



Ithna-asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest

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IMAN Annual Report of Activities 2016-2017

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1 Executive Committee Report for 2016/2017

Alhamdulillah, this year we observed the 20-year anniversary of the formation of IMAN. IMAN community continues to offer and pursue many activities. We pray to Allah SWT to guide us and support as we continue our journey to establish a spiritually vibrant caring sharing community in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

IMAN Executive Committee (EC) expresses gratitude to its membership for the opportunity given to it to serve the term ending September 30th, 2017. This report outlines progress and activities since October 1st, 2016. This would not have been possible without the continued sincere dedication, support and participation of the community at large. The Executive Committee is honored to have had this opportunity to serve.

The following were the IMAN Executive Committee members for 2016/2017:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Mohamed Jawad Khaki | President and Treasurer (from June 1, 2017) |
| Hamed Esfahani | Vice President |
| Ali Mansoor Naqvi | Secretary |
| Mohammad Nikjoo | Treasurer (until June 1, 2017) |
| Farhan Basit | Committee Member (until May 2017) |

Br. Mohammad Nikjoo after many years of dedicated service started transition out from his role as a Treasurer in April 2017 and the handed over the responsibility to Br. Jawad Khaki. Br. Farhan stepped down from his position in May 2017 due to personal reasons. The EC appreciates contributions made by Br. Nikjoo and Br. Farhan during this term.

The following observations augment what is covered in sub-committee reports.

1.1 Executive Committee Priorities

The following areas had a priority focus from the Executive Committee.

Attracting and recruiting new volunteer and leaders for the organization

Volunteers are life blood of IMAN. IMAN EC reached out to several individuals in the community to introduce them to the workings of IMAN. We are pleased to see people expressing interest to step up to the opportunity to contribute to a spiritually vibrant caring sharing organization in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. We look forward to engaging those interested into new roles and responsibilities in the times ahead.

IMAN Facilities

IMAN Center facilities remodeled in 2008 is showing signs of aging and requires repairs and on-going maintenance. Significant attention has been devoted to ensuring we have a safe building and compound and the equipment requiring repairs is being restored to an operational condition. Items needing attention included: the parking lot, roof, plumbing, A/V system, fire protection system.

New Accounting System

Switching to a modern-day accounting system was essential in helping Br. Nikjoo hand over Treasurer responsibilities to another person. This was successfully completed during this period and IMAN has now transitioned from using discontinued Microsoft Money to Quick Books Online.

We appreciate and thank Br. Nikjoo for his many years of service to IMAN as Treasurer.

Administrative Records

Another important area of administrative focus was to ensure a good on-online repository for IMAN administrative and financial records that can be made easily accessible. Significant progress has been made to ensure all organizational documents are under Office 365.

Membership

Community organizations like IMAN need a membership base to sustain their activities to avoid dependence on a handful of volunteers and donors. IMAN members have not kept up with their membership dues. New comers to IMAN have been unaware of the opportunity to join to become members of IMAN. Membership dues at IMAN are a nominal \$300.00 per annum and waived for those are unable to afford. Our current membership list stands at 44 but not all those who have joined as members are current with their dues or applied for a waiver. An effort to growing the active membership base has been started and needs to be continued.

We thank the IMAN community for their generous contributions towards operational expenses at IMAN. In addition to raising the funds necessary for operation needs, we need to continue building sufficient reserves for maintenance and renovations that will be necessary in the times ahead. Reserve funds available were essential to help complete the necessary facilities repair and maintenance necessary during 2017. Funds depleted by expenses incurred in so doing have to be replenished to help us deal with future needs.

1.2 Programming

Regular programs have been conducted at the IMAN Center and an effort has been made to introduce new activities (e.g., robotics class) to attract youth. Participation in the weekly programming can be improved by designing programming that will better appeal to the needs of the community. Frequency of YouTube video lectures has been reduced per feedback provided by the community as they tend to be long and not always so relevant. This is an area that requires significant planning and resources to better understand and address the needs of the community.

Sister Robina after many years of dedicated service has expressed that she will be stepping down from the Programs Committee to be able to focus on family. We appreciate all her efforts and thank her for her selfless dedication.

1.3 Humanitarian Relief

In addition to the efforts lead by the IMAN Social Services Committee covered elsewhere in this report, as a community we have responded to financial appeals from various appeals around the world. This includes our responses to ZCSS, Yemen, Syria and Rohingya relief efforts through NASIMCO.

We are grateful to Br. Abbas Kazmi for his leadership to develop partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church on monthly community dinners.

