

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Promoting SPI at your local show

SPI Board Member, Kon Sokolyk, came up with a great idea for boosting membership in which each and every one of us can participate with “no muss, no fuss!”

Most of us have local, regional or even national level stamp shows that we attend. What better place to leave a few copies of our SPI membership prospectus! Just ask the folks at the check-in table where you can place them.

The current SPI brochure is posted on our website as a PDF file which can be downloaded in a few seconds. You can either print this out on your own home printer or take it to your office supply or copy store and have them run off a few copies. With a little lead time, SPI can even mail you a few copies (just send your membership chairman, Jerome Wachholz, an email). Either way, you'd be helping out *your* club with minimal effort!

2019 SPI Convention, Omaha, Nebraska

If you missed our convention at StampShow 2019 in August, no worries, a summary of our activities is included in this issue starting on page 9.

The BIG news from the show is that SPI's philatelic exhibiting prowess finally shined brightly with both seasoned and novice exhibitors performing magnificently! I won't spoil the surprise by divulging details here.

SPI's booth attracted lots of business as we signed up 12 new members and sold plenty of \$1 covers and back issues of *JSP* to more than cover the cost of our booth. My thanks go out to all our members who helped staff our table!

Our society get-together on Friday night was also a grand success with eleven of us dining at Spencer's, one of Omaha's finest restaurants. With few excep-

tions, everyone unleashed their inner carnivore, enjoying some delicious prime Omaha beef.

SPI's meeting on Saturday was well-attended. I even spotted a few visitors in the crowd! Rather than featuring a single guest speaker, we opted to have a series of short presentations from members, a format that I hope we'll repeat in the future.

Norm Jacobs and I were among those who attended the APS General Meeting on Saturday morning. We both were very impressed with the presentation by APS Education Director, Cathy Brachbill about a program she oversees, the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship – YPLF for short. This educational program “identifies and supports the best and brightest aspiring philatelists.” Typically there are two or three young men and women between the ages of 16 and 24 taking part for one year. One of the new fellows is very involved in sports, playing both football and water polo, while this past year's fellow is trying out for the US Olympic rowing team! Norm came up with a brilliant suggestion: SPI should automatically give new fellows a free digital membership during their fellowship year with the hope that they might eventually become permanent members.

Cathy was so taken with our proposal that before the end of the show we were signing up our first two YPLF members for the 2019-2020 year, Trevor Bills and Victor Livesay. Please join me in welcoming both to SPI!

New JSP Dialog on Exhibiting/Collecting

Do you have a question on exhibiting or collecting? Email it to either myself or Norm Jacobs (our email addresses are on the inside front cover) and we'll open a dialog on the pages of *JSP* for all to read. We'll also introduce suggestions for those just getting started in Olympic and sports collecting. We hope you'll join in!



SPI exhibitors Tomas Griebing, Norm Jacobs and Mark Maestrone at StampShow 2019.