

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN MASS.

CALL FOR WORK AND ACTION VOLUNTEER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahay wa barakatuhu,

I am sure you have reflected upon the seasons we are recently going through, both environmental and political, which are becoming increasingly unpredictable and at times worrisome.

Situation like this that we are going through is likely a test from Allah SWT and not entirely a bad news. The outcome for all of us would depend upon the choices and decisions we make, individually and collectively, but specially our actions.

We at ISWM are blessed with the energy and enthusiasm of many volunteers who are involved in multiple

initiatives and activities. Some of this noble work is primarily to help the masjid or the local Muslim community. There are multiple other projects that we are involved in addressing the local social issues. I like to bring your attention to some part of this later work.

We have an active partnership with the Pioneer Valley Project in Springfield to help resolve

multiple social issues. We

recently made commitment to take part in a Habitat house-build in Springfield during 2016-2017.

Any effort, small or large, makes a difference. May Allah SWT accept our effort and guide us to the right path. Ameen

REMINDER

A: Do not forget the General Body Meeting (meeting of whole community) on Feb 14 at Maghreb time. This is especially the time to review our finances and meet the new board members. These brothers and sisters have committed to a larger share of volunteer work and responsibility and deserve our respect.



RAMADAN WALK-A-THON BY ISWM

We are actively involved in multiple interfaith initiatives and activities. To help raise funds for the local food pantries, we started the Ramadan Walk project last year and, Insha'Allah, we plan to make it a yearly tradition. Through regular interactions, we have maintained a courteous working relationship with local law-enforcement and political leaders. There are regular group-visits, mostly from the local schools and colleges, to our masjid providing them a unique opportunity to meet a Muslim in person, visit a masjid and learn about Islam. We cooperate with the local refugee settlement agencies to assist them settle Muslim refugees. We also work with multiple local

forums and groups who advocate for a fair and just solution of social and political matters, especially

related to refugees. We collect clothing and other resources that we send to the war affected areas.

We need to do more and we need to do it better. I have deep respect for the brothers and sisters working on these projects, jazak-Allah-khair.

May He accept their deeds, reward them abundantly and keep them away from what is disliked by Him. It is also very clear that we need more people to volunteer and help these brothers and sisters. I request each one of you, if not doing already, to consider volunteering some of your time and effort. You may work on a social or welfare project, some of them outline above, or in a task

purely related to the masjid, the Muslims or the center. Any effort, small or large, makes a difference.

REMINDER

B: Board meetings take place on every second Monday of the month at about 6pm. Contact any board member if you like the board to address or comment on any matter related to ISWM. As per our new policy, all board meetings are close to the non-board members. Exceptions are always made for a guest or for a special reason. With prior arrangement, you may consider sending your children to the meeting to learn how this type of work is accomplished.

May Allah SWT accept our effort and guide us to the right path. Ameen

Dr. M. Zubair Kareem