



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

**Of Conveners and Imams in Association with the
Leadership of Imam W.D. Mohammed**

SUBMITTED BY

SECTION CONVENER

IMAM BASHIR ALI
IMAM AHMED SABREE
IMAM SALAHUDDIN HANIF
IMAM FAHMEE SABREE
IMAM TAALIB MAHDEE
IMAM ABU PASHA
IMAM WALI FARDAN

NATIONAL/MIDWEST CONVENER
NORTHEAST CONVENER
SOUTHERN CONVENER
SOUTHWEST CONVENER
NEW ENGLAND CONVENER
MIDATLANTIC CONVENER
WESTERN CONVENER

WE CANNOT STOP NOW!



GOODNESS IS ON THE RISE!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first annual Sectional Conveners' Report! This report is the first effort since the passing of Imam W. Deen Mohammed to provide an update about some of the highlights occurring in each Section of our community over the past year. Since we decided to produce this report late in the year, it is brief and may not include a report from all of the Sections. However, we expect the report to grow in substance and comprehensiveness over the next couple years.

The report is a collection of several reports; which include a report about the activity of the Sectional Conveners as a body and then reports of highlights from each of the Sections. This practice will become an ongoing activity and we pray and believe that it will become something that all community members look forward to reading.

CONVENERS' REPORT

The Sectional Conveners in association with the leadership of Imam W. D. Mohammed are pleased to report on several substantive initiatives that we have initiated in 2013. These include:

- Three Community Leadership Summits
- Improvement of the Community Website
- Publishing of important Community Announcements, Events, and News.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

During 2013, the Section Conveners invited community leaders and representatives to come together at a **Community Leadership Summit (CLS)**. Three CLS sessions were held in 2013; two in New Medinah, MS and one in Houston, TX.

The purpose of the CLS was to facilitate dialogue and identify developmental needs of the community and to develop goals, strategies and objectives for community development. As a result of the CLS activities, five priorities were identified. They include: Economics, Education, Culture, Government, and Youth Development. The Sectional Conveners will be reviewing progress on CLS priorities and will discuss how best to move the process forward into the future. Some of the participating organizations and sections are also in the process of developing follow-up activities in conjunction with CLS priorities.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The community website (www.iwdmcommunity.com) was conceived and designed to provide several benefits to the community, including:

- A place that is a one-stop portal or window to an abundance of information about our entire community

- A place where important announcements affecting the entire community can be broadcast
- A place where community achievements can be highlighted for all to see
- A place where our community can see a picture of our unity and potential strength.

All the links on the website are now active and live and the website is now baselined and ready to build improvements on top of the current foundation. Plans for future improvements include adding links to Section websites that contain links to every local Masjid and major organizations in our Community.

During the year, the Conveners received input from Imams concerning the process for making community announcements. Some important announcements were about:

- Special events, such as the beginning of Ramadhan and projected Eid dates, national events such as Mosque Cares Convention and Saviors Day and other special events such as the MALI Conference and the Grand Houston Event.
- Highlights of achievements by both individual community members and Local Communities (Masjids).

SECTION REPORTS

THE MIDWEST SECTION

Over the last year, Midwest Imams and the Midwest Leadership Team (MLT) have been actively engaged in a number of community development activities. These include:

- The Midwest Leadership Conference
- The Midwest Leadership Team activities and initiatives
- The Imams' task forces.

During 2013, the Midwest Leadership Conference was held April 18-20, in St. Louis, Missouri. The objectives of the conference were to recognize that leadership in our community is diverse and extends beyond Imams, to assist local communities and leaders in developing the critical areas of community life, and to begin the process of identifying and developing the next generation of leaders in our community. The six focus areas of the conference included Islamic Development, Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Education, Business/Economic Development, Culture, and Government.

The conference was designed so that individuals can identify an interest, passion, or area of professional expertise in which they may want to focus their local community development efforts, gain information from leaders in our association in these areas, network and develop contacts with track leaders and presenters or other individuals with expertise in the Midwest Section, and strengthen lines of communication and relationships among conference participants.

The Midwest Leadership Team includes Imams and other leaders of expertise in the Midwest Section. The MLT is composed of seven teams that work throughout the year on the above-mentioned areas for community development. They also report out to the section at the annual conference. In addition to the annual conference responsibilities, recent exciting MLT initiatives include a 2014 Midwest Culture Tour and Marriage and Family and Family Life Conference.

