
THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

E-mail : koausa@koausa.org

website:

<http://www.koausa.org>

No: 33 October, 1997

President's Column

Namaskar, Wish you all a happy Deepawali that falls on October 30, 1997. On this occasion, KOA is launching a fund raising campaign under the leadership of Sunil Kumar Dhar of NJ. This idea was proposed by Sunil himself and he has taken the lead in implementing it. We very much appreciate Sunil's willingness and thank him for this effort. Each one of you will receive a letter requesting donations for various KOA activities from your Zone Director or Chapter President. Please take a moment to support this activity and I would like to appeal to all of you to donate generously.

As you know that the Kashmiri Pandit Martyr's day, September 14, 1997 is a day for us to take a moment to remember those innocent people who were killed by terrorists in the Kashmir valley. No words can express the loss of our brothers and sisters. In their memory KOA observed this day by serving meals at the temples and or homeless shelters in Washington DC, New York/New Jersey, Albany, Boston, Detroit, Houston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. I would like to thank all of you who helped KOA accomplish the noble deed. From the reports published in this newsletter, KOA provided meals to over 1000 people at these eight places. I very much appreciate the overwhelming support and cooperation from the membership. This would have not been possible without your effort and dedication to this cause. KOA Board has decided to reimburse upto \$100 to each Zone for this activity.

KOA's internet effort has been appreciated by our community and for our user access and ease, KOA has registered internet domain name as koausa.org. We have also moved our web server to a new location, the url is: <http://www.koausa.org/>. This new location is hosted by Computer Science and Technology (CSNT) whose President is Dr. Ashok Dhar of PA. We have completed our move of web site documents to this new place. Many thanks to Dr. Dhar. Please make it a point to visit our new location and provide comments/suggestions.

KOA holds election for some of the Board members every year and President every two years. To conduct these elections, KOA appoints a committee of KOA members for a term of two years. In a recent KOA Board of Directors meeting, the appointment and role of this committee was discussed. It was decided that for next two years a three person committee would be appointed by the KOA board and this committee should rotate from Zone to Zone every two years. KOA has appointed Election/Nomination committee for 1997 and 1998 from Zone 3 which consist of Drs. Shiban Warikoo, Ashok Dhar, and

Ramesh Raina of PA. Notice for the nominations of six directors whose term is expiring by the end of this year is given in this newsletter.

I had received a suggestion that the number of KPs in the USA is increasing and some of us may face some kind of discrimination or sexual harassment. In this regard KOA should set up a source of information addressing discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace. This suggestion was discussed in the last Board meeting and Board appointed Usha Nakhasi of MD as the coordinator. Please provide your suggestions, comments, and/or information to Usha. She can be reached at (301) 469-7084 or send her an e-mail at Usha_Nakhasi@freddiemac.com.

Rajinder Kaul, WA, due to his work and travel assignment has resigned as one of the members of the KPI Editorial Group. We are thankful for his help and hope to see him getting involved in some capacity down the road. We have added Rajinder Razdan, MD as a new member to this group. Welcome Rajinder Razdan.

Please review your 1997 membership status as given on the address label. If you have not paid 1997 dues, please do so by sending the membership dues to KOA. We very much appreciate your cooperation and support.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Lalit Wanchoo

Response from Prof. Soz

KOA had met with Prof. Saif-Ud Din Soz, the Minister of Environment and Forests in the Gujral government on June 28, 1997 and requested him to forward a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India. KOA has received a letter from Prof. Soz which is reproduced here:

Dear Shri Lalit Wanchoo,

You may recall my meeting with the members of Kashmiri community in Washington organized by Kashmiri Overseas Association during the last week of June 1997. On my return I took up the matter with the Prime Minister of India to whom I also forwarded the memorandum given to me during the meeting I held in Washington. I also brought the views of Kashmiri Overseas Association to the notice of Jammu - Kashmir Government through Shri Abdul Ahad Vakil, Revenue Minister, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, who has been given the charge of dealing with problems of Kashmiri migrants. I also discussed the matter directly with the Chief Minister.

