

# AMUAAQC Newsletter – December 2023

December 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 4



## Executive Committee:

President: Dr. Zafeer Ahmad  
Vice-President: Dr. Shakil Khan  
Secretary: Ms. Rubina Jamil  
Treasurer: Mr. Ans Ahmed

## Board Members:

Mr. Jawed Aslam - Chairperson  
Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi  
Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari  
Dr. Israrul Haque Ansari  
Dr. Gulam Waris



Zafeer Ahmad, Ph.D.

## Contents

President's Message	1
Highlights	2
Financial Update	2
Membership Update	2
Standing Committee Update	3
Event Reports	4
Health Corner	11
Upcoming Events	12

## Recent Events

- \* Sir Syed Day and Mushaira on October 21, 2023
- \* Monthly EC/Board Meetings
  - Jul 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
  - Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
  - Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## President's Message

We have completed number of programs and made significance progress in the funding and construction of Girls Hostel since June 15, 2023.

A picnic was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Century Park and ~ 85 people attended. This year we had more fun filled game and activities for kids and adults.

AMUAA-GC organized the Sir Syed Day program and Annual Mushaira on October 21, 2023, at Falak Banquets. Ms. Nabeela Syed, a young and dynamic political leader, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India Chicago was the chief guest. AMUAA-GC recognized Dr. Abdul Wase, and Dr. Munawwar Izhar, for their outstanding community services and supporting AMUAA-GC.

International poets were Mr. Tariq Sabzwari and Mrs. Ambreen Haseeb from Pakistan, Mr. Rajesh Reddy, and Mr. A. M. Turaz from India. Host poets were Dr. Pasha Saeed and Atiq Haider from Cleveland, Ohio and Mr. Nazar Naqvi, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Anjum, Mr. Mehboob Ali Khan, Dr. Latif Saif, Mrs. Sajida Kazmi and Mr. Khawar Husain from the greater Chicago area.

Hira Public School's first project for construction of Boys' Student Residence is completed in June 2023 which include a big hall, a kitchen, and a bathroom to provide residential accommodation to 16 students (Cost: \$10,000).

Construction of the second project is ongoing, and it is divided in two phases:

**Phase I** - Girls Hostel, Estimate \$25,600.00

**Phase II** - Warden Residence, Estimate \$25,000.00

We are happy to inform you that we met the criteria and raised an additional \$10,160.00 within three months. Dr. Abdul Wase fulfilled his obligations and donated \$10,000 to match the \$10,000 raised by members. Dr. Munawwar Izhar met his obligations and donated \$3,000.00 to match the \$10,000 raised by members. Overall, we raised \$23,160.00 in three months.

## Highlights

- A picnic was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Century Park in Vernon Hills, and ~85 people attended the program.
- AMUAA-GC organized the Sir Syed Day program and Annual Mushaira on October 21, 2023, at Falak Banquets in Lombard.
- The Hira Public School Boys Residence construction project is completed in June 2023 (Cost:\$10,000).
- Construction of the Hira Public School Girls Hostel and Warden Residence project is ongoing, and the cost is \$51,000.00. This project is started in July 2023.
- We have raised an additional \$23,160.00 for Hira Public School Girls Hostel in three months with the support from Dr. Abdul Wase and Dr. Munavvar Izhar.

## Financial Status

Date	Bank Balance		
	Total	General Fund	Education Fund
Jun 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>\$98,162.87</b>	\$7,541.35	\$90,621.52
Nov 30, 2023	<b>\$93,050.83</b>	\$5,547.22	\$87,503.61*

\*\$13,000 used for the Education Project

## Membership Update

Summary of Membership 2022-2023	Total
Annual Members	74
Life Members	40
<b>Total Members (As of November 30, 2023)</b>	<b>114</b>

