

**U.S. Embassy Sarajevo
Consular Section
American Community Newsletter**

Vol. 2, Issue 2



April 2009

In this issue:

- Voting slogan contest page 2
- Townhall meeting of Feb 19 page 3
- Online passport application wizard page 3
- Hints to streamline your passport services page 4

Contact Information and Operating Hours

Address: Alipašina 43, 71000 Sarajevo

American Citizen Services Hours: Monday-Friday 14:00-15:30 and Friday 8:00-10:30
It is always preferable to call for an appointment!

Non-Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment through **Visa Information Service** at
(387) 33 295 375

Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment only

Tel: (387) 33 445 700 ACS Ext. 2210, 2337
NIV Ext. 2241
IV Ext. 2453

Fax: (387) 33 221 837

E-mail: rws@state.gov (for registration)

E-mail: IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov (for immigrant visa questions)

VOTING SLOGAN CONTEST: What Makes You Want to Vote?

Voting is your constitutional right! What inspires you to vote? What calls you to take action and vote? Now is your chance to express your thoughts on the importance of voting by entering the 2009 Voting Slogan Contest.

The winning slogan will inspire U.S. citizens around the world to exercise one of the fundamental rights of a democracy! The April 9, 2009 deadline for submissions is fast approaching.

The Voting Slogan Contest is a biennial contest sponsored by the Federal Voting Assistance Program in its efforts to promote interest in the democratic process among military members, their families and U.S. citizens worldwide. It is easy to participate. Just create a simple slogan (or slogans) that expresses the importance of voting that will inspire others to vote and submit it to the FVAP.

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness, but they will also be given a certificate of recognition from the Department for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, but we request that all slogans be submitted separately. All submissions must be received by **April 9, 2009**.

All submissions must include your full name, branch of service (if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number (phone and fax numbers should include all necessary country/city codes or DSN prefixes) and e-mail address (if applicable).

To submit your entry:

E-mail: slogan@fvap.ncr.gov. Text only (e-mail messages with attachments are deleted for information security purposes). One slogan per e-mail including contact information.

Fax: (703) 696-1352 or DSN 426-1352. Visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov for international toll-free fax numbers. Submit one slogan per fax including contact information. No cover sheet is necessary.

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program
Attn: Voting Slogan Contest
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1155

If submitting by mail, please type or print on regular letter size paper one slogan per page with contact information on each page.

“Be Smart, Do Your Part, Vote!” was the winning slogan for the 2007 Voting Slogan Contest. It was submitted by YNC Karen Bassingthwaite, U.S. Navy, Tampa, Florida.

Please join the FVAP in helping to inspire others to vote by submitting your entry today and you could be one of this year’s winners!

American Citizens Townhall Meeting *Held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 in the Embassy*



The Consular Section was very pleased to welcome over twenty resident Americans to the Consular Townhall Meeting on February 19th. While we were pleased so many attended, we were sorry that the inclement weather prevented additional Americans from attending.

Welcomed by Ambassador English, participants heard first hand from representatives of different Embassy sections. Each speaker discussed the ongoing activities and goals of their respective departments. Ambassador English personally greeted guests in informal chats after the presentations.

For future townhall events, we hope to have better weather! We welcome any suggestions for topics to be covered at the next meeting, and any comments on how to make such gatherings more useful and interesting for the American community in BiH. You can always write to us at rws@state.gov

Also, we are repeating the Consul's call for wardens: Even though our goal is to be able to reach every American citizen in BiH directly by e-mail, we still need wardens, particularly in crisis situations. If you are interested in serving as a warden, please contact us at rws@state.gov

Online Passport Application Wizard

When applying for a passport at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit recommends that all applicants utilize the online Passport Application Wizard (<https://pptform.state.gov>).

The Wizard will help you determine which form you need (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085), then assist you to complete the form online, estimate your payment, and generate the documents to print and submit.

Also, if your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (Form DS-64). And if you are applying for a minor's passport and both parents are unable to sign the application together with the child at the Embassy, one of the parents may use the Wizard to print out a Statement of Consent (Form DS-3053), which must be notarized.

Hints to Streamline Your Passport Services

- **Plan Ahead** for passport renewals. It typically takes 7-10 business days from the time you apply to receive a full-validity passport. There is usually higher demand for services in the days and weeks before a holiday and during school vacation.
- **Children's Passports** - Check the expiration date of your child's passport - remember that passports for children under 16 years of age are valid for 5 years only.
- **Call for an appointment** – Although we will always do our best to receive any American citizen who walks in during our working hours, it is much safer, in order to avoid any waiting, to call us for an appointment two to three days ahead of time. The number is (033)445-700 ext. 2337.
- **Personal Appearances:** If you are adding pages to your passport, you may download your application from our website, or use the online Passport Application Wizard. You can sign the application and send it with your passport to us with someone else. Please remember that, for minors under the age of 16, personal appearance of the child and both parents is always required (if one parent is absent, the notarized Statement of Consent – Form DS-3053 is acceptable)

Important note on notarial services

If the document you need notarized (power-of-attorney or similar) provides a space for one or two witnesses to witness your signature, please **bring the witnesses with you** to your appointment. The consular staff cannot act as witnesses.

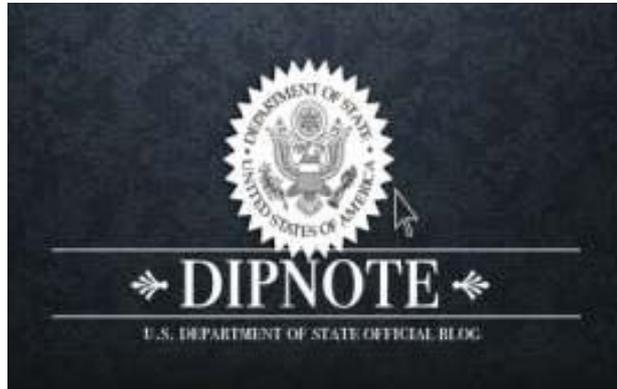
REGISTRATION WITH THE EMBASSY

If you would like to update your registration with the Embassy, please fax or e-mail us the Registration Form (available also at <http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov>). Americans registering for the first time can come to the Consular Section in person to present their passport and complete a registration form. You can also fax (033 221 837) or e-mail (rws@state.gov) the registration form and a copy of your passport biographic data page to us.

To receive Warden Messages by e-mail you need to be registered with the Embassy

Dipnote, the U.S. Department of State Official Blog

Through websites and other online resources, the Department of State offers broad public access to a wide range of information. On its official blog, <http://blogs.state.gov/>, the Department offers the public an alternative source to mainstream media for U.S. foreign policy information. This blog offers the opportunity for participants to discuss important foreign policy issues with senior Department officials.





Important Security Announcement

When visiting the Embassy, please remember not to bring mobile phones or any electronic devices, such as Blackberries, iPods, or PDAs, as they are not allowed within the Embassy.



We also strongly advise that you do not bring large bags, such as backpacks, suitcases or packages to the interview as there are no storage facilities on Embassy grounds.



Embassy Closures:

- **April 13 (Monday):** **Easter Monday**
- **May 1 (Friday):** **Labor Day**
- **May 2 (Saturday):** **Labor Day**
- **May 25 (Monday):** **Memorial Day**

There is always an Embassy duty officer available to assist U.S. citizens with serious emergencies. The duty officer can be reached at (033) 445 700.