I am happy to inform you that the Sub-Committee appointed by the J&K Government has prepared an Action Plan for creating the conditions necessary for safe return of Kashmiri migrants to the Valley. In response to my letter, the Prime Minister has, vide his letter dated 30th August, 1997, assured all possible assistance to facilitate implementation of

the Action Plan. The Prime Minister's Office is taking keen interest in the issues related to return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants.

I hope with keen interest shown by the Government of J&K and the Prime Minister of India, the hardships of Kashmiri migrants will be mitigated soon.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,
Signed - SAIFUDDIN SOZ

KOA Observes KP Martyr's Day

Boston (Zone 2)

September 14, is observed as Martyr's Day. On this day we remember those Kashmiri Pundits who submitted to death rather than renounce their religion, freedom and honor. Our martyr's sacrificed their lives and everything for a cause. Let us remind ourselves once again that we have to keep fighting for our cause. All the community members who were contacted showed overwhelming support, many expressed their sentiments by wearing black clothes on this day. Boston Chapter of KOA, observed this day by donating nonperishable food items to a local "Soup-Kitchen" where homeless people come to eat. Community volunteers also helped prepare and serve a snack to homeless people at the Soup-Kitchen. In the evening all the volunteers went to a local Hindu temple, where once again we donated nonperishable food items to the temple kitchen in the memory of our martyr's. An "Archna" was performed for the Martyr's in the temple. May their souls rest in peace. A minute of silence was observed by the volunteers. Thanks to everyone for contributing in whatever way they could. **Sanjay Kaul**

PA/NJ/NY (Zones I & 3)

Tri-State KOA observed KP Martyr's Day by donating Food to "Market Street Mission - Meals -- Shelter -- Hope" in Morristown, NJ. This organization solely relies on the generosity of individuals or associations like ours to provide basic necessity to homeless, hungry, and chemically addicted in the Northern NJ area. Their director, Mr. Paul Ciambushini was very appreciative and assured us that his organization will pray for the survival of our community in present difficult times and for the peace of the soul of those who lost their lives for this great cause. it was such a satisfying feeling to be the part of this giving process in the name of our beloved Martyrs. I personally and the entire KOA community of Tri-State area are thankful to our President Lalit Wanchoo, who initiated this noble idea and also made it possible by providing us with KOA's financial support. **Dilip Nakhasi**

Washington DC (Zone 4)

Martyr's Day was commemorated by preparing and @g food to the Union Mission homeless shelter in Washington D.C. Union Mission serves breakfast and dinner every day to approx. 150 homeless. Needless to say that our help was greatly appreciated by the organizers and volunteers of homeless shelter. A. Raina, Bakaya, Bamzai, Bazaz, Bhat,

Kanesa-Thassan, Kaushik, L. Raina, M L Koul, M. Kaul, Malik, S. Mattoo, Qazi, Razdan, S. Qasba, Sazawal, Vaid, and Wanchoo families contributed toward the event, and as a result of their generosity, we were able to raise \$375.00. KOA has indicated that they will refund \$100 of our expenses. We plan to spend the balance of the money by organizing a similar event later in the year. Special thanks to Priya Sazawal, Mohini and Surender Kaushik, Asha Bakaya, Sunita KanesaThassan, and Lalit Wanchoo for their help in preparing and distributing the food. **Usha Nakhasi**

Texas (Zone 5)

Dr. Surender Kaul had a talk on Panchatantra & Neetee. It followed by remembering our Martyrs with a minute of silence. The food was prepared by almost all Kashmir families and attendance was real good. **Sushma Bhan**

Detroit (Zone 8)

The Kashmiri Hindu Martyrs' Day, was observed by serving food to about 135-140 people at The Pontiac Rescue Mission. This organization serves the homeless and otherwise destitute individuals, in the northern suburbs of Detroit metropolitan area. Instead of our kind of food, we decided to take freshly prepared pizzas for them. It was very well received and appreciated. Contributions were made by the following: Suman and Bharati Hukku, Sunder and Gita Hukku, Brij and Krishna Sapru, Neerja Dhar, Ravi and Anju Dhar, Chaimnan and Chandra Bhan, JB and Veena Kaul, Ravi and Pyari Kilam, Bhushan and Nancy Bhat. I will also take this opportunity to thank all above named families who helped us accomplish the noble deed - to remember and honor our martyrs.

