

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## SPI 2018 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, Glenn Estus, no later than May 1, 2018. His address is PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993 (email: [gestus@westelcom.com](mailto:gestus@westelcom.com))

## Los Angeles 2018 24<sup>th</sup> World Olympic Collectors' Fair 6-8 September 2018

By the time you read this, the LA2018 World Olympic Collectors' Fair (WO CF) will be in business. Approved by the IOC at this past December's meeting of the Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, the fair will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center in conjunction with the Long Beach Coin Expo, a mammoth coin, currency, stamp and sport collectible show.

Sports Philatelists International and the Olympian Collectors Club serve as this year's fair co-hosts. We expect some 125 participating dealers and collectors from 25 nations around the globe to attend the fair. The Coin Expo normally draws around 5,000 visitors during the 3-day show – a wonderful opportunity to introduce Olympic collecting to a much wider audience.

In addition to lots of Olympic pin trading activity, there will be numerous dealers in Olympic memorabilia. Expect to see lots of Olympic torches, a smattering of Olympic medals, and certainly many bits and pieces of ephemera to satisfy just about any collector. There should also be at least a few dealers with philatelic material to peruse.

A major event at this year's fair will be the biennial General Assembly of the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO). The primary business at the assembly will be the election of three members to the Executive Board. [Your president will be running for reelection.]

Activities planned for attendees are expected to include a special tour of the Olympic Coliseum, the primary venue of the 1932, 1984 and upcoming 2028 Olympic Games, followed by a reception at

the LA84 Foundation in Los Angeles. On Friday evening, the customary Gala Banquet will be held preceded by a Silent Auction. In addition, autograph sessions with Olympic athletes are planned during the show.

A section of the show floor is dedicated to the Olympic Fair with 10-foot by 10-foot booths available for rent by any collector or dealer. Each booth is equipped with tables, chairs, pipe and drapery as well as a sign. Free Wi-Fi is also available for all booth holders. An aisle booth sells for \$300 for the 3-day period, while a corner (end) booth may be had for \$550. A double aisle booth (10' x 20') is also available for \$600. Any booth may be shared by up to two collectors and/or dealers. Each participant will also receive a limited edition fair pin and a handsome diploma presented by the IOC.

A number of hotels offering special Expo rates are within walking distance of the Convention Center. An official Olympic Fair hotel will be announced shortly.

In addition to being the center of the nation's film and television industry, Los Angeles offers world class museums (the Getty Center and Los Angeles County Museum of Art), the famous Los Angeles Zoo, one-of-a-kind sites like the Queen Mary and Disneyland, and iconic landscapes (Santa Monica and Venice beaches). Why not bring the whole family for a memorable vacation!

For information – and to reserve your booth – please visit our website at [LA2018.ORG](http://LA2018.ORG).

## George E. Killian (1924 - 2017)

This past December, we lost not only a tireless champion of international sports, but a great friend of sports and Olympic philately.

George Killian served as president of FISU, the International University Sports Federation, from 1999 to 2011. He also guided the International Basketball Federation as its president, and was a member of the IOC. In addition to being a longtime member of SPI, George was an active basketball philatelist, contributing generously to the society with donations of philatelic material and articles for the journal. George will be sorely missed.