1.4 Funeral Services

Members of IMAN have continued to provide funeral services when contacted. IMAN recommends the services of the House of Mercy in Kent. Because we see continued cases where bereaved families insist on burying at cemeteries in Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah and Lynnwood, there is a need to make arrangements with local cemeteries for a dedicated Muslim section, if they don't already have one. This is an opportunity to cooperate with other regional Islamic organizations.

Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) continues to be very cooperative with our community whenever there is a need to use their Ghush facilities and even arranged for additional volunteers when needed. We would like to express our gratitude for their generosity and continued cooperation.

Given the increased demand in recent years, more people are needed to help with funeral services. Those interested to help can sign-up by joining the imanfuneral@yahoogroups.com email list, where notification is sent when volunteers are needed.

1.5 IMAN Reach Out

Primary through the continued efforts of Br. Jawad Khaki IMAN has responded to various invitations to promote interfaith understanding and dialogue in Kirkland and in the Greater Seattle area. This is an area which requires more people from the IMAN community to take interest and participate especially considering the present day political rhetoric and attitudes towards Islam and Muslims.

1.6 Aqd Nikah Services

As a sign of a growing community servicing increasing needs, IMAN conducted several Aqd Nikah ceremonies during the past year as a service to Muslims in the area. We have an established process in place that streamlines the Aqd using a draft marriage contract that was designed by the World Federation. The services provided include issuance of a Certificate for Islamic Nikah as well as the official Certificate of Marriage for the State of WA.

IMAN is also approached occasionally to witness and document the pronouncement of Islamic Talaq (Divorce). One area of expansion to be considered is Islamic matrimonial services to facilitate match making and marriage counseling.

1.7 Newsletter/Communication

Communication with IMAN community has been through announcements made at the IMAN Center, our web site, our Twitter account, our Facebook page, and through email lists. IMAN's website and use

of digital and social media needs enhancement. This is an area with huge potential to better communicate and stay in touch with the IMAN as well as impact the broader Seattle community and can benefit from passionate and dedicated volunteers.

2 Sub-Committee Reports

Over the past year we have focused on the sub-committees described below. In order to expand our range of activities, we have also begun several additional projects which are described in Section 3. Below is a brief report on sub-committee activity.

2.1 Sunday School Committee

Members

The school year for 2016-2017 began in the middle of September with the following individuals serving in the sub-committee:

- Ali Dadvar (Principal)
- Kaniz Khaki (Vice Principal)
- Ali Mansoor Naqvi (Administrator)
- Sukaina Juma (Co-administrator)
- Farzana Noray (Treasurer)
- Uzma Hussain (Secretary)

Accomplishments

- Registered about 70 students in 2016-2017
- Total of about 40 Families
- 18 Teachers/TA's
- Established GK to 7h grade Classes
- Held 30 regular classes and 90 hours of instructions
- About 7-10 students graduated from the elementary to advanced prayer class
- Held successful fire drill evacuation of less than 2 minutes
- Held 4 parent meetings
- Established regular and standard teacher communication process
- Initiated structured student evaluation process for both Quran and Islamic Studies
- Held 2 workshops with Kids4Peace organization
 - Interfaith
 - Dialogue and Diversity: Using Dialogue Skills to Promote Empathy and Compassion
- Held parent-teacher conference in March 2017 with more than 75% parent participation
- Held two art contests in coordination with the Parent Liaison team
 - Life of Iman Ali (A.S)
 - Life of Hazrat Fatima (A.S)
- Held an end of year picnic with IMAN Community
- Established std snack menu and calendar

- Finances and Tuition:
 - Tuition of \$350/student with no cap
 - More than 90% of students either fully paid or partial paid
 - Raised over \$1,200 in donations
 - Balanced the budget at the end of school
 - About 25% of the families were either on waiver or discount tuition program
- Parent Volunteers
 - 36 families completed their volunteer hrs
 - Completed over 900 hrs of volunteering
 - % of volunteers completed their assignments:
 - More than 90% of families participated
 - 2 family completed 20 hrs
 - 1 family did not participate
 - +50% of families provided \$250 deposit
 - 1 family paid instead of volunteering
- Established IMAN award process with real time redeem

Challenges

- Extending Learning beyond school: One of the main challenges of IMAN School is to keep the students engaged. Lack of engagement or desire to come to school translates to poor performance and lack of homework completion.
- Parent engagement needs to be emphasized more. Without parent engagement and review/practice of homework at home, student progress at school is limited.
- Tuition and Fee payment: had challenge collecting tuition from some of the parents who were behind fees and it required significant efforts by the School Committee to follow up for collection. This necessitate the need to establish a std process for 2017-2018 school year.