Suman Hukku

Northern California (Zone 9)

KPs in Northern California solemnly observed Martyr's Day on Sep. 14, 1997 by donating \$200, on behalf of KOA and local KP community, for feeding the homeless and observing a one minute silence at the Fremont Hindu Temple. Members of the KP community will participate in serving the homeless on the designated days. A list of around 350 martyrs, documented by the Panun Kashmir Movement from 1989 to 1990 along with pictures of some of the prominent personalities like Mr. Tika Lal Taploo, W. Sarvanand Premi etc. were displayed in front of the podium. Many members of the community laid flowers in front of the pictures as a mark of respect. On this solemn occasion Mrs. Sucheta Kapuria, the President of Board of Trustees of Vedic Dharma Samaj, gave a detailed account of the ground realities in Kashmir, recalled the historic ties of Kashmir with rest of India and made a passionate appeal to the approximately 300 members of Indian community in the audience to generate public opinion to save Kashmir and KP community. Her speech invoked a very sympathetic response. Later flyers containing the text of her speech was distributed to the audience. **Vijay Dhar**

Southern California (Zone 10)

In the Memorial Park in Santa Monica, a few of us woke up before the daybreak to a cool breeze from the nearby Pacific. The nip in the breeze and the eerie hours took us back to a time when we would wake up early for a Tonga trip to the Tourist Center (in Srinagar), to see off a relative, leaving Srinagar for Jammu or beyond. But this was no Tourist

Center, this was a park with patches of brown and green and weather-worn wooden benches, where homeless came to be fed every Wednesday and Sunday. This was a Sunday, a 14th of Sept. - the day we remember those sons and daughters of Mother India, who lost their lives because they were Kashmiri Pandits, - the day "homelessness" made a home in the empty labyrinth of our Kashmiri Pandit persona. The exercise of feeding "Homeless" started mechanically, representing, I guess, a simple and a plain need to do a good deed this day. The emotion of this theme, however, ran a little beyond the petty satisfaction of decorating open and trembling hands with platters of rice and vegetables. It was an experience in reaching across the innermost divides of loss and bereavement. We fed about a hundred unfortunate wanderers. While we were all doing our best to cater with cookies, we were also reassessing the real estate of our conviction, the fence that separated us -- from them. Which side of the fence was ours? The "giver" or the "receiver."? --- I know this strange urge to give" is a symptom of an unmistakable desire to receive, receive back - only that, which once was over our heads, beneath our feet and around us - our cherished home, our beloved hearth. **Sushma and Shibani Tiku, Alex and Renu Hansen-Bhat, Nimesh and Hari Bhat, Anjali and Suraj Bhat**

Appeal

KOA has received two requests for medical assistance (financial help) from KPs in India. KOA would like to help these individuals and is requesting community members to donate money for these two cases and KOA will mail the amount raised to them. Both cases are deserving. The details are:

Case 1: Colonel S K Razdan - Was injured in the Kashmir valley in October 1994 in a counter terrorist operation. It was a rescue mission to save 7 Muslim ladies abducted by the terrorists of Mast Gul. Mission was successful but Col. Razdan became paraplegic (L1, L2, L3 damaged/incomplete). For this mission Col Razdan was awarded Kirti Chakra. Due to low lying dura i.e., L3 level the handicap is much more severe than it should have been. Since alopahy did not help much, Col Razdan was advised to seek Chinese therapy. This therapy has shown good results. Since this therapy is not recognized by the Govt. of India, Col. Razdan did not get any reimbursement from the government. Col Razdan had approached Dr. Abdullah for the payment and was promised the reimbursement of 2 lakhs. Till date no money from state government has been received by Col. Razdan. Currently Col Razdan moves around in a wheel chair but his family (wife and two children) is worried. A request for \$4000 has been made by Col. Razdan to help him pay the bills.

Case 2: Sh. D N Gigoo of Solan is a young man detected with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. Mr. Gigoo is currently being treated with interferon 9 MU on alternate days. With these injections his conditions has not shown any further deterioration. Request has been made for either 200 interferon injections or Rs. 2.5 lakhs (\$7000). KOA has already talked to few physicians regarding the injection and it seems difficult to obtain such a large supply. We recommend to send some money to Mr. Gigoo.

