

REPORT ON FEZANA SESSION AT THE XIIIth NAZC 2004 CONGRESS

THEME: *Collectively Envisioning Our Future*

President Firdosh Mehta opened the Session with a power point presentation on the historical background of the origin, purpose and activities of **FEZANA**.

Treasurer Rashid Mehin, provided a Farsi rendition.

This Session was to showcase each of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, and the Chairs present gave highlights of their Committees achievements and future goals.

Firdosh read some reports on behalf of the Chairs who could not be present.

A list of upcoming activities was presented on behalf of **Co-ordination & Planning** Committee by Firdosh, up to the year 2008.

Welfare Committee co-chairs Hosi Mehta and Hutoxi Contrator outlined the new critical assistance program with a 1-800 number to help victims of domestic violence. They requested members to come forward to help fellow Zarathushtis in need by providing moral and physical support. The fund-raising program, which they organized in Chicago, September 2004, raised \$30,000.

Dilshad Antia, the representative of Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago, was presented with a donation of \$1,001.00 recognizing ZAC's support for the fundraiser.

Information Receiving and Dissemination committee chair Khorshed Jungalwala mentioned of the excellent work done by Roshan Rivetna and her team towards publishing the FEZANA JOURNAL and many other publications. Khorshed's long standing contributions on various FEZANA Committees was recognized with a special award; presented by Firdosh, on behalf of a most appreciative FEZANA community.

Jerry Kheradi, **Funds and Finance** committee chair, spoke about the Thousand Points of Light program and requested people to give generously to build up the funds and endowments for the various activities of FEZANA.

Noshir Jesung's work as Chair of **Census & Survey** Committee was recognized and the FEZANA **North American Directory** on line and as CD was launched.

Negin Sharyari & Afreed Mistry reported on the **ZYNA** upcoming events, including the next North American Youth Congress in Miami, Florida, December 2005.

Academic Education Scholarship Program committee chair Dolly Dastoor announced that the number of applications each year was growing exponentially with 40 applications in 2004, of which 10 were awarded the FEZANA scholarship of \$1000 each, and Minoee Modi received the Kheradi Endowment scholarship of \$5000 for merit. Those present were requested to contribute generously to this program. Dolly recognized one of the winners, Noushin Isadvastar in the audience.

On behalf of the **Religious Education and Conference** committee chair Kayomarsh Mehta, the names of the 5 winners of the Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship were announced.

Suzie Karani, one of the winners was presented her scholarship cheque of \$ 1,000.00. The report from Hoshedar Tamboli, Chair of **Small Groups** Committee was read.

The report from Er. Jehan Bagli, Chair of **Heritage Preservation & Historical Research** Committee was read.

Ava Parsi read the report on behalf of The **Zoroastrian Sports Committee**, which included the successful completion of The Zarathushti Games in Vancouver, July 2004.

Rohinton Rivetna, Chair **External Affairs** Committee, presented the report highlighting our involvement in the Interfaith work.

Awards committee chair, Yasmin Pavri, just completed a Awards Luncheon (see Pg. xx) The audience was requested to pass the word around to promote more nominations for the Awards Luncheon at the next Congress in Toronto, July 2007.

Homi Gandhi & Behram Pastakia, Co-Chairs of the **UN-NGO** Committee, gave a detailed report of their activities, along with participation of the young adult members, Afreed Mistry and Suzie Karani.

Behram also introduced “**OPERATION EYESIGHT**”, the eye-glass collection drive at this Congress and collections to be continued as a project between Congresses.

The newly established **Creative & Performing Arts Scholarship Fund** Committee, co-chaired by Anahita Sidhwa and Sherazade Mehta, announced their launching of the application form for this Scholarship.

It was reported on behalf of the **Strategic Planning** Committee that most of their goals were achieved, except for those requiring large funding, e.g. consecrated place of worship, etc.

A copy of the PowerPoint CD promoting FEZANA and it's Committees, was given to each representative or President of the Member Associations, and Committee Chairs present at the Congress for their use in promoting FEZANA.

The same ppt CD can be forwarded by e-mail to those requesting it from fdjmehta@telus.net

This was followed by a report on **World Body** formation by Firdosh, who reviewed the January and July 2004 meetings of the elected leaders of FPZAI, ZTFE, WZO and FEZANA. He explained the IZO/WZOF/WZOI structure in brief. He mentioned the recent FPZAI meeting in Ahmedabad a few days ago, and informed everyone of awaiting a response on the course of action to be proposed by FPZAI leaders, as a follow-up to this meeting.

The FEZANA Session continued with an **Interactive Open Forum**, moderated by Sherazade Mehta and Negin Sharyari. After a short introduction to the background of the Open Forum held in Tampa at the last AGM, they requested input from the audience.

The audience was invited to ask questions in Farsi also, which were replied by Rashid.

1. Dr. Jerry Kheradi suggested that FEZANA should make an effort to communicate with Iranian communities in North America and spread the word among them about donations, and they avail themselves of funds through FEZANA.

Rashid replied to this that the door is always open, but there is no line of communication between Iran and FEZANA.

2. Viraf Soroushian, President of Zoroastrian Youth of San Diego, suggested an emphasis on social aspects and similarities between people of Iranian background and Parsis. FEZANA should focus on youth and encouraging them to participate.

3. A member of the audience commented that there would be a problem in helping people from Iran. This would cause jealousy and FEZANA is North American based, and helping Iran would cause more backlash than goodwill. With limited funding, we should not open our borders.

Firdosh replied that help is based on request made by the donor. The purpose of donation should be within the guidelines of FEZANA's mandate. So far there has been no backlash.

4. Another comment from Dr. Borzoo Nadjmi was that a lot of books, which could be educational, were no longer in print. Funding for reprinting of some books had been provided by Mobed Mehraban Zartoshty, but he does not wish to do this anymore. He would like the book by Dastoor Dr. Dhalla's "Theology of Zoroastrianism" to be reprinted, and wanted to know if FEZANA could do this.

Firdosh answered that if the Publisher wanted some seed money, FEZANA could help. The FEZANA Publications Committee could follow up on this. FEZANA could publicize and market the books. This can also be done in collaboration with some outlets e.g. BORDERS book store.

Firdosh, Rashid and Sherazade thanked all present for their attendance and taking interest in FEZANA's activities.

By Firdosh Mehta Jan. 09, 2005.