

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Oops, We Forgot the Election Ballots

If you were wondering last issue why you didn't receive a ballot for the SPI elections, you weren't the only one. We forgot to insert them!

While your current officers and board members are running unopposed for the next two-year term, your vote for them would nonetheless be appreciated. Remember, this is an all-volunteer endeavor; your vote is like that pat-on-the-back that we don't expect, but it's still nice to receive.

Passing of Sherwin Podolsky

This past June 7, longtime Olympic and sports philatelist, and one of the founders of Sports Philatelists International, Sherwin Podolsky, passed away in Simi Valley, California.

Jim Bowman, who has known Sherwin and his wife Adele for many years, presents a remembrance of Sherwin elsewhere in this issue. I would be remiss, though, if I did not include a few thoughts of my own.

Sherwin was very much a philatelic mentor and guide, especially when it came to Olympic philately. I remember the first time we met was at the Pasadena Center during OLYMPHILEX '84. As I walked into the exhibition hall, Sherwin greeted me with his big smile and handshake and proceeded to educate this philatelic neophyte about Olympic stamps. As we walked around the exhibits, Sherwin filled me in on what Olympic philately was all about, illustrating his points with items in the frames. Later, he acquainted me with Sports Philatelists International, an organization of which I was unaware. Sherwin, who was president back then, made sure that I walked away from

OLYMPHILEX with a membership application which I mailed in not long after. Had it not been for this serendipitous meeting, I might never have heard of SPI!

Over the years, Sherwin became a good friend. I fondly remember going to his home in Simi Valley whenever I was visiting in the area, spending a quiet afternoon going through his many albums, while gleaning nuggets of philatelic knowledge from his vast repertoire of stories.

Sherwin's health in recent years has prevented him from attending shows, but he did make it to our convention at SESCAL back in 2003. What a treat! While I haven't seen Sherwin since then, I did purchase a number of items from his 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic collection which I will cherish as a remembrance of him.

I know that all those who knew Sherwin will miss him and join with me in extending our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Adele, and family.

New Auction Manager & New Website

Yes, new things are happening here at SPI! First, I'd like to introduce our new Auction Manager, Thomas Stillman. Tom, a San Francisco college professor, has already taken over the reins from Dale Lilljedahl. There wasn't time to have an auction ready for this issue, but look for one in December with a special surprise section from a well-known Olympic collector! You may send your consignments to Tom Stillman, PO Box 210748, San Francisco, CA 94121-0748. His email is below.

We rolled out a new website on September 1. Still in its development stage, we hope to include more features, both static and multimedia, and welcome input from all our members.

The SPI web site is located at: <http://www.sportstamps.org>

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