

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

October 2014

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



Become a fan of
**U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar,
Consular Section** on
Facebook.

American Citizens' Visa Hour
Every **Tuesday at 4:00pm** at
the Consular Section except
on U.S./local holidays.

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Do You Know?

Effective January 1, 2016, the State Department will eliminate the consular service of supplemental Visa Page Inserts for passports. To mitigate the impact of this coming change, applicants at overseas posts will begin to routinely receive 52-page passports starting October 1, 2014. Requests for adding pages on Form DS-4085 will only be accepted for current passports until December 31, 2015.

Absentee Voting Week



Deadlines for 2014 midterms are around the corner!

Absentee Voting Week is scheduled from September 29 through October 6, 2014. Ballots are generally mailed out only 30 days before primary, special and runoff elections. If you have requested an absentee ballot but have not received a ballot from your state by now you can vote in the upcoming election using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB is a write-in backup ballot that can be completed for the election. The FWAB can be easily completed by using the [FWAB online assistant](#) and filling out the [PDF](#). The assistant will guide you through the questions on the form and produce a printable form for you and will also provide a postage-paid envelope so you don't have to worry about finding stamps! You can return your completed ballot in a postage-paid envelope to the consular section, and we will affix a consular date stamp which most local election officials accept as a postmark.

- Complete and sign the FWAB's Voter Declaration/Affirmation using your state's instructions. Find your state's instructions [here](#).
- Vote the ballot by writing in a candidate or party name. Detach the ballot from the security envelope, fold it, insert it into the security envelope, and seal. If using the online FWAB, use a separate blank envelope and write "Security Envelope" on it.
- Fold and place the completed Voter Declaration/Affirmation and the sealed security envelope into the accompanying "Mailing Envelope." Seal. If using the online FWAB, use your own envelope as the Mailing Envelope. You may print postage paid insignia on your envelope by using the envelope template available [here](#).
- Address and mail the FWAB to your local election official. Be sure to include your return address, and affix postage if using a foreign postal service.

ACS Outreach Activities

In October, the Consular Section successfully conducted two outreach trips to Bayan-Ulgii and Zamiin Uud. From Sep 18-21, 2014. The Consul, Thomas Venner, along with our LES staff, met with the Governor of Bayan-Ulgii, Director of the State Hospital and the Deputy Chief of Police. The Consul explained the assistance the consular section can/cannot provide for American citizens who find themselves in trouble. Both sides also exchanged views on how to enhance greater



cooperation and facilitate future communications. The Consul also visited a local hospital and travel agencies and made student visa presentations at two local universities. Two wardens were successfully recruited during the trip.



From September 22-25, 2014, the Vice Consul, Patrick Rumley, accompanied by staff from the Public Affairs Section traveled

to Zamiin Uud, stopping in Airag, Choir, Sainshand, and Erdene along the way. They met with several government officials, including the Governor of Dornogovi Province, the Deputy Governor of Zamiin Uud and a member of their representative's council, as well as police and immigration officials. They were also able to meet with our Peace Corps volunteers located in each location, and with librarians and primary school staff. At Zamiin Uud School #2 the staff visited the "American Shelf," which resides in the town's public library and consists of English-language reading and AVV materials. A town-hall and a TV interview were



conducted to discuss scholarship opportunities and visa issues for students interested in studying in the United States.

Traveler's Tip: Check your travel document: be sure your passport is valid for six months past your travel date. Check your overseas medical insurance coverage: ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws: while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws.

2014 Warden Meeting

Our thanks to the nine wardens from all across Ulaanbaatar consular districts and Darkhan Province who attended the American Citizens Services Unit's warden meeting on September 24. As Consul Venner said while opening the event, we are deeply grateful for the generous support of our volunteer wardens.



During the meeting, participants discussed topics such as the [STEP](#) enrollment program, method of information dissemination, privacy concerns, and evacuation plan. We have received many great suggestions from the wardens for improving our services to American citizens.

Who is a Warden?

Wardens are volunteers who serve an invaluable role by assisting the Embassy in disaster preparedness, helping to organize Embassy events, alerting Americans to emergency situations, and providing the Embassy with on-the-ground reports during an actual crisis. Because of their knowledge of the location where they live and the people they know, they are often better equipped to assess local situations than the officer of the Embassy and provide information that is more accurate and timely than other sources. A well-functioning warden system provides a strong link between the Embassy and American citizens in Mongolia in the event of an emergency, disaster, or threat.

We encourage our wardens to reach out to Americans in their communities so that their neighbors know who they are and know how to contact them. If the wardens know you are there, they are more likely to be able to reach you in times of need and to help you communicate with the Embassy. This is especially important for those who do not own or use computers. We ask that you pass this message to your American friends and neighbors who are "off the grid." If you wish, we invite you to introduce yourself to your wardens. If you would like to know the name of the Warden in you area, please contact the ACS unit.



How do I volunteer?

The U.S. Embassy is always looking for dedicated individuals to volunteer their time as wardens in their community, especially in the areas outside Ulaanbaatar. Serving as a warden is one of the most rewarding ways of giving back to the area in which you live. In addition, wardens have direct access to the Embassy and can voice their opinions on topics of importance to their communities. The U.S. Embassy would like to invite anyone interested in volunteering to email ulaanbaataracs@state.gov. or call 7007-6114.

TRAVEL WARNINGS		TRAVEL ALERT
SEPT 30, 2014	LESOTHO	SEPTEMBER 18, 2014
SEPT 25, 2014	YEMEN	
SEPT 12, 2014	ERITREA	MOZAMBIQUE
SEPT 10, 2014	ISRAEL,	
	THE WEST BANK AND GAZA	
SEPT 5, 2014	AFGHANISTAN	

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please visit this website: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>

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