



2020 AICO General Assembly Saturday, 5 September 2020 Minutes

In attendance (10 participants):

AICO Executive Board Members: President Christophe Aït-Braham, 1st Vice-President Branislav Delej, 2nd Vice-President Massimiliano Bruno, Secretary-General Mark Maestrone and Treasurer Roman Babut. IOC representative Stephanie Coppex, sent her regrets that she should could not attend, but wished everyone a successful GA.

Representatives of AICO Member Clubs: Stéphane Hatot (AFCOS), Thomas Lippert (IMOS), Sid Marantz (Olympin Collectors Club), Pasquale Polo (UICOS), Rufin Schullian (IMOS)

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary, Mark Maestrone at 17:40 CEST

- 1. Welcome by President Christophe Aït-Braham.**
- 2. Introduction by the Secretary-General Mark Maestrone,** who explained that the GA was being recorded. Asked that everyone hold their questions until the Q&A period (Agenda item #8)
- 3. Report on activities 2019/2020 and projects by President Aït-Braham:** progress report on the AICO Road Map, update on WOCF Paris 2021.

Due to the COVID pandemic, much of the AICO Road Map activities had been put on hold for the 2020 year. We look forward to restarting these projects soon. The budget documents for both the combined 2019/2020 and 2020 years were presented. One of the major developments during the past year was the addition of new journals and newsletters to the AICO Member Archives on the website including the Czech *Olympsport* journal dating back to 1968, and newsletters on Volleyball and Rugby. AICO is in negotiations with AICO member club MOSFIT (Hungary) to have their journal digitized and added to the archives. CAB encourages all clubs to participate in this project. Very recently, and as a result of consultations with Maria Bogner at the IOC, AICO had been provided with a special widget for the AICO website which will help connect Olympic collectors to resources at the IOC's Olympic World Library (OWL) at the Olympic Study Center. Christophe added that AFCOS is working with the French NOC and Paris 2024 to have the 2021 World Olympic Collectors Fair (WOCF) included in the Paris 2024 cultural program.

4. Report on the relations with members, secretariat, the website by Secretary-General Mark Maestroni.

Members: there have been no new applications for membership over the past year, nor have there been any resignations of existing member clubs. All 18 clubs are now full members. All clubs are currently up to date in paying their dues. No outstanding probationary members.

Website Analysis: increase of both page views and visitors by nearly 30% over 2019 figures. New visitors comprise nearly 90% of viewership. 2020 NOC Pin Catalog and Current Members pages were the most heavily viewed.

Secretariat Correspondence: of the approximately 150 pieces of correspondence in the past year (emails), roughly 50% were administrative, 35% were inquiries about Olympic collecting, 15% were requests to join from individuals or non-collecting groups (primarily in India).

5. Financial Report: 2019 and 2020 by Treasurer Roman Babut.

Roman reviewed the past two years of bank and PayPal accounts with a current total balance of 57,753 CHF as of 1 September 2020. AICO income includes two years of IOC subsidies and dues. Expenses have been lower than normal due to less activity because of COVID. Largest expense category was for AICO EB travel to the WOCF/GA/EB Meetings in Los Angeles in 2018 and to the WOCF/EB Meetings in Warsaw in 2019.

6. Vote on modification of membership status: “Associate Membership”.

Mark reported that due to lack of a quorum (only 7 clubs were represented; a quorum is 75% = 14 of 18 member clubs), it was not possible to hold a vote on this change to the Statutes. Christophe suggested that in a few months we'll propose the change to the Statutes and conduct an electronic vote of all AICO member clubs.

7. Summary/Progress of current projects by Project Directors.

A. NOC Pin catalog and mobile app by Branislav Delej.

Introduced in LA (2018) and further discussed in Warsaw (2019), the project still lacks funding from AICO or IOC. A 3-phase plan has been drawn up for carrying out the project. Main goal is converting the existing static catalog to an electronic version. There are roughly 12,000 pins to include. Branislav has approximately 10,000 in his own collection. The other 2,000 will have to be obtained from other collectors. Phase 1 involves scanning the pins. Phase 2 is the creation of an interactive web-based catalog. Phase 3 is creation of the mobile application. Branislav believes that Phase 1 will begin this year.

B. Virtual collectors exhibition by Massimiliano Bruno.

Massimiliano proposed organizing a competitive exhibition within the next couple of months of sport and Olympic collecting with the participation of all AICO members. (1) Launch exhibition either competitive or by invitation. (2) Due to COVID, suggested a virtual exhibition. (3)

Exhibition will be open to all Olympic and sports exhibits. (4) Displays of exhibits scanned and added to AICO website. (5) Perhaps there can be a physical exhibition at WOCF 2021.

C. AICO Library Development by Roman Babut.

The physical AICO Library, which is housed at the Museum of Sport and Tourism in Warsaw, contains 879 items which are fully registered. New donated publications, particularly from China and the Czech Republic, are continuing to be registered. In order to make the library more accessible by collectors around the world, it is necessary to scan the contents and make them available on line. An AICO budget request has been made to purchase a special scanner that will not destroy publications and that will provide quality digital scans (cost approximately 2,000 CHF). Currently on hand are about 100 documents for scanning and uploading. Roman stressed that there is a shortage of pin-related publications in the library and asked that perhaps Olympin can help increase the library's holdings for these Olympic collectibles.

