a very successful seminar and many members of other Z associations also participated. During Navroze, 25 adults and kids went to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where the Haft-seen table was set up and other activities including a dance performance by the Silk Road Dance Company from Washington DC. Seven children are actively working on the Good Life Emblem.

ZAPANJ now questioned the need for a building and realized that they needed to ask many more questions than just saying they needed one. Parking and Maintenance were two very important issues. They have a target of 2009 and planned entertainment once a year for fund raising and then going for outside donors too. Navroz Gandhi offered his assistance in this project. Now the question was how can FEZANA help the associations?

***Farrokh Mistree, Representative, AZA:*** Farrokh thanked all those who had attended the AGM at AZA last year. He pointed out that AZA had a Working Group – no elections- members were just asked to step up and volunteer on the Working Committee. Currently AZA is reorganizing the Working Group into two – Business Work and Member Services. A working group member is a liaison only. Farrokh presented a slide show outlining the community activities, the large contact group and the management of funds. Farrokh informed the delegates about the seminar for College bound kids and invited all to send their kids for this seminar, and that he, and AZA would take care of them for their stay. Catering Services is getting people involved and has been very successful. During Mehrgan, AZA had their jashan amidst 10 acres of vineyards in a beautiful rural area. After Jashan they went grape picking! Business Office- the professionals got together to work on the Darbe Meher project. Farrokh, on behalf of AZA, asked all Zs to move to Atlanta!

***Niloufer Bhesania, President, OZCF:*** Niloufer thanked the host city for their excellent organization of the AGM. OZCF continued to hold several religious and non-religious activities throughout the year but for the purpose of presentation highlighted the 4 main activities. The

Sari and Parsi Artifacts project – the artifacts were brought from Zanzibar and half of the proceeds from the sale came to OZCF. For the first time the Parsis from Zanzibar prayed with the Afergan.

OZCF's goal was to have one fund raiser event per year. August 3 will mark the anniversary of the purchase of the land for the center and there will be a celebration. In September they plan on hosting a Parsi Natak

OZCF bought the 10 acres of land for \$1.5M and pay a small mortgage from the funds they currently have. They are not sure at this time what to build. The current structure is not useable and in winter it is even harder to use. Need to build a larger structure though the area is not fully developed yet and will take another 2-5 years to develop. They will need to pay for environmental studies and continue to raise funds. Cost will go up considerably, \$4-5M but there is a population of nearly 4K-5K Zs and hence there is a greater need for a larger structure/building with garage and parking facilities. The current structure is functional for the time being till OZCF has enough funds to move ahead.

***Darayus Mistry, President, ZAC:*** Darayus thanked the host city for the excellent arrangements and the comforts and convenience of all delegates. 40% of ZAC's youth population is on the Executive Committee, a perfect grooming for the next generation leaders. ZAC hosts the usual religious and non-religious activities. ZAC's geography is very wide, with 440 members and 100 who have moved in. Distances are far and wide with traffic congestion a major issue. ZAC needs \$3-4M just to acquire land! Fund raising continues for the building project. Thus far seen nearly 75 sites, inspected nearly 15 sites and none were suitable locations. ZAC has thus far collected 1.3M with \$200,000 in pledges. But the question still remains – where to build? Various fund raising events: Walkathon, Apr 22, goal to raise \$25-30K; Natak by ZAC raised \$35K. Other non-Z related events raised \$10K; 50K raised by private foundations. \$15K raised selling entertainment books; raffled off airline tickets. Darayus felt that all members need to contribute towards this facility and that maybe FEZANA can help by establishing that each association contribute a nominal amount to set up a networking and exchange of ideas for raising funds.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Porus Dadabhoy:

Porus Dadabhoy of ZAC-Chicago requested 5 minutes to present his views about the community. He said that FEZANA should have a procedure in place to review the character of candidates who receive awards and to rescind awards if the person has been convicted of found to have bad moral character.

### **Community Building Workshop**

After Dinner Arbez introduced Fred Sarkari from Calgary, Canada.

Fred Sarkari led the group in recognizing not only their strengths but understanding the strengths and weaknesses of others around and to use that to better communicate with others, specially the youth.

Fred narrated the story of Mother Teresa who was asked what impact did she leave behind and she said that she had promised never to be blind to her surroundings as once she had walked by all the poverty around her not doing anything. Building upon this, we need to ask, what can we

do as individuals? What is our way of communication? How do we determine different personalities? And lastly how do we use all the information? Fred said, "Always be curious."

A normal brain takes about 60,000 thoughts in a day, hence all lines to the brain need to be opened. First there needs to be an emotional approach and then a logical reasoning to enable smooth communication to better reach our youth. Everyone sees things differently. One needs to speak the right language to communicate effectively. We are all born with a core personality but we can adapt to another. Anger is not a behavior, understanding it is the key.

Fred then took the group through the 4 different personality styles and then very effectively drew each personality out giving everyone a clear understanding how personalities can overlap and how different approaches are needed to deal with different personalities. It became apparent that communicating to a personality other than your own, requires an insight to the other's personality and their way of assimilating the information given to them.

This was a very interesting workshop and certainly an eye opener on how to reach the X-generation – our youth.

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### **AGM Day 2 Saturday April 7, 2007**

Kali Buhariwalla, President, ZANT, welcomed all the delegates. He shared his excitement in this event and was very honored to host FEZANA's 20<sup>th</sup> AGM in Dallas.

Er. Soli Dastur gave a short benediction before the start of the AGM and requested for a few minutes of silent prayer for his dear friend and his wife, Jehan and Nancy Daruwalla, Jehan was going through a kidney transplant and his wife Nancy was the donor. All delegates respectfully maintained a minute of silent prayer of good wishes and speedy recovery.

### **Roll Call**

Rita Engineer, Secretary conducted the roll call by calling out all delegates present and their representing association and/or committee. 15 associations representing more than half of the 25 Members of FEZANA and 46 of the 60 eligible votes, representing over 76% of the qualifying votes were represented in person. This met the constitutional requirement for a FEZANA AGM. The AGM was declared open.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Agenda was approved as amended with changes as indicated below and then passed on to the delegates.

### **The Agenda changes/additions:**

- ZAC Chicago and Sarosh Collector to make their presentation before the Infrastructure Working Group.
- Lunch to be a working lunch at 12 noon.
- 4:30 an additional item added: 5 min. presentation by Firdosh Mehta on the 4<sup>th</sup> WZYC Subsidy program
- Two associations, ZSO and ZAGBA to make their presentations after Firdosh Mehta.

The Agenda changes were put on the floor for motion:

- ZAGNY Proposed the Changes

- ZAC (CA) Seconded this motion
- None Against
- None Abstained
- Motion to accept Agenda changes passed unanimously.

**Election Results:**

Rustom noted that two offices of the executive committee were up for election.

Bomi Patel, vice president, was running for a second term of 2 years. 6 Associations sent in their nomination for Bomi's second term as Vice President: ZANC, ZANT, ZAA, ZAC, ZAC (Chicago) and ZSO. There were no other nominations and Bomi was re-elected to the position of Vice President by acclamation.

**Bomi Patel, newly re-elected Vice President,** thanked ZANT for supporting his candidature for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and for hosting both the AGM and the dinner on the previous day. He particularly enjoyed the curry rice! Kali and his team had done a superlative job in organizing the AGM and a special mention, Arbez who led this effort and brought it all together. Bomi also thanked the other associations, ZANC, ZAA, ZAC (Chicago), ZAC and ZSO for their support of his candidature for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Vice President. He thanked Firdosh Mehta in particular for proposing his name to all Associations. He thanked Rita for her support in the last two years and welcomed Firuzi into her new position.

Rita Engineer, secretary, completed the maximum period of 4 years or two terms and Firuzi Poonevalla was nominated by ZSO and accepted to the position of secretary. As there were no other nominations, Firuzi was declared winner by acclamation.

