

FINA REPORT – September, 2009 – Chicago, Illinois

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Honorary Secretary – FINA TSSC

In early May, I traveled to Rome as a member of the FINA Commission to conduct the site check for the World Championships which were held in July. For Synchronized Swimming a temporary pool was constructed with a length of 33 meters, a width of 21 meters and a depth of 3 meters. Synchronized Swimming competition at the World Championships was held from July 18 through July 25. Let me take this opportunity to thank the athletes of our USA World Synchronized Swimming Team and their excellent coaches for a job well-done in Rome. They gave it 200 percent and as always were awesome representatives of the United States.

The Technical Congress for Synchronized swimming was held on July 16 at the Foro Italico. A significant change involving judges awarding individual scores for the categories within Technical merit and Artistic Impression was passed. Also proposed by the USA, the awarding of individual scores for Elements in Technical routines was passed. On July 25, a FINA Wrap-up seminar was held and the new Figure Lists and Lists of Elements for 2009 -2013 were introduced. On July 24 the FINA General Congress was held at the Grand Hotel Parco dei Principi Roma. On this occasion, a new president was elected – Julio Maglione of Uruguay.

Other items of interest are a luncheon, hosted by USAS, was held on July 28 in Rome to honor the FINA Bureau. Chef de missions Penny Taylor and Betty Hazle did an excellent job with their many duties in Rome, including this important luncheon for Bureau members. Additionally a UANA “Unite in Friendship” reception , arranged by Laurette Longmire , was held on the evening of July 23 . UANA is very excited to have someone from the Americas assuming the role of president of FINA so it was a joyous occasion. The new Chairman of the TSSC is Stefania Tudini of Italy, I am continuing as Honorary Secretary and the new Bureau Liaison is Qiuping Zhang of China.

On May 8 and 9, 2009, I attended the USAS meeting in Fort Lauderdale. In addition to this meeting the USA, Canada and several other UANA nations met with UANA President Eldon Godfrey. This annual meeting of the USA and Canada has proven to be very beneficial and it appears that even more UANA countries may participate in the future. Dr. Julio Maglione was present as well as the former FINA TSSC liaison and current Bureau member, Gennady Aleshin. The UANA Executive Board also met on this occasion. Rose Cody, chairperson of the UANA TSSC was honored with the Paragon Award at the ISHOF Awards ceremony.

The 4th edition of the FINA Synchronized Swimming World Trophy will be held in Montreal on November 27 to 29. Twelve federations have been invited to attend and the USA has confirmed our participation. A new programme has been established by the TSSC and includes a Synchro Highlight routine, a thematic duet, a thematic team, a solo and a Combination. An exciting Gala has been planned as well.

Work has begun on the 2010 FINA Junior World Championships to be hosted by the United States in Indianapolis. Carol Valles, sponsor of this event, is co-chairing this Championship with me. We have already met with USSS staff members, management at the Hilton Hotel, the director of the IUPUI Natatorium and the director of Indy Sports Corporation.

In conjunction with the Pan American Junior Championships in Huntersville, North Carolina in August, a FINA Development Clinic will be held. The lecturer is Charlotte Davis. Barbara McNamee, Judy McGowan and I will also present various topics for FINA judges and coaches. Thanks to Betty Hazle for all of her excellent work related to the implementation of this clinic. As I am writing this report, we are preparing for this important event. I am sure you will hear much more about this competition and our US National Junior Team at convention.

It appears that the location and date of the 2009 FINA Worldwide Judges Seminar is still under consideration, but I anticipate that it will be held in Montreal. At the moment, it appears that A judges will attend this seminar to take the new exam and that B and G judges will attend the FINA Judges School – locations and dates TBD. The cost of attending the seminar and school could be great so we should look at assisting these persons if possible.

I look forward to attending meetings of the International Relations Committee and the National Team Program Committee at convention so that I may answer any questions you have. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your FINA representative.

Virginia Jasontek