



Newsletter for American Citizens in Norway

3rd edition

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Spring 2011**
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U.S. EMBASSY 2011

TOWN HALL MEETING

This spring The U.S Embassy will host it's second Oslo Town Hall meeting on May 5, 2011. The first Town Hall meeting ever was held last year and was a popular event, with almost 200 in attendance.

This year we intend again to have presentations from leaders in the American citizen community as well as Embassy representatives speaking on a range of topics. If you are interested in attending the Town Hall meeting, please contact the Embassy by emailing osloamcit@state.gov.



Tax Season Is Here

All U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents must report worldwide income from all sources to the Internal Revenue Service. You may not have to pay any U.S. tax, but you must file a return. Normally U.S. citizens residing abroad have until June 15 to file. (though owed taxes still must be paid by April 15).

The Embassy in London has a IRS office and may be contacted for advice over the telephone. Please see [their brochure](#).

Embassy Oslo is no longer able to offer tax assistance in the Spring. However we now have a list of tax advisors available on our [website](#).

For further information please see the [IRS website](#).

Editors corner: Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. If there is something that you would like to contribute please contact us at osloamcit@state.gov

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Sample of the new CRBA certificate

eliminating the distribution of controlled blank form stock throughout the world ensures improved uniform quality and lessens the threat of fraud.

New Report of Birth Abroad Certificate

The Department of State introduced in January the redesigned Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), certificate. The CRBA is an official record confirming that a child born overseas to a U.S. citizen parent acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. The redesigned document has state-of-the-art security features that make it extremely resistant to alterations or forgery. CRBA's have been printed at U.S. Embassies and Consulates around the world since their introduction in 1919. As of January 3, 2011, CRBA's are printed at our passport facilities in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and New Orleans, Louisiana. Centralizing production and

Beware of Internet Scams

Internet scams are attempts by con artists to convince you to send them money. These fraudulent schemes can include lotteries, on-line dating services, inheritance notices, work permits/job offers, bank overpayments, or even make it appear that you are helping a friend in trouble. In many cases, scammers troll the internet for victims and spend weeks or months building a relationship. Once they have gained their victim's trust, the scammers create a false situation and ask for money. Be skeptical. Do not send anyone money unless you are certain that it is a legitimate request- even if you think you know the person well based on your internet correspondence. You are unlikely to be able to recover money lost in such scams. At Embassy Oslo we have encountered a number of cases of Nigerian-based scammers, posing as U.S. citizens who convinced people in Norway to send them money.

[For more information please see the Department of State's website.](#)



Valid Passports for summer travel

The summer holiday season is approaching. Please be sure that passports for you and your family are valid and ready to go. Some countries require that a U.S. passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of stay. Apply for passports early, before the summer rush.

For more information please visit our [website](#).



travel.state.gov Living or traveling abroad? The travel.state.gov website is a great source of information for Americans living overseas. Please visit this website at www.travel.state.gov

American Citizen Services Chief Retires



Maureen Logan, dedicated American Citizen services Chief retired on February 28, 2011 after 42 years of excellent service to the Embassy and to the American community. We wish her a happy and well deserved retirement.

Enroll with the Embassy



All U.S. citizens planning to visit long-term or reside in Norway should register with the Embassy. Enrollment will make your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary to contact you in an emergency. If you have previously registered, please be sure to notify us of any changes in your contact information. Please see our website for enrollment details www.norway.usembassy.gov



Avoiding Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. You may think that you are safe simply by not carrying your Social Security number card with you and not providing your personal information over the internet or by email. But scam artists can be shrewd. Be careful replying to an email claiming to be from Social Security and asking for your Social Security number or personal information. Some people, who receive Social Security benefits are victimized by misleading advertisers that suggest that Social Security is in dire financial shape and that people risk losing their benefits unless they send a contribution or membership fee to the advertiser. For further information please contact the Federal Benefits Unit in Oslo at fbu.oslo@ssa.gov
If you think you have been the victim of identity theft, you should contact the [Federal Trade Commission](http://www.ftc.gov).



U.S. Citizens and Overseas Voting

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) grant U.S. citizens overseas the right to vote in federal elections in the United States. Federal elections include primaries as well as general and special elections for the President, Vice President, U.S. Senators, and U.S. Representatives to Congress. The UOCAVA applies only to federal elections. However, many states have enacted legislation whereby certain categories of citizens residing overseas can vote by absentee ballot for state or local officials. The same procedures for obtaining ballots are used for both local and federal elections. Please see the [FVAP website](http://www.fvap.gov) for complete information regarding absentee voting.