

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI 2020 Elections

Nominations are now open for all officers and board members. Any member in good standing is eligible to run. Nominations must be received by our Nominations Chairman, Jerome Wachholz, no later than May 1, 2018. His address is 1320 Bridget Lane, Twinsburg, OH 44087. You may also contact him via email: jwachholz@access4less.net

26th World Olympic Collectors' Fair Artena (Rome), 4-6 September 2020

This year's fair for Olympic collectors will be held in Artena, Italy, a picturesque medieval town about 32 miles southeast of downtown Rome, and home to the Rugby Museum. The fair is open to all collectors and features a bourse of dealers specializing in Olympic stamps, coins, pins and other memorabilia.

Tables at the bourse are a very modest 60€ for the entire three days of the fair. Accommodations at special rates of 50€ per day (single) and 90€ per day (double) have been made available at two nearby hotels. Transportation to and from the hotels and Fair will be provided.

In addition to the traditional Silent Auction and Gala Reception & Banquet, the organizers have planned a special bus tour to Rome's "Foro Italico" including the main Olympic Stadium, Swimming Stadium, Marble Stadium and Olympic Village of the 1960 Olympic Games.

Table and event reservations are now being accepted through the Olympic Fair website:

www.artena2020.com

"Make A Friend" Campaign

National Make A Friend Day, always celebrated on February 11, is a fantastic opportunity to meet someone new and make a new friendship.

Inspired by this annual event, SPI Board Member, Norman Rushefsky, proposes we institute such a year round program in our society. In his words: "One of the benefits of membership in our society is the ability to engage with other members for the purpose of learning more about your collecting

interests and providing for mutually beneficial trading opportunities. Hopefully, this generates some reaching out from others." Members stimulated by this idea are invited to drop Norman an email: normanrush@yahoo.com

Call to Action – Support Our Advertisers

Readers will have noticed that over the past few years the number of advertisers in our journal has dropped – precipitously! The reason for this is primarily a lack of response from our members. While not every sponsor will appeal to everyone, our current crop of five are worthy of everyone's attention. I challenge every member to take action on at least one of our sponsors in this issue.

David Feldman is holding a *Specialized Olympic Auction* on 29 April, which he previews in his advertisement on page 2 of this issue. Auction lots will be online the beginning of April. This is one auction not to miss: www.davidfeldman.com

Roland Rindshoj, a life member of SPI, is selling his entire stock of Olympic and sports stamps (see his ad on page 36). Here's an opportunity to fill spaces in your collection. SPI members get 30% off! Search his inventory by clicking on "search by dealer" on: www.zillionsofstamps.com

Heiko Volk in Germany offers a superb selection of Olympic, World Cup, and sports material. This is a great way to add items to your collection or exhibit that might be hard to find on eBay or Delcampe. Prices are very reasonable! Check out his ad on the inside back cover. His next auction is March 30: www.olympiaphilatelie-volk.de

Wydly.com is one of the most useful search engines for stamps on the web as they access material from over 40 countries in a variety of languages. Don't let foreign auction and sales sites stop you from buying that illusive item you've been hunting for. Check out his ad on the inside back cover, and visit him at: www.wydly.com

Ingrid O'Neil Auctions is *the* leading worldwide auction house for Olympic Games memorabilia. Whether you're looking for Olympic medals, diplomas, torches, or other Olympic souvenirs, she has it. View her ad on the back cover. Bid online or ask for an auction catalog: www.ioneil.com