Welcome New Member: Mrs. Saba Haider

## Standing Committee Updates

Committee Name and Members	Updates
<b>1. Education Committee</b> Dr. Israrul Haque Ansari (Chair) Dr. Saifuddin Sheikh Dr. Syed Shahabuddin Dr. Gulam Waris Dr. Mohammad Ahmadullah Siddiqi	The Hira Public School Boys Residence construction project is completed. Construction of the Hira Public School Girls Hostel and Warden Residence project is ongoing.
<b>2. Technology Committee</b> Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari (Chair) Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan Mr. Shahbaz Alam Mr. Mohammad Irfan Khan Mr. Khalid Sayeed	We are developing a new website for AMUAA-GC which will be launched soon. Here are some highlights of the new website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved layout and design of AMUAA projects.</li> <li>• Option to view and download AMUAA Newsletters.</li> <li>• Improved Teams pages with pictures and profile of EC and Board members.</li> <li>• A separate page for each committee with pictures of all the committee members.</li> <li>• Faster upload and download of Photo Gallery.</li> <li>• Contact AMUAA EC and Board members via email.</li> <li>• Improved Membership page.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Membership Committee</b> Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi (Chair) Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan Dr. Gulam Waris Mr. Jawed Aslam	One new member, Mrs. Saba Haider has joined
<b>4. Social &amp; Cultural Committee</b> Dr. Shakil Khan (Chair) Dr. Haris Jamil Dr. Asefa Ansari Dr. Syed Shahabuddin Mr. Ajmal Sufyan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A picnic was held. See the report for details.</li> <li>• Sir Syed Day program was organized. See the report for details.</li> <li>• Annual Mushaira was held. See the report for details.</li> </ul>

## General Body Meeting, June 18, 2023

Report by: **Dr. Zafeer Ahmad (AMUAAGC President)**

A general body meeting was held on June 18, 2023, at 11 AM through Zoom Video. Thirty-seven members attended the meeting. Reports by the Chairman of Board of Directors, President and The Treasurer were presented. All the reports were shared with AMUAAGC members. Dr. Mohammad

Mushtaq was appointed as an independent auditor for 2023-24. There was an open discussion about Education Projects and Other ideas.

- Dr. Syed Shahabuddin proposed two ideas:
  - First – We need to bring a lot of people to join AMUAA-GC and you should provide free membership to everyone who wants to join.
    - We have raised only \$6000 from membership. Which is a small amount of money, and your organization would like to raise a lot more funds.
    - You should provide membership free or at least to non-Aligarians for more people to join AMUAA-GC and it will help to raise more funds. More people joining will bring more funding to the organization.
    - This will give a good name to the organization that provides free membership. Lots of organizations are providing free memberships.
  - Second – Marketing the product – Funding of Education program. This is such a good idea. Once people understand it, they will provide funding.
    - We need to focus – what is the outcome of the education program funding. What is a tangible thing you see? You build the building but what is the outcome?
    - Dr. Syed Shahabuddin mentioned that he will provide more ideas for marketing the programs.
  - Dr. Ahmadullah thanked him for the ideas. He appealed to all members to submit girls' education projects either for a new school or for the existing school. We need more and more projects from our members. We also provide funding to schools for laptops, computers etc. not only for building constructions.
    - He mentioned that all criteria are listed on the website – what is required e.g., FCRA, a local sponsor etc.
  - Dr. Saif Sheikh mentioned that I completely agree with Shahab Bhai's second idea. It is a good idea to revisit whether our contribution has made any difference in the schools.
  - Dr. Tanveer Azmat mentioned that the Construction of the school is expensive. It is important but it was expensive. But we should think about the smaller donation for the improvement of schools. For examples
    - Upgrade teacher's training
    - Build a playground etc.
    - Smaller donations should also be made to the school to improve the school.
  - Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari – I have one comment about the free membership. We have already made membership free for high donors. Here is the new policy.
    - For donating \$2000 or more – A free single life membership
    - For donating \$3000 or more – A free family membership
  - Ajmal Sufiyan – Instead of making membership free we can lower the membership fee from \$10 to \$20 to attract more people to become members. This needs to be discussed by the membership committee, EC/Board, and GB.
  - Dr. Shahab mentioned that the membership fee is not a lot. You are just providing them with the opportunity to join the organization and participate in the functions. You will get more people participating in picnics and other programs and bring more revenues if you provide free memberships.
  - Mr. Jawed Hussain mentioned that I support Dr. Shahab's idea for free membership. Please see the bigger picture to bring more people into the organization. We need to get more new members. I also like the second idea – what is the outcome of providing funding to schools? How it supports the end goal. What are the results of funding?

- Mr. Ans – If we make a documentary of the organization and present it in mosques and in other functions. It will be helpful to bring the people to the organization. Membership is very minimal. It will not make a difference if you charge \$50 or do not charge any money.
- Ms. Asefa mentioned that she liked Dr. Shahab's idea of marketing. It should be presented first to the EC/Board and then to the GB for approval.

