

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2023, at AshCreek

Next Board Meeting Monday July 10, 2023, at Colonies

The Greater Richmond Aquatic League (GRAL) is an organization of swimmers, coaches, and parents whose aim is to promote and participate in the sport of summer swimming. GRAL provides an opportunity for young people to compete against others of similar ability in an atmosphere of fair play, good sportsmanship, and safety.

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm

Roll Call:

- Present: Ashcreek, Ashland, Atlee, Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Burkwood, Canterbury, Chestnut Oaks, Church Run, Colonies, Dominion Club, Federal Club, Fox Hall, Goochland, Hanover, Hungary Creek, Kings Charter, Mechanicsville, Milestone, Old Church, Pebble Creek, Raintree, Rockville Dolphin Club, Twin Hickory, Wellesley, Wembly, Wyndham
- Absent: Tuckahoe Village West

President Report: Kristin Brittle (Atlee) president@gralva.com

- Exec Board planning: We need a Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Champs, and VP of Equipment at the Annual meeting in September.
- Resources tab has been added to the website; check out what is on there.
 - Check out the officials worker board. We strongly encourage the officials coordinators to complete the officials worker board themselves and keep it separate from the other volunteer lists.
- Coaches meeting: thank you to Julie for covering the meeting for me so I could attend my senior's last state track meet out of town. Received mostly positive feedback, but coaches expressed frustration regarding communication about the concussion tests. We will be sure to make the proper changes and be more clear in our communication.
- Thank you to Christy for all of her work on the officials certifications, tracking the coaches tests, updating the exemptions online, and of course inputting all of the registration details.
- Thank you to everyone involved with submitting registration!
- Thank you to Roy for his commitment to improving the trainings for officials. We are getting great feedback.
- There has been some feedback regarding volunteers for meets that what's expected of a visiting team as listed in the welcome letter doesn't match the

handbook. The welcome letter and handbook do match. The difference is that the welcome letter only lists the AWAY team positions needed. For example, the away team does not provide any runners, so that's not listed in the welcome letter. The following positions are required of the away team at meets.

- Timers: number is based on the number of lanes (both halves)
 - 2 assistant head timers (1 per half)
 - 4 Strokes and Turns judges (2 per half)
 - 2 clerk assistants (1 per half)
 - 4 table workers (2 per half)
 - 2 computer data entry workers (1 per half)
 - 1 ribbon labeler (2nd half only)
 - 2 relay helpers for each 8 and under relay—these volunteers may be older swimmers
- Scholarship info is on the website and was shared on Facebook on 6/1/23 you can share that on your team's social media. Please make sure the graduating seniors get this info. There is a tab under "General Information" to view the Scholarship info. Forms are due by Midnight on June 30th and recommendations are due by July 14th. Late submissions are NOT accepted.
 - As the season starts, please keep these things in mind for smooth sailing. These items were also discussed at the coaches meeting.
 - Need to have positive check-in. Don't print anything until check-in is completed. Ideally the same person should complete check-in each week
 - Dive certifications: coaches must have paperwork with them. Swimmers should be marked if necessary (with X or O) at check-in.
 - Exemptions: We are a very inclusive league so there are now 4 types of exemptions because we have added a gender identification form. Exemptions were reviewed in detail at the coaches meeting but please help coaches to remember to submit these soon. Most questions have been about bathing suits. Some parents are upset they need to send an exemption for this reason, but parent doesn't need to have to do anything to do with it. If the swimmer is wearing something different at practice, assume they will wear it at the meet and submit an exemption. Don't wait until the last minute to submit them!
 - Reminder on weather: It is the lifeguard's responsibility to blow the whistle to clear the deck. Only four people make the decisions regarding delay/cancellation of a meet and three of them are from the home team. It is the two (home and away) parent reps, pool manager (if your manager is 16, figure out who that should be at your pool), and the meet director who make decisions. Review the weather policy and have it handy at meets to answer questions.
 - Encourage teams to hold a mock meet. This can be done at a practice. Reminders of what should be covered, and this was also discussed in the coaches meeting:
 - Hearing the starter, hearing the false start sound, explain the rope
 - Experiencing clerk—teach swimmers to be respectful and listen
 - Include flyovers for 9 & ups

