



UNION AMERICANA DE NATACION

1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 USA
www.uana-aquatics.org

Dear Friends,

President

DALE NEUBURGER
201 South Capitol Avenue
Suite 555
Indianapolis, Indiana 46225
dale.neuburger@gmail.com
T: +1 317 714 3667
United States of America

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ERROL CLARKE
Barbados

Vice President

GUNO VAN DER JAGT
Suriname

Vice President

DR. MARGO MOUNTJOY
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In less than a month, we will be together in Budapest (HUN) to attend the FINA World Championships, and the athletes of the Americas will have an opportunity to compete against the best athletes of Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania in the six aquatic disciplines. Thousands of spectators -- as well as millions of television viewers and social media users -- will watch our sport in fantastic new and renovated facilities, and truly, swimming will be "center stage" for sports media worldwide.

Additionally, FINA will conduct seven technical congresses (six aquatic disciplines, plus Masters) and the General Congress, all of which are important elements of sports governance and decision-making that allow our sport to advance and to prosper. And, elections will be conducted that will determine the direction that FINA will take over the next four years, as well as the appointment of members of twenty-two committees, commissions, and panels comprised of more than 250 volunteers.

I remind you about the UANA Congress is the highest authority within UANA, and the UANA Congress made the decision to support the following six candidates in Toronto (CAN) in July 2015:

Dr. Julio C. Maglione as FINA President
Dale Neuburger as FINA Vice President
Algernon Cargill as FINA Bureau Member
Dr. Margo Mountjoy as FINA Bureau Member
Juan Carlos Orihuela as FINA Bureau Member (World at Large election)
Errol Clarke as FINA Bureau Member (World at Large election)

As you may know, there are two candidates for the FINA Presidency. I strongly urge your support for Dr. Maglione because his nomination by the UANA Congress was unanimous and because he has led FINA to its highest-ever level of accomplishment and prestige, including:

- FINA is now in the "A" Category of Olympic sports, as classified by the IOC – for the first time in history – joining Athletics and Gymnastics.
- Three new swimming events have recently been added to the Olympic program for Tokyo 2020, as well as the addition of two women's water polo teams, enabling Swimming to have more medal events on the Olympic program than any other sport – 49 – again, for the first time in its history.





- The FINA Development Programme has been expanded and improved, with a productive clinic and schools program for coaches and officials; a scholarship program for promising athletes close to qualifying standards for the FINA World Championships and the Olympic Games; and, coaches and officials certification programs that have greatly expanded technical expertise.
- Additional financial support for the Continental Associations, like UANA, as well as Regional Associations like CCCAN and CONSANAT.

UANA will also have important activities in Budapest, and it is important for me to make you aware (or remind you) of the following key events:

- **UANA Luncheon for National Federation Presidents and Secretary Generals at the Intercontinental Hotel at noon on Friday, July 21**
- **UANA Extraordinary Congress at the Intercontinental Hotel at (approximately) 3:00 PM/15:00 hours on July 22, after conclusion of the FINA General Congress and FINA luncheon**

You have previously received the proposals for amendments to the UANA By-Laws, including the recommendations of the UANA Executive Committee, and I hope for full participation. Please respond to UANA Secretary Treasurer Errol Clarke for the nomination of your delegates and observers.

UANA will maintain a Secretariat on the first floor of the Sofitel Hotel (proximate to the Intercontinental) to ensure that National Federation leaders of the Americas are knowledgeable, answering questions about events and activities that will take place during the course of the Championships. Operations will begin on July 11 and continue through July 23 to assist you and ensure your knowledgeable participation through the period of the Championships.

Through the significant efforts of Greg Eggert, UANA Director and Media Officer, you are well aware through the UANA News of the important accomplishments of UANA over the past several months, including the following:

- First-ever sponsorship for UANA: our great friends and partners at Astral Pool (Fluidra SA), allowing UANA to make investments in the four UANA Championships that take place in 2017, as well as operational support for CCCAN and CONSANAT.
- Establishment of the UANA Cup Swimming Championships, featuring a dual meet competition between CCCAN and CONSANAT in Coral Springs (USA) on January 19 to 21, 2018.
- Successful staging of the UANA Open Water Swimming Championships in Cayman Island (last hosted in 2007) and the first-ever UANA Masters Open Water Championships.
- Participation by ten swimming instructor/trainers from UANA National Federations at the first-ever FINA "Swim for All, Swim for Life" Seminar in Bangkok (THA), providing a base of knowledge and support for learn to swim programs throughout the Americas.
- Significant clinic programs for coaches and technical officials, supported by the FINA Development Programme and featuring world class instructors, at both CONSANAT and CCCAN Championships.

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- Selection of four outstanding sites for UANA Championships in 2017: Cayman Islands (open water); Peru (water polo); Chile (synchronized swimming); and, diving (Canada). Special thanks to the Host National Federations that provide our athletes the opportunity to excel.

The FINA World Championships provide an outstanding opportunity for collaboration and friendship for the representatives of our 43 National Federation members. While some may wish to accentuate our differences, I am constantly reminded about our similarities.

UANA is strong when we are unified.

Let's come together in Budapest and help FINA begin the 2017-2021 period with great success and enthusiasm!

All best wishes,

Dale Neuburger
UANA President

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