

AMUAAGC Newsletter Vol.1

December 2021
Volume 1, Issue 1



Executive Committee:

President: Dr. Zafeer Ahmad
Vice-President: Dr. Shakil Khan
Secretary: Dr. Asefa Ansari
Treasurer: Mr. Shahbaz Alam

Board Members:

Dr. Zeba Kidwai Siddiqui - Chairperson
Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari
Dr. Israrul Haque Ansari
Dr. Haris Jamil
Mr. Mohammad Qamar

President's Message



Zafeer Ahmad, Ph.D.

Contents

Presidents Message 1	
Highlights	2
Financial Update	2
Membership Update	
Standing Committee	
Update	3
Events	4
Upcoming	6

Recent Events

- * Sir Syed Day – Oct 17th, 2021.
- * Annual Sir Syed Day Mushaira Nov 21st, 2021
- * Monthly EC/Board Meetings
 - July 27th
 - August 6th
 - Sep 3rd
 - Oct 1st
 - Nov 12th
 - Dec 10th

Transparency, Communication, and Engagement

This is our first AMUAAGC newsletter that we are sending to the members showing our commitment for transparency and engagement. First of all, I would like to thank all the previous EC and Board members for their contribution and hard work in such a difficult time due to COVID-19. I am also thankful to all the current EC and Board members for their commitment and dedication to AMUAAGC and accomplishments in such a short time. I am glad to see that many people who left the organization became members again, and our membership has grown to the highest level with the addition of many new members.

We want to maintain your trust and confidence in this organization. It's your organization - the growth of this organization solely depends on your participation. We plan to set-up policies and procedures for making important decisions. We have developed a policy and made a number of committees following this policy. The committee leads are empowered to have separate meetings with the committee members and have open discussions without any interference from the President. Our goal is to summarize and share the by-laws comments from last year and provide opportunity for additional comments from all the members. Additionally, the education committee evaluated many options and projects to consider besides the girl's education which will be shared with you as well.

I wish we were able to have programs in person but due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 cases and mandate of masks again, we were not able to plan in-person programs like Sir Syed Day and Mushaira. There are some advantages to having programs remotely where we manage to invite outside speakers and have an audience from all over the world. We can make these programs even more successful with your participation because it is much easier to attend. We are hoping to conduct all future programs in-person where we can meet each other again.

This year, let us challenge ourselves to do more such projects and programs that have bigger impacts. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world." Together, we can **Serve to Change Lives.**

Highlights:

- Dr. Asefa Ansari appointed as Secretary and Mr. Shahbaz Alam is new AMUAAGC Treasurer.
- Sir Syed Day 2021 celebration held on 17th October 2021 via Zoom.
- Annual Sir Syed Mushaira conducted successfully on Nov 21st 2021 via Zoom.
- Monthly AMUAAGC EC/Board Meetings conducted successfully.

Financial Status:

Bank Balance		Sir Syed Day Program
Jul 23 rd 2021	\$14,186.25	Funds Raised: \$2,250.00
Dec 20 th 2021	\$21,113.38	Expenses: \$1,273. 21

Membership Update:

Summary of Membership 2021-22	Total
Annual Members	90
Life Members	33
Total Members (As on Dec 22, 2021)	123

Following new members joined till Dec 22nd 2021:

- Amit Arora
- Neelam Arora
- Khalid Sayeed
- Shamailah Maseeh

Standing Committee Updates:

Committee Name and Members	Updates
1. Bylaws Committee Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari (Chair) Dr. Zeba Kidwai Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan Dr. Israrul Haque Ansari Dr. Shakil Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The email was sent to all AMUAAGC members with deadline to receive the comments by December 15th. • Last meeting held on Dec 18th, 2021. • The bylaws comments provided by GB last year are reviewed by the members of the bylaws committee. • An email will be sent to the all the AMUAAGC members in January 2022 for additional comments.
2. Education Dr. Israrul Haque Ansari (Chair) Dr. Haris Jamil Dr. Syed Shahabuddin Dr Gulam Waris	Dr. Israr Ansari presented the update. The committee had first meeting on August 23, 2021. Major plans are - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Educational Funding Module, Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transparency, Setting up clear guidelines for fund transfer

