

MESSAGE FROM UANA PRESIDENT ELDON GODFREY

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Quadrennial Congress of UANA convened here in Guadalajara (MEX) on the occasion of the XVI Pan American Games.

The Quadrennial has passed quickly bringing moments of sadness and many moments of great satisfaction and joy experienced by UANA and our individual Zones , Members and Athletes.

Established in 1948 by visionary founders, it was with great sorrow that during this Quadrennial UANA experienced the passing of our great Hon. Life President Don Javier Ostos Mora (2008) and his Mexican colleague Don Antonio Mariscal Abascal (2010). These two men provided leadership and inspiration to us all for over sixty (60) years ; they were living examples of fair play and everything that is good about our aquatic disciplines. The founders of UANA have now all passed on; it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure their vision of the aquatics in the Americas lives on and that the UANA Family flourishes in the years to come.

During the Quadrennial the Technical Committees of UANA have worked to encourage the continued development of the disciplines through competition and education; they also provide the necessary technical leadership for the success of the Pan American Games. Each Committee has provided a detailed report of their activities for your information.

Of course, the many competitions conducted would not be possible without the contribution made by those federations which come forward to host the events; for their contribution the UANA Family is thankful.

The importance of communication to develop confidence and cooperative relationships cannot be overestimated. Joint Conferences with the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee Chairpersons were held in Ft. Lauderdale, USA in 2009 and 2010 at which time FINA Bureau members of the Americas and other international guests took part, while a highlight of 2009 was the convening of the “Unite in Friendship ” – “Unidos en Amistad” Reception in Rome which was attended by guests from throughout the FINA Family.

Financial resources of UANA are limited and it is with gratitude that UANA acknowledges the partnership formed between UANA, United States Aquatic Sports and the Aquatic Federation of Canada which ensured the success of these events.

As we move forward it is to be hoped that Joint Conferences and UANA Conferences will be held in each of the first three years of the Quadrennial and the greater Congress be conducted on the Quadrennial basis at the venue of the Pan American Games.

To accomplish this, it is essential that new sources of revenue for UANA be developed to meet future needs.

In carrying out the activities of UANA it is important that we realize the benefits of a strong cooperative relationship with FINA. The basis for such a relationship is well founded when we realize that we have six members from our UANA Family sitting at the FINA Bureau under the leadership of our long-time friend and two times President of UANA, Dr. Julio Maglione and thirty-nine representatives of the Americas on all FINA Technical Committees and Commissions twelve of those serving as Chair, Vice-Chair or Hon Secretary.

Education initiatives are strongly supported by the FINA Development Programme in which all members are encouraged to participate; however, in doing so members are also encouraged to seek out educational opportunities which can be found in the Olympic Solidarity Programme.

UANA takes great benefit from a healthy schedule of Zone Events. CONSANAT, CCCAN, USAS and AFC under the respective leadership of Coaracy Nunes Filho, Francisco Javier Lopez, Orban Mendoza, Errol Clarke, Rich Foster, Jim Wood and Bill Hogan provide opportunities for our athletes of all ages to develop into world class competitors.

UANA, as a member of ACODEPA, is pleased to support the Pan American Games, the jewel of PASO / ODEPA. With PASO / ODEPA President Don Mario Vasquez Raña leading the way the Pan American Games have steadily increased international prominence and stature.

In the years ahead the focus of the aquatics world will increasingly be on the Americas. The celebration of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 will take place in Rio de Janeiro (BRA) finding the welcome of South America. The historic first time visit of the Olympic Games to South America will be followed in the next year, 2017, by the FINA World Championships to be convened here in Guadalajara (MEX), marking the fourth occasion on which FINA has entrusted the Championships to a host of the Americas (Cali (COL), Guayaquil (ECU) and Montreal (CAN)).

And so now as we move onward to the London XXX Olympic Games, I extend best wishes to all our athletes, coaches and officials. The cost to achieve "big dreams" is hard work and commitment; aspire to greatness and fulfill those dreams as we return to the 1948 birthplace of UANA.

With warm regards to all,

Eldon C Godfrey, FCA --- President – Union Americana de Natación