KOA has been helping deserving cases by sending amounts of few hundred to one thousand dollars without sending special requests to general community. Since these requests are for large sum, I am requesting community members to please donate money for these causes to KOA. Please make check payable to KOA and mail it to: Kashmiri Overseas Association 4302 Rockport Lane, Bowie, MD 20720 as soon as possible. Everyone's generosity, help, and cooperation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

EAST COAST CAMP 97' T-SHIRT DRIVE

The word is out --Washington chapter strikes again! The T-shirts at the 97' East coast KOA camp were a Big hit. Started with a simple idea of having a token memorabilia for the camp, but ran into cash flow problems. Solution? The capitalistic touch that resulted in raising more than a thousand dollars in a few weeks, for our children's activities for the future east coast KOA camps. Kids you got fun stuff to look forward to for the next camp(s). Start planning your fundable fun activities. A Big thank-you to all of you for your generous donation. Special thanks to Vijay Parimoo and Lalit Koul for raising money, boy that net working really pays! we were pleasantly surprised with the support we got from the biradari and folks who could not keep their hands off the wonderful T-shirts at the camp site. The credit goes to our wonderful runway models(boys and girls).Who modeled the T shirts, ages ranging from 6 months - 16 years, that generated enough excitement for a record sale of 116 T-shirts in less than an hour, way to go kids and thanks. Now some math, thirty nine families pledged and all except one came through with the donation. We raised a total of \$1038 (pledges + sale of T-shirts), and of course all the families who participated with the pledges got a free T-shirt (a great value!). And yes the fever is catching, we mailed T- shirts for the local California KOA camp, and Houston folks want them for their camp. Conclusion It is amazing what we can do when we rally together, maybe we should do it more often. **Swapna Raina & Pankaj Qasba , MD**

KOA Camp at Lake Tahoe

We are glad to inform you about an extremely enjoyable camp that Northern Californian KPs had at Lake Tahoe from Aug 1st to 3rd. Sixteen families, consisting of about 55 community members, participated in the three day event. We had booked two large holiday homes consisting of a total of 15 ms, with all other amenities, especially designed for large reunions. The two homes had large "Kanis" connected by a "Lab Der" which made it convenient to pass things across.

On the first day, while the members were trickling in, we had Tea with Pakora's, outstanding chatni and fresh "Kandervan Kulcha's" from Jammu. Some people went for a track along the ski trails in Gulmarg-like settings just in front of the homes. Building A occupants hosted the first days dinner consisting of Roganjosh, Match, Chmnan, Tamatar Vangun etc. We were. given great company by Mr.Ganjoo & family from Bombay. Men folks took charge of washing utensils while the mehfil was warming up to an evening of Kashmiri and Hindi songs. This was followed by high tempo music and dance led by the youngsters. A round of "shir chay" at 1:00 a.m. provided a breather following which

some drove a couple of miles across the Nevada border and gambled their money away, while others either called it a day or played pool 3:00 a.m.

Second day started early with a bed tea. Men folk raided the kitchen and prepared a concoction which turned out to be like omlette. After a heavy breakfast, made from 60 eggs and other ingredients, we divided into three parties. The youngsters took off on jetskis and flolicked in the lake for a few hours. Some of them toppled but remained afloat thanks to life jackets till they were rescued by the lifeguards. Less adventurous ones took a "Doonga Ride" (cruise) to Emerald Bay. A third party went for rafting and hiking. All of us assembled back at 6:00 pm to prepare for the BBQ hosted in Building B. Building A occupants &&ed themselves up, as if they were going for a "Durbatta". The hosts had decorated the house and "Dastarkhan" in good "spirit". This tamed out to be a grew evening culminating in some melodious Kashmiri songs by most participants including our guests from Canada - Ravinder & Suman Raina. Very late at night kids were taken to the arcade attached with the Casinos while others went for gambling. On the last day we ate Choley, Nan and leftover Matchh before packing up. Took several group pictures as a mark of memory. We also distributed KOA T-shirts as souvenirs. It was decided to continue such outings every year. I would like to thank all participants for making this get together a memorable event which brought the best in each one of us. We were all in a very positive spirit which made it fun for all including children and seniors. My thanks also to all the volunteers whose tireless efforts and planning culminated in this highly successful camp.