Firuzi Poonevalla, newly elected Secretary, thanked Sam Vesuna, ZSO for his support and nomination. She gave a brief overview of herself – been in Toronto for the past one and half years and before that in Kuwait for 12 years and in those 12 years she wore many hats: in the HR field, for the Canadian Cancer Society as a Community Development Coordinator. In Kuwait the Z population grew to nearly 40-50 families and it was a close-knit and happy community. She was now looking forward to this new exposure.

**Approval of the 2007 AGM Minutes:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> FEZANA AGM minutes were approved with the following changes:

Page: 24: “Publications Committee....” should read – “Public Relations Committee....”

Page: 31: After..” and get the word out to the community.” Add: Motion was carried forward.

Motion to approve the Minutes

ZAC –Chicago Proposed

ZANC – Seconded the motion

All in Favor

No Abstention

None Against

Motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously.

## ASSOCIATION REPORTS :

**ZSO and ZAGBA** who were unable to attend on Friday, April 5, 2007 were each given 10 minutes to summarize their activities during 2006.

**Sam Vesuna (ZSO)** thanked ZANT and FEZANA for hosting the meeting and for the opportunity to present himself. He spoke in detail about ZSO's need for a place of worship and to hold community meetings. When scheduling the annual calendar, ZSO's priority is religion followed by other community interests. Sam noted that the seniors in the community are very active and have a fun time. Various topics are discussed through the year with guest speakers being brought in. These have included Tai Chi, legal matters, health issues, etc. The is transporting seniors because of shortage of voluntary drivers. Religious classes are chaired by a very competent and learned person, and are conducted in a manner that encourages great interest and participation from both youth and adults in the community. Classes are conducted in both Farsi and English. Social and sports activities have taken off well. Musical evenings with dinner and dancing were organized and very well attended. Lectures on various subjects were organized both within and outside the community. Classes - Friends of Zarthustra.

The ZSO Constitution provided for Kanoun, the Zoroastrian Iranian community members, who have revived many traditions and whose members are part of the executive committee of ZSO. Vancouver and Toronto are the leaders in having both Iranian and Parsi Zoroastrians under one umbrella and not split into two factions.

Maintenance of the premises was of great concern. Funds were organized through donations, investment income, and fees from members. The very low rental of one dollar per annum provided relief and alleviated the cost of maintenance of the premises. From experience, Sam advised that it was very important to diversify investment portfolios and think carefully about future requirements and returns. Sam then took the opportunity to invite everyone to the Congress in Toronto, Canada in end of June 2007.

**Jamshed Dubash, President, ZAGBA** noted that they have four core community-building blocks. The year before had been tumultuous and the association had lost momentum. So this year, they went back to basics and concentrated mainly on the issues such as: community building, community centre, education and service to the community.

The need for a Community building was established and the need to host the many functions during the year. Community Centre project is being spearheaded by both the Kheradis and Bhathenas and even though date of completion is not set yet, the association is moving forward with the project.

Education – three classes for youth in different age groups. Assistance provided for both adult and child education. There has been extensive youth activity with college students organizing get-togethers and programs of their own.

As a part of Community Service the association organized various drives during the year which included: canned food collections, the Jimmy Fund Walk, and clothes donations. Volunteers, aged between 20 to 71 years, offered their services at food banks.

Jamshed pointed out that ZAGBA boasted a great website and the association newsletters are hosted on their website for all to see. He further suggested that newsletters of all associations be

distributed to presidents of all other Zoroastrian associations within North America. Rustom Kevala agreed and suggested that the circulation be conducted through the FEZANA medium.

ZAGBA has taken the initiative and developed its own webpage. There is tremendous pride in the newsletter that is printed in color. A community calendar has been printed to raise funds. The concept of the calendar is unusual. A message can be printed or a photograph added to any date on the calendar, for the low price of \$25. Although the calendar is printed in the Gregorian style, the Fasli and Shenshahi names of the days and months are also printed in English. Some copies were circulated to members later and were well received.

### **Reports from FEZANA Officers:**

Rustom noted that as a member of Toastmasters he had learnt that it was very important to keep within time allocations. He had lived in Boston for two years and found it to be a very vibrant community. He commended the community's activities in Boston.

Rustom thanked everyone for traveling to Dallas and participating in the AGM. He then proceeded with his formal address.

### **STATE OF FEZANA – REPORT BY PRESIDENT RUSTOM KEVALA**

This meeting had the distinction of having all four past presidents of FEZANA in attendance: Rohinton Rivetna, Dolly Dastoor, Framroze Patel and Firdosh Mehta. “We have the wisdom and experience of these stalwarts to guide us; and we have the vigor, enthusiasm and fresh viewpoints of many new faces among us. It is my great fortune to be president of FEZANA during this exciting time.”

Rustom reminded everyone of the vision of FEZANA, which was founded exactly 20 years ago :

To develop a Zarathushti community :

- that is well-connected, well educated
- well grounded in religious thought, values and ethics
- respectful of diversity, strong in collective giving
- economically prosperous
- well recognized throughout North America for its contributions in all aspects of life.

Salient points of his message included:

- We cannot expect others to build our halls, agiarys and religious schools; we need to do this ourselves and must be self-reliant.
- A strategic plan was developed looking 5 to 10 years into the future and four areas of “shared spaces” were explored.
  1. Leading a Zarathushti Life
  2. Thousand Points of Light – which would mean each person must contribute
  3. Internal Infrastructures – our internal or spiritual evolution, and
  4. External Infrastructures
- Some of the milestones that have been achieved are :
  - Some fairly large–scale entrepreneurs
  - Dynamic scholarship program, charities
  - NGO consultative status in the UN.

- Publication of “Legacy of Zarathushtra.”
- Some milestones that still need our attention are :
  - Increase in subscription of the Journal by 5% each year
  - Infrastructure – FEZANA office, spiritual centers, consecrated temples, higher learning centers.
  - Cadre of professional religious scholars
  - Professional clergy.
- We are currently “making do” and need to set our vision and expectations differently. We need to change focus from what was, to what the current reality is, and confront the fact that our maps need to change in order to negotiate the shifting terrain.
- There have been paradigm shifts in Zoroastrian history from the era of Zarathustra’s presence on earth and it is now time for another such change to face the new realities. In keeping with the goals that were set for the community last year it was decided to:
  - Coordinate public celebrations of NauRooz
  - Increase formal public relations with the N. American media, and
  - Prepare to open a FEZANA office in a major metropolitan area.
- While we have raised our profile as a community, unity still eludes us. Cultural differences, distrust and most importantly, a deep divide in our understanding of what “religion” means is splitting us apart. Defining religion *together* is the key to unity.

Rustom quoted a recent legal case where the judge ruled that a particular church did not conduct any missionary work and hence did not profess any deep spiritual values. He believes that we need to be united, speaking with one voice;

**“WE HAVE A MESSAGE, WE WANT TO BE HEARD,  
AND WE ARE ON A MISSION TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.**

On closing, he invoked the blessings of Ahura Mazda for all.

A copy of the President’s message is provided as **ATTACHMENT 1.**

### **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, BOMI PATEL**

Bomi was happy to report that the AGM agenda was still running on time! As for his report as VP, he said that this year it was very easy report as the President was fit and healthy and that everything was run smoothly.

Bomi then requested everyone to register for the oncoming activities.

- 14<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in Toronto
- World Youth Congress in Australia – very few had applied for FEZANA subsidy. There was still time as an extension had been given and those interested should approach FEZANA at the earliest.
- World Zoroastrian Congress in Dubai in 2009.

Bomi has been kept busy because of involvement in the organization of the activities above, and with routine daily responsibilities. He thanked everyone for sending their reports on time.

