

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI 2018 Election, Constitution Revision & Annual Membership Renewal Time

It's time to cast your ballots for the officers and board members who oversee the inner workings of *your* society. We do have a couple of changes in the batting line-up.

I'd like to thank Charles Covell for his many years of service to SPI, first as our Vice-President for 18 years (9 terms), and then as a member of the SPI Board of Directors for 4 more years (2 terms). That's what I call yeoman's duty!

Kon Sokolyk, one of our longtime Canadian members and frequent contributor to the journal, will be running for election to the board. I hope all of you will support him.

At long last, we have revised and updated the SPI Constitution. These changes are long overdue and something I've wanted to address for some time. So over the past couple of years, a Constitution Revision Committee composed of Joe Lopreiato, Charles Covell, Clemens Reiss and Kon Sokolyk have been reviewing and then revising the constitution. The Board of Directors voted unanimously in December 2017 to adopt the Revised Constitution, and recommends that the membership ratify the document. A simple majority of votes cast is needed for passage.

The "Constitution of Sports Philatelists International (Revised 2018)" is printed on pages 29-32 of this issue. New additions are indicated by underlined text; deleted text has been ~~struck out~~.

An election ballot enclosed with this issue includes a space for approving or disapproving the revised constitution. For an online election ballot:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LH9DKDK>

Please take a moment to vote – the candidates will appreciate it. And thanks to our Nominations Chairman, Glenn Estus for doing his usual fine job! Please note that the deadline for receiving votes (either by mail or online) is 1 August.

Lastly, if you find a renewal envelope enclosed with this issue, then it's time to renew. Digital members will receive an email notice. Feel free to use PayPal to pay your dues; our account name is: treasurer@sportstamps.org



Los Angeles 2018 World Olympic Collectors' Fair

Long Beach Convention Center
6-8 September 2018
LA2018.org

The Olympic Fair is coming right along with preparations. Booths are selling well and we have an official show hotel: the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel (a member of the Marriott chain). A special show rate of \$179 (plus taxes and fees) per night is available to all attendees. Please use the link on the Fair website to guarantee the rate.

The Fair is being held as part of the Long Beach Coin Expo, a thrice-yearly event that draws around 6,500 visitors to the beautiful Long Beach Convention Center.

There will be approximately 80 booths of Olympic memorabilia, pins, coins and stamps. Overall, the Expo features about 500 dealers in coins, and sports memorabilia. Plans are in the works for an Olympic Collecting Pavilion presenting frames of Olympic philately and pins along with display cases of Olympic torches, medals and other memorabilia.

The biennial General Assembly of the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO) will be conducted during the Olympic Fair, most likely on 7 September.

One of the highlights of the Fair will be the Gala Banquet on the evening of Friday, 7 September at the Queen Mary. And yes, this is *the* RMS Queen Mary which sailed the Atlantic from 1936 to 1967. She is permanently docked in Long Beach, serving as a floating hotel and destination attraction.

Other activities, still in the planning phase: a special tour of the Olympic Coliseum followed by a reception at the LA84 Foundation on 5 September (the day prior to the opening of the Fair); and a reception and Silent Auction on 6 September. Autograph sessions with Olympic athletes are also in the planning stage.

For information – and to reserve your booth – please visit our website at LA2018.ORG.