Vijay Dhar President, Northern California Chapter of KOA.

CAMP NOTICES

1998 KOA CAMP

KOA 1998 Camp will be held on July 3-5 1998 at Hershey Park, PA. Please mark your calendar and look for the details to be provided soon. Person to contact: Dr. Inder K Bhat at (703) 759-9199 or send an e-mail on ikbhat@mem.po.com

Texas Camp

The Texas Kashmiri Biradari invites you to participate in the annual camp which is at BASTROP STATE PARK, BAS-FROP, TX from Nov. 14, 1997 --- Nov. 16, 1997 (Friday - Sunday). Charges for the camp are \$60 for families and \$35 for singles. If you plan to attend please call me at (281) 461-3822 so that I can mail the details about the place, the activities, menu, etc. Please call by Oct 15, 1997 so that we can plan accordingly. If you have any ideas for the camp let us know. We have reserved barracks at the park. They have 90 bunk beds with mattresses. You need to bring your own sheets, pillows and comforters. I will give all the details if you plan to come. Please get in touch as soon as you can. With good wishes. **Anita Kaul**

Matrimonial

Alliance invited for a 25 year young and beautiful female with a degree in Pharmacy. Currently working for a multinational pharmaceutical company in India. For details, please contact: (201) 927-8129 (USA)

REMINDER:

Please renew your KOA membership.

Annual Dues:

\$30/family

\$15/single

\$15/senior couple

Life member: \$500

APPEAL

Please donate generously to KOA (donations are tax deductible).

E-mail: koausa@iaol.com

Websites:

<http://www.koausa.org>

<http://www.kashmir-information.com>

KOA Address:

4302 Rockport Lane

Bowie, MD 20720

Congratulations

· Nirmal and Karuna Jalla of OK on the birth of a daughter.

Condolences

· Kanwal Kher, VA on his uncle's death.

· Omkar N Bhatt of KY and Anil Bhatt of NC on the death of their mother Mrs Shoba Bhatt wife of Sh Jagannath Bhatt, who passed away in Cary, NC on August 11, 1997.

· Autar and Raj Kachru (Oakbrook, Illinois) on their son, Ashu's (1967-1997) death, who died while an MBA student at Columbia University in New York City.

· Avtar and Aruna Bazaz of Novi, Michigan. on their son, Munish's(1975-1997) death, who died by accidental drowning.

· Anila Bhan, MD on her grandfather Sh. Prem Nath Thusu's death. Prem Nath Ji has been the founder father of the Vishwa Bharati Educational Institution, Rainwari.

· Sh. Amar Nath Qasba of CT on his brother's death.

IAKF News**Appeal**

The January 1997 issue of the KPI listed the aims and objectives of IAKF. For those of you who may not recall, UU was created in early 90's to address political issues that can not be handled by the KOA. The call for membership was at that time given through the pages of MILTSAR, and soon thereafter, the charter membership of IAKF swung into political action and the organization has been associated with KOA, since its inception, as its political wing. Like the KOA, IAKF has gone through changes intended to make it more flexible to member wishes and be more open and accessible. But the strategic

linkage between KOA and IAKF has never faltered and we have, and we will, plan to work for the community together to make the most of our resources.

IAKF has emphasized empowerment and action, and these are necessary to be effective and produce timely action. This also provides an opportunity for any activist to participate in IAKF affairs without encumbrances from past or burdens of membership. Indeed, any KOA member can find him/herself at the helm of any IAKF assignment that they are willing to pursue. The need for funds is driven by the need to meet financial needs, but will not be a hindrance to anyone wanting to be involved. So use your privilege as a KOA member to participate in IAKF activities. I@ wed volunteers for the following activities, preferably in lead roles:

1. Regional coordinators/directors to mobilize community support, interact with Indian-American community, pursue contacts with federal politicians and GOI officials. Coordinators are needed for New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, NW region, NE region, SE region, etc.
2. Fund raisers for Congressman Sherrod Brown and Frank Pallone. These can be held anywhere in the U.S.
3. Media monitor that assesses and responds (preferably through regional coordinators) to news releases of interest.
4. Prepare IAKF brochure(s) and other handouts of interest.
5. Fund raiser for advertisements in India, preferably in regional languages. The ads are intended to inform Indians, preferably non-English, non-Hindi speaking people about the status of KPs.
6. Any symposia or meetings of topical interest. The volunteer will be given free hand to design and organize such an event.