Bomi informed the group that an e-mail group named [FEZANA@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:FEZANA@Yahoogroups.com) was started by Rustom Kevala to facilitate correspondence between invited members. It was important, however that replies between individuals, remain as such and are not marked to “all”. As was stated earlier, when replying, it must be ensured that only the actual addressee’s details are given.

There was a proposal to incorporate events of all associations into one calendar and it was suggested that Jamshed Dubash and Dolly Dastoor assist in this.

Bomi thanked Rustom, Rita, Katayun and Anahita for their cooperation and coordination during the year.

### **DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AMONGST MEMBERS ON THE ISSUE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF COMMUNICATION TO THE GROUP VIA EMAIL (EMAIL ETIQUETTE) AND BLOGS:**

#### **EMAIL COMMUNICATION :**

Kali Buhariwalla, the ZANT President felt that there should be some sort of restriction of what is being emailed out to everyone. If it’s disseminating information then there should be transparency in communication.

Bomi concurred that there should be some restrictions to the emails and that personal responses should be addressed to the sender only and not to the entire group. There should be a code of conduct.

Farrokh Mistree felt that it is important that protocol be established and maintained. FEZANA’s primary contact for every association is the president or the secretary and it is that primary contact that should be sending the information forward.

Jamshed Dubash informed the group that ZAGBA had identified one person to filter mail to all the respective members.

Homi Gandhi, ZAGNY, expressed his concern that he received so many emails in his in-box and that he spent too much time in sending them all out. He suggested that information should be posted on a website.

Sam Vesuna, ZSO added that he passed on the information to the Executive committee and they then chose what needed to be forwarded or put in the newsletter or posted on the website. Trying to post everything and sending every piece of information out was too expensive. Instead to put one email highlighting the important information and sending just one piece of mail/email.

Rustom said that there were only 70 names in the Yahoo group and that each of those should respect and use their judgment while responding or forwarding.

- **BLOGS :**

During his address, Bomi noted that a blog had been set up, but the community had shown no apparent interest and responses had been few. The main problem appeared to be that information from FEZANA was not being disseminated to the community.

Farrokh Mistree expressed a concern on the effectiveness of blogs and Behram Pastakia noted that blogs were meant to start from the group up, and not from the top down, as FEZANA was trying to do at this time.

#### **REPORT BY SECRETARY, RITA ENGINEER**

Rita thanked Arnavaz Sethna, past secretary, for her assistance and guidance through the past four years. She learnt a lot from this experience and will miss being part of the executive; however, she hopes to return as a committee member! She commended the FEZANA Committees on their work and progress. The previous day's discussions had established the requirement for youth involvement and Rita was confident that this would happen! As a start, she would ensure her own son was involved. She thanked both the committee and Firdosh Mehta for the support and guidance they had provided during her tenure. She wished the federation and its members the best in the years to come.

#### **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ANAHITA DARYUSHNEJAD**

A report was not forthcoming, as Anahita was unable to attend

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER, KATAYUN KAPADIA**

Katayun said that she was surprised that she had been elected unopposed, but now after handling the treasurer's workload for the past year, she knew why!!

She thanked Framroze Patel, Firdosh Mehta, Arnavaz Mehta, Jerry Kheradi, Rustom Kevala, Rashid Mehin and her husband for their support and understanding. She then went through the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2006 and discussions included various movements of funds, deposits, expenses, donations, contributions, etc.

Current assets were divided into (a) cash and cash equivalent and (b) investments. She also explained the liabilities and how she had arrived at the net assets. She highlighted details of the various funds that had been established i.e. FEZANA General, Welfare and Critical Assistance, Religious Education and Academic Scholarships. She also explained the Income and Expense Statement for the period, in great detail.

Katayun thanked Dinshaw Tamboli who gave out FEZANA's donations to various causes in India on behalf of the Welfare committee.

Katayun explained that she had only taken over the accounts from the last treasurer in June 2006 and had then transferred the main bank account from California to New Jersey.

In response to a query from OZCF, Katayun confirmed that the accounts had not been audited. Framroze Patel advised that basically, there was no requirement by the IRS nor was there any provision in the constitution of FEZANA for audit of accounts. Auditors' fees are quite exorbitant in comparison to the net assets of the federation. He questioned the reasoning for

spending between \$6,000 and \$10,000 for a balance sheet of approximately \$800,000. Most of the assets are held in a bank account and bank statements are available for scrutiny if required.

ZAGNY's representative, Homi Gandhi, expressed satisfaction with the accounts. He suggested, however, that comparative figures of the previous year should be provided. Katayun was in agreement, as this would be her normal mode of submission. However, time being of the essence this year, she had not been able to submit the comparison but would do so on a go-forward basis.

Further discussions included:

Homi Gandhi enquired whether there was a profit from the sale of stock (page 6) and where was it shown in the accounts. Katayun explained that this had been included in the income of fund balance.

Sam Vesuna enquired whether the intention was to go on an accruals basis or cash. Katayun had not yet considered this aspect. Sam further noted that it would be useful to provide opening balance, income, expenditure and closing balances to explain actual movement of the funds. Katayun agreed to provide this ongoing and also indicated that at a later date, she may be able to account actuals and accruals separately. At Sam's suggestion, Katayun agreed to invest in an account program, such as QuickBooks so that next treasurer can take over easily. Katayun informed that the past treasurer Rashid Mehin had used the accounting program Quickbooks, but the program crashed on him and hence she had no way of showing the past account movement.

Sarosh Collector, Houston noted that there had been previous discussions on requirements for an audit. However, at a meeting in Boston, the federation agreed an internal review conducted by Framroze would be adequate, and that this has been the procedure over the last five years.

Katayun confirmed that this review has been conducted by Framroze also during the current year, and his confirmation will be forthcoming today. Sarosh thereafter requested a motion to recognize that the accounts had been reviewed and approved.

Niloufer Bhesania question if a motion was needed again if it had already been passed at an earlier AGM.

Behram Pastakia felt that a reiteration of the motion would be good for those that were not present at the Boston AGM.

Arnavaz Sethna was of the opinion that why should there be a motion everytime if the motion was passed once and followed through.

Sam Vesuna put the motion on the floor to have the FEZANA Accounts reviewed annually by a CPA (an auditor).

ZAGNY seconded this motion

All in favor

Against None

Abstention: ZSBC, ZANT, ZAGBA, ZAQ, ZAF, ZAC

After further discussion, it was decided that this motion had already been moved in Boston and there was no need for a repetition.

A copy of the Treasurer's report, as presented by Katayun, is provided as **ATTACHMENT 2**.

**MOTION : ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.**

**PROPOSED BY : ZAC**

**SECONDED BY : ZAH**

**ACCEPTED : UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT AGM VENUE**

Bomi advised that at the last AGM in PA, three associations had requested the opportunity to host the AGM – Atlanta, Dallas, California. Since the AGM meetings have already been held in Atlanta and Dallas and now the offer from the California Zoroastrian Centre needs to be accepted.

This was agreed by all and members showed a preference for having the next AGM in April as travel was more expensive in May. Bomi will announce the dates later and send a formal message to California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) accepting their proposal to host the next AGM.

#### **REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP**

ZAH and ZAC requested permission to present their points of view, before the report from the IWG was presented.

**Sarosh Collector**, ZAH's representative, informed the group why ZAH was absolutely perfect for this. He noted that FEZANA had grown and needed a permanent place to register its activities. He suggested that Houston would be the right place as it could offer the advantages of low rental, cost effective transfer, and large number of Houstonites who have and are still interested in serving FEZANA. It is a representative community that represents youth with abundant successes. Houston represents the future of FEZANA and what it wants to be. Also, Houston has contributed \$70,000 over the period of various congresses.

