



**World's Largest Olympic Collectors Club**  
**PO Box 777 - Guilderland, NY - 12084**  
**Phone: (518) 355 - 9445**

**Established 1982 – Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Year – Issue No 129 – June 2014**

2014 is already shaping up to be a banner year for Olympic collectors. So far, this year has seen the establishment of a new global organization that will work hard to grow the hobby on all fronts, a hugely successful Olympic World Collectors Fair in Lausanne, and the upcoming annual show in Los Angeles.

In this issue of the Olympin newsletter, there are articles about the Lausanne show, our upcoming Los Angeles show, an article on the formation of an exciting new international collectors organization, and a lot more!

View Sochi NOC Pins Online

Peter Wade has posted all known NOC Pins used in Sochi this winter. They can be found on [olympinocpins.com](http://olympinocpins.com). All of us in the hobby owe Peter a great deal of gratitude for this newest addition to his site which he has been developing over many years. As always, Peter requests that additions or corrections be passed on to him. From all of us, thank you Pete!

Please remember to vote in the Olympin Club Board elections, and we look forward to seeing everyone in Los Angeles at the end of July!

## **CLUB BUSINESS**

### **2014 Board Member Elections**

#### **Time to Vote!**

The Club will be electing three Board Members for the term starting in January 2015. The three seats that are up for election are those currently held by Don Bigsby, Sid Marantz and Craig Perlow.

All three are running for re-election.

Included in this edition of the Club Newsletter is the official ballot and biographies of the three candidates. Please vote either by mailing the completed ballot to the address printed on the form, or emailing your votes to:

[jbecker@sportschamp.com](mailto:jbecker@sportschamp.com)

Results will be announced at the Annual Club Meeting in Los Angeles.

**Visit our Website! [www.olympinclub.com](http://www.olympinclub.com)**

## **Another Sad Loss Suzanne (Papazian) Bravender**

**by Richard Murray**

It is with great sadness that we inform everyone about the death of Suzanne (Papazian) Bravender. Suzanne was the wife of long time Olympian member Bob Bravender. As you may be aware, Suzanne passed away on May 19, 2014 at 66 years of age. The services were held in May at Forest Lawn Mortuary in Glendale and attended by many members of the Screen Actor's Guild, members of the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency, members of the Olympian Pin Club, neighbors, family and dear friends. It was wonderful to see so many family, friends and former coworkers gather to celebrate her life.

Suzanne and Bob have attended 15 Olympic Games. She thoroughly enjoyed traveling to the Games and visiting with athletes and friends from around the world. Suzanne always shared memories about past Olympics, especially the 1998 Nagano and the 2012 London Games. They also attended past Olympian Collector Club Shows and volunteered to help plan the Los Angeles Olympian Collector's Show in 2004. Suzanne had a great sense of humor and a ready smile for everyone. May she rest in peace.

### **The Official 2014 Olympian Show is Almost Here!**

To kick things off with a warm L. A. welcome, Sid and Joan Marantz are hosting a **"Venice Beach Bash"** at their beach house by the water the night before the show begins. The date is Thursday, July 24, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. and the address is 15 Ketch Street, Marina Del Rey. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided along with the Southern California vibe. Anyone planning to attend the show in any capacity is welcome to attend the party. For those without transportation, club members will provide limited shuttle service from the show hotel. Sid asks that those planning

to attend please **RSVP** to him at [sidmarantz@aol.com](mailto:sidmarantz@aol.com) or at **323-588-6800** so he can plan accordingly. Sunsets at the beach are fantastic! We hope you can be there to enjoy it all with us.

The next day, Friday, July 25, set-up for the **show** will be from 8:00--10:00 a.m. in the Studio Ballroom of the **Courtyard by Marriott Los Angeles Westside** (about 5 minutes north of LAX). The doors will be open to the public from **10:00—5:00 p.m., Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27**. Admission is free. It should be an exciting show as Honav, the official licensee of pins for Beijing, London, and Rio, will be represented there, and Olympians from former Games are being invited to attend and to speak.