Please let Vijay Sazawal know if you are interested. I strongly urge you to come to community assistance and do so without delay.

Meeting With Prime Minister

A delegation from Indo-American Kashmir Forum led by Vijay Sazawal, met briefly with Hon. I.K. Gujral, Prime Minister of India, in New York city on September 22. The delegation thanked Mr. Gujral for visiting the refugee camps in Jammu. In a memo given to Mr. Gujral, it was emphasized that the conditions of the displaced KPs is getting worse. He was requested to make urgent efforts for the safe return of KPs with honor, dignity and full security. He was also informed about the formation of Kashmiri Pandit Political Steering Committee (KPPSC), a united front of various KP organizations. The Prime Minister was requested that all dialogues, by both the state and central government, involving the future of KP community should be held with representatives of KPPSC.

Meeting with Sunil Dutt, MP

At the above New York meeting, the IAKF delegation also met and discussed the issues concerning KP refugees with Mr. Sunil Dutt, MP and former film actor. Mr. Dutt reaffirmed his support for the KP cause and showed willingness to publicly speak about

the plight of KP refugees. He also mentioned that his group had purchased an ambulance and together with a driver provided it to one of the Jammu camps.

Meeting with Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi

A delegation of KPs had lengthy discussion with the BJP leader, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi in Maryland on July 31. Mr. Joshi promised continued support and assistance to the community in particular the refugees. He highlighted the help in education (by providing seats for higher education in Maharashtra). His firm belief was that the situation will not change for better until BJP comes to power in the center.

Congressmen Brown and Pallone in India

Congressmen Sharrod Brown and Frank Pallone, who were, part of the Congressional delegation that accompanied Mrs. Clinton to attend Mother Teresa's funeral, also spent time articulating Kashmiri Pandit issues while in India.

On September 14, Congressman Brown in a press conference in New Delhi said, "The Pandits have been ignored too long by the the Indian Government." He also said that, we brought up the plight of Pandits at every meeting . Thanks to Congressman BROWN. IAKF requests KPI readers to send a thank you note to Sharrod Brown at 328 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Congressman Patione met with a KP delegation in Calcutta and has requested IAKF for the follow-up activities. These will be reported in a future issue of KPI. If you want to thank Congressman Pallone, please write to him at 420 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515.

What are Our Adversaries Upto?

India and Pakistan engaging in political discussions on Kashmir without KM presence, has created almost a panic situation in KM camps around the world. The result is a hotch-potch effort to change the paradigm at the eleventh hour, hoping that may change their fortunes. Accordingly, KMs are making some interesting news such as: 1. At UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Ershad Malik (a KM) spoke in sympathy of KPs. He concluded his speech, to the praise of KP-KM harmony, with the following words, Mr. Chairman, when all is said and done, one simple fact stands out The Kashmiri Muslims as such have sentiments of regard, respect and esteem for Kashmiri Pandits. The speech was of course a ploy and a fitting response by IEKF/IAU/ICKF was sent promptly as a rebuttal to Mr. Jose Bengor, the chairman of the commission. 2. A 2-day seminar on Kashmir was held under the aegis of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University (AJKU) in August which included KM representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Canada and U.K. The Canada based Martin Sugarman is a well known photo-journalist who has debated ICKF representatives in the past. 3. Concerned that All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) may soon enter into political dialogue with GOI, the Pakistani government has created a new conglomerate called Jammu and Kashmir Solidarity Front (JKSF). JKSF is intended to take the place of APHC if it strays from its master s voice. 4. The over-seas KM organizations have decided to unify under the banner of All Parties Kashmir Coordinating Committee (AKPCC). While in the U.S., KM's have only 4 or 5 organizations, in the U.K. there are about a dozen organizations. G.N. Fai, along with Ayyub Thakkar from U.K. coordinated this meeting in London in late August that was

also by the head of the Hurriyat s New Delhi office. 5. Finally Lord Avebury (Dan Burton of U.K.) has invited Indian, Pakistani and Kashmiri representatives (from both sides of the cease-fire line) to a meeting in London at the end of October. This meeting is intended to affirm the role of KMs in the Indo-Pak talks. No overseas KP organizations have been invited, but IEKF is negotiating to secure a place in the meeting.