ZAGNY's representative, **Homi Gandhi**, noted that its Darb-e-Mehr has its own property with a two bedroom house. This can be used both for administrative purposes and to accommodate a FEZANA employee. The house has been rented out till October/November 2007 so a quick decision is required. The house was offered to FEZANA at a rental \$2000 / month but the figure is open to negotiation.

Bomi expressed surprise that when the proposal for an association to host separate official premises for FEZANA was first mooted, no interest was forthcoming. Now, there is apparent interest from many. It is essential that associations respond promptly to information that is sent out. Whether the response is affirmative or negative does not matter; what is important is an acknowledgement and a decision.

**Shahrokh Mehta, IWG Chair**, stated that IWG was formed in November 2006 at the recommendation of the FEZANA president and with the subsequent approval of the Board. Its members were Bella Tata, Neville Rustomjee and himself. The group's mandate was to study, develop plans and make recommendations on the infrastructure needs of FEZANA in terms of (1) office space (2) staffing and (3) finances. Shahrokh emphasized that he would not have

taken on this responsibility if he had not believed that FEZANA needs dedicated space and a professional person to archive documents and support its leadership.

The IWG had come to the conclusion that FEZANA required 600/700 sq. ft. of space for its current and immediate future requirements. This space needs to be housed where there is a sizable Zarathushti population and could be in New York, Houston, Chicago or Los Angeles but not in Canada, as FEZANA is registered in the USA.

The position of the office administrator would manage the clerical function of FEZANA to cover what transpired over the past 20 years. What worked in the past cannot continue on. Present and past leadership did all this for love but its time now to move on. This is a tremendous job. Records need to be placed all together in one place. Currently, they are in various boxes spread over different locations. There exists also a need for our book repository and now is the time to move on. This will also provide employment and hence IWG believes that it is essential to make the position of office administrator, a paid one in order to attract professional talent. This would mean a cost of \$40,000 to \$60,000 / annum.

Shahrokh felt that FEZANA needed to get their house in order and stand on a firm foundation first. Cost savings could be made if a Zarathushti individual or association were to donate the required office space. Used office furniture and fixtures could also be donated to FEZANA with the advantage of a tax write-off to the donor. IWG believes that this is the right time to find a home for FEZANA in its 20 years of history!

ZANT's representative, Kali Buhariwalla questioned why only places with larger numbers of Zarathushtis were to be considered.

A detailed 17-page report was handed out at the AGM and is provided as **ATTACHMENT 3**.

Sam Vesuna suggested that if Canada is not to be considered in choice of location, then at least the office administrator should be from Canada. FEZANA could arrange for the visa and relocation of the person. Shahrokh agreed that was a good suggestion.

ZAC's representative, Hosi Mehta noted that a rental accommodation was available next to Chicago's Darb-e-Mehr. The house was situated in a great location and would be ideal for an office due to its close proximity to the Darb-e-Mehr and central to the Chicago Zarathushti community. It was also in close proximity to the airport and expressway. The house has 4 bedrooms with 2 full baths and a family room and situated on a serene wooded lot. Rental approximately \$1,800 / month and with utilities would be approximately \$30,000 / annum (i.e. \$2,500 / month). The house would also suffice as accommodation for the office administrator and would prove advantageous during recruitment. Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna have a lot of experience and will help in this. The house was large and could be adapted for future requirements e.g. Dharamshala (one room ) + office + residence of the administrator. Besides, much of the FEZANA documentation is already in Chicago. Long term recommendations for use of the house included a FEZANA museum. The adjacent vacant lot of  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre could be purchased and used to build upon as FEZANA grows. Ultimately, Chicago being the birthplace of FEZANA, this would result in a win-win situation.

Cyrus Aidun, AZA representative noted that the IWG report was very effective. Presentations from the different associations were also well done. BUT no one had established business plans for the given location. He questioned how payments would be made and the rationale for rental versus purchase of property.

Shahrokh explained that IWG's mandate at this time did not include the submission of a business plan. Rustom agreed to discuss this later.

Firdosh Mehta, ZANT contradicted the impression that the information was in boxes all over the place. He noted that he had spent hours putting all information in order and that Rohinton Rivetna had volunteered to retrieve and archive all information. Arnavaz Sethna, had made a binder with all motions. He accepted that the IWG report was good as per the mandate given. However, while the positives have been emphasized, the negatives of the proposal have not been mentioned. There are two issues to be considered : (a) Does FEZANA actually need a place and if so, where? (b) Does FEZANA need a paid person and would a volunteer not be adequate? He would agree with the requirement of an office, but he expressed some reservations about hiring a full time administrator and the associated responsibility of relevant legal and human resource issues.

Rustom agreed that these were valid concerns and would include consideration of benefit packages, third party liability insurance etc. He was also not in favor of accommodating the administrator on the premises. FEZANA must pay for services in cash and not in kind (accommodation).

ZAH (Roshan Sethna) noted that there were two separate issues here and a 2-prong project should be considered:

1. Gather all information, archive and maintain full records and journals with minimum cost by using the ZAC library in Chicago Darb-e-Mehr and use the experience base of people and then use the library to archive.
2. Administration and its corresponding costs also in a two prong project:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> phase – Sort and Archive
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Cost administration, strongly support Hosi (ZAC), start centralizing using as a base the experience ZAC folks and an existing Library to use and then add to the space.

Discussions included :

Office Space : Niloufer raised the question whether IWG recommended that the office space be a part of the existing Community Center or office, or that separate premises be identified. IWG recommendation was either / or.

Sam Vesuna pointed out the staffing difficulties in getting people to volunteer for positions with administrative responsibilities, such as for treasurer and secretary, and noted that there was a definite requirement for a paid position. This exercise has to be treated as a project with proper implementation guidelines under the chairmanship of a past president, particularly in view of the confidentiality and sensitivity of the material involved. If necessary, incumbents should be trained in archiving processes. This is an important issue and cannot be swept under the carpet.

Shahrokh agreed with Sam, that every non-profit organization has a paid administrator, as the work can become overwhelming and would require dedicated attention to maintain continuity.

There are both pros and cons of accommodating the administrator in the office premises. Whilst this would definitely save costs of renting another apartment or paying an allowance,

what would be the repercussions if the administrator was not satisfied with FEZANA or vice versa?

Sam suggested that a team be appointed to select the administrator, and the criteria for selection be left to them.

Sam noted that with respect to the financing of this project, the cost element needs to be established. We cannot use Membership fees to use for this project as those would not be enough. Alternately increasing the Membership fees would not be a solution either, as it was difficult enough to get members to pay their current dues. ZSO's financial requirements were met with membership fees, then expanded to donations and now the money has been invested in funds.

Firdosh Mehta said that the project looked good with good points, but who is going to manage the administrator?

Roshan Sethna suggested that IWG come up with a strong business plan and send it out to all associations and then associations can vote.

It was agreed that the IWG committee had accomplished the requirements of their mandate. However, much more work was required and it was suggested that FEZANA and the executive committee present a concrete business plan, after looking at options and pros and cons. Arguments needed to be presented to the community, who need to be involved in each phase of the development. Criteria need to be developed for the selection of the administrator and of the property.

Hosi pointed out that business plans, comparative studies, strategic planning, timelines and deadlines, were all acceptable suggestions, what was needed first was the consideration and acceptance of the proposal which has been put forth by IWG.

Shahrokh expressed that IWG had anticipated these questions, but decision at the next AGM is too far. We should make a decision now; The business plan is not currently drawn up, but now is the time is for making a simple decision as the project has some very good points and we should not procrastinate any longer.

Niloufer suggested that a decision be postponed until a business plan could be presented and discussed. We need to know where the money is going to come from. Lets hold off till the business plans are formulated.

Sam: select a criteria for the person who will select the administrator.