Opportunities

- We need to establish a more structured Quran curriculum including std books for each class.
- Many of the 7th and/or 8th grade students do not return to school to either volunteer or TA. We need to find ways to engage the high school kids more in both school and IMAN community in general.
- We have students who are at a critical age where greater involvement in the community would fulfill their needs. We need to find ways to encourage them to participate and create opportunities for them to serve the community. This will also increase IMAN school student and IMAN community engagements.
- Provide an environment for students to be able to have an interfaith discourse with other students their age to further solidify their belief/religion.
- Establish a more comprehensive registration/admin software for school incl. a student blackboard
- School website needs to be enhanced and utilized more

- Consider allocating a playground for school
- Define a plan to extend the school to a full time Accredited Elementary school in 3-5 years.

Recommendations

- Hire a professional teacher to design a more comprehensive Quran curriculum
- Design extra curriculum classes i.e. computer programming, robotics, math, etc. for high school students at IMAN to maintain their engagement with the community
- Increase interaction of IMAN school with IMAN center and other IMAN sub-committees so that the learning goes beyond the time spent at Sunday School and combines it with other programs at IMAN.
 - This could include monthly school-IMAN community potlucks
- Encouragement of parents to work with students at home during the week to ensure that the education conveyed on Sundays is reinforced at home.

The school would like to thank all the teachers and volunteers who dedicated their time in making 2016-2017 a successful year.

2.2 Program Committee

Members

The following were the IMAN Program Committee members for 2016/2017:

- **Robina Qureshi** (chairperson)
- **Kareem Al-Haddad**

The following are IMAN Program Committee nominations for 2017/2018:

- Robina Qureshi, Chair
- Kareem Al-Haddad

Accomplishments

1. The following regular programs were conducted during the last year:
 - a. Dhuhhr/Asr and Maghrib/Isha prayers every day at IMAN.
 - b. Dua Kumail program on Thursday evenings.
 - c. Friday Juma prayer and evening program.
 - d. Fajr prayer on Sunday mornings followed by Dua Sabah and breakfast.
 - e. Wiladah and Shahadah of the Ahlul Bait per WF calendar.
2. Conducted a successful Muharram program:
 - a. Br. Imran Ali Panjwani was scheduled speaker for the month of Muharram. His lectures were well received by the community.
 - b. Provided marsiya and latmiya recitation in Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, and English languages.
 - c. All-day programs for Ashura and Sham-e-Gharibaan
 - d. Great community support in preparing food for Ashura

- e. Organized engaging programs and activities for the children during Muharram:
 - f. Organized separate sessions for ages 4-8 and ages 9-12 attended the main lectures.
 - g. Provided children with activities from the event of Karbala that was at their level, with small and engaging project to keep them interested.
3. Conducted a successful Ramadan program:
 - a. Provided a detailed calendar of events to the community in advance which ensured smooth running of the programs and better participation.
 - b. Having sandwiches and light iftar worked out very well. Programs were being done on time and volunteers were not exhausted.
 - c. Continued to provide full iftar on Fri/Sat nights as well as the special Qadr/Amaal nights.
 - d. High attendance at Eid prayer.
 - e. Variety of adult programs such as Quran recitation for men and women in Arabic and English, dua recitation.
 4. Conducted newer family oriented programs based on community feedback to hold them on Saturdays.
 - a. Family Potluck Evening.
 - b. Eid-ul-Ghadeer – Lead by Sr. Mahdie Seyed with youth presenters.
 5. Provided weekly children's program lead by Br Hamed Esfahani, which has been very well received, with 5-25 children attending every Friday.
 6. Provided Wednesday Philosophy Circle lead by Br. Hamed Esfahani.

Challenges

1. Need to promote the spirit of volunteering in the community. All of the challenges listed below require participation and volunteering from the community members in order to resolve the challenges and attain success.
2. Need to ensure that IMAN attendees and visitors stay respectful of the volunteers who are enforcing IMAN rules and guidelines.
3. Need more members in the committee, particularly more female presence.
4. We need to grow our speaker pool.
5. Need to use opportunities throughout the year to improve recitation during Muharram & Ramadan.
6. Need to continue finding diverse, stimulating, and motivating content for various programs.
7. Need to devise the means to bridge the gap that exists between IMAN daily programs and the participation of the youth of the community particularly those at IMAN School.
8. Need to devise programs that are specially tailored for the youth and children.
9. Finding and selecting reciters that meet the need of all of the community members, given that we have a diverse and multi-cultural / multi-lingual community.
10. Need to implement a method to ensure the safety of the children, and to discipline and prevent them from running in the hallways, hurting themselves and damaging IMAN property.

