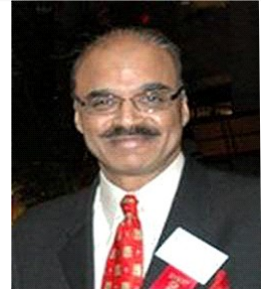




## Message From the President



*Dear Muslims of Maryland,*

*Approximately 7 years ago the Muslims of Maryland started working in the direction of recognizing and empowering Muslims. By the grace of Allah SWT, we have made significant strides in promoting our vision, but still a long way from achieving our goals. The local Muslim Councils have now expanded to seven counties in Maryland including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. Additionally, we have assisted in the formation of two business and professional organizations, American Muslim Business, Professional Association and Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce. These organizations are necessary to empower Muslims of Maryland. I encourage readers to actively participate in these organizations to secure our future in the USA.*

*Maryland Muslims Council (MdMC), an umbrella organization of seven local councils is working closely with the Governor of Maryland and his staff to bridge the divide in the State of Maryland; while striving hard to bring qualified Muslims into policy making positions. The MdMC has become a role model for many other organizations focusing on empowering Muslims in Maryland. A few of the 2008 achievements are listed below:*

- Appointments to various important State Boards and Commissions, 29 Muslims have been appointed and two in progress in last two years (Appointments are listed on Page 5)
- Formation of the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs.
- Iftar Dinner at the Governor Mansion annually (Two Dinners in last two years)
- Six monthly meeting with the Governor to discuss Muslim community issues including; Inclusion Middle Eastern Countries into the minority pool, Arabic language in Local school system
- Formation of the Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce and Muslim Business and Professional Association to empower Businesses and Professionals

*These achievements only mark the beginning and are due to the blessing of Allah SWT, your participation and contribution. Please continue your support and make the future of our children bright in the USA. Let us focus on the collective gains and stay away from individual gains, which have kept us from becoming a force. Your cooperation and participation is imperative for us to reap benefits in the future.*

*Thank you,*

**Anwer Hasan**

*President Maryland Muslim Council*

### Special points of interest in the newsletter:

- Muslim Appointments to the State Boards and Commissions
- Maryland Muslim Council Activities
- Local Council Activities
- Upcoming Muslim Council Activities

### Mission

Maryland Muslim Council (MdMC) is a non profit organization dedicated to promoting interest and involvement of Muslims in the State of Maryland. MdMC is committed to supporting, sponsoring, and participating in activities of common interest to Muslims and Citizens of Maryland.

### Vision

Achieve social, political, and economic development opportunities and full participation for over 250,000 Muslims living in Maryland.

## **Muslims Appointments to State Boards and Commissions (32)**

### **Boards and Commissions Appointments**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1) Akbar Ansari     | Manufacturing Board—Baltimore County                        |
| 2) Anwer Hasan      | Higher Education Commission—Howard County                   |
| 3) Hasan Askari     | Transportation Commission—Howard County                     |
| 4) Melvin Bilal     | Community Initiatives Commission—City of Baltimore          |
| 5) Khalid Said      | Tourism Board—City of Baltimore                             |
| 6) Dr. Habib Bhutta | Board of Physician Quality Assurance—Prince George's County |
| 7) Muhammad Khan    | Accounting Board—Baltimore County                           |
| 8) Erum Malik       | Women Commission—Howard County                              |
| 9) Kamil Ismail     | Judicial Council— City of Baltimore                         |
| 10) Kamran Baig     | Banking Board—Montgomery County                             |
| 11) Kanan Hudhud    | Human Relation Commission—Frederick County                  |
| 12) Rashid Chotani  | Infectious Disease—Howard County                            |
| 13) Rizwan Siddiqi  | STEM Task Force-Anne Arundel County                         |
| 14) Ghulam Jilani   | Mortician Board, Prince George's County                     |