Recently the Midwest Imams also developed three task forces. These include:

- Sectional Governance: to study and benchmark the best governance practices from developed sections of Imams in association with the leadership of Imam W.D. Mohammed. The task force will develop governance recommendations for Midwest Imams.
- Islamic Development: to research and recommend the preferred knowledge, skill sets, and ways to develop current and future leaders of the community in association with the leadership of Imam W.D. Mohammed. The task force will conduct surveys and focus groups with believers and benchmark other sections and report back to both the Midwest Imams and the Midwest Section.

- Intellectual Properties: to review the recommendations of the Sectional Conveners and offer sectional recommendations to address community concerns relative to the future use of the intellectual property of Imam W. D. Mohammed.

In 2014 (ISA), Midwest Imams, other community leaders, recognized professionals, and believers will continue to address major areas of development critical for creating model Muslim communities. In April, the Imams and the Midwest Leadership Team will partner with Masjid Bilal and Warith Deen in Cleveland, Ohio to sponsor the 2014 Midwest Leadership Conference. In August, the MLT will sponsor the Midwest Marriage and Family Life Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to these events, plans are also in place to host the new Midwest Culture Tour in four to six Midwest cities.

THE NEW ENGLAND SECTION

In 2013 the seven Masjids in the New England Section have continued to provide Islamic services to the Muslim community, such as Jumu'ah, Ta'aleem and Ramadhan/Eid. In addition, we continue to support each other at our annual fundraising events and conferences.

This year, Masjid Al-Qur'aan of Boston MA entered into a contractual arrangement with the Islamic Council of North America Relief to renovate a house owned by the Masjid for the purpose of establishing a House for Women (Amal = Hope). We pray this women's shelter will help alleviate a growing problem within the Muslim Community and our Community at large.

Masjid Al-Qur'aan is also ready to renovate a commercial space and two 3 bedroom apartments owned by the Masjid. They are in talks with a Muslim businessperson working on the plans.

The New Africa Learning Center of Hartford Connecticut, which is an independent subsidiary of the Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford, continues to conduct services in Northern Hartford. Positive relationships with religious, community and political leaders are being established and improved.

The Muslims in the Providence Rhode Island area are negotiating to acquire property to build and Islamic Center. Fundraising is expected to begin in the Spring of 2014.

The Muslims of the Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford recorded a number of accomplishments, including:

- Eight (8) new Muslim converts
- Organized many conferences, including the Uswah, Martin Luther King, and Interfaith Healthcare conferences.
- Dawah lectures at several college campuses and on radio and TV shows.

Imams are very active in the community holding noteworthy positions. One is serving a second term as the President of the Hartford NAACP, another was recently appointed to the Rhode Island Commission on Civil Rights and another Imams holds the positions of Consultant on the board for the Consortium of Clara Muhammad Schools, President of the Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut, (CT Chaplains),

Regional Coordinator of American Coalition for Good Government, Co-Chair for Interfaith fellowship for Universal Healthcare, Board of Directors for C.A.I.R. (Council for American Islamic Relations), and Board of Directors for Connecticut Center for a New Economy.

THE NORTHEAST SECTION

The Northeast Section has seen progress in many areas through individual and collective efforts. Some of these highlights are included below.

INCREASED IMAM COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION

In 2013, Imams of the Northeast Section showed improved commitment, cooperation and coordination in the following ways:

- Increased attendance at quarterly face-to-face Section meetings and agreement to develop staff to further increase the effectiveness of sectional efforts.
- Increased use of the email networks to promote local events and information.
- Cooperative, peaceful completion of our third successful election of Section Conveners. This indicates continued support for the growth of Islamic Democracy and Sectional cooperation and collaboration.
- Developed complete listing of Imams and Masjids in the Northeast Section and distributed to all Imams in the Section.

INCREASED PROGRESS OF MASJIDS

There are too many areas of progress to mention in this report, but here are a few highlights:

- Masjid Ali K. Muslim Newark New Jersey has built their Masjid from the ground with primarily local community money and construction company. They recently completed the installation of a 40,000 elevator.
- Masjidullah Plainfield New Jersey completed a 200,000 transformation of the Masjid and last month submitted a 130,000 grant application with the city of Plainfield to transform the weekend Soup kitchen (15 years of service) into a full Food Pantry.
- Masjidullah Philadelphia Pennsylvania recently purchased a Multi-Million dollar property, which includes classrooms, a gymnasium, theatre and more. It is a multi-building package deal.
- Several Masjids have weekly or monthly food pantry/soup kitchen type operations.
- Unity Ta'aleem held between several Masjids.
- More progress than the allotted space allows here.