Opportunities

1. There is a need for programs that are specially tailored for the youth and children. The amount of participation from this age group is not satisfactory and IMAN needs to provide them with programs that are interesting and well suited.
2. We have a mounted camera in the main hall which simplifies live broadcasting of our Muharram/Ramadhan programs. Next step is to provide live transmission of all of our daily programs. We also need a simplified solution for archiving these recordings. We need more A/V trained volunteer pool.
3. There is an opportunity to reach to the broader community and we need a more comprehensive set of programs geared towards this. An example would be providing more interfaith programs and inviting people of various faiths more often.

Recommendations

Note: The Program Committee cannot achieve the following recommendations without an increasing number of community members stepping forward as volunteers to work on any of these areas. The following had been recommended in the previous years, however due to lack of volunteering support from the community, many of them were not achieved. It is absolutely crucial for the community to recognize the importance of volunteering and to step up to work on these areas.

- Recruit more members for the committee, particularly more female members.
- Explore options of having remote live speakers in order to grow our speaker pool, and to provide more diverse content.
- Create a pool of local reciter for various Islamic occasions and events such as Ramadan and Muharram.
- Create special programs at IMAN for children and youth.

2.3 Social Services Committee

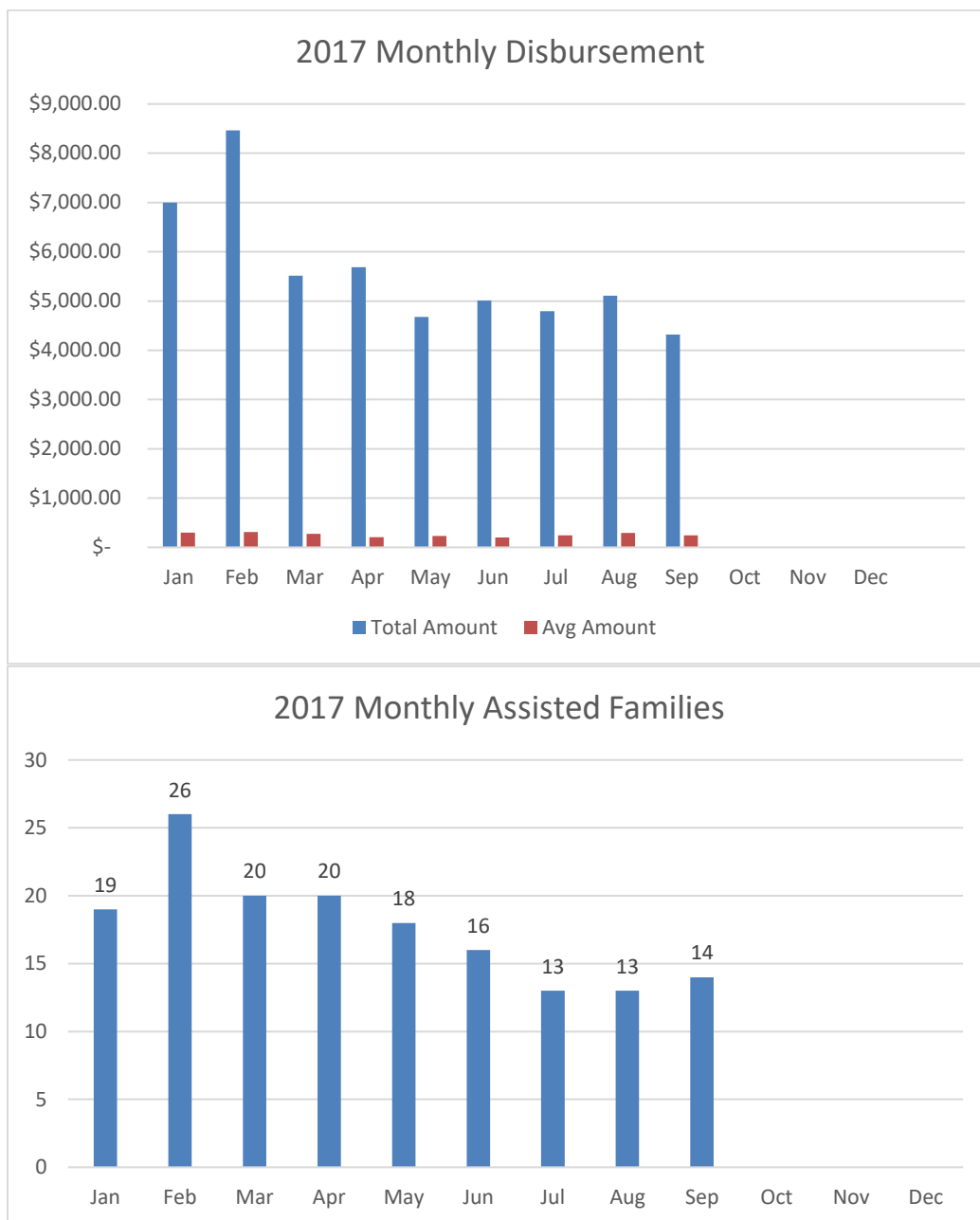
*“It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards east or west; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; **to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the traveler, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfill the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing.”** (Chapter 2, verse 177 of the Holy Qur’an)*

