TENTATIVE

54th ANNUAL ISNA CONVENTION

June 30- July 3, 2017

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center – Rosemont, IL

Hope and Guidance Through the Quran

VERILY, this Qur'an shows the way to all that is most upright, and gives the believers who do good deeds the glad tiding that theirs will be a great reward; -17:9

FRIDAY, June 30, 2017

1:30 - 3:00 PM
Prayer Hall
Juma’ah Salat – Azhar Azeez, ISNA President

PLENARY AND MAIN SESSION TOPICS

Allah: The Quran’s Purpose, Primacy and Promotion
The singular message of the Quran transcends race, gender, nationality and even time. We know about Allah, but do we know Allah. We believe in God, but do we believe God’s indisputable omnipotence. How do we translate our love of God into commitments and actions? How do we transform ourselves by exploring the evolutionary nature of Iman (faith) and bring the Divine effectively to our lives?

Cultural Ingenuity (Part 1): The Sleepers of the Cave
God, through the Quran and prophetic narratives recognized many different communities throughout history. In each of these communities there are lessons to direct and inspire each of us both in our daily lives and our daily devotions/spiritual growth.

The story of the sleepers of the cave is shared among Muslims and Christians. Despite finding persecution overbearing, these youth were unwilling to denounce their faith. Their awakening from a cross-generational sleep has them re-enter into a very different community.

Providing Access to Clean Water, Transforming Lives
“We made from water every living thing.” (Quran 21:30)
As both a means of survival and a means towards spiritual cleansing, current events have placed the use and abuse of water at the forefront: DAPL, Flint, water shortages, refugees escaping by sea, ongoing droughts, etc. What is the relationship between Muslims, water, and climate change? This session will focus on developing religion based awareness campaigns and provide solutions to take back to our families and communities regarding our responsibilities and encouraging proper stewardship of the Earth.

The Latino Muslim Wave
IslamInSpanish was established after the unfortunate incident of September 11th and after 16 years has become a trending leading wave featured by CNN, BBC, L.A. Times, NPR, Univision, Telemundo, and others who understand this segment’s growth implication in America. Join us to find out why Latinos and Muslims are the two group focus demographics changing the narrative within the Muslim Community and in society as a whole in America and worldwide.

Ask the Scholars: Open Q&A
Join Islamic scholars to discuss various issues which each of us face in our daily lives. Come prepared with your questions for our panel to address.
Sanctuaries for Women in the Age of Islamophobia
Women face increased threats to their security and safety, especially those who are more easily identified as Muslim. Simultaneously, our community tends to deny women access to mosques; the primary communal hub where religion and Muslim culture are transmitted. How can we transform our communities into safe havens for women providing comfort, security, and support grounded in the teachings of the Quran and the Prophetic example?

Cultural Ingenuity (Part 2): The Children of Israel
God, through the Quran and prophetic narratives recognized many different communities throughout history. In each of these communities there are lessons to direct and inspire each of us both in our daily lives and our daily devotions/spiritual growth.

The most-referenced community in the Quran is by far the Children of Israel under the tutelage and guidance of multiple prophets, most notably, Moses. The linkages and commonalities are many, the lessons, landmines and opportunities abound.

All for One and One for All
Muslims are just one of the various minority groups with in America: Black Lives Matter, Immigrant Communities, Orthodox Jewish Communities, Japanese Americans, and Latinos etc. It is not only our job, but in our best interest to seek out commonalities that unify, create, and sustain our relationships with these minority groups. We’re all in this together and we’re stronger together.

Muslim-American’s Roles in Developing American Public Policy
Muslim American participation in developing and formulating public policy is necessary. The panelists in this session will discuss how the rich history of Islam promotes civic engagement and will look at strategies for addressing how the Muslim community can focus its energies and resources in developing justice in America.

Nurturing Compassion within the Family
Educational research indicates that the key to success for any individual lies in their emotional quotient or the EQ. How do we, as Muslim families, help our children develop their EQ? This session will address issues pertaining to bullying, mindfulness, and presence. What are the tools that we need to be focusing on as parents and mentors to help develop the skills of resiliency, grit, inner strength, and spirituality?

Ask the Scholars
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1:00 – 3:00
Community Service Recognition Luncheon

Restoring Confidence and Moving Forward
From the passing of heroes, to economic downturns, and political shifts, 2016 has left us with a need for a spiritual detox to heal and uplift ourselves psychologically. As Muslims, we are an essential component of the American experiment, which is democracy. This is our house. How do we continue to step into our communities with confidence, from a place of strength, unapologetic, and holding our heads high?

Cultural Ingenuity (Part 3): The People of Abyssinia
God, through the Quran and prophetic narratives recognized many different communities throughout history. In each of these communities there are lessons to direct and inspire each of us both in our daily lives and our daily devotions/spiritual growth.

The Prophet commissioned a group to migrate to the safety and security of a renowned noble Christian King. How did the first migrants establish a community as a religious minority? What, if any, limitations did they operate within?

Uniting for the Common Good- Supporting Minority Groups
Minority coalitions such as Black Lives Matter, the LGBTQ community, and proponents of abortion and immigration have been largely overlooked and often persecuted. This session will examine the ways in which Muslims can collaborate with these minority groups to create effective and long-lasting dialogues and relationships.
Building the American-Latino-Muslim Leadership Legacy
After 1 year of opening the first-of-its-kind, Latino-Muslim-lead, Media-Driven, Spanish-Speaking Islamic Center in Houston, Texas; 56 people embraced Islam. Find out the struggles, history, and challenges faced from prejudice within the Muslim community and marginalization to ultimately building a Museum highlighting the Latino roots from our legacy in Muslim Spain to a State-of-the-Art Production Studio reaching millions along a mosque streaming Spanish/English khutbahs worldwide serving people from all walks of life as a model to be duplicated across the U.S.

