

Communication No. 2
from AICO/IAOC to Member Associations

Date: March 2, 2015

Subject: AICO status

Fellow Olympic Collectors:

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Robert K. FARLEY – to most of us, simply “Bob” – on 16 January 2015 at the age of 59. The Society of Olympic Collector’s Vice Chairman, Robert Wilcock, provided the following retrospective on Bob:

“Bob was an outstanding Chairman of our society, a great collector, and more than that; he was meticulous, thorough, and a perfectionist. To him the importance and pleasure was not just in collecting Olympic stamps, postal history and postcards, but in attending the Games, meeting fellow collectors from around the world, collating and recording information and sharing that information through articles and publications. He collaborated closely with key members of our sister societies, and with collectors in the host countries, from Calgary 1988 through to Sochi 2014. He was determined to make SOC's coverage of Olympic philately as good as any and better than most, and he succeeded. He became a member of IOC's Collectors Commission and worked tirelessly to make OLYMPEX 2012 the success that it was.”



2011.10.13, Lausanne, FIPO Working Group meeting.
Discussing matters pertaining to the future AICO



2011.10.13, Lausanne,
FIPO Working Group meeting -
enjoying Swiss cheese fondue

Communication No. 2 summarizes the activities of the AICO Executive Board over the past 2 to 3 months. We are pleased to be able to report that we have found an individual in the Lausanne area who will handle our administrative matters as well as provide AICO with a formal mailing address, thus facilitating establishment of a bank account for the organization. Unfortunately, these two key milestones in setting up AICO took much longer than expected due to external circumstances and procedures.

What is important is that AICO was able to do all this without the expenditure of roughly 4,000 Swiss Francs, a sum which we had been advised would be necessary to accomplish these results. Fortunately, after consultations with one of the IOC’s lawyers, and unexpected help from a dedicated Swiss friend of Olympic collecting, we have found a solution to these legal and administrative issues. The result: we have established a permanent address with administrative support locally in Lausanne at no annual cost to AICO. GREAT!

AICO also has opened a bank account with UBS AG bank in Lausanne (*see details: Attachment 2.A*) and set up a PayPal account (*see details: Attachment 2.B*) which may be used by Members to pay annual dues. Both accounts operate in EUROS, only.

1. "IOC RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATION" status for AICO

The Board welcomed with great satisfaction an announcement that AICO has been granted status as an "IOC RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATION" during the IOC Executive Board meeting in Monaco on 5 December 2014. We are still awaiting an official document from the IOC with guidelines on using this distinguished designation.

2. AICO budget and membership fee 2014

By the end of November, the Board had submitted to the IOC President a revised AICO budget proposal for the remainder of fiscal year 2014. We have just been advised that this amount has been approved and we are awaiting payment.

Because of the delays in getting AICO off the ground which prevented us from producing meaningful benefits to the Membership, the AICO Executive Board has decided to forego collection of the 2014 membership fee.

3. AICO membership fee 2015

As our bank and PayPal accounts are now active, we will shortly be sending invoices to the Member Associations assessing dues for 2015. Amounts may be paid either by wire transfer to our UBS bank account or via PayPal. Please, follow the payment instructions presented in Attachment 2.

AICO can only accept payments in Euros.

As per the decision of the 2014 General Assembly AICO members are assessed an annual membership fee based on the size of the membership of the club at the end of their last membership year. The following table provides the fees structure:

Number of members in club	Annual Fee (Euro)
5 to 20	50
21 to 50	100
51 to 100	140
101 to 200	260
201+	320

4. AICO website

The Board selected a design firm in the USA to create both a logo for AICO and our new website. A domain name has been registered: **aicolympic.org**. The Service Agreement has been reviewed and accepted by the Board for signing.

5. AICO administrative e-mail addresses:

The Board selected Verve Hosting to host both our domain (aicolympic.org) as well as our website and assigned the following administrative e-mail addresses:

General inquiries:	aico@aicolympic.org
President (Roman Babut):	president@aicolympic.org
First Vice President (Mark Maestrono):	vicepresident1@aicolympic.org
Second Vice President (Gianni Galeotti):	vicepresident2@aicolympic.org
Secretary (Christophe Ait-Braham):	secretary@aicolympic.org
Treasurer (Branislav Delej):	treasurer@aicolympic.org

Mail to these addresses will be forwarded automatically to the respective personal addresses of EB members holding those positions.

6. 2015 Olympic Collectors Fair

The 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair will be held in Lake Placid, New York, USA from 10-13 September 2015. More information will be forthcoming on their website: www.lakeplacid2015.com

7. Following the Memorandum of Understanding between IOC and AICO

The Board would like to congratulate our Member from Italy, UICOS, which has redesigned its logo (right) in conformance with AICO's obligation that no member organization will use the Olympic Rings, either alone or incorporated in any graphic elements. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our other Members to review their logos and amend them accordingly. Don't forget to check your letterhead, business cards, etc. to comply with the Agreement between the IOC and AICO. As FIPO no longer exists, please do not use the old emblem. We hope that before the end of 2015 all members will adjust their own logos as necessary.



9. Working Group Formation: Olympic Postal Stationery

The Society of Olympic Collectors is interested in setting up a working group to research Olympic-themed postal stationery including PPIs (Postal Paid Impressions). Collectors within AICO Member Associations who are interested in taking part in this working group are invited to contact Mr. Robert Wilcock (marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org) for more information. The group would operate through email communication and exchange of images / research.

Please do not hesitate contacting us with your questions, comments and suggestions at any time.

With best Olympic regards,

The Executive Board