

MCC Election 2017

MCC 2017 Elections are Underway! Here are the Bios of the Candidates and some important information:

1. Candidates' Forums will be held as follows (**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME**)
--Sunday, November 12, 2017 at MCC Elston @ **10:30 am** in Community Room
--Sunday, November 19, 2017 at MEC Morton Grove @ **10:30 am** in the Community Room (masjid basement)
2. **Absentee Ballot Requests are due by Friday, November 10th, 2pm.** You must be a member eligible to vote at the time of your request. Request forms are available on-line or at the MCC Offices. Please be mindful if you are traveling as you may not receive your ballot in time if you delay your request. *If you do not receive your Ballot by November 23rd, you must notify the election committee via e-mail (see below) by November 30th.*
3. Members voting on Election Day must **reconcile their membership status by November 30th in order to vote.**
4. **Election Day is Sunday, December 10th from 10am-3pm only at the Elston and Morton Grove buildings.** If Elections are cancelled that day due to an Emergency, Elections will be held the following Sunday (Dec. 17th) same time & locations. Again, please be mindful of your travel plans and request an Absentee Ballot if you will be gone within the first few weeks of December.

Please contact Samina Hussain at mccelectioncommittee@gmail.com if you have any further questions.

PRESIDENT'S POSITION (1 vacancy)

Afsar Ali

I am thankful to Allah SWT for blessing me with the opportunities to volunteer at MCC for more than 20 years in various capacities. A Life Member of MCC, I serve as Director on MCC's Board, and chaired multiple Board appointed committees. I served as the Chairman of Part-Time Schools' Academic Council overseeing the several schools under the MCC umbrella. As the Principal of MCC Sunday School for more than 10 years, I managed a team of over 80 staff members and instituted & administered the Board Examination, managing the program across all the schools within the system. I also teach Sunday School 9th graders the post *Khulafa-e-Rashidun* history of Muslims. My formal training includes a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and a Master's & Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Professionally, I work in Research & Development at a multinational corporation.



My Vision / Goals for MCC:

- **Intra-Faith Harmony**: Instituting programs that promote intra-faith harmony, consistent with Qur'an 3:103, to counter creeping sectarianism & intolerance which tend to alienate fellow Muslims, particularly the youth.
- **Critical Thinking**: Promote Qur'an tafseer programs with emphasis on critical thinking.
- **Social Justice & Countering Islamophobia**: Enhance engagement in social justice causes & extend interfaith efforts beyond our current partners to the relatively reluctant segments within Evangelicals, Baptists and Pentecostals to help stem Islamophobia.
- **Excellence in Education**: Commit to excellence in education by enhancing the quality of our schools while also pursuing other initiatives, ensuring existing programs are not impacted.

- **Quality of Jum'a Khutbas**: Introduce simple feedback mechanisms to improve quality of khutbas.
- **Coherent Organization**: Alignment of goals of individual committees and councils to those of the organization as a whole to facilitate coherent operation.
- **Facility Planning**: Review and make projections of future facility requirements for MCC in the coming 10 to 20 years.

Additionally, I leverage my knowledge of the Bible to make frequent on-air calls to area religious radio stations that often feature anti-Islamic guests, many of whom are listed in the Southern Poverty Law Center's Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists. During these call-ins, I try my best to offer listeners and hosts a more accurate representation of our great religion. Working with fellow Muslims in the Chicago area, I am also an active member of a Steering Committee to promote better understanding and harmony between Sunnis and Shi'as

Kamran Hussain

I was born and raised in this community, from the time I was a baby at the Kedzie masjid, went to Sunday School and Dar-ul-Uloom at MCC, and played basketball every Friday night at MEC in the 1990s.



I have been a Lifetime Member of MCC for about 10 years. Administratively, I first was the Co-Chair of the Muslim Youth Camp in 1994. For about 1 or 2 years in 2002 I was head of the Library Committee at MCC. During the fundraising phase of the MEC Masjid and school expansion project, I was on the fundraising committee from 2002-2007. From 2007 to 2013 I served on the Board of MCC and of those 6 years, I was the Vice President under two different Presidents. During my years on the Board, I served as the Jummah Chair at MCC for about a year and a half and currently, I still serve as the Jummah Chair at MEC.