In the interest of moving forward, Jamshed Dubash requested that a decision be made today as to :

- whether we need this facility
- whether we need an administrator
- a timeline for the business plan

Rustom agreed that a time line was required for the business plan. Emphasis would be placed on archiving. Premises and office administrator would be treated as separate issues. The business plan will clarify those matters.

Lovji Cama felt that having a Business Plan was the most important piece before any decision was made.

Roshan Rivetna, offered a short term proposal and a long term plan for FEZANA Library by initially using ZAC and later associations to put forth their proposals.

It was agreed that the selection criteria submitted by IWG to FEZANA would be sent to all presidents for their response within 2 months.

Jerry Kheradi noted that to meet recurring costs and to support the office, FEZANA was planning to set up a "**FEZANA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Endowment Fund**" to be launched on its birthday, June 2, 2007. Yasmin and Bill Cumming from Santa Rosa, California, have made a donation of \$50,000 with the proviso that FEZANA match this amount other donors within one year. All donors will be acknowledged. Hewill send out 1000 appeal letters by end-May for birthday donations to FEZANA. However, before asking others, the members present at the AGM need to make their own personal pledges towards the endowment fund for the FEZANA administrator's salary. At the meeting, members pledged a personal contribution of \$10,000 towards the fund. A goal of \$250,000 was envisioned.

Arnavaz Sethna questioned if this meant that FEZANA had decided to go with the office space and administrator?

Rustom Kevala suggested that timeline is necessary as the need is urgent and archiving needs to start. Salary for the administrator is a different issue and the business plans will clarify that.

Rustom further conveyed that FEZANA is growing in leaps and bounds and that more and more inquiries are coming to FEZANA and asking for books, etc. He felt that materials could be stored in a FEZANA office and sent out when requested. He agreed tht \$250,000 would not be sufficient for this project as the principal amounts of endowment funds are not to be used up, but only the interest should be used.

Firdosh noted that this was a substantial issue and all members needed to be involved. OZCF stated that as a quorum with over 2/3 majority had been established, sufficient Member involvement was already there.

**Motion : Accept FEZANA's requirement for a permanent office.**

Proposed by: ZAGBA

Seconded by: AZA

Accepted: Unanimously

**Motion: Accept FEZANA's requirement for an administrator**

Proposed by: ZAGBA

Seconded by: ZAGNY

Against: 2 – OZCF and ZAMWI

Abstain: - 3 – ZAQ AND AZA

Motion Carried

Farrokh Mistree, AZA communicated that he felt that this was too broad a proposal and hence abstained.

Jamshed responded that it was in the interest of moving forward.

**Motion : IWG should submit selection criteria for the location by May 30, 2007.**

Proposed by: ZAGBA

Seconded by: AZA

Outcome: Accepted unanimously

**Motion: IWG to expand their report to include funding strategy.**

Proposed: OZCF

Seconded: ZSO

Against: ZAC

Abstained: none

All in favor

Motion Passed.

Sam Vesuna communicated that Community raising funds is a separate issue. What Niloufer was proposing was good.

Farrokh: Even if we do have the funds, income from the funds will not cover the expenses, so why then have a business plan.

Sam: What about a selection basis on criteria.

At this juncture Hosi Mehta brought point of order that Sharokh had done what he was asked to do and he now needs time to look into the criteria as they are broad based and we will then discuss again once the business plans are submitted.

The proposal was tabled.

**Lunch Break.**

### **PARSI RESOURCE GROUP (PRG)**

Jimmy Mistry from PRG made a video presentation and spoke about the various ways his organization assists those in the Parsi community in Mumbai and Gujarat who are in dire need of help. His main points of focus are agiaries, youth and mobeds.

Approximately 2.5 years ago, Jimmy undertook extensive renovation of the Dadar Agiary, bringing it back to its old glory. He was greatly encouraged when the Agiary received the Urban Heritage Architecture award. He then moved on to close interaction with mobeds. Jimmy pointed out that while we expect quality and knowledge from our mobeds, we are not willing to help them eke an existence for themselves. We need to provide them with financial support. With the involvement of friends, he started an association of mobeds, which has grown from an initial 300 to 700 members in 3 months. Jimmy started a Mobeds' Pension Scheme where 194 Mobeds above 65 years of age get Rs.2000 \ month. He also assists youth in finding good jobs and organizes road shows to assist people in need. He also conducted motivation and soft skills training programs. He has involved corporate trainers to train our youth and mobeds. Counsellors have also been assigned.

All administrative costs are funded by his own company or paid out of his own pocket and donations are used strictly for the purpose of providing assistance.

Other issues that he is currently involved with are:

- Properties left in trust are being sold – examples: the Cama Arthonan Andheri Madresa, which was turned into an ICSC school. Jimmy is working towards a solution to run this at our own cost and not exploit the property commercially. When Petit Towers property was sold, not one apartment was reserved for a Zoroastrian. Jimmy stressed that we need to conserve our resources as we do not have the capacity to accumulate as much as our ancestors have left behind.
- He is contesting the sale of Temulji Lying-in hospital to a non-Zarathushti organization.

Rohinton Rivetna had personal experience with Jimmy and noted that he was an inspiration to people. His dedication and zeal are beyond compare. He attracts loyalty and respect wherever he goes.

#### **DINSHAW JOSHI MEMORIAL AWARD :**

Rustom Kevala suggested establishing an award named “The Dinshaw Joshi Memorial Award for Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting and Literature” to recognize a Zarathushti who has excelled in these fields. Naming of any award should be based on the opinion of the community as a whole. Dinshaw Joshi served the community for several years, performing his duties with great dignity and respect and bringing recognition to the community. Sam Vesuna noted that he knew Mr. Joshi personally and could testify to good work that he has left behind.

#### **Motion : to name the award after Dinshaw Joshi, as proposed.**

Proposed by: ZSO

Seconded by: ZAC and ZAQ

Outcome : Carried unanimously

At this juncture Dolly Dastoor clarified that this is not a monetary award. It is to be given as a recognition of the achievement of an individual in performing arts, painting and literature. The trophy that accompanies the award may be named after the donor of the trophy.

Questions were raised on the difference between an award and a trophy. Rustom clarified that a trophy was donated and rotated every year and that any family that donated \$ 5000/- could have a Trophy in their name. Trophies also rotated to the new awardee each year, while an award stays with the recipient.

#### **DONOR RECOGNITION / INVITATION TO 2007 CONGRESS :**

Rustom noted that FEZANA has large donors and that they need to be recognized. A donation of over \$25,000 is considered an endowment fund.

- Jerry & Celeste Kheradi - Mehraban and Movardi Kheradi Scholarship Fund.
- Yasmin & Bill Cummings – Hormazdiar Damkevala Welfare Fund
- Hoshedar Tamboli family -- Welfare fund in memory of their father
- Firdaus & Jasmine Bhathena family have given \$ 100,000 for welfare
- Behram & Silloo Kapadia – Banoobai & Maneckshaw Kapadia Scholarship Fund

We need to recognize current donors and attract others. It was proposed that these donors be invited to the Toronto Congress in June/July and they be recognized at the award luncheon.

FEZANA will pay registration expenses. Congress hosts will accept early bird registration. Travel and hotel will be at their own cost.

Sam asked whether award winners would be sponsored by FEZANA. Rustom suggested that discussion be taken off line.

**Motion : that major donors be recognized and FEZANA pays for their registration fees.**

Proposed by: ZSO

Seconded by: ZAC (CA)

Accepted: Unanimously

**FEZANA WEBSITE**

Jim Engineer suggested that the FEZANA website was in need of change and redesign. The website needed a polished image and encourage recognition. Sam Vesuna asked for an estimate of costs and noted that any expenditure should be pre-approved by the Board. Jimmy approximated costs at \$2,500.

A motion was placed on the floor to approve a cost of up to \$2,500 for change and redesign of the website.

