



Dear Members,

As the New Year begins, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in 2013. It was a wonderful year for the Metrolina Phoenician Club and it is all thanks to you, our members, who supported the many events we organized to bring the community together.

The start of a new year brings new opportunities and new reasons to celebrate our culture and heritage. Our much-anticipated annual *haffleh* is scheduled to take place in September and before that we are planning a Dutch treat lunch, picnic and several other exciting activities for adults as well as the youths.

We are off to a good start, having elected a dynamic new Board at the first monthly Board meeting for 2014. I am pleased to announce the new Board Members for the year:

- Lamia Hanna to resume her position as President
- Azad Khuri to resume her position as Vice President
- Wadih Zakhem to resume his position as Treasurer
- Vicky Kaloust to assume the position of Assistant Treasurer
- Kelly Brais to resume her position as Head of Marketing and Communications
- Marianne Carim to resume her position as Board Member
- Abeer Saad to resume her position as Youth Organizer
- Rolana Sabano to assume the position of Assistant Youth Organizer
- Lina Itani to assume the position of Board Member
- Natasha Beathe to assume the position of Secretary
- Tony Bikhazi to continue on as Board Member and State Vice President of the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs
- Rudy Mazigi to continue on as Webmaster (and non-board member)

The new Board is looking forward to working together to strengthen and improve our club and we hope this will be evident in the activities planned for 2014. Let me conclude this message by reminding you to pay your annual membership fees, either by check or via the website (phoenicianclub.org). The rates are kept affordable at \$50 per family and \$25 per individual, so that membership is accessible to everyone. Your membership dues help us reach our goals and keeps the club going for future generations of Lebanese Americans in Charlotte, as well as the broader Middle Eastern community to which we belong.

Thank you for your continuous support and we hope to see you at the next event.

Sincerely,

Lamia Hanna

President, Metrolina Phoenician Club