D. Counterfeit Commission by Mark Maestrone.

Mark summarized the work of the task force which included himself and Giancarlo Morolli (ITA). The project's aim is to create awareness of risks related to Olympic and sports philately which chiefly comprise detrimental, abusive and illegal stamp issues, as well as faked, forged and counterfeit documents, both new and classic. Activities designed to achieve this awareness consist of creating a knowledge base, developing a panel of experts, and utilizing existing AICO member clubs to aid in disseminating the information. The overall organization would consist of a commission of 4 members with various philatelic backgrounds and language skills as well as country liaisons to assist in providing a two-way channel for information.

8. Questions from the members.

In response to Roman's request for more pin publications for the library, Sid Marantz mentioned that Ingrid O'Neil has agreed to help with identifying and cataloging these resources. Originally, this had been planned by Olympin member and Olympic collector, Craig Perlow, who unfortunately passed away in 2018. Mark promised to contact Ingrid and get this started. Branislav encouraged all the members to work on this.

Responding to Mark's discussion of the Counterfeit Commission for philately, Branislav suggested the same should be done for pins. He thinks the commission should also work with all Olympic fakes. Mark said that the reason the Counterfeit Commission was beginning with philately was that it was an area of Olympic collectibles that could be more easily grasped, versus the 1,000s of fake and counterfeit pins in existence. Sid mentioned counterfeit medals as a particular problem. He also enlightened EB members on the Authenticity Project for NOC pins on the Olympin Club website as a current resource for pin collectors that deals with this very subject.

Mark asked Christophe about the WOCF in Paris next year. Most likely, the WOCF will be held in June 2021 around Olympic Day (23 June 2021). Before the end of this month AFCOS plans to schedule a meeting with all parties to decide upon a venue and dates for the Fair. Hopefully they

will have further fair details by sometime in October. The 2022 WOCF is still scheduled for Ardena (Rome), Italy. To date, there are no applicants for the 2023 WOCF.

Thomas and Rufin raised a number of issues with the Search function on the AICO website's Olympic Library. Mark will look into this.

Roman asked about the status of talks with the IOC Study Center in associating the AICO website with their IOC's Olympic World Library. Christophe mentioned that within the last week, AICO has received a widget to add to the AICO website that will allow access by users to the OWL through the AICO website. This project is still in the preliminary stages and will take 2 to 3 years before it is fully functional. Mark added that he had not had time prior to the GA to look at the widget, but he will activate it as soon as possible.

9. Results of the Executive Board election by Mark Maestroni (assisted by Branislav Delej).

Massimiliano Bruno and Rufin Schullian were elected to 4-year terms on the Executive Board beginning at the end of this GA.

10. Brief remarks by the two elected Executive Board members.

Rufin thanked everyone for placing their trust in him, and promised not only to work on existing projects, but to bring new ideas to AICO. Massimiliano thanked everyone, also promising to work extra hard over the next four years. Mark thanked Roman for his many years of work for AICO, starting with the Working Group and continuing through 6 years on the EB.

11. Closing of the General Assembly by Christophe Aït-Braham

Christophe thanked all the participants, both EB members and club representatives. He also wished to thank Roman for all his work and support of AICO over the past years, and hoped he would continue as the Project Director for the AICO Library Development Project.

President Christophe Aït-Braham declared the 2020 AICO General Assembly closed at 19:00 CEST



AICO Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, 5 September 2020

Minutes

Immediately following the conclusion of the General Assembly, the five members of the new Executive Board (Christophe Aït-Braham, Branislav Delej, Massimiliano Bruno, Mark Maestroni and Rufin Schullian) met in closed session by Zoom to define the new board.

The EB Session was called to order by President Christophe Aït-Braham at 19:00 CEST

1. Noting that Roman Babut had left the Zoom call, Christophe first asked if we could get him back. Mark emailed him, but was unsuccessful.
2. Christophe welcomed Rufin Schullian to the EB. Christophe proposed that Rufin be appointed AICO Treasurer and that all other EB members remain in their current positions. The vote in favor of the proposal was unanimous.
3. Christophe proposed that Roman remain as Project Director of the AICO Library Development project. The vote in favor of the proposal was unanimous. Branislav asked if his understanding was correct that while Roman would be a Project Director, he would not be an EB member. Christophe confirmed this.
4. Christophe will oversee the transfer of all treasurer-related information, passwords, etc. from Roman to Rufin as soon as possible.
5. Mark asked Christophe if he would send out a Press Release announcing the AICO election results to all the clubs. Christophe confirmed he would take care of this.
6. Massimiliano suggested that we have more frequent (perhaps quarterly) Zoom calls for the EB, which everyone agreed to.
7. Christophe thanked everyone and declared the EB Meeting closed at 19:10 CEST