Proposed by : ZSO

Seconded by : ZANT

Behram Pastakia expressed that FEZANA does not have to spend \$2500. In India this could be outsourced for much cheaper and then maybe all associations could also do the same.

Bomi conveyed that WZCC had their website designed in India as it was much cheaper.

Rustom said that it was one thing designing the website but what about the maintenance and the changes to the website.

It was agreed that FEZANA should provide the content for the changes. Since these are not currently available, the immediate decision was made only to update and maintain the website.

A motion was placed on the floor that FEZANA would spend up to \$2500 to update and maintain the website. All were in favor and motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP- SHERAZADE MEHTA, CHAIR**

The committee reported that 2 applications had been received and a couple more were awaited before decisions will be made on the scholarship. Recommendations would be made by mid-April and recipients notified by end-May, 2007.

**Motion: A budget of \$5000 be sanctioned for 2008 scholarships.**

Proposed by: Sherazade Mehta - ZANT

Seconded by: ZAH

Carried unanimously

### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS – DOLLY DASTOOR, CHAIR

The FEZANA Academic Scholarships program presented its report. Scholarships are awarded for a combination of academic excellence, need, extracurricular activities and community service. Fourteen applications were received during the year – 8 undergraduates and 6 graduates. One application was rejected, as it did not meet standards.

This year, the Academic Scholarships committee recommended that the FEZANA scholarships be increased from \$1000 to \$2000 per person, i.e. \$12,000 for six scholarships. The committee also requested a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary FEZANA scholarship of \$3,000, for a total of \$15,000. Discussions included budgetary considerations. Overall it was agreed that education was the foundation of our youth and we needed to step up to the plate and provide a legacy for future generations to grow into. Consensus was reached that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be an appropriate time to create a \$25,000 education scholarship endowment.

Rustom felt that the sentiments were good and since it's the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we can transfer \$25,000 from the General fund to the FEZANA Scholarship Fund, which already exists, instead of creating yet another endowment fund. We already have two other endowments for scholarships.

Farrokh did not agree with Rustom and conveyed that it was needed to leave a legacy and for the next 20 years we as an Anjuman are going to set aside this money and set up a precedent.

Celeste Kheradi put across that we needed to support our youth and scholarship was an investment in people as education was the road to success. She felt strongly that we should do this during FEZANA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Hosi Mehta said that if we wanted to support and encourage our youth then we should support this cause.

Homi Gandhi too felt that leaving a legacy behind was good and that we needed to support and identify this fund.

**Motion: Create a one-time 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary endowment of \$25,000; and increase the annual scholarships budget to \$ 15,000.**

Proposed by: ZAMWI

Seconded by: AZA

Carried: Unanimously.

### AWARDS COMMITTEE – FRAMROZE PATEL, CO-CHAIR

In its report, the committee noted it had to send out two calls for nominations for the North American Zarathushti Community Awards 2007, and received 24 nominations for six categories. The nominations have been submitted to the respective judges for evaluation and selection.

#### Lifetime Achievement Award :

The "FEZANA lifetime achievement award" recognizes a Zarathushti citizen or permanent resident of the USA or Canada, who has made outstanding and well recognized contributions to society. The individual must have held a high level position and have achieved sustained international recognition beyond the Zarathushti community. This is not to be considered an

annual award and will be based on community recommendation and nomination of very special and outstanding people. The awards committee will research the nominations and make recommendations to the executive board.

Establishment of Rules and Guidelines for Revocation of an Award :

Allegations had been made that a past award recipient had a criminal record. A working group was appointed to investigate the allegations and ascertain whether they were true. In this instance, it was found that there was not enough evidence to rescind the award. Framroze Patel said that it was time to forget about the candidate as there was not enough information with regards to the accusation.

In the process of the investigation, it was recognized that the awards process lacks a comprehensive set of rules and guidelines under which an award may be revoked. It was agreed that rules need to be formulated and the committee was asked to provide their recommendations to the Board.

Farrokh Mistree expressed that the report was not acceptable and that the individual's name should be eliminated from the website.

Sam informed the group that under the Canadian judge had said that under Canadian rules that this should not have been a conviction. He was concerned that the person's name was mentioned in the report.

The Awards Committee recommended that the following motion be adopted and approved by the General Body at the FEZANA AGM.

*The working group recommends that FEZANA develop a set of rules stating the reasons for which an award may be revoked, e.g. for conviction of a criminal offence, verified disreputable character, etc., which could be included in the nomination form. The form should also state that FEZANA reserves the right to rescind any award for the reasons stated if the FEZANA board believes that such action is in the best interests of the organization."*

**Motion: Accept the recommendation regarding revocation.**

Proposed by: ZAC (Chi)

Seconded by: ZANC

Carried: Unanimously.

**CENSUS AND SURVEY :**

Rustom Kevala reported that work was bogged down as people appeared to dislike answering surveys. The directory on the website was maintained by Noshir Jasung, and was now being maintained by Mrs. Aban Bhot who had the appropriate software and materials.

Farrokh conveyed that currently the website still had his name for obtaining the Directory CDs, and requested that it be removed.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SMALL GROUPS)** – Kia Kaviani, chair (absent)

Firdosh Mehta reported that when FEZANA started, it was meant to be a Federation of Associations. However, to serve the needs of small groups where an association was not readily available, the only criteria for individual membership was that the person had to be a Zoroastrian, resident in the US or Canada. Since FEZANA was registered as a religious non-profit organization, membership should convey the same privileges in both countries.

For people who are not members of an association, this meant no voting rights and consequently they felt that their voice was not heard, and hence protests have been lodged.

FEZANA also does not say you have “pay \$ 25 and become a member”. But anyone can become a *corresponding member*. But that would still not give any voting rights.

Rustom said that the job of the chair of Small Groups committee is to coordinate the corresponding members’s activities and keep them informed of FEZANA events. This does not seem to be happening and instead the voting issue keeps being mentioned.

#### **IMPACT - 14<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS :**

Sam Vesuna provided a report on Impact – the 14<sup>th</sup> North American Congress.

- Sam noted that it was important to get more Zoroastrian musicians to register with the World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra. There were only eleven registered so far. He appealed to the associations that if any Zoroastrian musician had a monetary problem for committing to this, then the association should help by sponsoring the person. Sam thanked FEZANA for its \$10,000 contribution towards the orchestra.
- He appealed to all to please register and give support to Impact.
- At the congress youth – up to 35 years of age – can go to any session they wish.
- Referring to the mentor program discussed in Atlanta, Sam reminded members to provide names of both mentors and mentees going into the program.
- No food will be permitted at the vendors’ table.
- Sam appealed to the associations to advertise in the Impact brochure. ZSO has always supported other associations, and now needs support for itself. Only 5 or 6 associations have advertised so far.
- FEZANA will receive \$10 for each member registered.

#### **NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS – 2009 :**

Bomi Patel noted that the World Zoroastrian Congress will be held December 2009 in Dubai and the World Youth Congress was scheduled for 2008 and 2011 and hence it may not be possible to hold the Congress in North America between 2009 and up to 2012, as the dates would clash.

Discussions included possible satellite, webcasts and merging. Although youth might be delighted with satellite coverage, time differences might preclude participation. Firdosh and Farrokh will discuss matters and come back to the committee.

The host association for the world congress in Dubai expects to spend over \$1 million and has obtained special permissions from the Royal Family. Scheduling the North American Congress at the same time might dilute interest.

Bomi suggested summer of 2009 or Winter 2010 for the North American Congress.

