

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## *Welcome World Cup!*

With the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa beginning competition just about the time you receive this issue, we decided to provide you with as much useful information as possible.

Thanks to luck and a little perseverance, I was able to finally get in touch with the proper department within the South Africa Post Office. They were extremely helpful in providing me with information and high-resolution illustrations of the brand new stamp issues to be released on 11 June – Opening Day of competition.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear as if there will be any special postmarks for the individual matches, nor any post offices set up at venues. No need to despair, however, as Germany Post have picked up the slack with at least a handful of postmarks. You'll find more information on the pages of this issue.

And don't forget to swing on by the SPI website as we've set up a special area for World Cup information including a complete check list of all stamps issued so far (along with illustrations). Just click on the soccer ball icon at the top.

## *SPI election*

It is again time for SPI's biennial election. While your current slate of officers and board members are running unopposed, write-ins (they must be members in good standing) are permitted.

As a show of appreciation for all the members who volunteer of their time and talents, please take a moment of *your* time to mark and mail in your ballots.

A special thanks to Joe Lopreiato for serving as our Nominations Chairman this year!

## *"The Beautiful Game"*

If you are visiting in or near Bloomington, Illinois between June 18 and July 10, try to include a visit to the McLean County Arts Center in your plans.

"The Beautiful Game" is the title of a special exhibit of World Cup soccer on postage stamps issued by various nations in chronological order. Some stamps will be enlarged and include anecdotes and news reports of the games as well as some original artifacts.

The Center is located at 601 N. East Street, Bloomington, Illinois. Hours are: Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday-Friday 10-5, and Saturday 12-4 (closed on Sunday & Monday).

## *Who's your favorite athlete – and why?*

Okay, so maybe you have *more* than one favorite athlete. Choose one. I'll wager a bet that you probably have one or more philatelic items for him/her too, right? So why not write up a short (or long) article on the person complete with illustrations of a philatelic – and if you wish, also a non-philatelic – nature.

A straight bio too boring for you? Well, feel free to put your own 'slant' on the article. Here are some suggestions: most notable athletic accomplishment(s); contribution to a non-sport event or charity; or even the time you met him/her. We'll select the best entries and the winner will receive a nice philatelic gift as well as having their article appear right here in the journal. Deadline for entries is August 1, so get ready ... set ... WRITE!

~ **Have a great summer!** ~

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

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