My Vision is to make MCC more inviting to the newer generation and make it a Family Friendly place for all Muslims who live in the area. I have noticed that the average Muslim from my generation and younger is disconnected from their local masjid. They begin looking elsewhere to gain spirituality, whether it be on-line, 3rd spaces, or just apathy with the masjid environment. As someone who has a deep attachment to the masjid, but also understands why people feel disenfranchised, I would like to help build a team of new leaders who can create a culture that will help this "lost" generation reconnect with the masjid in a more positive fashion. Knowing that many from my generation have busy lives with work, family, and various other commitments outside of the masjid, our goal is to at least create a culture where families feel excited and want to come to the masjid for the various programs. Our elders have done a better job than anyone of us could have done to make the MCC into a beautiful place and help create opportunities for others and newcomers to participate. Our goal is to improve upon all the great things being done at MCC, disseminate information about all the great things going on, and lastly, to empower the young generation so they can be the next leaders of this masjid.

I currently live in Wilmette, Illinois with my wife and 3 children, who were at one time, students at MCC Academy. I am an Optometrist by profession and my wife is a Teacher's Assistant at Niles West High School.

DIRECTOR--GENERAL CATEGORY (2 vacancies)

Habib Abbasi

I have been a lifetime member of MCC since 1980. I have served the MCC community as a Board of Director, Committee Chairman and member of various departments such as Food & Fun Fair,

Fundraising Committee, By-Laws Committee, Outreach & Interfaith Committee and served as a Department Head of the Executive Committee.

I am a retired Director of Physical Therapy after 28 years of service and presently, President of Auxiliary of the Hospital and part-time consultant to the hospital. My fundraising and outreach experiences in these roles will be helpful if I become elected to the MCC Board.

I would like to improve the services to our seniors, youth and community needs in different areas such as health education, permanent health clinic at MCC & MEC for all members. I would like to work on transportation between the facilities and develop a program to assist and visit those that are sick, widows/widowers, and those who cannot come to the mosque on a regular basis. We should also help those in need get assistance from government agencies and other organizations.

I am also currently on the Skokie Board of Health. I assist in community outreach and educational services to the community regarding health issues. I also serve as the MCC Community Liaison to the Skokie Village Hall. I am willing to work with anybody in any area as long as it is for the betterment of the community. My three children have all graduated from MCC and have served MCC in some capacity. Now I am proud to say that my grand-children are now at MCC as well. My wife has also volunteered her services to MCC in various capacities such as Women's Committee Chairman, Fundraising, Teaching, Counseling, etc.

Najiba Miraki

My husband and I have been members of MCC for over ten years. Our children, Royana and Aymal both attend the MCC Sunday school. I have served on the MCC board for two years, participated in the MCC long term planning committee, served as member of CDE and Imam search committee. Currently, I am a teacher at MCC Sunday school as well as the Co-Chair of the MCC Sunday school PTO.

Outside of MCC, I am a product manager for alternative investments at a local company and have worked there for 17 years. Additionally, I have an MBA in Finance and a BA in Psychology.

As a Chicago resident and MCC Sunday school parent, if elected, will focus on the following:

1. Continue to help evolve our MCC/MEC Sunday school Islamic curriculum for our children to positively impact their development & ability to perform dawa and effectively manage the growing Islamophobic sentiments.
2. Better security for MCC and MEC - explore ideas around how we can make these locations as safe as possible for all, especially in light of the current environment.
3. Making Sunday school inviting and exciting for our children so they would look forward to attending school every Sunday.

Shafique Khan

I have volunteered in many capacities in our community going back to the 1980s, particularly in the educational system. I served on the MCC Board, full time school council, volunteered as a teacher at Sunday school, chairman of the Rehab & welfare committee, and served as a judge multiple times at our school system's annual speech contests. Professionally, I am a Senior Engineering Manager at Sargent Lundy LLC, a premier consulting firm in Chicago.