## Annual Picnic, September 9, 2023

Report by: **Dr. Gulam Waris (Convenor of Picnic)**

The annual picnic of AMUAA-GC was held on September 9, 2023, from 12:00 to 3:30 PM at Century Park, 1001 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL, 60077. About 85 people attended the fun filled picnic and everyone enjoyed the good BBQ and other veg and non-veg food items. This year Choley was replaced with one tray of Pasta. Mr. Farrukh Khan from "My Zabiha Halal Meat" provided the marinated chicken and Fatima Angus beef burgers.

This year we had more fun filled game and activities for kids (Scavenger hunt, Lemon race, Sack race, legged race, Pinata, Face painting, bean bag toss and Frisbee), and adults (Aligarh Bingo, Watermelon eating challenge, tug of war, sui dhaga (needle-thread) organized by Sr. Fauzia.

Thanks to BBQ Team members Farrukh Khan, Farid Khan, Anis Khan and for handling BBQ and to other volunteers for making this event a great success. Special thanks to Mrs. Fauzia Waris for organizing the game and for preparing the gaming stuff. This year we had no issues with undercooked or overcooked chicken or beef burgers. Everything was just perfect.





## Sir Syed Day Program, October 21, 2023

Report by: **Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan (Convener of Sir Syed Day)**

Aligarh AMU Alumni Association of Greater Chicago (AMUAA-GC) organized the 206th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Falak Banquets, 233 E Roosevelt Rd, Lombard, USA 60148. More than 120 people attended from Chicagoland, Missouri, Michigan, and Madison.

Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan conducted the program as convener of the event. In the welcome note, Ajmal Sufiyan said "Sir Syed day is very close to all the Aligarian. Sir Syed was a great visionary and social reformer, and he has taught us the ability to see opportunity in a crisis and social progress of any society is only possible through education.

The program started by recitation of the Quran. The President of AMUAA-GC, Dr. Zafeer Ahmad provided an overview of the organization. He described the number of new initiatives and programs AMUAA-GC is conducting throughout the year like Sir Syed Day, Mushaira, and other programs including educational/cultural programs, Ramadan Iftar, and the annual picnic. He provided updates of the organization and educational projects completed in 2023 and urged everyone to support educational projects of underprivileged Girls. He also appealed to people to come forward and become members of the association and support more projects.

Mr. Ans Ahmad, Treasurer of AMUAA-GC welcomed and invited the keynote speaker Ms. Nabeela Syed. Ms. Nabeela Syed is a young and dynamic political leader, and she is an elected state representative of 51<sup>st</sup> district of state of Illinois. She is the first women elected in the Illinois state assembly from Indian background. She mentioned the commendable work done by AMUAA-GC in the field of promoting education by supporting various projects since 2005 and lifting the standards of many Girls which eventually lifting the educational standard of Muslim community and India. She said quality education motivates us to be happier and do better work in life, she said the legacy of Sir Syed of maintaining inter-faith dialogues and keeping communities together must be continued in today's time.

Mr. Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India Chicago was the chief guest of the event. In his speech, he also said education is the way to move forward in this modern world, and mentioned it is important to become rational, human, and scientific in your views. He mentioned Sir Syed is a lighthouse for the generations to come and not limited not only among Indians but to the whole world. He was very happy with the event and emphasized creating more leaders in the communities.

AMUAA-GC recognized Dr. Abdul Wase, Professor of Medicine, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, and Dr. Munavvar Izhar, Program Director, Graduate Medical Education, Chicago for their outstanding community services and supporting AMUAAGC.

Mr. Jawed Aslam, Chairperson of the organization delivered a vote of thanks. A special thanks was mentioned for the young Aligs joined from Missouri, Madison, and Michigan area. At the end AMU Tarana was performed by the Tarana team and a scrumptious dinner was enjoyed by everyone.



## Annual Sir Syed Day Mushaira, October 21, 2023

Report by: **Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi (Convener of Mushaira)**

This year the AMU Alumni Association of Greater Chicago (AMUAA-GC) organized Sir Syed Dinner, Lecture and the International Mushaira on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Falak Banquets, 233 E Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL 60148.

Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi was the convener of the Mushaira Committee. He along with Mr. Amin Haider were the co-nazims of the Mushaira, which started at 9:45 pm and concluded at 1:15 am. Senior poet from Karachi, Pakistan, Mr. Tariq Sabzwari, presided over the Mushaira. Other international poets were Mr. Rajesh Reddy, Mumbai, India, Mr. A. M. Turaz, Mumbai, India, Mrs.

Ambreen Haseeb, Karachi, Pakistan, and Mr. Haider Hasnain Jaleesi, Karachi, Pakistan. Host poets were Dr. Pasha Saeed and Atiq Haider from Cleveland, Ohio and Mr. Nazar Naqvi, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Anjum, Mr. Mehboob Ali Khan, Dr. Latif Saif, Mrs. Sajida Kazmi and Mr. Khawar Husain from the greater Chicago area.

In his welcoming remarks Ahmadullah Siddiqi observed that Mushaira is an important part of our cultural tradition. Through it the poets present the ups and downs of society in a poetic form. It is not merely to entertain but also to draw the listener's attention to the current trends and social norms of the age. The first Mushaira of our alumni association in Chicago was held in 1987 and the tradition has been continuing since then for over three decades.

The Mushaira started with Mr. Khawar Husain's poetry. The young poet moved the audience with his thought-provoking poetry (yeh shahrjebhi ujaale men aankh malta hai – to ek faqeer sarak per udaas milta hai). Mrs. Sajida Kazmi recited her ghazal in tarrannum and received applauds from the audience (Husn to deed ki Jannat hai, tajalli kya hai – hosh Musa keuren, toor ko kajel ker de) Dr. Latif Saif came to mike and shared his enriching poetry (Is se behter to yahithaa ki na miltaa mujh se - who na milta to mera derd sanbhalta mujh se). Mehboob Ali Khan is a popular young poet of Chicago who received lots of appreciation from the audience (mere hum nafasteriyaadkaa, reha Silsila bari der tek – who jo aaftaabe firaq tha, who na dhelsakaa bari der tek)

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Anjum, one of the senior local poets recited his ghazal in his unique tarrannum (Usko jab dobara dekha bare dino kebaad --- Maine khud ko bhi gharaa ker phir dobara dekha) Mr. Nazar Naqvi is also among the senior and popular poets of Chicago. He shared with the audience his ghazals and received much appreciation ( wohi hua jo muhabbet men hota aaya hai – who mere dil men, mager ghair ki hudood men thaa).

Mr. Ateeq Haider started with this ghazal (Hai ye dua ki meri bhi izzet rahe Ateeq –who bhijahan men jitna jiyen aabroo ke saath) Dr. Pasha Saeed drew audience attention with his serious poetic commentary on the current situation (Tanz kertehain mere faqr pa hedkertehain – maalodaulet se who paimaayisheqedkertehain). After these local poets, Mr. A M Turaz was invited to the podium. Besides a popular poet of mushairas in India, Turaz also writes for Bollywood movies. He shared many of his couplets, ghazals and nazms. In his tarrannum voice he said, (Main is guman pa us ko bhulaanahi paya – main eikroz use yaadaanewalahoon). Hasnain Haider Jaleesi presented his humorous couplets and received applause from the audience (main mobilerz hoo ki e-mailer – sebtaraqqikeshakhsaane hain; lekin in zaalimonke ser ke Tufail – daakkhaneyateemkhaanehain). Mrs. Ambreen Haseeb recited many ghazals and received appreciation from the audience by highlighting the ups and downs of the society (Who maseehanabana, hum ne bhikhwahishnahi ki – Apnisharton pe jiye, us se guzaarishnahi ki)

Mr. Rajesh Reddy came to the podium after Ambreen. In his unique tarrannum he shared many ghazals with the audience and received thunderous applaud (Yahan her shaks her pal haadsa hone se dertahai – Khilounahai to mittikaafana hone se dertahai)



At the end the presiding poet, Mr. Tariq Sabzwari came to the mike. He recited many ghazals in his beautiful tarrannum. The audience repeatedly requested him to recite more and more ghazals (Aaya to baar baar bulawa ameer kaa – hum se mager na ho saka sauda zamir kaa)

The Mushaira came to an end at around 1:15 pm with thanks by Ahmadullah Siddiqi to all the international and local poets, audience, volunteers and the workers and owner of the Falak Banquets.



