

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## 24<sup>th</sup> World Olympic Collectors' Fair SPI Covers & Cards

Courtesy of John La Porta, we have handsome cacheted covers with the LA2018 Olympic Fair logo and cancelled with the special Olympic Fair postmark featuring the Olympic rings. Covers are franked with one of the "Have a Ball" stamps.

Also available are the official postcards printed for the Fair. The obverse reproduces the official logo. As with the covers, each postcard is franked with a ball stamp.

All three postmark dates are available on the cards and covers and may be ordered from John La Porta. All proceeds benefit SPI. See page 31 for ordering instructions.

## SPI Annual Financial Statement

Thanks to our treasurer, Andrew Urushima, our annual financial statement is presented on page 32 of this issue.

While the totals may show a modest loss of about \$500 this past fiscal year (which runs from September 1, 2017 though August 31, 2018), we actually did very well because of the Olympic Fair. Not only did we generate about \$300 in sales at our booth (those \$1 covers boxes are a big hit), but as co-hosts with the Olympian Collectors Club, we shared evenly in the profits of the show to the tune of over \$1100 for each society! That income will be reflected in next year's accounting.

## 13<sup>th</sup> International Convention of SPI August 1-4, 2019, Omaha Nebraska

The SPI Board of Directors has received a proposal to hold a convention next year in Omaha, Nebraska. If approved at the upcoming SPI Board meeting on December 9 (this issue of *JSP* goes to press before the board meeting), this would be our first convention since NY2016. This would also be the first time our convention has been held in the mid-west, making it accessible by all US members.

Why Omaha? Because the APS (American Philatelic Society) and ATA (American Topical

Association) will again hold a joint annual convention following their very successful event this past August in Columbus.

The benefits for SPI are obvious: participation in the largest annual philatelic exhibition in the US (APS StampShow) where thematic and topical collectors are accommodated by the many dealers attending the ATA's National Topical Stamp Show!

There will be plenty of thematic exhibits to enjoy. Plus judges with thematic/topical experience will be on hand to serve in the Open Competition. We hope many SPI members will apply to enter their exhibits. More information coming soon.

The show will be held at the CHI Health Center, Omaha's big convention and sports complex.

The show hotel is the Hilton Omaha, located directly across the street from the convention center and accessible by an overhead pedestrian bridge. A special show hotel rate of \$138/night (plus taxes and fees) is available. Pre-registration to the stamp show and a link to the special reservations page for the Hilton hotel are available at the APS website:

<https://stamps.org/Collect/Shows-Events/StampShow>

## Olympic Stamp Petition to the USPS

It has been 8 years since the US Postal Service has released a stamp honoring the men and women who participate in the Olympic Games. The last stamp was for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games which seems a very long time ago indeed!

I'm not sure of its effectiveness, but what would you think about an online petition asking for an Olympic issue for Tokyo 2020? As it is, the timing is already late; it usually takes a couple of years to approve a stamp. To quote the well-known saying, "nothing ventured, nothing gained."



*From all of us at SPI, to all our members and fellow collectors worldwide, we hope you have a wonderful holidays and a happy and healthy 2019!*