Members

- **Hamed Esfahani:** Chair, caseworker.
- **Samad Faghih:** Caseworker.
- **Amer Kuba:** Caseworker.

Accomplishments

1. Received and processed **over 75** unique application inquiries for Social Services aid.
2. Between 13 to 26 families were approved on monthly basis to received aid.



- a. Many of the applicants required help and follow-up numerous times throughout the year.
- b. Less than 20% of the applicants were returning applicants from last year.
- c. Majority of applicants are families with 1 or more children.
- d. Applicant circumstances included: Refugee families (over 80%), Immigrant families, single mothers, unemployed (loss of job), disabled, domestic violence cases, homeless.
- e. Families have come from various places in the world, including: Iraq (75%), Iran (15%, primarily Kurdish Iranian), Afghanistan (5-7%), and remaining from: Syria, Tanzania, U.S., Somalia.
- f. Distributed over **\$78,000** for Social Services causes.

3. Caseworkers made over 230 visits to the families' homes in order to:
 - a. Evaluate their eligibility
 - b. Interview the family and understand their needs
 - c. Deliver donated items. We received donation items from community members on regular basis this year, similar to last year.
 - d. Take them grocery shopping when they are new and unfamiliar with the area.
 - e. Lift their spirits by having someone from the community go to them
 - f. Deliver Fitra donations close to Eid
4. Identified local needy families (sayyid and non-sayyid) and distributed Fitra funds (Over \$7,500).
5. We have several new community members willing to serve on the committee. The proposal for the committee is as follows, pending EC and Board approval:
 - a. **Shakir Kassamally:** Chair
 - b. **Abbas Kazmi:** Lead of the Feed The Hungry program
 - c. **Hamed Esfahani:** Lead of the Financial Assistance program
 - d. **Samad Faghih:** caseworker
 - e. **Amer Kuba:** caseworker
 - f. **Gulam Juma:** caseworker
 - g. **Mohsen Vakilian:** caseworker assistant, job/resource placement.
6. Alhamdulillah the community believes in the work the committee is doing and continues to contribute generously without having to make many appeals or having fund raising events.
7. Started new engagement with St. John's church to participate in serving food for Community Dinners on monthly basis. IMAN members have participated for three months in a row.

Challenges

- Continuing to receive high volume number of applicants, hence the need for more financial contribution. Although we have seen a downward trend towards the end of the year.
- Demand for housing needs but there is little we can do other than directing families to other resources.
- Helping applicants with complicated cases that require ongoing follow-up at various times of day, including during regular business hours.
- Ensuring that all applicants on a path to self-sufficiency.

Opportunities

- We had a diverse set of applicants from various backgrounds and different areas in Seattle area.
- To form stronger bonds with our local community and serve the hungry in our neighborhood by participating in the regular community dinner event.
- Based on the feedback we get from the applicants, IMAN Social Services has become more widely known to the larger community. Applicants were referred to IMAN by other organizations.

Recommendations for next year

- Continue to build awareness in IMAN Community about Social Services activities and contributions.
- Revive the Feed The Hungry program now that we have a dedicate committee member. Enlist involvement from the broader IMAN community, not just social services committee members, in the monthly programs.
- Nurture existing connections and build new connections with other local Social Services organizations, such as shelters, food banks, tent city, churches.

- Forecasted budget need for next year \$65,000.