**4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS SUBSIDY COMMITTEE**, Firdosh Mehta, chair

This committee was set up as a result of a resolution at the 2006 AGM in Atlanta to facilitate the attendance of 40 Zarathushti youth from the US and Canada. The subsidy would involve \$250 to be paid by FEZANA provided the recipient also received a matching or higher subsidy from the member association. Out of the 8 applications currently received, 5 have been rejected. Since there are only 3 applicants now, it was recommended that FEZANA sponsorships be increased to \$500 \ applicant, even if the host association only matches the \$250. This would bring each sponsorship to a total of \$750 which would cover the full registration fee at the early bird rate. It was also recommended that the number of subsidies be reduced to 10 to stay within the budgeted amount of \$10,000.

Firdosh noted that youth had not applied because the sponsorship amount was very limited. However, with the increase in the amount, he asked that the last date for receiving applications be revised by a few months, to permit youth the opportunity to apply.

No additional budget was requested and the committee will work within the \$10,000 budget approved at the last AGM.

**Motion : FEZANA to endorse what was presented by Firdosh and give him the authority to do what is right for our youth.**

Proposed by: AZA

Seconded by: ZAC (CA)

Abstained: ZAGBA

Rest in favor

Motion passed

**5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD ZARATHUSHTI YOUTH CONGRESS TO BE HOSTED BY ZSBC :**

At a meeting in Pune both Iran and Australia had expressed interest in hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress in 2009. Since Iran was uncertain, the venue was scheduled for Australia. After that, ZSBC announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress would be held in British Columbia. This was done arbitrarily and without consultation with FEZANA. E-mails have been exchanged between Bombay, Australia and New Zealand, but excluding FEZANA. Protocol was not followed.

Discussions were held on whether FEZANA should approve or only support the choice of venue. There are no terms of reference to rely on and individuals make arbitrary decisions.

It was agreed that the Houston world congress was a collaboration between ZAH and FEZANA; therefore FEZANA should agree to collaborate with ZSBC. Differences should be put aside and since ZSBC had approached FEZANA through Firdosh, we should proactively agree to co-sponsor the congress.

In order to avoid future misunderstanding, it was agreed that procedures would be put in place and communicated to everyone.

**Motion : FEZANA agrees to co-host the 5<sup>th</sup> World Zarathushti Youth Congress with ZSBC and expects to be kept fully informed. FEZANA offers its resources to support the 5<sup>th</sup> Youth Congress.**

Proposed By: ZAGNY

Seconded By: AZA

Abstained : ZAH and ZAMWI

**Motion adopted.**

#### **FUNDS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – JERRY KHERADI, CHAIR**

FEZANA funds now total approximately \$700,000. During the last year two endowment funds were established and Jerry gratefully acknowledged the donations made. Firdaus and Jasmine Bhathena donated appreciated securities totaling \$100,000 to establish the Bhathena Family Endowment Fund for Welfare. Hoshedar and Anahita Tamboli donated \$25,000 to create an endowment fund in the name of Pheroze Dorabji Tamboli Endowment for Welfare.

The new total for the Thousand Points of Light is \$530,000. However, there appeared to be a decline in personal donations and Jerry recommended that donors needed to be acknowledged in the Journal. The additional donations that this would attract would far outweigh the concerns surrounding publication costs.

Rustom acknowledged that Jerry had done a great job and thanked both Celeste and Jerry for their support and input.

#### **INTERFAITH COMMITTEE : Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia, co-chairs**

Homi Gandhi expressed that while accepting the Chair of this committee he has truly large shoes to fill and thanked Rohinton Rivetna for his contribution over the past years as Chair of this Committee. The committee has been renamed from External Affairs Committee to Interfaith Committee.

Homi outlined several interfaith activities: Sept. 12 – Interfaith services– invited to recite Zoroastrian prayer. He participated in 5 Public Nawrooz events with extensive TV and press coverage. Interfaith Events Blog – not much is being posted. Homi requested all to please read and contribute by putting events on the site. He thanked Rustom for creating this blog.

Budget – not specific at this time just a recommendation: Interfaith Budget of \$ 2000 for 2007

Long Term Plans: We have been building religion, but now we need to build a Z Cultural centre where all can come. This building center should also include a library with interactive communication and a consecrated fire temple. This will raise emotions as a distinct North American identity is already in existence. We may be the largest group of Zoroastrians and it is time to try and find new solutions to old problems! Challenge the North American mobs to pave the way.

Bomi informed the group that budget proposals must be received in advance. Niloufer Bhesania said that Budget proposal should be put forward all together at a later stage.

#### **UN-NGO COMMITTEE : Behram Pastakia and Homi Gandhi, co-chairs**

Co-chairs Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia presented their report on the recent and on-going activities and their recommendations for a way forward. Behram suggested that we should have a Day of Peace. The Persian Parade was a winner for the Z community and that it could be replicated everywhere. He encouraged associations to take advantage of this opportunity of showcasing our great Z culture. He however did have a caveat – use the word Persian instead of Iran as that would include all the regions and not just Iran as that turns them off.

UN-NGO activities: Please see Attachment 3 for complete report on UN-NGO activities.

A budget of \$ 2000 for 2007 was presented.

Discussions took place on the bronze statue of Cyrus and where it should be installed.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS : Jim Engineer, chair**

Jim Engineer presented a document that provided a snapshot of current and future public relations activity for FEZANA. He noted the need to organize publicity around events, increase our PR efforts and establish inroads with the media. Recently they took an article that had been written earlier, which may have been viewed negatively and worked with the Religion News Service editor and effectively turned it to a positive viewpoint. Photographs were also important part of media, as there were young people involved. This is another reason why there is a need to revise and modify the original brochure disseminated by Roshan Rivetna and incorporate a “current focus” with a background on the burgeoning Z population. He stressed the importance of partnering with specialists. In closing Jim requested the committee’s need for a Farsi translator should anyone know of one.

The Committee presented a budget of \$ 3000.

### **INFORMATION RECEIVING AND DISSEMINATING :**

Firdosh Mehta has resigned his position as chair. Firdosh expressed a need for FEZANA to invest in a good quality printer for magazine publication.

**Journal :** Dolly Dastoor thanked Roshan Rivetna for holding her hand during her first year as the Journal editor and also thanked Feroza Fitch and Dr.Khanizadeh for their talent and support during the year.

It was recommended that subscription rates be increased by 5%; in actual fact, subscriptions were falling rather than increasing. A lot of money, time and effort had gone into the publication of a very limited number – 1500 last year; 900 this year! Canadians subscribe to only 100+ journals.

Problems were also faced with the US postal service. Issues appear to be delivered faster in Canada than in the US. It was suggested that the best way was to send it as normal 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail. It would be cheaper if sent in bulk at 0.20 cents whereas other media would be more than \$2 per piece.

Subscription rates are going up from May 07. Methods of reducing the cost of publication were discussed. It was considered not to raise the subscription by any considerable amount, as even

with the current low rate, members were reluctant to subscribe. Members were requested to keep the committee informed about change of address as, quite frequently, undelivered journals were returned by the postal authorities. This entailed an unnecessary cost to FEZANA.

Sam agreed to try and get the Canadian Zoroastrians to subscribe to the journal. However, he believed it was unfair that the cost to Canadians should be so much more than the cost to US nationals. The committee agreed to look into this and seek the best way forward.

It was also suggested that emphasis would be placed on obtaining more advertisements so that the journal can pay for itself.

Jim Engineer suggested that the Journal could be published on the internet.

Lovji Cama felt that this would bring the youth to the Journal as they were always on the internet.

Framroze Patel said that he liked receiving his Journal as a hardcopy.

Kali Buhariwalla opined that some electronic version of the Journal was good for archival purposes

Arvavaz Sethna expressed that at ZAH no one read the electronic mail but preferred hard copies.

Niloufer felt that some, not a lot, readership could be lost if Journal went on the web.

Jerry Kheradi suggested the use of outsourcing and trying to get it printed cheaper in India.

Members agreed that whereas some preferred to read the journal to the Internet, others needed to have a hard copy in hand. After everyone expressed their views, it was determined to continue to publish the print issues of the journal. Rustom suggested that past issues can be put on the FEZANA website.

