



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

Established 1982 – Our 34th Year – Issue No 134 – June 2015

Greetings to all 494 of our 2015 Olympin members from 32 nations around the world. And a warm welcome to those who are new members! 2015 promises to be a big year! In early September, our Club will host the **21st IOC Olympic World Fair** in stunning **Lake Placid, New York in the U.S.A.**, site of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics.

An update on the big event is enclosed! That includes sign-up information, etc.. The rest of the newsletter contains info on the 2015 renewal project, the progress of our conversion to a cheaper Electronic membership, instructions to vote in our board elections. Plus the availability of an official NOC pin for the 205th country in the movement.

C L U B

B U S I N E S S

2015 RENEWAL PERIOD OVER

Thanks to the 260 of you who renewed for this year in a timely fashion! It made Don's job much easier! Most appreciated were those that renewed for more than one year, easing the process next year. Only 9 members never advised us of their intentions, out of almost 300 who were asked to let us know their membership intentions.

2015 (AND 2016) MEMBER PIN(S)

Thanks to the USOC, the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee and pin manufacturer HONAV, we have the Rio 2016 logo on the 2015 and 2016 member badges, both in stock! Again, thanks to Scott Reed for getting this done! 351 of the 494 members paid for 2016 also, presumably to get both of those coveted pins! They have been mailed to everyone!

ELECTRONIC VS WRITTEN MEMBERSHIP

The conversion to Electronic memberships is complete, with 71% of our membership now having a cheaper Electronic membership, and they will be receiving their newsletters and Directory via the internet. Good for you! You save 40% on dues. Those who decided to remain on the postal mail distribution had this newsletter mailed to you. If you would rather switch to Electronic, please contact Don at don.bigsby@yahoo.com.

We are very grateful to the 351 members who have prepaid beyond 2015. You have saved your Club a great deal of money! By sending next year's pin (2016) with this year's 2015 version, Olympin will avoid over **\$1400** in postage expense because we do not need to mail those pins next year! Thank you!

ELECT 2 DIRECTORS TO THE 2016 BOARD

Two Board positions are up for election. One is currently held by Jon Becker, and the other is an open seat recently vacated. Jon is running for re-election and is joined by Ingrid O'Neil. Statements for each of the two candidates are included in this newsletter, as are voting instructions. All votes must be returned to Olympin by August 15, by mail or Email.

2015 MEMBER DIRECTORY READY

The 62-page Member book is completed, and also emailed to Electronic members. And the 143 Written members received theirs with this newsletter. Curiously, only 46 of the 143 members who chose a Written membership do not have Email!

Results will be announced at the IOC Fair in Lake Placid, as well as in the next Club newsletter.

Visit our Website! www.olympinclub.com

NEWS ABOUT

As I told you in the April 2015 Newsletter, I can be a real pain trying to get everyone back in the Club when their dues run out. I usually keep trying, until they renew, or inform me they are dropping out.

I listed 6 long-time members in the April newsletter that I was concerned had not responded. With some members' help, we got 3 to renew, learned that one had passed away and another is very ill.

We are a large family of collectors, and many of us have built life-time friendships as a result of being members together. Here is some more information about fellow members you may not be aware of. . . .

JOHN TRACHIM - MASSACHUSETTS

Thanks to Michael Bowlby, who alerted me that John Trachim passed away, probably in early 2014. John had been with Olympin for more than 20 years, collecting Corporate pins during the Games from 1996 to 2004, as well as hockey pins.

NOC PIN

KOSOVO NOC PINS NOW AVAILABLE

by Daniel Beniston

Hi everyone! It has been a while, but we would like to announce that the first new pins from the NOC of Kosovo are now available for sale.

Kingdom Pins has entered into a licensee program with the Kosovo Olympic Committee, where we will be donating 100% of the funds we raise for the team on the three new NOC pins that will be used in Baku at the European Games next month. Kosovo will compete at a major sports event for the very first time. Kosovo is the newest National Olympic Committee, and was admitted to the Olympic Movement at the last IOC session in Monaco.

There are 3 different pins available:

OUR MEMBERS

LARRY BUDZ – ONTARIO, CANADA

I received an email from Larry's son-in-law that Larry was diagnosed with dementia last fall and is now living in an assisted living facility. He said: "If Larry could, I know he would thank you for allowing him the opportunity to be a member of your Club for so many years. Being a member of the pin community brought a lot of joy to his life over the years". (Larry joined in the late '80's)

DAVE CAMPBELL – OHIO

On April 28th, member Fred Snapp alerted me that Dave broke his hip last year. He is home now, after 4 months in a nursing home. He is using a walker. Fred told me that Dave, now 84, was in the Navy during the Korean War. Look up Dave's address in the new directory and make his day with a card!

What about Harriet Patch (83), Senior Olympian and active Olympin member for 25 years?

CORNER

- 1) Kosovo Undated NOC pin - to be used at Baku 2015 and Rio 2016
- 2) Kosovo Baku 2015 pin
- 3) Kosovo President's pin – to be used at Baku 2015 and Rio 2016

The President's pin is very limited and we only have a handful to offer collectors now, and once gone, they will not be available again.

You can see the new products at our new look website: <http://www.kingdompins.com> where we have catalogued over 1,800 pins we have made so far since 1999. We also have many search options available and different filtering methods.

If you have not checked it out, have a look!

SHOWS SHOWS SHOWS

21st WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR UPDATE

By Jon Becker

Soon, September will be here, and it will be time for the 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair. Great events are planned for the Fair, which will take place September 10-13, 2015, in the 1932 Jack Shea Arena at the Olympic Center and surrounding venues. The Organizing Committee has been working hard for months to make sure that the Fair will be a great gathering. This will be the first time a Winter Olympic City will host the World Olympic Collectors Fair.

Awarded to Lake Placid by the International Olympic Committee, the Fair is being organized by the Olympin Collectors Club and the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, and will not only feature trading-buying-selling, but an expanded program, including a free VIP Tour of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic sites, a free reception at United States Luge Association Headquarters, a free reception at the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, a formal dinner, an official United States Postal Service postal cancellation, an official World Olympic Collectors Fair pin, and much more!

The Organizing Committee has been receiving reservations from collectors around the world, from countries including China, Japan, Russia, France, Ukraine, Switzerland, Greece, Slovakia, Norway, Canada, and of course, the United States. Reservations are still open, and there are special rates for several hotels. There are still some hotel rooms with Worlds Fair discounts available, and a few Worlds Fair Collectors Tables are still available, too.

The organizers are looking for donations of memorabilia for the special silent auction that will take place at the formal dinner on Saturday evening. If you would like to donate something, please email the Organizing Committee at info@lakeplacid2015.com. The auction will help the Organizing Committee help defray some of the costs of the Fair.

SHOWS SHOWS SHOWS

You can make reservations online at the official World Olympic Collectors Fair website. The website has a reservations page, a page with hotel information and reservations links, a map of hotel locations, and transportation information on airlines, airports, trains, buses, and car rentals. There is also a complete calendar of events, and a link to a video on Lake Placid.

If you have any questions about the 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair, please send us an email. The 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair will be here before you know it!

Official Website: www.lakeplacid2015.com

Email: info@lakeplacid2015.com

You should also know that the IOC Fair hosted in Lake Placid by your Club is also the 34th Annual Olympin Festival -- back in the little Olympic town where Olympin began in 1982. This is a chance to celebrate our Club's modest beginning and see old friends!

35th OLYMPIN FESTIVAL?

Our Club will soon be accepting bids to host the 35th Annual Olympin Festival. Has anyone considered holding it in a new place, or even a repeat location? Please let us know if you are interested, and if you come to Lake Placid, you'll have the floor to introduce your idea. (There will be an Olympin Club Member Meeting, as always. We are not sure exactly when to fit that in with all the activities slated.)

SOME CLUB NUMBERS

2014 - 45% (234) of our 516 members were prepaid for 2015 or beyond.

2015 - 71% (351) of our 494 members are prepaid for 2016 or beyond.

This means the renewals for 2016 will be a lot less work for Don! Very, very much appreciated!

TORONTO 2015 PAN AM GAMES

By Ron Finnigan

The Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games will be the biggest multi-sport games in the world this year. Centered in Toronto, but hosted in cities and municipalities all over the GTA (Greater Toronto Area), the Games will feature more than 6,000 athletes representing 41 teams competing in 51 sports at 31 venues. The Opening Ceremonies are being produced by Cirque du Soleil and will take place on Friday, July 10 at Rogers Centre (formerly SkyDome). The Games wrap up with the Closing Ceremonies on July 26 and are followed by the Para Pan Am Games in August. Several new world class venues have been completed and everything is ready for the Games to begin. Many of the events are being used as qualifiers for Rio 2016, so the competition will be at a very high level and on a par with what we will see in Brazil next summer. (Rio 2016!)

Given that the Games are taking place in Canada, pin trading will take place at a feverish pitch, similar to what we saw at the Olympics in Vancouver and Calgary, as well as in Victoria (1994 Commonwealth Games) and Winnipeg (1999 Pan Am Games). There are going to be 23,000 volunteers, and many of them will be trading pins naturally. A Face Book page titled "Toronto 2015 Pan Am Pin Trading Group" is already in place.

The official pin licensee is Laurie Artiss – The Pin People, and they are producing close to 100 different retail designs for the Games, according to Barry Taman, Vice President. "The sights and sounds of the Games will be great when you consider all of the Americas are taking part, not to mention the associated multicultural events. Toronto is one of the most vibrant cities in the world and its ties with the Caribbean, Central and South America are very strong" said Taman. "The buzz in the city is already starting and we know the phenomenon of pin trading will be front and center." According to Taman, the official retail outlets (including two Superstores) for the Games are being run by the same company that ran the retail operations in Glasgow during last summer's successful Commonwealth Games.