2.4 Facilities Committee

Members

Jawad Khaki: Acting Chair

Non-member Consultants/Helpers:

- Farhan Ali
- Naeem Iqbal
- Hossein Rezaee
- Shaheed Chagani, Ali Haider, Sr. Zehra Naz

Accomplishments

- Long overdue repaving of parking lot was completed. Metal gate has been installed to prevent cut through traffic during rush hours to avoid wear and tear of the parking lot. Br. Naeem Iqbal was immensely helpful in getting a competitive bid.
- The HVAC system and fire sprinkler, fire alarm and fire extinguishers were serviced.
- Audio/Video system needed significant repairs and still undergoing repair work.
- Plumbing leak in the kitchen needed urgent repairs.
- Hired, scheduled, and made payment arrangements for professional services such as janitorial, window cleaning, landscaping, watering plants, pressure washing and repairs.
- Recruited new people (Shaheed Chagani, Ali Haider, Sr. Zehra Naz to help maintain A/V and IT equipment) to help maintain A/V and IT equipment

Challenges

- Lack of a properly formed Facilities Committee. Br. Jawad is filing the vacuum.
- Encouraging community members to treat IMAN facility as own home and help with upkeep.

Opportunities

- Establish a proper Facilities Subcommittee

Recommendations for next year

- Develop a facilities maintenance manual.
- Increasing more community involvement & awareness in keeping the facilities clean and safe.
- Install security cameras at the entrances and the parking area.
- Prepare Rental Agreement (RA) form.
- Improve signage throughout the building (interior).
- Arrange for carpet cleaning for the upper level.
- Maintain professional service schedule for HVAC, Fire Protection
- Arrange a regular “General Cleaning Day” every three to six months.

2.5 Resource Center Committee

Members

- **Mansoor Naqvi:** Chair

Accomplishments:

- Successfully completed transitioning ownership of the website hosting and WordPress, and iContact resources from Br. Sameer.
- All website updates and email notices are now sent by Resource Committee and have been transitioned from the Administrator

Challenges:

- There are no other people on the resources committee.

Opportunities:

- There is interest showing by Br. Ali Haider and Br. Shaeed Chagani to looking into improving the IMAN website. Working with them we can look into options for redesigning or improving the website
- We can look into automating some website features such as the Membership Form can be made online.

Recommendations for next year

- Improve the IMAN website and consider options for redesigning it
- EC should consider folding this committee into the Facilities A/V committee

2.6 Hospitality Committee

Members

- **Kaniz Khaki, Hayatullah Haidar** (Co-Chairs)
- **Firdos Al-Hadad, Kiyan Mansoori, Sabra Rizvi, Shakira Habib** (Helpers)

Accomplishments

- Successfully supported various events at IMAN:
 - Muhurram majalis, Ramadhan programs, Eid programs, and special events
- Continued community involvement without formal volunteer enlistment
- Trained youth volunteers with goal of handover some responsibilities in the coming years

Challenges

- Difficulties in managing people flow to ensure smoother running of designed programs
- Enlisting parental help in supervising young children

Opportunities

- More engagement from parents and younger adults and in creating a positive experience for all

Recommendations for next year

- Continue strengthening by training, encouraging and engaging younger members of the community to participate in Hospitality Committee activities

3 Additional Activities

3.1 Outreach Efforts

The IMAN Community has continued to reach out to provide reliable and dependable information about Islam and Muslim to counter the concerning wave of Islamophobia. Reliable sources of information about Islam and opportunities for others to interact with practicing Muslims are desperately needed if Americans are to have a greater understanding and respect for Islam and for Muslims. We continue to build awareness as well as relationships with more organizations in the Greater Seattle area in the process.

Bridge building to our Muslim brothers and sisters following other schools of thought is essential to nurturing a harmonious diverse Muslim community in the Greater Seattle area.

Given (the often) negative coverage of news and events around the Muslim world combined with unfortunate misinformation about Islam and fear of Muslims, IMAN interfaith and intra-faith outreach are important areas to expand IMANs activities. In our continued efforts, we would like to maintain priority in engaging with other faith organizations with hands-on experiences especially for our youth and seniors. There are few options being considered but we need volunteers support from the community to move forward. We have options to help build Care Packages for the homeless, Ladies Day and Evening Circles, Pea-Patch or a farm Gleaning and Park Trail Maintenance are just few ideas that need more of your support.

Accomplishments

Islam 101 Presentations and Discussions with various groups hosted at IMAN:

- IMAN maintains an open door policy to all its programs and activities. Numerous students from local schools and colleges have visited and participated in IMAN programs throughout the year.

Talks on Islam and/or Muslim Perspective given off-site

- Br. Jawad Khaki visits local area churches and educational institutions on as need basis.

Community networking

- Br. Jawad at the invitation of the www.bishopscommittee.org played a key role in organizing and seeking sponsorship from various Seattle area organization for a full-day event “*Islam in the Public Square*,” that took place on October 29, 2016 at the Seattle Town Hall.

Local area leaders and concerned citizens gathered at Town Hall Seattle to examine the dynamics that have led to the gap in understanding about Islam in America. We discussed the many issues clouding the image of Islam and Muslims in America, sought to build understanding and tolerance across ethnic and faith lines, and looked into ways all of us can confront and overcome the misunderstandings and fears that divide us. Together, as one Seattle community, we explored ways to work together for peace and justice.

Conference Sponsors included: Archdiocese of Seattle, Bishop’s Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Community and Middle East Peace Builders, East Shore Unitarian Church, Fostering Interfaith Relationships on the Eastside (FIRE), Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Ithna-asheri Association of the Northwest (IMAN), Kairos Puget Sound Coalition, Kirkland Interfaith Network (KIN), Middle East Focus Ministry, St. Mark’s Cathedral, Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS), Neighbors in Faith, Minister and Board of Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, Pacifica Institute, Peace Catalyst International, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Temple B’Nai Torah, AJC Seattle, Kent Covenant Church

More details on the event and links to transcripts, video, and photos can be found at: <https://bishopscommittee.org/2016/11/04/islam-in-the-public-square-2>

- On Jun 10, 2017 IMAN recognized Rev. Marian Stewart for her contributions to our Kirkland Interfaith community and gave her a warm send off as she moves to her next calling.

Our inter-faith partnership with Rev. Marian Stewart began in August 2010 when she invited our congregation to co-sponsor a September 11th Qur’an reading at NUUC at a time when a preacher in Florida had announced plans for an “International Burn the Koran Day” in which he planned to collect Qur’ans and build a bonfire. That initial successful event led to continued inter-faith cooperation on many other activities in the years to follow, which has included: joint worship services, vigils, building homes for Habitat for Humanity, blood drives, dinners and dialogues, July 4th Parades, engaging local leaders on issues such as: immigration issues, just resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, etc. Rev Stewart played a lead pivotal role in “Fostering Interfaith Relationships on the Eastside (FIRE)” <https://fire-wa.org/>. She will be missed by us all.

- Members of the IMAN community participated and very well received in the Kirkland 4th of July Parade. Parade participants and neighbors were invited to an Eid Barbeque after the parade which was very well attended by the community and our neighbors and was a great success.
- Br. Jawad attended several meetings at Kirkland City Hall to foster a more “Inclusive Kirkland”

Challenges

Over commitment of the IMAN members inclined toward outreach to many other activities in the running of IMAN.

Opportunities

- “Inclusive Kirkland” initiative organized by City of Kirkland is a great opportunity to get involved and network with other faith and civic organizations.
- Educating our neighbors and colleagues on Islam and Muslim continues to be a key opportunity in which more IMAN members can participate.
- Improve resources available on the <http://iman-wa.org>

Recommendations

- When qualified people with a strong commitment and time available can be identified, classes related to specific Islamic beliefs and practices should be offered on a regular basis.
- There need to be well thought out, well supplied and easily accessible resources available for visitors, those interested in learning about Islam or Muslims, and for new converts.
- Stimulating discussion among IMAN members interested in these areas is recommended as a means for clarifying outreach interests, level of commitment, and resources needed. Recruitment of IMAN members to be involved in outreach efforts must be done in the context of their existing commitments. Individuals interested in reaching out tend to be the same members who are already heavily involved in multiple IMAN activities.
- There is a continuing need for improved coordination between Muslim Communities as part of Greater Seattle Council of Muslim Communities.

3.2 Philosophy Study Circle

Accomplishments

- The Philosophy Study Circle met regularly on Wednesday evenings, with approximately 3 to 5 participants on regular basis.
- We continued studying Al-Mizan, Tafsir (exegesis) of the Holy Qur’an by Allameh Seyyed Tabatabai. We use the English translation as a primary source of our reading and we refer to the Arabic and Farsi texts when further inquiry is needed. We occasionally take breaks from reading the Tafsir to watch relevant videos on the topic of our discussions.
- We have completed through verse 66 of Surah Al-e-Imran.
- We have incorporated reading from the new Qur’an commentary, The Study Qur’an, by Professor Nasr which was released in 2015.

Challenges

- Much of the material is challenging and mentally intense, which may be contributing factor for not having higher regular participation from the community.

Opportunities

- The key opportunity that we identified was to improve our knowledge of Islam and the Holy Qur’an through the study of Al Mizan by Allameh Tabatabai, one of the foremost philosophers of Islamic Philosophy.

Recommendations

- Given the focus on Tafsir of the holy Qur'an in recent years, work with others who are also interested in studying of Qur'an and raise broader awareness about this opportunity to learn together.

