

HIGHLIGHTS

2003 FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Boston, MA

Election Results

Vice President - Mahrukh Motafram
Secretary - Rita Engineer, unopposed

Sincere thanks were given to our outgoing secretary, Arnavaz Sethna, for her dedication and hard work over the past four years.

Financial Report – 2002

Accounts were presented and passed. The Funds and Investment ad hoc committee is to draw up investment policies for FEZANA. Due to active participation from our Standing and Ad hoc Committees, quite a few requests for funds were discussed.

Reports

Member Associations gave brief reports on their various community activities. Standing Committee and Ad Hoc committee Chairs presented updates on their projects.

Retirement Community Project

Interesting project!
Yasmin Kevala and Celest Kheradi gave a presentation on Sun City Retirement location in Sun City, Florida.

AGM – 2004 in sunny Florida!

In order for members to see the Sun City Retirement community, the next AGM will be held in Tampa, FL. Members can go and check out the site, which is an hour away from Tampa one afternoon.

Restoration of Historical Manuscripts

Malcolm Deboo, Information officer & Librarian, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, came all the way from London to present an old manuscript that has been brought from Navsari for restoration. He had a slide presentation that showed clearly the deterioration of this particular manuscript and also other two that are in need of repair/restoration. Later, we were allowed to view the manuscript closely. Malcolm would handle it with tissues rather than bare hands as the oil from hands would be another deteriorating agent. Fascinating piece of work!!!

World Body

The FEZANA World Body Working Group presented their report. Based on the outcome of the Mumbai Meeting in January 2003 and communication from Rustom Dubash of the WZO the WG presented a model for One World Body. It consists of one umbrella entity with two independent arms. One arm would truly represent individuals and the other federations.

The WG informed the members present that they will submit their final report that would include draft constitutions and by laws for the three entities by June 30, 2003. The WG recommended

that once it had filed its report further action be undertaken by the elected leadership of the FEZANA, FPZAI, WZO, ZTFE, etc. The WG was thanked by the Fezana executive for their hard work and effort to bring about progress that has been achieved so far. The WG report was well received.

The presentation is on the FEZANA Web.

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

Afreed Mistry, Youth Congress Chair gave a progress report on the upcoming Youth Congress to be held in Toronto from July 24-27, 2003. The youth have done an outstanding job bringing this all together. The "Nexus 2003" Website for the Congress is well done and so far has received registrations from about 250 individuals.

Due to concerns of the SARS outbreak in Toronto, Canada, Sam Vesuna, President of ZSO made the following statement:

The North American Youth Congress to be held in Toronto in July, hosted by ZSO and sponsored by FEZANA, would like to address concerns that parents and attendees may have regarding SARS.

First, WHO has declared Toronto as SARS safe city. Second, the Youth Congress website, Nexus2003.com will be linked to the Govt. of Canada Health website which will give updated information to parents and attendees to make their own decision.

UN NGO STATUS / UNESCO CELEBRATIONS

FEZANA's participation in UN-NGO related activities were elaborated by Homi Gandhi. The anticipated participation of the Zarathushti community in USA & Canada to be coordinated by Dolly Dastoor towards UNESCO's declaration of 2003 Year denoted as the 3000th Anniversary of Zoroastrianism, at the request of TADJIKISTAN. Behram Pastakia and other Zarathushti Youth's support for UN activities was recognised.

Z-SPORTS

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee announced the next Zarathushti Games in Vancouver, Canada, hosted by ZSBC at the UBC campus during the 4th of July week 2004.

NA ZARATHUSHTI DIRECTORY

Funds were budgeted for the updating of ACCESS & ADOBE software to make PDF files with some security precautions.

YOUNG MOBEDS @ THE YOUTH CONFERENCE

FEZANA / ZYNA's sponsorships of Mobeds Mehernosh Bhada, Darayus Bajan and Ardeshir Hormozyari to attend the next Youth Congress was announced.

FUNDS APPROVED

Funds to partially support following world wide activities was approved by the Members Board.

1. North American Mobed Council's request for preparation of the book: UNDERSTANDING & PRACTICE OF OBSEQUIES"-- (Ritual performance of Funeral Rites)
2. Ms. Bachi Karkaria's multimedia project: THE PARSI CULTURAL IDENTITY.

3. Addition funds were passed to set up Academic Education Scholarships of \$10,000, besides the \$ 5000 from The Kheradi Endowment, for the 2003-2004 academic year. Dr. & Mrs. Kheradi's magnanimous donations were acknowledged with thanks.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDING OF PROJECTS FORWARDED TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS VIA PRINT and CD's and other BROCHURES was presented for:

1. CAPT. S. J. CONTRACTORS project to re-enact and construct the Exodus of early Zoroastrian settlers to India from Iran, in identical sea-going vessels.
2. THE UPCOMING 3rd WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS in Pune, India.
3. World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation of Dr. Homi Dhalla, regarding the Sanjan / Bahrot Caves Excavation and preservation project.
4. WZO Youth Wing's PROJECT UDVADA REPORT, and support for their community Centre, Dispensary and other activities.
5. Film production on ZARATHUSHTIS IN NORTH AMERICA by Tehnaz Dubash.

THANK YOU!!

To ZAGBA members who did an outstanding job of hosting the AGM. And, special thanks to Sherazade Mehta, president of ZAGBA, it went off like clockwork!! On Saturday night, they entertained the attendees with their local talent and delicious dinner. It was a pleasure to see our Z community thriving in Boston!

Before ending the meeting on Sunday afternoon, President Firdosh Mehta advised the members that Dinshaw Joshi, Chair of the Awards Committee and a very active participant in FEZANA, was in hospital due to severe breathing problems. He requested everyone to send positive thoughts to Dinshaw Joshi for his well-being and speedy recovery.

FEZANA Executive 2003-2004

President - Firdosh Mehta
Vice President - Mahrukh Motafram
Treasurer - Rashid Mehin
Secretary - Rita Engineer
Assistant Secretary - Farrokh Mistree

Immediate Past Secretary – Arnavaz Sethna