On Friday night Olympian's **annual banquet** will lead off with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. with a guest speaker to follow. The dinner entrée is a choice of either Chicken Marsala or Atlantic Salmon. For the most part, those who reserved tables early have not yet signed up for the banquet. We know you'll want to attend, so please sign up now. To pay for the banquet, either send a check for \$55 per dinner payable to Olympian Collectors Club to Don Bigsby, P.O. Box 777, Guilderland, NY 12084, or pay by PayPal to Olympian at [olympin@excite.com](mailto:olympin@excite.com). Please indicate your choice of entrée when you make your payment. **The deadline for dinner reservations is Wednesday, July 16.**

The **silent auction**, which always offers interesting items, is an important part of raising money for the club and of helping to defray the costs of the show. Once again Scott Reed is heading up the auction and has solicited some great items so far, but we would love to have more. If you have an item to donate, please contact Scott at [ser@prodigy.net](mailto:ser@prodigy.net) to let him know the details. The item may be brought with you to the show on Friday and given to Scott, or, if you are not attending, contact Scott, and he'll give you the address where the item may be sent. **Thank you for helping your club with your donation!**

The Olympian **annual meeting** will be held Saturday morning, July 26, 9:00--10:00 a.m. at the hotel. All are invited and encouraged to attend. All show table holders and also each non-table holder who attends the banquet will receive a

limited-edition pin, which was created for the 2014 IOC Olympic Collectors Fair in Lausanne and generously donated to our show by fair organizer and Olympin member David Maiden. As of now, **there are still a handful of eight-foot and six-foot tables available to reserve** for \$150 and \$125 respectively. If you would like one of these, please respond quickly and send a check made payable to Olympin Collectors Club to Don Bigsby, P.O. Box 777, Guilderland, NY 12084, or pay by PayPal to Olympin at [olympin@excite.com](mailto:olympin@excite.com). **Since Olympin has to pay processing fees to accept payments via PayPal, we would greatly prefer if you simply send Don your check.**

A limited number of rooms have been made available to Club members at discounted rates. For room reservations, please use the contact information below and be sure to mention that you're a Club member attending the show:

Courtyard by Marriott Los Angeles Westside  
6333 Bristol Parkway  
Culver City, CA 90230  
310.484.7000  
[www.courtyardlawestside.com](http://www.courtyardlawestside.com)

## **New International Collectors Association Formed**

### **By Scott Reed**

Olympin was well represented at the inaugural meeting of the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO), held May 22 in Lausanne. AICO was formed under the direction and guidance of the IOC in an effort to help coordinate communication and the sharing of information between Olympic collecting clubs throughout the world. Its mission is to foster quality Olympic collecting to preserve and educate about the history and culture of the Games. IOC adviser and Olympin member David Maiden coordinated the meeting and the formation of the group. In addition, two IOC members, Samih Moudallal of Syria and Syed Shahid Ali of Pakistan, attended the meeting and will serve as IOC representatives to AICO.

Nineteen clubs from throughout the world sent delegates, with Philatelic (stamps), Numismatics (coins) and Memorabilia (pins and other memorabilia) all represented. Olympin, as the largest Olympic collecting club in the world, was allowed to send the maximum number of three voting delegates. Representing Olympin at the meeting were Board members Jon Becker and Scott Reed, and former Board member Jim Greensfelder. Several other Olympin members were also in attendance as voting delegates for other clubs. We are pleased that two Olympin members, Mark Maestrone and Branislav Delej, were elected to the 5 person Executive Board.

The formation of AICO is a tremendous step forward for our hobby, as it shows the commitment of the IOC to the continued success of collecting. We will keep you updated as AICO becomes more active.

## **20<sup>th</sup> IOC Collectors Fair Recap**

### **By Pete Wade**

The 2014 IOC Collectors Fair was held in Lausanne May 23 – 25 on three days of beautiful weather in a huge tent along the shore of Lake Lemman. The Fair saw 52 tables occupied with dealers and collectors from 19 countries, mostly Europeans with many members of Olympin among them. Highlights of the Fair included a cocktail party, a tour of the newly remodeled Olympic Museum and a fine banquet with about 180 attendees.

Fair Director David Maiden, consultant to the IOC, and Olympin member was “very pleased” with the Show, the attendance, the steady flow of the local public who may have gotten their first taste of Olympic collecting and, of course, the delightful weather. He indicated that he felt the result of the Fair would likely enhance the likelihood of another similar Fair “in 2 – 3 years”. Club Members Jim Greensfelder and Halvor Kleppen were key contributors to the Fair. Table holders were surveyed and the overwhelming response was very favorable.

## The “New” Olympic Museum

By Pete Wade

As most Club Members know, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne was closed for over two years and the newly-remodeled Museum was reopened in December. Collectors Fair attendees got a private showing of the new edifice on the evening of May 23 and generally came away impressed.

Personally, I found the new Museum to be considerably more interesting to the general public, especially to young visitors, and much easier to navigate. The graphics and visual presentation were really impressive. I visited the Museum twice during the week and, having been to the “old” Museum a dozen times in the past, I found that today’s Museum was far busier with visitors than I had ever seen before. Overall, my impression is that today’s Museum is much more of an entertainment attraction and less of a repository of Olympic history and artifacts than the previous version. Either way, it is a very worthwhile experience to collectors and the general public.

to the Russian Fan house which housed the Official Coke pin trading center. By far the most pins, and in the estimation of many, the most desirable were produced by Samsung. Long time Olympin member Nicholas Wolaver has done us all a favor by providing a detailed explanation of how this all happened.



## Samsung Sochi pins are all dolled up

Introduction by Sid Marantz

Unlike prior Olympics where there was a good supply of retail pins for the general attendees to purchase to encourage pin trading, retail pins were scarce at best in Sochi. Luckily sponsors, both at the IOC level and Games level, helped fill the gap. Within the Coastal Cluster these sponsors had exhibition buildings that awarded pins for people participating in various activities. Also Coca Cola and the USA Store in the USOC House had pins for sale. This at least was helpful and, towards the end of the Games, pin trading was brisk enough for a large <sup>3</sup>unofficial pin trading center sprung up close

By Nicholas Wolaver

Longtime collectors and new pin enthusiasts in Sochi found a bonanza of free Samsung Olympic pins on a scale similar to London.

Building on the company's popular <sup>3</sup>British icons<sup>2</sup> pin series in 2012, officials for Samsung spent months planning their Sochi pin program as a key component of the Samsung GALAXY Studio pavilions in Olympic Park, downtown Sochi and near the mountain venues.

While visiting the downtown Sochi venue, I spoke with a pavilion director who explained the 2014 pin

initiative. He said for the Winter Games, Samsung's priority was to find a way to engage the public and get them using and talking about the new GALAXY Note 3 and other mobile devices unveiled in time for the Games. The pins, he said, provided the incentive for Samsung visitors to engage with the brand and spend more time with a GALAXY in their hands.

Upon arriving at the Samsung pavilions, guests could choose from one of 10 activity stations such as a photo-in-bobsleigh area, downloading Games-time apps, sharing a social media post or playing a variation of BINGO (a game that was new and interesting for most Russians). With completion of brief tasks, guests qualified to receive one of 15 sports pins shaped like a matryoshka doll (a.k.a. nesting doll).

Each sports pin features one winter discipline, with curling and freestyle aerial skiing as the hardest to acquire designs (collectors learned these two designs were only awarded for the most time consuming or challenging pavilion games, or for signing up to borrow and use a GALAXY device free for a day in Olympic Park).

As the pavilion opened each morning, and at varying times during the afternoon or evening, visitors were also surprised with short-term giveaways of three GALAXY mobile device pins featuring a black frame with Olympic icons, a white frame with nesting dolls or a pink frame with Russian dancers. A limited number of these giveaways took place daily.

Once visitors earned three or more pins, they also qualified to receive a fancy presentation board, also shaped like a nesting doll, with black leatherette and felt in a plastic ready-to-hang frame. If a pin board filled up with all 18 designs, this qualified guests to take home a beautiful GALAXY nesting doll charger as a splendid and rare Sochi keepsake (Samsung gloves or mittens were an alternate gift).

All of the pavilion pins by Samsung are high quality cloisonné with many colors, but only the three larger GALAXY pins feature the Sochi.ru logo and

Olympic rings. The Samsung executive explained other Samsung pins, such as enamel matryoshka doll designs or cloisonné pin-on-pin designs with the Sochi mascots, were created as gifts for VIPs or trading by company executives.

The pavilion manager I spoke with said the Sochi pavilion and pin program far exceeded the company's expectations in terms of attendance and buzz, and they are already considering pin options for Rio 2016 and beyond. Will collectors see a Cristo Retentor (Christ the Redeemer) Art Deco statue pin series in Brazil? Except for a handful of Samsung executives, God only knows. More information will be posted on the Olympic blog, <http://OlympicRingsAndOtherThings.blogspot.com> when available.

## **IOC Commission on Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia**

**by Sid Marantz**

AICO, as discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, is a newly formed **INDEPENDENT** organization that communicates with the IOC through the Director of the Culture and Heritage Department because the IOC believes one of the primary goals of AICO is to promote the Olympic ideals and philosophy through these activities as they are a rich source of a connection to Olympic history.