### **Muslim Appointments to the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs**

- |                         |           |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 14) Anwer Hasan,        | Chair     | Howard County         |
| 15) Aijaz El-Fiki       | Egypt     | Frederick County      |
| 16) Khalil Zaied,       | Palestine | City of Baltimore     |
| 17) Bilal Ayub          | Jordon    | Montgomery County     |
| 18) Irma Hafeez         | Pakistan  | Montgomery County     |
| 19) Ibrahim Uyar,       | Turkey    | Montgomery County     |
| 20) Sayed Hassan        | Egypt     | Howard County         |
| 21) Mohd Magid,         | Iraq      | Baltimore County      |
| 22) Dorreya Elemenshawy | Egypt     | Baltimore County      |
| 23) Dr. Zahid Bokhari,  | Pakistan  | Frederick County      |
| 24) Dr. Riad Dakheel,   | Syria     | Prince Georges County |
| 25) Rudwan Abu Ruman,   | Jordan    | Anne Arundel County   |
| 26) Nadya Swaya,        | Lebanan   | City of Baltimore     |
| 27) Durriya Badani,     | Pakistan  | Montgomery County     |
| 28) Farzaneh Riar,      | Iran      | Montgomery County     |

### **Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs**

- |                    |            |                        |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 29) Amjad Riar,    | Pakistan   | Montgomery County      |
| 30) Anis Ahmad,    | Bangladesh | Montgomery County      |
| 31) Shukoor Ahmad, | India      | Prince George's County |

## Maryland Muslim Council Activities highlights

### Iftar receptions at the Governor Mansion, 2007 and 2008

- The Maryland Muslim Council has consistently been guests during the Month of Ramadan at the Home of Governor Martin O'Malley. It has been a time to reflect on the relationship we have built with the administration in Annapolis. We look forward to the continued relationship with the Governor's Office. We hope through these Iftar Dinners that we can remain engaged and perhaps strengthen our partnerships toward solving our States most pressing problems.
- This year the Month of Ramadan will be in August—September 2009 and a reception is yet to be scheduled. Muslims interested in attending the reception please contact Mr. Anwer Hasan at 443-324-1287.



### Presidential Forum at ISB in 2008

- The Presidential Forum organized by the Maryland Muslim Council on February 09, 2008 at Islamic Society of Baltimore was very successful. Over 800 Muslims and non Muslims attended the event and the focus of questions was foreign policy because former Secretary of State Madeline Albright was present at the event representing Hillary Clinton. This occasion allowed us to recruit more members for MdMC. The event was covered by the newspapers and local television channels.



### MdMC Annual Dinners in 2006 and 2007

- MdMC Inaugural Dinner at BWI Marriott was attended by 800 Muslims and all Federal, State and Local Politicians of Maryland. The three local Councils Baltimore County, Howard County and Montgomery County actively worked towards making the dinner successful. Additionally, the event inspired other counties and four new councils were formed in 2007.
- MdMC 2nd Annual Dinner took place in October 2007 at Hyatt Regency, over 1,100 Muslims attended. The event focused on Muslim Unity and Celebration of the Candidates success in 2006 Gubernatorial



### MdMC Participation in the Governor's Transition

- Muslims of Maryland participated at the Invitation of the Governor in the Transition Team for Education, Planning and Transportation. Additionally, Mr. Anwer Hasan Chaired the Transportation Transition Team.



### **Increase in number of Local Councils from three to seven-Jan 2008**

Maryland Muslim Council work hard to increase the number of local councils from three to seven. The Maryland Muslim Council was formed with three local councils, Baltimore County, Howard County and Montgomery County and in 2007 and 2008 we have added four more councils, Anne Arundel County, City of Baltimore, Frederick County and Prince George's County. Currently MdMC is working towards forming two more councils in Harford and Washington County to increase the total to nine local councils

### **MdMC Retreat February 08, 2008**

The Annual MdMC retreat took Place on February 08, 2009 at the Best Western Hotel in the City of Baltimore. Thirty Five Muslims from seven local Muslim Councils, American Muslim Business and Professional Association (AMBPA), Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce (MECC) attended the event and discussed the future of Maryland Muslim Council. A few conclusive recommendations including hiring of a full time staff was discussed and approved by the Council

### **MdMC Six Monthly Meeting with the Governor of Maryland July 2008**

The six monthly meeting with the Governor took place in February of 2009. The meeting was attended by the MdMC, AMBPA and MECC representatives and discussed with the Governor and his Cabinet issues such as including Middle Eastern countries to MBE pool, Arabic language in Maryland Public Schools, Muslim Gas Station, Sister State relationship with Middle Eastern Countries, Halal Food in Public Schools and Colleges and Muslim day in the Maryland School System.

