



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONGRESS  
24 OCTOBER 2023  
SHERATON CONFERENCE CENTRE  
SANTIAGO, CHILE**

In accordance with the Notice of General Congress dated June 22, 2023, the Extraordinary Congress proceeded in Santiago, Chile on the occasion of the PanAmerican Games commencing at 1:30 pm local time, with some members attending virtually via Zoom.

Present were:

Maureen Croes, President  
David de Vlieger, Secretary Treasurer  
Van Donkersgoed, Vice President  
Luiz Fernando Coelho, Vice President  
Brenda Villa, EC Member  
Rafael Radhames Tavarez, EC Member  
Virginia Jasontek, EC Member  
Ivonne Shoucair, Executive Director

National Federations in Attendance:

Anguilla, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, US Virgin Islands, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, United States of America, Venezuela, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Special Guests included:

AQUA Treasurer Dale Neuberger  
AQUA Bureau Members Ana Fortin, Cheryl Gibson, Juan Carlos Orihuela and Victoria Stanham (delegate)

## **1. Accreditation of Delegates and Roll Call of National Federations**

The Secretary Treasurer proceeded with the roll call of federations in accordance with the notices provided by the federations. All nations listed above were present at the outset of Congress.

## **2. Declaration of Quorum**

The Secretary Treasurer reported that with 39 Members present, with members from all five zones represented, there was a legal quorum in accordance with Article 18 of the Constitution and declared the General Congress properly constituted.

## **3. President's Report, welcome and video presentation**

The President, via a pre-recorded video message, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The video captured many of the highlights and accomplishments of PanAm Aquatics over the previous quadrennial. Special mention was made of the special guests in attendance, including senior members of AQUA and important corporate supporters of PAQ, including Fluidra, Malmsten and Deportes Virtual.

## **4. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Congress**

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the draft Minutes had been circulated in advance of the General Congress and were available with the meeting materials.

*MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the August 2023 PAQ Extraordinary Congress, as circulated, be approved.*

*Moved: Aruba – Bert Schreuders*

*Seconded: Colombia - Jorge Soto*

## **5. Financial Report**

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement, both current to September 30, 2023 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He provided a brief overview of PAQ's financial performance over the quadrennial, noting that it had been a historically active period, with PAQ taking many steps to position it for growth in the future. As a result, the organization had registered a deficit over the period, as shown on the Profit & Loss statement. The Secretary Treasurer responded to a question by the delegate from Puerto Rico, confirming

that PAQ had recorded more expenses than revenue over the quad, but reiterating that he was confident that the organization was poised for success going forward.

## **6. Committee Reports**

Each of the Chairs of the discipline committees spoke briefly to supplement their written reports which had been circulated. Remarks were made by Victoria Montedonica (Artistic Swimming), Gordon Peterson (Diving), Mitch Geller (High Diving), Mel Goldstein (Masters), Rick Walker (pen Water), Jay Thomas (Swimming) Brenda Villa (in lieu of Manuel de Jesus, unable to attend - Water Polo).

## **7. Introduction of the 2023-2027 PAQ Executive Committee**

The Secretary Treasurer explained the process followed for selection of the 2023-27 Executive, noting that this was the first time under the new Constitution. Each region had nominated two persons, one male and one female, under the timelines set forth in the Constitution. In some cases, regions had an election process assisted by PAQ. The Athlete representatives were nominated through the AQUA Athletes Committee. He formally asked the Congress to recognize the following members:

Claudia Molkenbuhr - Zone 1

Nikola Ustadvich - Zone 1

Maureen Croes - Zone 2

Eddie Hazell - Zone 2

Carmen Orellana - Zone 3

Radhames Tavarez - Zone 3

Van Donkersgoed - Zone 4

Dian Maiese – Zone 4

Conrad Hadubiak - Zone 5

Lisa Schott - Zone 5

Alia Atkinson - Athlete

Tony Ervin – Athlete

## **8. Election of PAQ President and Secretary**

The Secretary Treasurer made reference to the specific rules under the recently approved Constitution, in particular Article 32 thereof, governing the election by Congress of the President and Secretary. He reported that the incoming executive had met prior to Congress, at which time it was determined that only one person was putting their name forward for each of those roles – as a result the only

candidate able to stand for election at Congress as President was Maureen Croes, while Lisa Schott was the only candidate able to stand at Congress for Secretary

*MOTION: Be it resolved that Maureen Croes be elected as President and Lisa Schott be elected as Secretary of PanAm Aquatics.*

*Moved: Paraguay – Diana Dominguez  
Seconded: Cayman Islands – Steve Broadbelt*

*Passed: no objections, votes from all 5 zones*

President Croes then made a few brief remarks, thanking members for their support, pledging to continue to work tirelessly to advance aquatics across the Americas. She also looked forward to working with the incoming Executive Committee, noting their distinguished experience and skillsets.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no other matters on the agenda, the President thanked the federations for their support and participation, and asked members and invited guests to stay and hear special presentations by Fluidra and Malmsten, important PAQ partners and asked federations to consider how these partners could assist them.

**Prepared by:**



David de Vlieger  
**Secretary Treasurer**

**Confirmed By:**



Maureen Croes  
**President**