This part of the newsletter has been compiled by Ashok Raina.

KOA Executive Committee:

President Lalit Wanchoo, MD (301) 262-7743
Vice-President Sushma Bhan, TX (281) 492-7575
Secretary Yoginder Kak, MD (301) 515-9472
Treasurer Shana Mattoo, MD (301) 552-2844

Directors:

Zone 1: Nirmal Mattoo (516) 671-1615
Zone 2: Sanjay Kaul (617) 893-4982
Zone 3: Ashoke Kachroo (215) 295-0218
Zone 4: Vijay Sazawal (301) 208-1679
Zone 5: Sushma Bhan (281) 492-7575
Zone 6: Sidarath Ganju (770) 409-1200
Zone 7: Ameeta Bainzai (708) 369-1324
Zone 8: Suman Hukku (810) 656-2542
Zone 9: Autar Karihaloo (209) 632- 0282
Zone 10: Shibani Tikku (805) 987-1139

KPI Newsletter - Editorial Board:

Rajinder Razdan, Ashok Raina, Autar Karihaloo, Lalit Wanchoo

**Kashmiri Overseas Association
4302 Rockport Lane
Bowie, MD 20720
(301) 262-7743**

NOMINATIONS NOTICE, FOR KOA ELECTIONS

Dear Members:

Kashmiri Overseas Association's Board of Directors have decided to hold elections for six officials whose term is expiring by end of 1997. In light of this decision, KOA is inviting nominations for six directors, one from each of the following zones:

Zone	States in the Zone	Current Director's Name
2	Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont	Sanjay Kaul
3	New Jersey and Pennsylvania	Ashoke Kachru
5	Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah	Sushma Bhan
7	Alaska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming	Ameeta Bamzai
9	Northern California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington	Autar Karihaloo
10	Arizona, Southern California, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Nevada	Shiban Tiku

Rules and guidelines for the nomination:

- 1) Any KOA member who has paid 1997 dues and is living in any of above specified zones, can nominate a person from that zone for Zone Director. Any member who has not paid KOA dues for 1997 can nominate a member for directorship provided KOA member dues are enclosed with the nomination form.
- 2) Person who is being nominated must be a resident of a state within a specified zone and also must be paid member of KOA for year 1997 before accepting nominations. Both nominating and nominated member must be resident of the same Zone.
- 3) Prior to submitting nomination form, nominated person must agree to serve on board if elected.
- 4) If there are no nominations received for a new board member/s, current zone director/s will continue to hold office until new board member/s is elected for such zone.
- 5) Term for each director is 2 years starting January 1998.

Last Date to receive nominations : Post marked no later than November 3, 1997

Nomination form is on the back of this letter. Every ones cooperation and participation in this election will be highly appreciated. For information, please contact me at (814) 266-8875, zone director or Yoginder Kak Secretary at (301) 515-9472.

Sincerely,
Shiban Warikoo
Chairperson
Nomination/election Committee

Kashmiri Overseas Association
4302 Rockport Lane
Bowie, MD 20720
(301) 262-7743

Nomination Form

This is not an election ballot-- this is only a nomination form.

Please confirm with the nominee that he/she is willing to be on KOA Board if elected. Please copy this form if more than one nomination is submitted. Member and member spouse can individually nominate people and should copy this form if so desired. For guidelines, please refer to the nomination notice.

Last Date to receive nominations Post marked no later than November 3, 1997

Zone No.	Date :
Name of the Nominee:	Nominating Member's Name:
Nominee's Address	Address:
Nominee's Phone Number	Phone Number:

Signature of Nominating Member: _____

Are you a paid member for 1997: Yes/No

(If No, please enclose check for \$500/life member, \$30 per family, \$15 single, \$15 for senior citizen couples)

Nomination form should be mailed to:

Shiban Warikoo

225 Tall Timber Dr.

Johnstown, PA 15904

Ph. No: (814) 266-8875