

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Further to my last message about the quadrennial meeting of our Society, to be held on

Sunday morning, August 15, 2004 at 10:30 am,

I can inform you that the Mayor of Marousi (the place where Spiridon Louis lived in 1896) tentatively invited us to

be his guests in the townhall. As soon as I have received definite confirmation about this meeting place, I will inform you about it.

Another important matter!

As usual, I was requested to fill in a yearly request about the ISOH membership for the Yearbook of International Organizations.

To my regret I had to conclude that in spite of our regular yearly growth, we are now losing members in *some countries*. At one moment (a few years ago), we had members in fifty different countries, but since that time four countries: Bulgaria, Korea, Jamaica and Yugoslavia & Montenegro went out. Three of those because the members in those countries neglected paying their subscription dues over the past two years.

I request all ISOH members to look into this matter and see if in their personal relations are any possible members, who would be able and willing to join ISOH, if they would only know that the International Society of Olympic Historians exists.

I might add that we are now about to lose our last member in the largest country on earth: China, and with the Olympic Games 2008 planned for Beijing, China, we certainly need to have some membership there.

The ISOH is weak in many areas, like in Africa (only South Africa is represented); South America; and Asia (especially in countries like Pakistan, Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Libanon, Malaysia and the Philippines).

In Europe, we still have countries where we originally had membership, like in Bulgaria, but which are no longer represented.

Others, like Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Slovenia and Serbia & Montenegro, are countries with a long Olympic history, albeit some under another name and or flag. One of those countries: Croatia, even organized an Olympic Winter Games.

Would any of you be able to be of assistance to ISOH in this respect then do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail, fax or letter.

Would you have any addresses from people in the countries mentioned afore, then forward them to me, so that I can contact them and send them an application form.

In the next few months and according to the ISOH Constitution, I will be starting the preparations for getting nominations for a new Executive Committee for ISOH.

The ISOH Constitution states:

- h: 1. *The procedures for the nomination of new candidates for the Executive Committee will be implemented by the Secretary-General, at least six months before the actual postal or electronic ballot.*
2. *Each Member has the right to nominate other Members for a post in the Executive Committee; however, the nominees must be willing to serve. Each candidate must be nominated by at least two Members, who must do so in writing.*
3. *Members are not allowed to nominate themselves.*
4. *The results of the postal ballot, as endorsed by the outgoing Executive Committee, will be reported to the Convention of ISOH, where the change over to the newly elected Executive Committee will take place.*
5. *To be eligible for any position on the Executive Committee, a nominated member must have paid the annual subscription.*

Please take good note of these sentences.

In the past four months, ISOH received applications for membership from eight new members, and two Patron Members, while three members decided to resign. The personal notes can be found in this issue of the Journal, under *ISOH Member Information*.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk