

Summary 2001 Session of the International Olympic Academy Participants Association

2001 SUMMARY

It started with evening discussions and a call for a new Olympic Movement was very quickly an unofficial topic of the 1985 session. The new IOAPA was certainly an important factor in forming close friendships. At the end of the 1985 session there was an understanding that the end of the session will be the beginning of something new. The 1986 group also showed an interest to make a conference reunion in Olympia. Both Mr. Nissiotis and Mr. Filaretos supported this idea and so from an idea, a reality was born. "The Olympic Flame inside each one of us will only continue to burn hard enough if there will be regular-flair ups. Also this flame needs fuel and this conference will take care of a glow for years to come." (Van Haute)

For this reason and amongst many others we have again met in Olympic for the seventh working session of the IOAPA. This conference like all the previous ones was fruitful and cross-fertilization between members, coming from different countries evolved into new ideas. In maintaining the tradition with previous conference, visits to the steel of Pierre de Coubertain, Carl Diem and Hans Van Haute tree were made.

At the start of the conference, each Executive Board member gave a report of their activities of the past two years. A presentation about the history of the IOAPA was also given, and the new members of the IOAPA present were introduced by the old members. Presentations by various participants were delivered and were very well received. The election was held and the new Executive Board was elected for the coming two years. This consists of:

- President Mrs Laurel Brassey Iversen USA
- Vice President Mr. Carlo Farrugia Malta
- Secretary Mr. Alistair Cameron Australia
- Treasurer Mr. Paul Baldacchino Malta
- Liason Officer Ms Youla Pipilis Greece
- Website officer Mr. Cyrille Boulogne France
- Newsletter Editor Mr. Rusty Wilson USA

For the first time the IOAPA Executive Board invited a guest lecturer, Dr Jim Parry. He helped us by coordinating our work and during his three different sessions we have seen the way forward more clearly. We have also realized the wealth of knowledge that exists within the members of the IOAPA and how we can share these resources. The interactive presentations were excellent and were enthusiastically received by the group and we were very pleased with the outcome.

Some proposals were read out and approved by the members present by taking a simple majority vote. Brainstorming sessions on various different topics were held and commitments were taken for the future. In fact each member of the executive board will have a sub-committee working group and each sub committee has been assigned with a task which must be completed by the end of this year. These are mainly: - Scholarship Fund, Country Representatives, Membership DataBase, Marketing and Sponsorship, Athens 2004, Torch Relay Athens 2004, Educational Base and the Internet Webpage.

A small memento was also presented to those members who have been IOAPA

members for 10 years. Finally the plans of the Executive Board for the coming years were explained to the members and the closing speeches by the IOAPA President and IOA Dean were delivered which brought this years' conference to its end. As the previous conferences this year's conference was fruitful and for the first time sub-committees with a definite task have been created with a deadline for each of these tasks to be concluded. In this way in the next conference in 2003 these sub-committees, which will be channeled to the Executive Board will have done a lot of work. In fact a member of the Executive Board will chair each sub-committee so that the progress of each committee will be monitored.