The IOC feels that it should not control outside organizations. It is however a stakeholder in these activities and as such has its own Commission on Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia. The Commission has 7 IOC Members and is supported by 11 experts drawn from the 3 collecting fields worldwide. Of the 11 experts, 5 are members of Olympin. Some of them also belong to other Clubs. We believe the 11 will be a great source of information and council to the 7 Commission members and should strengthen our hobby. The future looks bright!

## **Authenticity Project Survey Results** **Steve Roble - Chair, Olympin committee on** **unauthorized NOC pins**

Survey respondents trust the information shown on the Authenticity website and overwhelmingly favor continuing the Authenticity Project during the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Those are the two main takeaways from the survey in the last Olympin newsletter as well as online through the help of Olympin web guru Mark Maestrone.

The results of the survey are shown at the bottom of this report. Percentages are based on the 116 people who responded to the survey. While most responses came from Olympin members, there were also a few people who managed to reply by finding the survey online.

Some conclusions are very clear. Nearly everyone wants this project to continue for the Rio Olympics. In addition, nearly all of the respondents trust the information given on the website. This is gratifying as there were times during the Sochi Olympics when our committee members were not sure that they trusted the information on our website. This is what happens when trying to provide information in real-time. It is likely that this project will continue in Rio, but we expect to have major difficulties providing real-time information because nearly all of our members plan to go to Rio leaving no one to get the images onto the website. If anyone knows that they will not be going to Rio and would like to help get information to the site, please let us know.

Other conclusions from the survey are not so clear. The initial goal of this project was to try to reduce the number of unauthorized NOC pins being produced or in circulation. However, only 18.6% of respondents used the Authenticity Project website during the Olympics and only 32.1% of respondents used the information on the website to influence trades or purchases. This might suggest that most

respondents used the website as a source for seeing what NOC pins are available rather than as a source to help them avoid unauthorized pins.

As a final question, we asked what changes respondents would like us to make going forward. Four requests rose to the top: 1) Add additional sort options so you don't have to navigate through all of those screens to see what new pins have been added, 2) Add an option to allow the images to be printed out, 3) Add additional pin collecting areas (like media or sponsor pins) and 4) Go back and add previous Olympic Games. It is difficult to authenticate older NOC pins and adding additional collecting areas will require volunteers who are knowledgeable in the areas added, but it is likely that the other two requests can be honored in time for the Rio Olympics.

### **Survey Results to date (116 entries):**

**Q1 – When did you visit the Authenticity Program Website?** *Before the Sochi Olympics 49.6%, During the Sochi Olympics 18.6%, After the Sochi Olympics 29.2%, Never visited the website 27.4%*

**Q2 – If you visited the website during the Games, how often did you visit?** *1-5 times 35.7%, 5-10 times 8.0%, More than 10 times 5.4%, Did not visit during Games 50.9%*

**Q3 – Did the information on the website influence any of the trades or purchases you made?** *Yes 32.1%, No 67.9%*

**Q4 – Did you tell any other collectors about the Authenticity Program website?** *Yes 31.5%, No 68.5%*

**Q5 – Do you trust the information on the Authenticity Program website?** *Yes 94.5%, No 5.5%*

**Q6 – Do you want this project to continue for the Rio Summer Olympic Games?** *Yes 97.3%, No 2.8%*

**Q7 – Would you be willing to help with this project for the Rio Summer Olympic Games?** *Yes 19.3%, No 49.5%, Maybe 31.2%*

### **35th National Sports Collectors Convention Update - Cleveland, OH - 7/30/14 - 8/3/14**

For those of you interested in attending the largest sports collectibles show in the world, the 35th National Sports Collectors Convention with its 600+ dealers and 50,000+ visitors will be held in Cleveland, OH, this year at the International Exposition (I-X) Center from Wednesday, July 30th, thru Sunday, August 3rd.

Three Olympin members will have a total of 6 tables at this year's event -- Craig Perlow with 3 tables, Michael Bowlby with 2 tables, and Tom Lippert with 1 table. Daily General Admission tickets cost \$18 online or \$22 on site, but if you know you'll be coming, feel free to contact Craig, Michael, or Tom, and they will be happy to leave a Visitor's Pass for you at the Registration booth -- if they have any available -- which will entitle you to Free Admission!



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**L.A. 2014 Olympin Show Schedule**

**Thursday, July 24** 17:30 to 21:00 **"Venice Beach Bash"**

Hosted by Sid and Joan Marantz

15 Ketch Street, Marina Del Rey

Food and beverages will be provided.

All show attendees are welcome.

Limited shuttle service from the hotel by local club members.