### **American Muslim Business & Professional Association Jan 2008**

Maryland Muslim Council worked with active businesses and professionals to form a dynamic American Muslim and Business and Professional Association to protect the interest of Muslim businesses and provide greater opportunities. AMBPA is working toward organizing their first inaugural activity on May 29, 2009 to discuss business opportunities available as a result of Stimulus spending, BRAC and Federal and state spending. Please visit [www.AMBPA.org](http://www.AMBPA.org) website to be-

### **Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs Apr. 2008**

come member and participate in growth and prosperity.

The historic decision was announced by the Governor in 2007 Iftar reception at the Governor mansion and the executive order was signed in January and the commission was inaugurated in April 2008 with first meeting. 14 Muslims and three Jewish members were installed by the Governor. The focus of the commission is to evaluate the needs and concern of the Middle eastern communities in Maryland including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Iran. The commission is very active in addressing Business, Social and cultural issues.

### **Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce December 2008**

MdMC assisted in the formation of the Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce. The focus of the organization is to become a voice for Middle Eastern Countries and the vision is to "use commerce to bridge the divide". The Chamber of Commerce consists of Muslims and Jewish businesses and professionals with domestic and international focus. Cassandra Noor is the President of the Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce. Please render your support to make the Chamber of Commerce successful.

### **Boards and Commission Appointments**

The Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed 29 Muslims to various State Boards and Commissions in last two years and currently two appointments to Board of Physician, Quality Assurance and Human Relation Commission are in progress. All appointments will be posted on the new website soon for the community information.

## Anne Arundel County Muslim Council (AACMC)

### Summary of 2008 Activities

- April 26, 2008 Arranged Social Networking:
- May 05, 2008 Organized community dinner at Makkah Learning Center,
- May 24, 2008 Blood drive with the American Red Cross at Makkah Learning Center?
- June 15, 2008 First Annual AACMC Dinner John Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive was the featured speaker. Gave out Executive Citations for outstanding service to the county.
- September, 2008. food drive over Ramadan, donated the food to Seven Day Adventist church, as well as St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Eastport in Annapolis
- September 20, 2008 Iftar Reception for political leaders and law enforcement
- October 26, 2008 participated in the GAIN (Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network) festival.
- November 01, 2008, Blood drive with the American Red Cross at Makkah Learning Center?
- December 15, 2009: Donated a total of 400 pounds of meat to the Lighthouse Shelter in Annapolis, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Eastport, Seven Adventist Church, The Muslim Women Shelter in Baltimore as well as a few other individuals.

Rudwan Abu Ruman, President



## Baltimore County Muslim Council (BCMC)

Akbar Ansari, President

### Summary of 2008 Activities

- Food drives in community supporting efforts to feed the hungry.
- Prepared assembly of food packs at Meals on Wheels for Senior citizens.
- Participate in initiatives led by the Baltimore County Executive office such as Good Neighbor week, affordable housing and 'Back Home' initiatives.
- Make presentations to the County Board of Education on different issues in the community
- Conducted Voter Registration campaigns in the community during Presidential Campaign.
- Encouraged Muslims to volunteer their time to the County's different commissions and committees
- Provided free Medical Exam for High School students for their sports activities
- Led winter coats and sleeping bag campaign for needy in the neighborhood during winter
- Supported all political activities encouraging Muslim community to fully participate in them.
- Organized and Supported fundraisers for local politicians
- Supported and participated in interfaith activities in the community.



