

Arshad Rehan
Candidate for Treasurer APPNA, 2020



I am humbled and honored that the APPNA membership has given me the opportunity to be the candidate for Treasurer 2020.

I am a Khyber Medical College graduate, class of 1994, and a lifetime member of APPNA. I am honored to have served as the president of the Association of Pakistani Cardiologists of North America (APCNA) and also the Khyber Medical College Alumni Association of North America (KMCAANA).

I pride myself that I come from the ordinary membership of APPNA, and not any grouping, clique or cabal. I decided to join the electoral process after being convinced that ordinary members need to be more proactively involved so that

APPNA can once again be an organization true to its ideals, as envisaged at its founding and as desired by its rank and file today.

As your treasurer for APPNA, I will strive to ensure complete transparency of the finances of the organization. All of APPNA's funds either come from its membership or because of the leverage it exercises with donors or businesses due to its membership base. Members must, therefore, have access to all financial matters for scrutiny.

In addition to handling the financial matters, the position of treasurer is also important in other organizational matters. Most importantly, it is one of the five voices in the Executive Committee (EC) of the organization. I make my pledge to the membership at large that I shall be their voice within the EC. *I am not beholden to any so-called power centers within the organization, and I will exercise my role only and only in the interests of the organization, not any groups or vested interests.*

While all democratic processes entail some canvassing, *I am as dismayed as the majority of the ordinary members at the politicking and needless bickering that has been affecting the top echelons of our organization.* Our leadership is capable of doing better, membership expects better from it and I will try my best that the issues amongst them are resolved amicably.

APPNA needs a radical reform of its constitution and by-laws so that its structure is truly representative of the membership. All ambiguities, which unfortunately have been leading to mistrust and lawsuits, must be ended, and ended swiftly. I will strive to be an advocate for meaningful reform within the organization.

APPNA and its membership is more than capable of solving its issues and differences in-house. *APPNA should not be incurring expenses on one lawsuit or another.* This practice must end.

Regarding reform, one critical area that must be addressed urgently, is the election process for office bearers. *A timeframe ought to be drawn to end the practice of almost year-round electioneering. The election process for office bearers must start and complete within three or four weeks at most.* A candidate must only submit a statement of objectives and limited number of endorsement letters from each alumni, which should then be emailed by the organization to the membership. An online debate may also be considered.

Campaigning must be restricted and limited so that it is worthy of a professional organization. *The practice of candidates traveling across the country for canvassing and making multitude of telephone calls to the membership should be stopped.* The rules should apply across the board, to all candidates.

APPNA is a wonderful organization, with tremendous potential and dedicated cadres. Despite the recent distractions and bumps in the road, I am confident that course can still be corrected and trust of the membership restored.

Once again, I promise to work only on behalf of the organization and its biggest asset — the membership.