RSVP to Sid at [sidmarantz@aol.com](mailto:sidmarantz@aol.com) or at 323-588-6800.

**Friday, July 25**

8:00 to 10:00 Show Set-up

10:00 to 17:00 Show open to public

17:30 to 19:00 Cocktails/ Olympin Silent Auction

19:00 to 21:00 Olympin Banquet

**Saturday, July 26**

9:00 to 10:00 Olympin Annual Meeting

10:00 to 17:00 Show open to public

**Sunday, July 27**

10:00 to 17:00 Show open to public

17:00 to 21:00 Show Tear-down

**L.A. 2014 Olympin Show Order Form for Tables and Banquet Meals**

Please fill out the form completely and send it in with your payment.  
Mail to: Olympin Collectors Club, Don Bigsby, P.O. Box 777, Guilderland, NY 12084  
If you want to pay with PayPal, please remit to Olympin at [olympin@excite.com](mailto:olympin@excite.com).

**Payment must accompany registration form.**

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Street No. & Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip (Postal Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Tables (8 ft.) wanted @ \$150 each ( ) x \$150 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables (6 ft.) wanted @ \$125 each ( ) x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet meals wanted @ \$55 each ( ) x \$ 55 = \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of dinner entrée: Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantic Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: (Please include payment with form.) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Final deadline to register and make payment is July 15, 2014,**  
if tables have not already sold out, so please act now!

**Your registration will not be complete without your payment.**

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**Office Use Only: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_**



**OLYMPIN CLUB OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014**

Please vote for up to three

\_\_\_\_\_ Don Bigsby      \_\_\_\_\_ Sid Marantz      \_\_\_\_\_ Craig Perlow

Candidate Statements are on the reverse. Please read them before voting.

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**Important Notes:**

1. Ballots Can be returned by **REGULAR MAIL**, or emailed to:  
jbecker@sportschamp.com.
2. Ballots **MUST** be received by Olympin no later than **July 15, 2014**. Mail your ballot to:

**Olympin Collectors Club  
C/O Jonathan Becker  
800 Village Walk #258  
Guilford, CT 06437  
USA**

3. Results will be announced at the Club's annual meeting during the Olympin Show in Los Angeles and published in the next newsletter.

## Candidate Biographies

### *Don Bigsby*

I founded Olympin in June 1982, starting with 7 members in Upstate New York, and have been the President since the Club's inception. The first 20 years, Ed Beaupre and I did all the Club work as a team. The last 13 years, I have done the detail work myself, as Ed retired at age 80. Now that I am 73, my slower pace requires me to spend hundreds of hours each year keeping the Club operating as I first envisioned it. Although I never get paid, I want to keep running the Club due to the pride I have for what has become a force in the Olympic collector world. With the help of our Board of Directors and some others who work voluntarily to support our Club, I want to continue my work for at least the next three years. I hope you believe the Club has been worthwhile to you, and that you want me to continue. Thank you.

### *Craig Perlow*

After being asked to serve on the Board of our Club during the 17th IOC World Olympic Collector's Fair in Chicago in 2011, I was assigned with the task of overseeing the Club's rebuilding of its website from what had become an outdated, static, and rather uninspiring online presence to what I now believe is a state-of-the-art, dynamic, and very useful online resource. Thanks to the great work of our Club's webmaster and fellow member, Mark Maestrone, and in consultation with the other Board Members, I am very proud of the Club's new website which has now truly moved us into the 21st century as an organization.

However, there is much more work that needs to be done in the area of technology -- both with regard to updating the Club's business model in general and expanding the website's functionality in particular. So, I am running for a second term as a Board Member of our Club because I would like the opportunity to continue to oversee the work in these areas. It has been a real pleasure to work with the other Board Members -- and Mark -- on these and other projects and I believe we've made a great team and accomplished a great deal. So, I am asking for your vote for a second term on the Board so that I can continue working with our great team and have the privilege of representing your interests once again as we move our Club forward and maintain its prominence in the international Olympic collecting community. Thanks in advance for your support.

### *Sid Marantz*

I have been a fan of the Olympic Games since I was a teenager and got interested in Olympic pins and memorabilia when I attended the 1976 Montreal Olympics. I was an "Old Timer" by the time I got involved with the LAOOC in 1982 prior to the LA 84 Games. I, and members of my family, have worked at 10 Olympic Games. I have been a member of Olympin since 1983 and a member of the Board since 2004. I love the Club and the hobby and would be honored if you would allow me to continue to serve as a member of our Board.