<p>Dr Hamidullah Khan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion of boys for scholarships ▪ Starting mentorship program • Short Term Plans (within the USA or India) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual Scholarships / Revival of Sir Syed Award ▪ Exploring Other options to help underprivileged • Long Term Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Starting a non-profit Organization in India ▪ Apply for FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) after 3 years <p>Dr. Israr presented the update on Education Committee. The committee met on September 27, 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Educational Committee’s recommendation on streamlining the transfer of funds. • After a thorough review of the current educational funding module and Bylaws, the Educational Committee members provided the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The term “Girls’ Education Fund” will not be limited to only girls’ education but will encompass funding to General schools, Boys’ Schools, Improving/adding infrastructure of existing educational institutions, and Individual financial assistantships to local students and abroad. • The priority of funding will be in the following order: Girls’ education- or Girl’s education-related educational project • General School project (includes both Boys and Girls) Individual Financial Assistance (Local and Abroad) • Transferring funds to a well-established educational organization, i.e., AMU, JMI, etc. • The project initiator, an AMUAA-GC member, will contribute 10% of the total budget to AMUAA-GC. This amount will also apply to an AMUAA-GC member who brings a proposal to transfer funds to a well-established educational institution. <p>Note: Unanimously agreed to require a contribution of 10% cost of the total proposed budget.</p>
<p>3. Information Technology (IT) Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari (Chair)</p>	<p>IT Committee Chairperson Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari presented IT committee plan for the whole year.</p>

<p>Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan Mr. Shahbaz Alam Mr. Mohammad Irfan Khan Mr. Nadeem Ahmad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He proposed to make changes to the membership form and discard jot form which is a third-party page and not secure. Proposed few changes in the membership form. Also suggested to add and modify some pages on the website. ▪ IT committee has proposed to create a new portal for AMU Global Network which will list the AMU Alumni globally which will be a great resource for AMUAA-GC specially when it comes to membership. The existing portal for global network is no more active and it has been closed therefore it is good opportunity for AMUAA-GC to fill this gap and provide this platform to AMU Alumnus globally and become leader in this space which will help in promoting AMUAA-GC vision and mission. ▪ Few members raised concern on the governance of the information collected online which was clarified by IT Lead. There will be a data policy in place to protect any information collected.
<p>4. Membership Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan (Chair) Dr. Asefa Ansari Mr. Javed Hussain</p>	<p>Following new members joined AMUAAGC for the year 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amit Arora • Neelam Arora • Khalid Sayeed • Shamailah Maseeh
<p>5. Social & Cultural Dr. Shakil Khan (Chair) Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan Dr. Asefa Ansari Dr. Syed Shahabuddin</p>	<p>Dr. Haris Jamil and Dr. Shakil Khan is looking for the venue to conduct Sir Syed Iftar and Dinner on April 9, 2022.</p>

Sir Syed Day Celebrations Oct 17, 2021

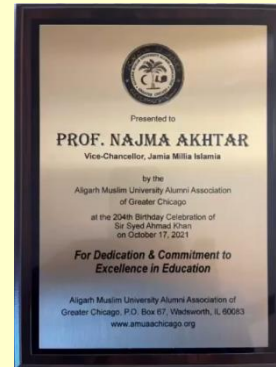
The Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of Greater Chicago (AMUAA-GC) conducted a virtual celebration of 204th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on **Sunday, October 17th, 2021**. This program was attended by **151+** people from different parts of the world through ZOOM and Facebook live.

Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan, Convener of the Sir Syed Day conducted the program. The event was started with Tilawat-E-Quran by **Miss. Mariyam Sheikh**.

Dr. Zafeer Ahmad, President of AMUAAGC gave a presentation on the projects and activities undertaken by AMUAA-GC. He mentioned that many people have rejoined the organization and

taking part in the various activities. A young and talented Student **Miss. Ifra Waris** delivered a speech on the importance of Girls education where she mentioned how and why educating girls are important and critical for the development of a society, community and country.

Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, a keynote speaker and chief guest of this event, delivered an outstanding speech on the relevance of Sir Syed in today's time. In her keynote speech, she mentioned the importance of Girls education and promised to help and support AMUAA-GC for its future projects. AMUAA-GC presented a plaque to Prof. Najma Akhtar for "Dedication & Commitment to Excellence in Education".



The main attraction of this event was a **LIVE** performance by a famous stage artist **Mr. Saleem Shah** as "**Sir SYED**". In his soliloquy, he writes a letter to the Aligarhian and the community members. He has covered the difficulty Sir Syed faced in establishing AMU and talked about

Ghadar (disaster) of 1857. He compared Hindus and Muslims as the two eyes of a bride called Hindustan. He also mentioned one AMU is not sufficient and we need to build many educational institutions all over India. AMUAA-GC feels proud of taking such a pioneer initiative and presenting Sir Syed's message in a unique style.



AMUAA-GC also paid tribute and honored Dr. Abidullah Ghazi Sahib. A small video was played on the life and achievements of Ghazi Saheb.



Mr. Johny Foster a well-known poet from AMU sang some beautiful poetry on Aligarh.

Dr. Zeba Siddiqui, Chairperson of AMUAAGC delivered vote of thanks.

The Sir Syed Day event was highly appreciated by many participants for its creativity, punctuality, professionalism and best use of technology. The entire program was recorded and can be watched on the [AMUAAGC Facebook page](#).

Annual Sir Syed Day Mushaira, Nov 21st, 2021

Annual Sir Syed Day Mushaira was held on November 21, 2021 through Zoom Video. The Mushaira was organized by Dr. Abdullah, Washington DC and several organizations including AMUAAGC participated in the program. Dr. Zafeer Ahmad, President of AMUAAGC was in the organizing committee. Eight pronounced Shayers from India and Pakistan, participated in the program. Dr. Abdullah was the Nazim and Professor Sahar Ansari was Sadr E Mushaira. Salman Akhtar was invited as a special guest.

Annual Sir Syed Day Mushaira
(Established 1975 in USA)
يوم سر سيد عالمي سالانه مشاعره
(قائمہ شدہ 1975ء - مشاعرہ امریکہ)

Participants: Sahar Ansari (Sadr E Mushaira), Tahzeeb Hafi, Sarfraz Nawaz, Azhar Iqbal, Abhishek Shukla, Sabiha Sabia, Ammar Iqbal, Aleena Itrat, Salman Akhtar (Mehman E-Mushaira), A. Abdullah (Nazim E-Mushaira).

Participating Organizations

Aligarh Alumni Associations

- Atlanta, GA
- Birmingham, AL
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Delhi, India
- Washington DC

Other Organizations

- APPNA, Cincinnati, OH
- Mohibban E-Urdu, NA
- Urdu Markaz FL
- Urdu Markaz Int, LA
- Jashn-E-Urdu

Sunday, November 21, 2021
11:00 AM (USA EST) / 9:00 PM (Pakistan) / 9:30 PM (India) / 8:00 PM (UAE) / 7:00 PM (KSA, Qatar) / 4:00 PM (UK)

You can watch online at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/63024897888>
<https://www.facebook.com/AligarhAlumniAssociationOADC/>

Contact for details
Mohammed Akbar ---- 301-828-6485 Qamar Khan ---- 216-287-4212

Upcoming Events:

- * **Bylaw's Amendment:**
 - Tentative Date - February 2022
- * **Sir Syed Iftar and Dinner:**
 - Tentative Date - April 9, 2022 {Convenor – Dr. Haris Jamil}
- * **Picnic, General Body Meeting and Election:**
 - Tentative Date-Saturday, July 23, 2022 {Convenor: Dr. Shakil Khan}

Support AMUAAGC:



**ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER CHICAGO**

**Support Education Projects
(Target Minimum \$20,000 for 2021-2022)**

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

Or donate online at www.amuaachicago.org

All your gifts & donations are tax-deductible!



Photo Gallery:



Sir Syed Day 2021 Zoom Call



Bylaws committee meeting