

**Communication No. 1**  
**from AICO/IAOC to Member Associations**

Date: September 22, 2014

Subject: **First 123 Days of Operation**

Fellow Olympic Collectors:

It has been just over 123 days since representatives of your collector organizations gathered in Lausanne, Switzerland on 22 May 2014 to constitute the new organization known as AICO and to elect its first Executive Board. In the intervening period, we have been hard at work tending to the many tasks involved in setting up AICO.

Briefly, we have:

1. Signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Olympic Committee on 23 May 2014. The document promulgates the understanding and principles governing the status of AICO, and recognizes the special relationship between the IOC and AICO;
2. Gathered and filed the AICO FACT DOCUMENT. This is a short history of the development of AICO beginning with the results of the meetings of the Working Group, through the preparation of the formal documents, and culminating with the creation of AICO at the General Assembly. We anticipate in the future using the AICO FACT DOCUMENT in registering AICO with the Chamber of Commerce of the Vaud Region (Lausanne).
3. Begun the process of establishing a permanent address, bank account and post office box address in Lausanne. As AICO is established in Switzerland with its headquarters in Lausanne, it makes the most sense to locate our mailing address and bank account in Lausanne (or at least in Switzerland). This is not an easy process from a distance. As we discovered, one may not open a bank account or post office box without proof of a permanent local address which is made difficult by the fact that all five members of the Executive Board reside outside of Switzerland. After seeking legal advice, we are reviewing various options in overcoming this hurdle, which may include hiring a part-time employee for administrative purposes located in the Lausanne area. Once a bank account has been opened, we will be sending out invoices to the member associations for their 2014 dues;
4. Completed and submitted our application granting AICO status as a "RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION" by the IOC. This recognition carries with it many important benefits for AICO. Once approved, as we fully anticipate happening, AICO will appear in the IOC's official directory of recognized organizations. This will make AICO eligible to apply for financial grants from the IOC. An added benefit: recognition authorizes us to include a special graphic device on our publicity materials acknowledging this status. The process of approval by the IOC may take about 6 months;
5. Created work plans and budgets based on short term and long term AICO priorities. The first budget is for the remainder of fiscal year 2014, while the other covers fiscal year 2015. These have been submitted to the IOC along with a request for temporary funding;
6. Investigated and selected a design firm in the USA to create both a logo for AICO and our new website. A domain name has been registered: [aicolympic.org](http://aicolympic.org). There's nothing to see as yet, but we hope to have a functioning site up and running by the end of this year, or shortly thereafter.

An important part of the website will be a profile of each AICO member organization. We ask that an officer or director of your organization complete the online questionnaire. A link to the questionnaire will be sent in a separate email. We ask that the questionnaire be completed by 31 October 2014. Any questions may be directed to Vice-President Mark Maestrone, our website co-ordinator.

The Executive Board continues reaching out to prospective new member organizations which have recently included collectors groups , from Hungary and Russia.

Please do not hesitate contacting us with your questions, comments and suggestions at any time.

With best Olympic regards,  
The Executive Board