

Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals

What are they and what do they
do?

History of Honorary Consulates

- Shipwrecked people in Middle Ages
- Country of origin asked a respected citizen locally, but usually a native of the country of origin, to be an advocate for people in trouble.
- Further developments: Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations April 18, 1961 regulates consular rights and duties.

What kind of person?

- There should be two ideally
- One who takes care of advocacy
- One who represents Hungary and establishes connections
- In reality one person is needed who can be both in one body.
- Preferably the consul should speak Hungarian/language of the country

What are Honorary Consuls?

Hon. Consuls are like "little Ambassadors" as we were told, when we received our mandate. Honorary consuls are granted the title „The Honorable" in order to make them peers of judges and one-star generals. This is important because that is how authorities have to respect them and return their calls, when they are trying to help others.

Opening of the Honorary Consulate in Seattle



Duties

- Represent Hungary from dinner with the Governor to collect calls from jail. All this at our own expense and no financial reimbursement for anything.
- Promote trade between Hungary and the USA
- Promote and often host Hungarian events
- Cultural: speakers, bands, theater

Duties continued

- Promote tourism
- Give lectures for the public at universities, libraries, service clubs as well as K-12
- Supply materials to teachers and students
- Organize exhibits
- Be an advocate in courts and jail
- Support all Hungarian life in the region

Privacy

Hon. Consuls can notarize documents, photos, contracts, signatures. They do not give visas or passports, but can help with the forms and give instructions.

Citizenship, birth, marriage, divorce and death registrations can be done at the Honorary Consulates. Privacy is protected even from the USA authorities. Consular drawers and files are considered to be on Hungarian soil.

Public appearances

- Do PR, assure room and board for visiting diplomats, government personnel
- Represent Hungary at all other consulates' and internationally important receptions, national holidays, royal and heads of states visits.
- For two years I was President of the Consular Association (Corps) of WA, so I had to speak in their name at every event, governmental or social, often at the spur of the moment.

Consular Corps of WA at Lieutenant Governor's reception



LtGov Brad Owen and members of the Consulate Corps 28Mar2007 1312 WaSenqte rvm

Would YOU like to Apply for the job?

Eva and I did. There was never an Hon.
Consulate farther West than Chicago. We
pushed for it and we both became the first
farthest West, and female, Honorary Consuls
of Hungary in the USA within 24 hrs, in 1993.