## City of Baltimore Muslim Council (CBMC)

- **Summary of 2008 Activities includes:**
- Organized Candidate Forum for Mayoral and the City Council Candidates
- Supported a Muslim Candidate for City of Baltimore Council and participated in many social and political activities in Baltimore City.
- Due to the socio economic situation of the residence Muslims and Non Muslims. The City of Baltimore Muslim Council has focused on initiatives to address homelessness, Hunger and health.
- Homelessness— The City of Baltimore Muslim council is working with the Local Masjids to establish a men shelter. This shelter will focus on Muslims but will be open to all.
- Hunger— City of Baltimore Muslim Council has worked for several years in feeding the local community throughout the year but especially during the month of Ramadan. CBMC has partnered with Islamic Relief and have fed hundreds of people throughout the community. Our partnership with Islamic Relief have also improved our capacity to provide health screenings, personal humanitarian bags for men and women.
- Participated in the Cleaning of the Neighborhood roads and alleys— Islamic Way at Masjid Huq

Rashid Ibrahim, President



## Fredrick County Muslim Council (FCMC)

### Summary of 2008 activities includes:

- Successful Food drive-donated food to the local Frederick County food bank
- Voter registration drive
- Meet the candidates' night at Holiday Inn, Congressmen and Board of Education candidates attended this event
- Effort to introduce Arabic language in Frederick County Public Schools language curriculum
- Participated and Supported fundraisers for local and state politicians
- Launched FCMC website
- Effort to introduce Islamic History books approved by Muslim scholars in schools and local libraries.
- Organized Blood Drive
- Organized Meet the Mayors of Frederick County Debate and Q&A
- Organized joint activities with the Islamic Society of Frederick including Teacher and police appreciation dinners

Dr. Syed W. Haque President



## Howard County Muslim Council (HCMC)

### Summary of activities for 2008:

We have a 12 months rolling calendar of activities. The key activities for HCMC are as follows:

- April 2008, Living Well Health Fair
- August 2008 Food Drive & Picnic food distribution to Howard County Food Bank
- October 2008 Teachers Appreciation Dinner
- Participated and presented Diversity Training for Howard County Firefighters, Police and Correction Center.
- Participated in Martin Luther King Award Dinner
- Supported and participated in political fundraiser for local candidates

**Dr. Rashid A. Chotani President**



## Montgomery County Muslim Council (MCMC)

### Summary of activities for 2008.

- Food drive and Picnic 2008 and food distribution to local food bank
- Ramdan Iftar in September 2008 to a homeless shelter in Rockville operated by Interfaith Works Ministry
- Lead Voter Registration campaigns in the community.
- Provided assistance with the backpack for students campaign with Interfaith works.
- Support/participate and organized an interfaith dialogue with Jewish community.
- Members served as Election Judges, volunteers, translator and campaign help in National Presidential Election 2008.
- Two General Body meetings to engage and recruit membership.
- Held Election for the new board – Elections are held every two years.
- Formed a tax exempt sister organization MCMF. Appointed and held elections for MCMF.
- Assisted MCMF in their first Holiday Gift Basket and Zabiha Meat for needy program. Served 700 + needy families in the County December 2008.

**Saquiba Ahmad, President**



## Upcoming MdMC Events in 2009

- Governor Mansion Iftar Reception August 2009. Date to be announced soon. Please forward your request to [anwer-hasan@hotmail.com](mailto:anwer-hasan@hotmail.com) if you like to attend the reception.
- Maryland Muslim Council Annual Dinner, October 25, 2009 at Hyatt Regency in the Baltimore City. 1100 Muslims are expected to attend the dinner. The dinner will be attended by the Governor and other State, Local and Federal politicians and executives Please reserve your ticket or sponsorship immediately. Individual Ticket \$50 and a table of ten is \$475. Sponsorship opportunities available.
- Health Conference organized by the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, the Maryland Muslim Council and Local Councils to discuss religious and culture barriers which preclude the Muslims to take to take medical help. The health conference will be attended by the health providers, State and Community activist and Health Secretary John Colmers and Secretary of Appointments Jeanne Hitchcock.
- American Muslim and Business Professional Inaugural Dinner at Beltsville Sheraton on May 29, 2009. The Dinner is expected to be attended by 250 Businesses and Professional from Maryland, DC and Virginia. The event will focus on Business and Economic opportunities in Maryland, BRAC and Stimulus funding. DBED Secretary, Christen Johansson, Dy. Secretary, Dominick Murray and Governor's Community Initiative Director, Izzy Patoka are expected to attend this event.
- For Local Councils announcements and activities, please visit [www.themdmc.org](http://www.themdmc.org) or the local councils websites. The links for the local councils are provided in the Maryland Muslim Council