Naveed Sarwar

I have been a member of MCC since 2010 and currently serve as the Chairperson for the Part Time School Administrative Council of MCC. During 2015-16, I served as the Chairperson of Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at MCC Sunday School and taught 4th Grade Seerah/History there last year with my wife.



With a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering (CE) from UET in Lahore, Pakistan and Masters in CE with concentration in Construction Engineering & Management from IIT in Chicago, I'm a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Illinois and Wisconsin. Currently, I'm working for an engineering consulting firm and leading their construction group in Chicago for Roads, Highways and Bridges.

My wife and I have three beautiful kids, mashaAllah, and all three of them go to MCC Sunday School. My wife is a volunteer teacher at MCC Sunday School and our family loves going to MCC every week to meet our MCC family and find ways to contribute in our MCC Community. My vision for MCC is aligned with the biggest challenge we currently have in our hand which is to educate our youth about Islam and prepare them practically to be THE CONFIDENT MUSLIMS, inshaAllah.

One interesting thing about me is that I love football and I gave up Sunday afternoon football to volunteer at MCC, which I consider to be at a higher calling. Since kids are in Sunday School, I figured its best to lead by example. It was one of the best decision I made, and as a result, I have met some amazing people at MCC!

DIRECTOR--WOMEN'S CATEGORY (2 vacancies)

Tara Ali

I was born and brought up in the Chicago area and a product of MCC Sunday School. Following my graduation, I volunteered for 3 years as a Teaching Assistant. Thereafter, through most of my undergraduate and graduate studies, I have continued to volunteer as a teacher at the school. My vision for MCC is an organization that is welcoming to all, particularly to girls and women.

Wendy Walsh

My name is Wendy Walsh, I started coming to MCC in the beginning of 2008 to learn more about Islam from my then scholar Brother Aqeel, who use to work in the main office. I then became a member after my conversion in December 2008.



My husband Imran Nasir and I have 2 children who have attended MCC Sunday school since 2013. Aleena is currently in 4th grade and Abdul Salam is in 3rd . I am happy to report that I am currently co-teaching 4th grade Seerah History class this year.

My vision for MCC is to create stronger relationships between the families who attend Sunday school. I would like to see a welcome committee for new members. We could host a couple events throughout the year so families can meet, bond and create lasting friendships. As a convert, I have struggled with meeting other Muslim families to interact with and have enjoyed the friendships I have made through MCC and would like to help others connect.

I also would like to ensure a continued commitment with our current outreach program. I feel it's extremely important, especially in today's political climate, to connect with people from outside of

Islam. I enjoyed seeing the interfaith group that came to MCC last year and I had the pleasure of speaking with attendees that were atheist and Christian who wanted to come and show their support for MCC.

I attended Wayne State University in Detroit, as a fine art major. I moved to Chicago in 1991 to work in sales for a company that owned and managed private athletic clubs. In 2001 became the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Lakeshore Management Group and decided to retire from the industry after having our daughter in 2009.

In December of 2010 Imran and I opened our own business, Strings Attached, a sporting goods store focused on all racquet sports. I manage bookkeeping and assist in the day-to-day operations of the business.

Saba Khan

I have been actively and positively contributing towards MCC for more than a decade now. Currently, I serve as the Chair for the MCC Bylaws Committee and the MCC's Education Development Committee. I've played the role of Parent's representative on the Full time School Council of MCCA very importantly during its expansion phase to Skokie campus.



I have also been a liaison between the MCC and Village of Morton Grove along with my husband, Mazhar Khan. I work very closely with the Village and the Mayor of Morton Grove in my role as Planning & Zoning Commissioner.

I am a periodontist and implant surgeon by profession, and a faculty member at the University of Illinois, College of Dentistry where I am very involved with postgraduate dental education. I love to stay involved in MCC community and Village of Morton Grove with my husband and two sons, both students of MCCA.

Naushina Rahman

Assalaam Alaikum.

I don't remember a time when I was not somehow involved with MCC. As an adult, I have been a member intermittently over the years and finally was able to get a lifetime membership a few years ago. Even though I moved away from Chicago and lived out of state for over 15 years, I continued to be involved in MCC. I advised in developing the full-time school curriculum, even hosting several teachers in my home in Wisconsin for a professional development opportunity. Additionally, I conducted a presentation on classroom discipline and management to SundaySchool teachers. After moving back to the Chicago area, I increased my involvement with MCC, helping organize the curriculum for MCC Sunday School and taking an active role in the Interfaith and Outreach Committee.



