

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Election

After the hiccup in our election process (i.e. forgetting to include the ballots in our Summer issue), the members finally had their chance to speak. Despite the fact that all officers and board members were running unopposed, 32 of you stalwart souls still took the time to vote. The results:

<i>President:</i>	Mark Maestrone	32
<i>Vice President:</i>	Charles Covell	31
	(write-in) Thomas Lippert	1
<i>Secretary-Treasurer:</i>	Andrew Urushima	31
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Norm Jacobs	31
	John La Porta	31
	Dale Lilljedahl	31
	Pat Loehr	31
	Bernie McGovern*	31
	Robert Wilcock	32

(* An error in the ballot had Bernie McGovern running as a Director when in fact this should have been changed to Norman Rushefsky, the incumbent. We apologize for the error.)

Please join me in welcoming back our hard-working officers and board members for another two-year term!

What's in store for 2009?

On the cusp of a new year, I can tell you we have plenty of things planned for SPI members, both in our journal and on the philatelic scene.

In October, SPI will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games at our biennial SPI convention in Los Angeles. The last time we were hosted at SESCAL back in 2003, we had a very successful get-together highlighted by an evening at the famous Magic Castle. Thanks to Norm Jacobs, we hope to repeat that event for those who didn't avail themselves of the opportunity last time. I am hot on the trail of some interesting speakers, and of course there will be the usual excellent variety of dealers and fascinating exhibits from across the country.

If you've never been to an SPI convention, they're really a lot of fun. So, mark your calendars now: October 9-11, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles Airport, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

Also coming up in 2009 will be another wonderful, full-color monograph (free to members), and hot news on the upcoming 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada. Continuing our work with the U.S. Olympic Committee, I can already promise another selection of U.S. Olympic Team Trial postmarks.

Correction

In Andrew Urushima's article "Deadly Sichuan Earthquake Shakes Up the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay" (Fall 2008 *JSP*), there is a correction to the table on page 19: the visit of the torch relay to Shangqiu (rescheduled to 07/26) was cancelled.

*Happy Holidays from
our SPI Family to Yours!*

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