BUSINESS

- Partnership established between the Council of Imams of New Jersey and City National Bank, an African American owned bank. A cornerstone of this partnership is the development of a Halal industry, including a Halal Food Chain.
- Council of Imams of New Jersey received state certification as Halal inspectors and have been visiting and inspecting Halal establishments throughout the state.
- Establishment of the Muslim Business Chamber of Commerce.
- More....

EDUCATION

- Muslims in Newark NJ area received approval to close the Newark school system for the Eid Holidays.
- Several Masjids have established regular classes studying Al-Islam and specifically the language of Imam W. Deen Mohammed.
- Several Masjids have regular youth programs to preserve Islamic values and increase friendships amongst the youth.
- Some Masjids are implementing the Higher Voice Dawah program to systematically get brothers out into the neighborhoods again. This is community education.
- more...

GOVERNMENT

- Several Muslims ran for political office, finishing second in three cases.
- Most Masjids held a vote of confidence (election, ratification) for their Imams and Majaalis. Internal good government is as important as external good government.
- more...

CULTURE

- One Masjid holds regular jazz performances by Muslim musicians on location to preserve our culture.
- One group has produced a short film and a play, featuring our causes.
- There is an artist who depicts African Islamic history through a one man performance.
- An Islamic Day Parade is held each year.
- An Islamic History museum preserves artifacts from our community and holds regular programs.
- more...

The Northeast Section Imams are strongly motivated to increase our effectiveness through both local and collective focus of efforts and talents. 2014 promises to be a year of growth and improvement.

THE SOUTHERN SECTION

Masjids and Centers of the Southern Section are assessed \$100.00 yearly. Monies are used for scholarship, projects and school assistance. Our Section has no legal ties, we are a group of independent Masjids and Centers coming together to assist one another, maintain solidarity and further our Islamic presence.

Our Section meets quarterly. The meetings rotate throughout our Section, which includes Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and South Carolina. Our representatives include Convener, Co-convener, Secretary and Treasurer. Positions are two year terms with a two term limit, unless overridden by Shuraa. All of our decisions are arrived at by the process of Shuraa.

The city and state of our quarterly meetings are decided at the end of the meeting and is a part of our agenda. Below is a list of some of the programs and activities we are involved in:

- Two educational scholarships awarded each year in the amount of \$1,500.00.
- Each Masjid and Islamic Center is encouraged to establish a pantry and assist those in need.
- Emergency Relief Program to assist in disasters.
- Building projects involve a Boarding School in New Madinah, MS and future plans for convention sites.
- Plans are underway to have a Sectional Convention in 2014, geared primarily to family and children.
- We are constantly integrating Islamic education in all of our meetings. This education is political, social, as well as economical in nature.
- Each quarterly meeting our agenda includes discussions on a wide range of topics such as : Muslim Journal, Ongoing projects, Educational needs, Business development and expansion, Community cooperation and assistance (between Masjids and Centers), Role of Mosque Cares, Muhammad, Arabic workshops, Inter-faith education, Assessment of needs for our various Masjids and Centers, and local, state, national and international issues.
- Business Involvement – Connecting business people with their needs to grow. National and International.
- We are encouraged to support activities in our section as well as nationally.
- Plans to posterize the Hilal procedures into a beautiful and colorful poster w/illustrations.

THE SOUTHWEST SECTION

The Southwest Section is working on many projects that will be of great benefit to the community. Here is a list of some of those projects:

1. Land acquisition for the construction of:

- New Masjids
- Senior Housing
- Apartment Buildings
- Medical Clinic
- Credit Union
- Schools
- Strip Mall
- Grocery Stores
- Community Centers

2. Dawah Activities related to:

- Interfaith
- Focolare Relationship
- Prison Ministry, both male and female
- Food Pantries
- Community Gardening
- Training Youth in Business
- Crime Prevention
- Community Pride Programs
- Community Outreach

3. Education Initiatives Include:

- Some Weekend Schools
- Leadership Training

- Financial Literacy - Building Family & Community Wealth
- Increased communication
- Annual Marriage Retreat to increase family education
- The Shuraa Process

These are just some of the wonderful things going on in the Southwest Section.

THE MIDATLANTIC SECTION

REPORT NOT AVAILABLE

THE WESTERN SECTION

REPORT NOT AVAILABLE