3.3 Graduate School Scholarship Fund

IMAN provides a host of community services to anyone who is in need, and now it includes educational scholarships for Graduate Students. Creation of this scholarship was an effort that started in 2011 and became more widely advertised in 2012. The Dr. and Mrs. Amir-Hossein Naini Graduate School Scholarship Fund is a graduate scholarship fund that will award up to \$5000 to a qualified Muslim student attending an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States. Applications for scholarship awards from this fund will only be open to those who are U.S. citizens, have permanent legal resident status in the United States or have a valid student visa to attend graduate school in the United States. This scholarship fund exists to assist students seeking a graduate degree in the United States who have shown the potential for great vision, leadership and professionalism in serving Muslim and non-Muslim communities. We ask and encourage you to share this information with those students who have professional and personal ambition to be a source of inspiration to all, including the Muslim community. For more information, please see: <http://www.iman-wa.org/scholarships>.

This was the fourth year we started receiving applications. There were two applicants who submitted complete applications. One applicant was awarded for the scholarship this year.

3.4 IMAN Young Explorers – Robotics Pilot class

At IMAN we have been looking for opportunities to increase activities for children both for their enrichment and growth, benefiting from expertise we have in our community, and also to help increase youth involvement in our community center

A few members of our community, Br. Raza Naqvi, Br. Jafar Shameem, Br. Abid Zaidi, Br. Meenaz Merchant, Br. Ahmed Zaidi, Br. Nadeem Karim, and Br. Mansoor Naqvi decided to run a pilot class to gauge community interest in a robotics class and creating good curriculum and teaching resources.

Based on this

3.5 Lego Mindstorm Robotics class

Br. Mehboob Khaki and Sr. Neelum Khaki helped create this program to be taught by their children Zain and Imaan, sharing their knowledge of Lego Mindstorm robotics. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances this program had to be cancelled.

However, it was still a good learning opportunity. We learned that there is a lot of interest in the community to participate in such programs. There is also interest in the community to share their knowledge and experience and create such programs. We need to do work in our Programs Committee to encourage community members to come forward with such programs, and provide them the support they need to easily and safely create engaging and beneficial programs for kids.

4 Executive Committee Recommendations for 2017/2018

Our recommendations for the coming year are presented below.

4.1 Administrative Excellence

Efforts to improving record keeping and administrative procedures started in 2017 need to continue in the year ahead. This will us help those who want to volunteer to easily come on board and continue building a stronger well-run IMAN.

4.2 Membership

An effort to grow the active membership base needs to be continued.

In addition to raising the funds necessary for operation needs, we need to continue building sufficient reserves for maintenance and renovations that will be necessary in the times ahead.

4.3 Volunteer capacity

Volunteers are a life blood of a non-profit community organization like IMAN. There is no shortage of novel and exciting ideas that can be worked on. We need to reach out to more people and encourage them to volunteer their time and ideas to help plan and organize activities (current and proposed). We are also open to ideas on how we can inculcate the value of volunteerism in our children and have them more involved in helping at IMAN. We look forward to a strong volunteer base at IMAN as part of a thoughtful spiritually vibrant, caring sharing community.

We are still far from having increased our volunteer capacity; especially in areas where leadership is needed. As such, this should remain as a top priority for the upcoming year.

4.4 Children and Youth

Keeping with the foundational focus of our organization, the top priority for IMAN has to be in the development of our children and our youth. A few steps were taken in the past year, and a lot more can be done to engage with our children and youth. Integration with school and outdoor community activities are some of the ideas that are being planned this year. In addition, all subcommittees need to explore how they can engage more with the children and youth. Community members also need to be recruited to help plan and lead activities that involve our children. When designing programs throughout the year, including the weekly Friday evening program, we need to keep the children and youth in mind as top priority. In addition to ensuring that we have enriching programs for adults, in the upcoming year we need to have activities and programs tailored for children (age group 5 to 14 years). We should explore having a variety of activities that are more youth oriented and promote interaction and sense of community amongst the youth.

4.5 Resident Aalim

In absence of a Resident Aalim, Br. Jawad Khaki continues to fill the void by leading daily, Friday and Eid congregational prayers and other necessary activities for the running of IMAN as a religious congregation. He has done so in an honorary role from the inception of IMAN more than twenty years ago. IMAN community like any other faith community will benefit from the services of a qualified

Resident Aalim. A plan has been developed and was presented in the last AGM by Br. Jawad Khaki. This plan requires members of the IMAN community to make a financial commitment that has not yet materialized. It is important that IMAN as community makes the investments necessary as part of its continued growth.

We ask that Allah SWT to guide and supports us on this important effort.