



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 3 March 2014

Dear Friends,

This month, the Turkic American Alliance was very honored to have hosted a distinguished delegation of Lieutenant Governors at its office in conjunction with the annual winter meetings by the National Association of Lieutenant Governors. Eleven LGs attended this premier event, in addition to representatives of TUSKON, Nema Food Company and other local businesspersons. Be sure to also check out highlights from the Georgia-Turkey State Capitol Reception in Atlanta, the annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner held in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and an important J-1 Visa orientation in New York City.

Municipal elections took place in Turkey on March 30th. The Justice and Development Party (AKP) maintained 46% of the vote, while the Republican People's Party (CHP) obtained 28%, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) 15% and the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) 4%. We hope that the results will inspire more democratic conditions in Turkey. In the aftermath of the elections, the Turkic American Alliance is deeply concerned over countless reports of voting irregularities, including wide-ranging electrical blackouts, vote rigging, vote counting obstruction and strategic delaying, and cyber attacks against independent news agencies, newspapers and television channels. In addition, social media sites Twitter and YouTube were blocked earlier this month, seriously jeopardizing freedom of speech and expression in Turkey. Statements to this affect were issued publicly by U.S. State Department spokespersons, European Union Commissioners, U.S. Members of Congress and the White House Press Secretary.

On a lighter note, March is also the month of Nowruz. According to the United Nations, Nowruz is a spring festival that is celebrated globally by over 300 million people as the beginning of the New Year. Such celebrations have taken place for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions. This year, TAA staff attended a Nowruz reception at the White House, and

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member organizations in Fairfax, Houston and Chicago hosted Nowruz festivals in their respective communities.

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Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

Turkish-Georgian State Capitol Reception



March 1st, 2014

A delegation of prominent leaders, businesspersons and gathered at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta for the 5th Annual Turkish-Georgian Friendship Dinner to celebrate "Turkish Day" on February 7th, 2014. The Turkic American Federation Southeast of (TAFS), along with one of its sister organizations, held a Turkey-Georgia Parliamentary Friendship...[Read More](#)

Nowruz Festivals Celebrated across the U.S.



March 16th, 2014

Nowruz Festivals were celebrated across the country around the time of the vernal equinox. Among the member organizations under the Turkic American Alliance umbrella organization, the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) in Fairfax, Virginia, the Turkic Council of America and Eurasians (TCAE) in Houston, Texas, and a collaboration of...[Read More](#)

TAA Hosts Culture & Business Reception for Lt. Governors

March 19th, 2014

During the evening of Wednesday March 19th, the Turkic American Alliance had the pleasure of hosting the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) for a Culture and Business Reception in conjunction with its 2014 winter meetings. A total of 80 guests attended the reception, including 11 Honorable Lieutenant Governors-NLGA Chair...[Read More](#)



Pacifica Institute Hosts Friendship Dinner in Hawai'i



March 20th, 2014

On March 20th, the 4th Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner, sponsored by the Pacifica Institute of Honolulu, Hawai'i, was held in the capital of Honolulu County. Professor Dr. Philip Clayton, Ingraham Professor of Theology at the Claremont School of Theology, gave the keynote speech on the topic "Respect for..." [Read More](#)

White House Nowruz Reception



March 21st, 2014

On Friday, March 21st, the White House hosted its first ever Nowruz event. President Obama released a statement on the occasion-"as you and your families gather around the Nowruz table, I want to extend my best wishes on this new spring and new year. As always, this holiday is..." [Read More](#)

TCCNY Hosts J-1 Visa Basics Seminar

March 21st, 2014

On March 21st, 2014, the Turkish Cultural Center in Westchester County, NY, held a 'J-1 Visa Basics



Seminar' at the Turkish Cultural Center New York (TCCNY), one of its sister organizations. In attendance were 30 prominent professionals who learned about the general procedures of visa applications, the J-1 Visa...[Read More](#)

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