## Educational Project, December 2023

Report by: Dr. Israrul H. Ansari (Chair, Education Committee)

### Hira Public School – Construction of Boys' Residence

This project is completed in June 2023 which included the construction of a big hall, a kitchen, and a bathroom to provide residential accommodation to 16 students. Cost: \$10,000



## **Hira Public School – Construction of Girls’ Hostel and Warden Residence**

The AMUAAGC EC and board agreed to fund educational project submitted by Hira Public School in two phases. We proposed to fund the first phase of construction of the Girls’ hostel by the end of this year 2023 and after having a satisfactory progress report, the AMUAA-GC will fund the second phase of construction of Warden Residence early next year.

- Phase I - Girls Hostel, Estimate 2123131.00 INR (~25600 USD)
- Phase II - Warden Residence, Estimate: 2110535.00 INR (~25000 USD)

The first phase of the project was jointly sponsored by Br Masood Akhtar, Madison, WI, and AMUAA-GC president Dr. Zafeer Ahmad. After getting approval from members of the general body, the AMUAA-GC transferred the funds for the construction of the first phase. The second phase of the project is sponsored by Mr. Ahmed Azeez. The sponsor has paid \$1250 and the remaining \$1250 is expected in January 2024. The recent construction images are listed below:



The AMUAAGC was pleased to see the progress made on the ground. The above images and talking to responsible people of Hira Public school confirmed a good progress towards construction of girl’s hostel. The roofing slab work was done in October 2023, and we anticipate the first phase of this educational project will be completed in a few weeks. We plan to discuss the completion of the first phase of



construction with AMUAA-GC EC and Board members in our next meeting and work on funding the second phase of construction of Warden Residence in early 2024.

## Opportunity to Raise Additional Funds

As we have informed you earlier that two AMUAAGC life members provided an excellent opportunity to meet the funding requirement for Hira Public School Girls Education Project. For every \$1,000.00 donated by the members, Dr. Abdul Wase offered to match it up to \$10,000.00 and Dr. Munavvar Izhar was going to donate \$1,000.00 for every \$3,000.00 donated by the members.

We are happy to inform you that we met the criteria and raised an additional \$10,160.00 within three months. Dr. Abdul Wase fulfilled his obligations and donated \$10,000 to match the \$10,000 raised by members. Dr. Munavvar Izhar met his obligations and donated \$3,000.00 to match the \$10,000 raised by members. Overall, we raised \$23,160.00 in three months.

We are thankful to Dr. Wasey and Dr. Munavvar for their exceptional support and guidance. These offers are valid till July 22, 2023.

## Health Corner:

### **CDC And National Institute of Health Recommendations for COVID-19, Influenza and RSV**

**SPIKEVAX (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) is a vaccine indicated for active immunization to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 12 years of age & older.**

**Influenza kills around 40,000 individuals every year during flu season in the US. Pregnant women and individuals with heart disease, respiratory conditions like asthma & HIV are all at greater risk of developing life-threatening complications from the flu. Getting a flu shot is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself from this nasty disease. The good news is the flu shot is covered by most healthcare plans, so you typically pay nothing or very little.**

**RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is a potentially dangerous, highly contagious virus that can cause respiratory disease. Symptoms can appear like the common cold. Anyone can get RSV, but it can be more serious for adults 60 and older, including those with underlying medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, COPD or heart disease puts you at even higher risk. Even if you're healthy, RSV can lead to serious consequences if you are 60 and older, pregnant women as well as babies, especially if they're under 6 months old.**

**Please consult your Doctor, Physician or Healthcare Provider for Vaccinations, do not wait talk today!**

## Upcoming Event:

### Sir Syed Iftar and Dinner:

- **Convener:** Dr. Haris Jamil
- **Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2024
- **Venue:** Lakehurst Banquets
- **Address:** 300 Lakehurst Rd, Waukegan, IL 60085



## ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO

**Support Education Projects  
(Target \$65,000 for 2023-2024)**

*Please write your checks to:*

AMUAA Greater Chicago,  
P. O. Box 67 Wadsworth, IL 60083

*Or donate by a direct transfer to the bank using Zelle through email*

[info@amuaachicago.org](mailto:info@amuaachicago.org), ID: AMUA Chicago

*Or donate online at [www.amuaachicago.org/donate](http://www.amuaachicago.org/donate)*

*All your gifts & donations are tax-deductible!*