In terms of actual pins, many are already in circulation including three or four bid pins that were issued over seven years ago, a Government of Ontario pin, internal countdown pins (Three, Two and One YTG) and about a dozen sponsor pins. CBC is the Official Broadcaster in Canada and will have a pin, as will many other sponsors.

And then there are the team pins! It is anticipated that most of the 41 competing nations will have at least one dated pin. Some will have a few. And many of the teams will unveil new generic undated NOC pins in

advance of Rio. With most of the contingents being sent by their NOC, many pins will bear their respective nation's NOC logo containing the Olympic rings.

The majority of the Toronto venues are located at CIBC Pan Am Park on the Lake Ontario waterfront about 15 minutes via transit west of the City Centre. This is also where the International Broadcast Centre is located and where many of the cultural events will take place. The Athletes Village is located close to Lake Ontario about 15 minutes via transit east of the City Centre. As with most major multisport games, much of the pin trading will take place inside and outside of the Village. Apart from CIBC Pan Am Park and the Athletes Village, the third downtown area that should see a lot of pin trading is Nathan Phillips Square where Toronto City Hall is located. This area will have a lot of the cultural exhibits and related Games entertainment. Safe to say though that pin trading will take place at all venues across the Games footprint. At the time of writing, it was uncertain as to whether or not a formal Pin Trading Centre will be in place during the Games.

Many of the Games' other venues will be located to the east, north and west of Toronto, some quite a ways from the city centre. But the transit system in and around Toronto is extensive and a Games-time transit plan has just been unveiled. For those planning to visit, direct flights to Toronto are available from most major US cities. With a population of over six million people, Greater Toronto has many options for Games time housing so prices should not be too bad if one stays out of the downtown core. A good place to find housing is www.airbnb.com.

Several US and Canadian collectors are planning to come to the Games. If you have not thought about it, you should consider attending. Toronto is an amazing world-class and ethnically-diverse city. You will not be disappointed.

<http://www.toronto2015.org/>



Election for the Board of Directors-2016

Please vote for up to two

Jon Becker____

Ingrid O'Neil____

Candidate statements are on the reverse.

Please read them before voting.

You may vote one of 2 ways:

1. Mark your choices on the sheet and return by regular mail to:

**Sid Marantz, Secretary
Olympin Collectors Club
15754 Regal Woods Place
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
USA**

OR

2. E-mail to:

sidmarantz@aol.com

Please vote by 15 August 2015

Results will be announced at the IOC World Olympic Collectors Fair in Lake Placid and published in the September Newsletter.

Candidate Biographies

Jon Becker

As a long-time collector (since 1972) of Olympic memorabilia, and an Olympin Club member since 1988, I have seen the hobby develop and change over the years. In the 70's and 80's collecting was to a large degree cyclical -- every four years interest would peak, new collectors would come on board, and the hobby would expand. During the down time between Olympic Games, collectors would use the time to consolidate their collections in anticipation of new things that would become available.

Since the mid 1990's the hobby has changed dramatically. The internet, as well as the change from four year Olympic cycles to two year Olympic cycles, has greatly impacted how we collect. Over the years, the attendance at collectors' fairs has diminished, and the membership base of the Olympin Club has gotten smaller as well. We are challenged to find new ways to increase membership in the Club, as well as stimulating existing membership.

That is why I am running for re-election to the Olympin Collector's Club Board of Directors.

I feel that I have a unique perspective into our membership and the hobby. As I have mentioned, I have been collecting since the early 1970's, and have collected just about everything Olympic over the years. I have written articles on Olympic memorabilia for newspapers and magazines, authored, or co-authored several books and monographs on various aspects of the subject, and have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the 1932 & 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympic Museum for the past 15 years. I have also appeared on television and radio programs promoting the hobby, and Olympic memorabilia. I have been asked to appraise individual items, as well as entire collections, and I have co-produced sixteen Collector's Fairs since 1990, including the first National Convention held in conjunction with the tenth anniversary celebrations in Lake Placid. I have even created a database of thousands of photographs that I have taken over the years of all types of Olympic memorabilia to better help identify everything from pins to medals to badges, and more.

I believe that we have a solid Board of Directors. As an Olympin Club Board Member, I have been trying to look out for the best interests of the membership, and feel that I have worked well with the other members of the Olympin Board.

I'm asking for your vote, thanks!

Ingrid O'Neil

I have been a member of Olympin since the late 1980's, and the first Olympin Convention in Los Angeles in July 1990 was the reason that I started Olympic Memorabilia auctions -- and it was Don Bigsby's idea! He knew about my background of having worked with numismatic auctions. My very successful 75th auction of Olympic Memorabilia just closed in March!

I know many collectors worldwide, I know Olympic Memorabilia very well, and I would use this knowledge to make the hobby better. Presently I am on a committee to publish reference books on many subjects of Olympic Memorabilia to help collectors identify and authenticate their collections.

I am asking for your vote to be on the Olympin Board ! Thank you.