The Divine Revelation: His Gift, the Quran
The journeys Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) took throughout history were never far from the word of Allah (SWT) as his guide. The attributions and characterization of the Quran tell not only many tales and virtues, but portrays the very essence of what Prophet Mohammed PBUH lived and breathed; a guide for generations and a guide for our nation. Come ready to explore the pivotal role of the Quran in the time of Rasulullah.

Hope & Guidance through the Qur’an
As challenges facing Muslims intensify, the Qur’an now more than ever serves as a source of hope and guidance. This year’s convention will be held just as Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan. In addition to fasting, Ramadan is the month in which the divine gift, the Qur’an was revealed. The Prophet serves as our example on how to internalize and practice the Qur’anic message. Join thousands of Muslims to carry on the lessons of Ramadan, year round, through the appreciation and application of Divine Speech.

SUNDAY, July 2, 2017

Creating the Prophetic Masjid
An open discussion on what are the characteristics of the Prophetic Masjid which serve as a model for us, and how do we build the Prophetic Masjid?

Cultural Ingenuity (Part 4): Early Chinese Muslims
God, through the Quran and prophetic narratives recognized many different communities throughout history. In each of these communities there are lessons to direct and inspire each of us both in our daily lives and our daily devotionals/ spiritual growth.

“Seek knowledge even if in China, for the seeking of knowledge is incumbent upon every Muslim.” Although the Muslim community that flourished through a genuinely indigenous identity in China doesn’t find reference in our original sources, this oft-cited hadith does shed a unique light and pique curiosity on that land. This session will aim to understanding how a post-prophetic community embraced both its religious and culture identity in a “highly-developed non-Muslim civilization.”

Finding al-Furqan: Truth, Lies, and Alternate Facts
Despite an abundance of information, we have become distanced from the truth. Social media amplifies our preferred bubbles and can propagate false information instead of providing an accurate reality to draw our own conclusions. This challenge not only confronts us politically and socially, but equally within our religious understanding, discourses, and behavior (ever ask “Shaykh Google”?). This session will aim to re-establish how to effectively decipher fact from fiction in the world of open source information.

Confident Muslim
Confident Muslim is a platform that seeks out the brightest minds of the Ummah seeking to make a positive impact in society. Join us as we listen to our youth who will dig deep into that tradition, and find themselves and their contribution. They will identify past contributions within an Islamic framework, and offer ideas as to how to go about implementing similar contributions today.

La Belleza del Islam en Espanol

Ask the Scholars
Join Islamic scholars to discuss various issues which each of us face in our daily lives. Come prepared with your questions for our panel to address.
Global Conflicts - Lessons on Mercy and Justice in Islam
While the heartbreaking human rights abuses from Syria and Myanmar continue, we as Muslim Americans have an opportunity to make a difference through relief and charitable endeavors, as well as influencing foreign policy. This session will examine what the Quran and early life of the Prophet (PBUH) discussed in regard to the promotion of human rights, advocacy. Learn how these lessons can translate and be part of your everyday action.

Cultural Ingenuity (Part 5): Disciples of Jesus
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The Messiah’s immaculate birth brought him into a world where he confronted both religious and political antagonists. The Spirit of God assembled a small group of disciples, representing and preserving his spirit and biblical message, which would ultimately grow into the largest religious community across the globe for centuries till today.

Internal Vulnerabilities: Collaboration, Community, and Connections
Muslim communities are visible minorities and our women, children, those with disabilities, and the elderly are our most vulnerable. What strategies can we employ to assist and provide levels of security? This session will focus on how men and women can help community building/mobilization, security patrols, neighborhood watch opportunities for the Muslim communities which can also be used to help the greater communities in which we live.

Becoming Muslim: What Draws One to Islam
This session is an opportunity to share stories of conversion from our panelists; stories of challenge, opportunity, growth, and friendship. Our panelists will also highlight the tools that communities can use to be more inclusive of the convert community and what supports need to be in place for those who are new to Islam.

Formulating Strong Identities
Our identities are constantly in flux. For whatever various cultural, social, political or ideological reasons, each of us often has difficulty melding each rich and complex identity with another. Some of us do not feel "Muslim" enough, others don't feel "American" enough. This lecture will explore the current landscape of what it means to be Muslim-American and how we can work together to build a united Muslim collective identity and cultivate strong individual identities as well.

9:00 – 11:00 PM
Entertainment

MONDAY, July 3, 2017

Eid: A Moment to Pause and Celebrate
Even in the most difficult of circumstances the Prophet was a source of optimism and positivity. Our traditions and celebrations remind us of this beautiful Sunnah which we should pass on to our children. How do we enjoy Eid when there is so much sadness and despair in the world? How do we establish this tradition of celebration and gratitude so that our children can look forward to them every year?

Workshops Session
Abbreviated IMAN Community Organizing Training
Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) is a community organization that fosters health, wellness and healing in the inner-city by organizing for social change, cultivating the arts, and operating a holistic health center. IMAN has effectively organized a broad base of Chicagoland Muslims, along with a cross-section of the broader Chicago community, around issues directly affecting families living in the inner city. Health and wellness, criminal justice, and affordable housing are some of the focus issues for IMAN’s work.

IMAN’s Community Organizing Training draws from traditional community organizing concepts and strategies, highlighting the importance of sharing our stories and histories, conducting relational meetings and identifying one another's stake in an issue, and understanding how leaders can affect change around social issues. IMAN's organizing model is deeply rooted in spiritual tradition and is broadly informed by past and present social movements and struggles. This abbreviated training will take participants through several critical modules that they can use to begin—or continue—organizing their own communities.

This is a closed session. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.imancentral.org