

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## Time to renew your membership!

Yes, it's once again that time of year when SPI asks *YOU* to renew your memberships in what we'd like to think is the best English-language sport and Olympic philatelic organization in the world! In exchange for very little cost, you get access to a great deal of information. Here's just the tip of the iceberg for articles planned for 2019-2020:

- Coverage of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games & 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games
- Joaquin Blume & the rebirth of Spanish sports
- Examining the 1951 Fiji Rugby semi-postals
- Uncovering 1906 Olympic counterfeits
- Reporting Hank Aaron's home run record
- Exploring golf, basketball, tennis and more ...

If you find a renewal envelope enclosed with this issue, then it's time for you to renew at the same dues rates as last year. For extra savings, renew for 2 or more years, or convert to a web-only membership (\$15 worldwide)! As always, pay by PayPal or check, whichever you prefer.

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

If you haven't yet begun planning your trip to Omaha, Nebraska for the 13<sup>th</sup> International SPI Convention ... *what are you waiting for?*

This should be quite a festival of thematic, not to mention traditional, philately. The American Philatelic Society (APS) and American Topical Association (ATA) are holding their combined national conventions. You can be sure that not only will you see plenty of spectacular philately, but the bourse of dealers will be sure to have a sizable inventory of thematic material for even the most advanced stamp collector.

On Friday evening (Day 2 of the show), SPI will be holding a dinner at Spencer's, well known for its steaks and chops. We've arranged with the chef for a 3-course prix fixe menu with a choice of salad, entrees (steak, chicken, fish and vegetarian options), and dessert for \$55 per person (plus tax and

gratuity). This is a no-host dinner; separate checks for everyone so you can add drinks or wine.

The only limitation: the "Chef's Table" seats a maximum of 15 guests. We already have about 10 people signed up, so don't delay! If we are oversubscribed, we'll maintain a waiting list. Please use the online "SPI Convention Survey" form on the SPI home page ([sportstamps.org](http://sportstamps.org)) to sign up.

While the deadline for submitting applications to exhibit was 15 May, you can always contact the APS to verify if frames are still available. Address your email inquiries to [stampshow@stamps.org](mailto:stampshow@stamps.org).

SPI will be offering awards for best multi-frame, one-frame, novice and youth exhibits. Each winner receives SPI's distinctive diploma, and the multi-frame winner takes home the SPI trophy.

StampShow is one of the few U.S. shows that still conducts a literature exhibit. *JSP* will be entered along with many other periodicals, books and even articles. Make sure you stop on by the literature "reading room." Who knows, you might just fall prey to a new collecting theme.

While final meeting schedules have not yet been published by the APS, we've asked for a Saturday morning time slot. We're still exploring possibilities for a speaker, so let us know if you have an idea or suggestion. Or perhaps you'd like to give a short (10 minute) presentation of a favorite item in your collection. If interested, contact either me or Norm Jacobs (our email addresses are on the inside front cover).

StampShow 2019 will be held at the CHI Health Center, Omaha's big convention complex. The Hilton Omaha, which is the official StampShow 2019 hotel, is 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.

To pre-register for StampShow or link to the special reservations page for the Hilton hotel, visit the APS website: <https://stamps.org/StampShow>

SPI will also need the assistance of volunteers to help staff the SPI table at the show. Sign up using the "SPI Convention Survey" form on our website.

**See you in Omaha!**