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TAA Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2013

Dear Friends,

January proved to be a very busy month and one of the most important events to take place was the Swearing-In Ceremonies of the 113th U.S. Congress. A total of 25 TAA federation representatives coming from 15 different states attended the Swearing-In Ceremonies in Washington, DC and celebrated with the returning and the newly elected members of Congress.

I was also honored to take part in the first of its kind "Common Mind Workshop" in Antalya, Turkey during the period of January 11-13. The topic of the workshop was the current status of the Turkish diaspora, focusing particularly on its major challenges and achievements. The event brought together more than 120 participants from 25 different countries, and helped the participants gain a better understanding of the contemporary issues facing the diaspora, and the variety of approaches available for enhancing cultural dialogue within and among nations.

Following the event, Dr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey, welcomed us at the Çankaya Presidential Palace in Ankara. President Gul discussed a wide range of topics and issues with our delegation of six board members. During this meeting we presented TAA's 2012 yearly report and outlined our program for a future mutual partnership. We also emphasized the important contribution made by the Turkish American community during the 2012 presidential elections in the US.

This January, the TAA Board of Directors held its first for the year meeting at the Turkic American Alliance headquarters. The federations' presidents reported on the past and planned activities of their organizations, and then the board discussed the TAA's 2013 project plan and the upcoming Annual Turkic American Convention.

Following the re-election of President Barak Obama earlier in November, I was invited to attend the 2013 Presidential Inauguration outside of the Capitol in Washington, DC. I had a chance to converse with many Representatives and Senators. Furthermore, I was a guest speaker at the 2013 Winter Conference of the National Association of Secretaries of State, and gave a brief presentation about the activities of the TAA.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our members, the federations and sister institutions, as well as, all our dear friends and honored guests for their friendship and for their participation in the various events organized by the Turkic American Alliance in 2012.

Warmest Regards,
Dr. Faruk Taban,

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The Turkish Ambassador to the US invited Turkish American Organization to his residence



January 27, 2013

On January 27, Ambassador Namik Tan invited all umbrella organizations and their board members to his residence for a Sunday brunch meeting. The President of TAA, Dr. Faruk Taban and MAFTAA President, Mr. Mahmut Yeter had a breakfast meeting together with the Ambassador Tan and leaders of other Turkish American organizations. Dr. Taban briefed on development of Turkish-American relations in the US. He mentioned his presentation at the 2013 Winter Conference of the National Association of the Secretaries of State and also the Turkish Americans' extraordinary work during 2012 presidential elections.

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TAA attended the 2013 Winter Conference of the NASS



January 26, 2013

Faruk Taban, President of the Turkic American Alliance, attended the 2013 Winter Conference of the National Association of Secretaries of State. This event was held on January 26, 2013 at the JW Marriott in Washington, DC. The purpose of the conference was to bring together government and industry leaders, showcase the initiatives of the Secretary of State and highlight the latest state and federal policy developments. Dr. Taban gave a talk at the NASS International Relations Committee about the activities of TAA and promoted the annual cultural trips to Turkey.

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President Obama Inauguration



January 21, 2013

On January 21, TAA's President Dr. Faruk Taban attended the Second Inauguration of President Barack Obama outside of the Capitol. He had a chance to converse with many Representatives and Senators during the ceremony. The crowd was smaller than four years ago, while the weather was warmer. In the evening, Dr. Taban attended the Inaugural Ball at Washington Convention Center. In his second Inauguration speech President Obama put forward his action plan for the next four years. He spoke about training more math and science teachers, building roads, keeping his commitment to seniors through Social Security

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TAA Boards of Directors holds a Board Meeting



January 20, 2013

On January 20, The TAA Board of Directors held its board meeting at the Turkic American Alliance headquarters. The meeting focused on the 2013 project plan of the Alliance, the upcoming Turkic American Convention and the federation's reports and plans for the new year.

Dr. Fevzi Bilgin, Rethink Institute's Executive Director, made a presentation about the Institute and talked about its programs. Board members discussed strategies for encouraging membership growth and engagement, and analyzed ways of facing some local associations.

Turkish Ministers and Officials welcomed TAA's Board Members



January 16, 2013

On January 16, 2013 TAA's board members went on their traditional trip to Turkey. President Abdullah Gul; Bekir Bozdağ, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey; Ahmet Davutoğlu, Foreign Minister of Turkey; Taner Yildiz, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey; Naci Korum, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey; Francis J. Ricciardone, the United States Ambassador to Turkey; Mahir Unal, Deputy of the AK Party group Vice President; Ibrahim Sahin, Director of Turkish Radio and Television Institution (TRT),

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TAA Board Members Meet with the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul



January 15, 2013

On January 15, President Abdullah Gul welcomed Dr. Faruk Taban, the President of TAA and the board members - Suleyman Turhanogullari, President of TAFM; Mahmut Yeter, President of MAFTAA; Ibrahim Barlas, Vice President of WATC, and Fatih Beyhan, Vice President of TAFS at the Çankaya presidential palace. Also in attendance was the Chief of Staff and officials from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation presented TAA's 2012 yearly report, and discussed the wide range of projects and activities that the Alliance and its members have

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"Common Mind Workshop" in Antalya, Turkey

January 11, 2013

The first of its kind event, the "Common Mind Workshop" took place at the Miracle Hotel in Antalya, Turkey. It was held between January 11-13, 2013 and was organized by the Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Turkey. The focus of the workshop was the current status of the Turkish Diaspora, its achievements and challenges.

A total of 120 participants from 25 different countries attended the event. Most of the participants were representatives of various public institutions and associations, media members and academics. Fifty-two of



them were diaspora members, representing their communities. Among the honorable attendees, were the President of the

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TAA Participated in Swearing-in Ceremonies



January 3, 2013

The 113th U.S. Congress was sworn in Washington, DC on January 3, 2013. In the Senate, Vice President Joe Biden swore in 12 new members, as well as the reelected senators. In the House, Speaker John Boehner, after winning reelection to the post, swore in the new class of 82 freshmen and the returning legislators. As with the previous Congress, the 113th one is also ideologically divided with Democrats holding a 55-45 edge in the Senate, and the Republicans maintaining their majority in the House, 233-200.

The Turkic American community showed a committed support for this special day for Congress.

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