My professional background as a public high school teacher has allowed me to offer an experienced insight into issues related to young adults. It should not surprise anyone that my vision of the MCC is anchored in the development of our young people into adults who put Islamic principles into daily practice. My goal heading towards this vision is to create an environment where youth find meaningful experiences at the MCC and do not have to lead a double life. Our responsibility is to educate and instill Islamic values so that being a Muslim is central to their identity. To do this, we must be honest and realistic.

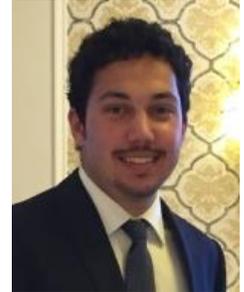
Being married to a convert for the past 27 years, I understand the need to create a welcoming environment for all Muslims. We need to assess the needs of the many groups that make up our diverse community and open avenues of communication so that MCC truly becomes a representation of the Islamic mosaic.

The love for MCC is embedded in my heart but love for Islam is in my every cell. May Allah(S) place me wherever I am of most service to Him. Ameen.

DIRECTOR--YOUTH CATEGORY (3 vacancies)

Isa Domin

I have been actively involved with the MCC since my family moved to the Chicago area ten years ago. Since then, I have served as a Sunday School Teacher at the MCC, teaching both 1st and, currently, the 10th Grade Theology Class. I have volunteered with the Interfaith Committee on multiple occasions, including events such as Open House Chicago and the campaign for a Welcoming Ordinance in Morton Grove. Outside of the MCC, I worked in the Low Income Housing Industry and have a degree in Mathematics from Bowdoin College where I spent a year as the Imam for the school's MSA.



It is important for the MCC to remain committed to cultivating a welcoming environment. Members of our community should not face undue hardship when accessing or utilizing our facilities. For example, the elderly or handicapped should not have to pull themselves along the bannister or be carried to make their way to the second floor of the Elston location. An elevator would provide these individuals the basic level of consideration that should be an expectation in the Muslim community.

Yet, beyond improving the existing services, the MCC should also be looking at how it might further serve the community. Do we start looking at housing options for our elderly or indigent? What about the feasibility of a swimming pool? There are many possibilities to explore, but we need to explore them rather than be satisfied with the current state of the MCC. We cannot allow the MCC to stagnate, for such stagnancy will serve only as a prelude to regress. We, as a community, have the potential to make an incredible difference, but this can only be achieved if we put forth the necessary effort.

The only way to sustain such effort, though, is through the commitment of the individual members of our community. For our community to truly maximize its potential, we cannot allow ourselves to rely on the efforts of the small few who have dedicated themselves to serve their community. We must cultivate a wholly inclusive mentality of service within the community. To do this, we must first make all members of our community young or old, man or woman, Chicagoan or transplant, feel wanted and provide them the motivation to see the MCC prosper.

Ali Quadri

I am a National Certified Counselor (mental health) with a Masters in Community Counseling. I use a unique approach to counsel Muslims by merging core Islamic values with counseling techniques. For this, I received specialized education in Tarim, Yemen in Islamic (Spiritual) Counseling and have since been incorporating it into my practice.



Currently, I am the Co-Chair of Counseling at the Muslim Community Center (MCC) and serve on the board as an Executive, Secretary. I have volunteered at MCC for the past 15+ years on various committees and as a Sunday School teacher. I have grown up in the MCC community and hold it dearly and an amanah to serve.

I am also a calligrapher and run a design and print business Ayaat LLC (www.ayaatdesign.com) and enjoy using my creativity in all facets of my life be it in counseling, volunteering, teaching or the canvas. Professionally, I work for Deloitte as a Manager of Business Analysis and User Experience.

Ayesha Rizvi – no BIO submitted

Sifat Ali -- no BIO submitted

Hajar Berrada -- no BIO submitted

Raahat Ansari -- no BIO submitted