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL (NAMC): JEHAN BAGLI, CHAIR (ABSENT)**

The report was read by Firosh Mehta on behalf of Jehan Bagli.

An educational seminar “By the Mobeds for the Mobeds” was planned for May 2007. The seminar is entitled “Passage of Time and its influence on Zarathushtrian Tradition”.

The book, “Understanding and Practice of Obsequies” was published in 2006. Five hundred copies were printed.

In collaboration with Ervard Brigadier Behram Panthaki, a book was compiled and completed on “Congregational Prayers for Jashan Ceremony”.

At the invitation of Dr. Soli Shapurjee, Ervad Dr. Bagli made a trip was made to South Africa to provide assistance in spiritual and ritual matters to the Zarathushti communities in Durban and Johannesburg.

The Chair provided testimony as a Zoroastrian expert witness at a court hearing for the prosecution in the trial against the Church of Cognizance in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in August 2006.

Information on progress was still awaited from the FEZANA Awards committee on NAMC's Community Service award.

### **World Congress in Dubai -- December 28 to 31, 2009**

Firdosh Mehta said that permission had been received from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Makhtoum to keep the name "Zoroastrian" to identify the Congress.

A suggestion was made that \$ 5000/- be given by FEZANA as seed money. However, it was agreed that FEZANA could not expect Dubai to give anything back as the association in Dubai is not a part of North America. After discussions about various ways to give this money, it was found advisable that this be given as a donation.

Motion: Donate \$ 5000/- to the Dubai Zoroastrian association towards the World Congress in Dubai.

**Proposed by: Farrokh Mistree**

**Seconded by: ZAGNY**

**Passed: Unanimously**

Discussion continued with Dolly's suggestion that maybe a lecture series could be subsidized so that FEZANA's name could be mentioned.

Farrokh interjected that FEZANA is a major Organization of the World and looking to have a lot of Zarathushtis attending and hence it's a good time to step up and donate to the Congress – in good faith.

Sam Vesuna felt that FEZANA could give towards an advertisement to get recognition.

Firdosh Mehta informed the group that the Zarathushti Chamber Orchestra was going to Dubai and that maybe FEZANA could sponsor such ideas.

Based on this discussion, the motion was re-worded to say:

"FEZANA to donate \$5000 to promote FEZANA presence in the Congress"

**RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION : Jehan Bagli, chair (absent)**

**The report was circulated and taken as read.**

**ZOROASTRIAN SPORTS COMMITTEE (ZSC): NIAZ KASRAVI, CHAIR (ABSENT)**

**The report was circulated and taken as read. Behram Pastakia said that ZSC was doing a great job on its website and that a congratulatory message should be sent to them.**

**ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA (ZYNA): NIKAN KHATIBI, CHAIR (ABSENT)**

Nikan Kahtibi Chair of ZYNA sent in his report of the youth activities and it was evident that a lot was happening in the field of youth activities. Their website was fully up to date with all upcoming events. Their response to health care to remote areas of Tennessee was met with great success as the response was overwhelming of professionals who were willing to give their time and talent towards community service. The Zarathushti Youth Leadership Conference was another ZYNA event to look forward to.

**SPORTS EXCELLENCE FUND : Khushchehr Italia, chair (absent)**

The report was circulated and taken as read.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION : Lovji Cama, chair**

Scholarships are available for university level studies in Zoroastrian religion. But the announcements in Parsiana and the FEZANA Journal have not resulted in any response so far. They have money for the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Lovji touched on the Montessori Method of teaching, the SSZ Conference of 2006, Religious Education Materials and the Zarathushti Religion Education Curriculum-[Read Report](#)

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY SERIES:**

Stanford University planned to start a series of Lectures in Zoroastrianism and then later turn that into a course. This would start next fall and Stanford wants a 50% partnership - \$15000 per year lecture series to endow it for \$300,000. Er. Soli Dastur to look for the series on the website and then send out to committee;

An additional budget of \$ 5000 for the Series and undergraduate courses is requested. Over \$6700 are already available.

**UNITY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE: HOUTOXI CONTRACTOR, HOSI MEHTA AND FREYAZ SHROFF, CO-CHAIRS**

Hosi Mehta thanked the FEZANA Executive committee for their support and trust. Besides the usual assistance given to those in need, this year they started something new and that is assistance for refugees. In most cases the committee works with the local associations to obtain assistance. The committee's work has increased tremendously and with FEZANA's support and their fund raising efforts the committee has been able to spread their assistance to more Zs around the world. He thanked Roshan Rivetna and Dolly Dastoor for their support through the FEZANA Journal. – [Read report](#)

## **FEZANA PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

Sherazade Mehta thanked FEZANA for its constant support. Judging for the scholarships will begin mid April and results will be declared end of May. The monies currently budgeted remain for the rest of the fiscal year and an additional amount of \$5000 need to be sanctioned for the 2008 scholarship. Budget issue to be decided at the end of the day.

### **AGM DAY 3, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2007 :**

Rustom : pointed out that it was a good day :

- Farvandin Mah and Farvandin Roz
- Zoroastrian Unity Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in April)
- Easter Sunday

Fred Sarkari's DVDs were available and FEZANA will distribute to all interested.

A very special thanks went out to Kashmira Mistry for her very personal and caring gift to all – Ceramic Boats.

Farrokh requested all those who were interested in being mentors to give their names to Phee Vania.

Cyrus Aidun requested everyone to show interest in the Seminar being held on April 21/22 for college bound students. He would send an e-mail to all.

Individual copies of the Journal were being sold for \$ 5/- each.

### **YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS :**

Their report was circulated and taken as read. FEZANA's goal is to encourage youth to go abroad and serve in places where assistance is directly required e.g. Africa. An initial feeler showed that a large number of our youth are interested and have agreed to participate. Mitra Meher suggested that in summer kids should go to remote places in the world and work with those in need. Has worked with this for 5 years and knows the process of sending people abroad.

The terms of reference had already been circulated.

### **MOTION : TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.**

Proposed by: AZA

Seconded by: ZAC (Chi)

Passed: Unanimously

### **BUDGET :**

FEZANA treasurer Katayun Kapadia presented the cash flow for 2007 as had been requested at the AGM on April 7, 2007. A list was circulated to all. Katayun requested all to present their accounts on time next year. – **Attached budget.**

**Motion: Budget be approved**

Proposed: Farrokh Mistree

Seconded: Jerry Kheradi

Approved: unanimously

**INFRASTRUCTURE ENDOWMENT : \$ 25,000;**

**SCHOLARSHIP (20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY) ENDOWMENT : \$25,000**

After discussion it was agreed to set aside the above amounts, which were not to be spent without prior approval.

**MOTION : THESE ALLOCATED ITEMS MOVE FROM GENERAL FUND TO SPECIFIC FUNDS;**

Proposed by: Sam Vesuna, ZSO

Seconded by: Farrokh Mistree, AZA

**MOTION : \$25000 BE ALLOCATED TO OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDES BUILDING AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES)**

Proposed by: Sam Vesuna, ZSO

Seconded by: Farrokh Mistree, AZA

**After discussion, the motion was amended as under :**

**AMENDMENT : MOTION : MOVE \$25000 TO INFRASTRUCTURE TO WHICH WILL BE ADDED ANY DONATIONS FOR THIS AND SPENDING WILL NEED BOARD APPROVAL. CORPUS REMAINS UNTOUCHED. ONLY INCOME WILL BE USED.**

Put to the Vote:

Abstained: ZAMWI

Passed.

AGM concluded with a vote of thanks from the President, Rustom Kevala.

Minutes prepared by: Rita Engineer and Firuzi Poonevalla. Edited by Rustom Kevala and Katayun Kapadia.