- Practice in water starts for 8 & under relays; one hand on wall, no one touching them
- Motion by Federal Club to accept May meeting minutes into the record, second by Hanover; approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Julie Zubris (Rockville) secretary@gralva.com

- Anything that is password protected on the GRAL website uses the password leneverett.
- Contact changes should all be complete now, other than Champs coordinator. That will be due by June 16th. If you have any changes that still need to happen, send them ASAP.
- Certificate of Insurance for your pool was due May 30th. The few teams who have had issues need to submit them ASAP.

Treasurer Report: Debi Knott (Wembly) treasurer@gralva.com

- Absent, given by Kristin
- There were only two payments in May. They were the storage unit fee, and the annual Money Minder fee, which is the program we use to track finances and easily pass information along to the next treasurer. Money Minder was \$180 for the year.

VP of Officials Report: Roy Sabo (Milestone) officials@gralva.com

- S&T trainings are going very well. For new S&T, they have to attend the in person training and there are only two left: Thursday, June 8 Burkwood from 7-9pm and Sunday, June 11 at Goochland 2-4pm. Trainees may just show up, there is no registration required. Anyone who trained since Covid is recommended to attend but it is not required.
- The last ref round table is Saturday, June 10, at 11am online. All refs, new and returning, must attend. It usually don't take a full hour. The link to the Zoom meeting is on the website.
- If your team is curious about who has successfully submitted concussion training, the list is on the website.
- We have received questions about the experienced officials list. That will not be released until the conclusion of 1st meet.
- For the ref round tables, four teams have not yet sent a ref: Bell Creek, Pebble Creek, Canterbury, and Dominion Club.
- Question from Federal Club: Should we assign timers to a lane before the meet?
 - It depends on your team and if it works for you. Some teams assign more experienced timers in the middle lanes, and new timers on the ends. If you do pre-assign, let other team know how you do it (2 in odd lanes, 1 in even lanes, or vice versa). A positive to pre-assigning is that it lets you know who is supposed to be there when someone doesn't show up.

Computer/Webmaster Report: Christy Evanko webmaster@galva.com and christy@galva.com

- Most recent list of who has taken their tests is from is June 2nd so look and see who on your team needs to take any tests. She will be updating the list again soon.
- USA Swimming record keeping had a problem this year, so Christy had to ask USA certified officials to submit their certification proof to her and that has seemed to go smoothly.
- Registration is a long process, so not all the databases are finished yet. If there was an issue, she has reached out to you. Seventeen more teams need to be posted and have databases sent. Swim Manager teams just get a thank you email. Team Manager teams receive a new database with all the meets in there.

VP of Equipment Report: Nathan Mondragon (Goochland) equipment@galva.com

- The bags with ribbons and DQ cards are along the edge of the room. Pick up your team's bags on the way out. Different clubs have different number of ribbons because it depends on the inventory you reported you had at the end of last season.
 - We took back ribbons from six teams that had a very large inventory, but we received mostly the smaller, cut ribbons that no one likes. So we have placed an order to make sure we have enough 1st and 2nd. If you need anything in terms of extra ribbons, let Nathan know and he will get them to you. This probably won't be an issue until the 5th or 6th meet.
 - Even with additional ribbon order, we are still spending half of our ribbon budget.
 - Clubs don't need to use the smaller ribbons if you don't want to. At the end of the season, if you don't want to use them, just get rid of them. They should not be counted in the inventory.
- Everyone has a working starter. We have one in storage that can be a possible loaner if someone has an issue. We have 3 or 4 starter stands; the mounting piece is not included. Church Run and Dominion club indicated they each need a stand.
- Keep the starter plugged in throughout the season, or Make sure it has plenty of time to charge before each meet.

VP of Champs Report: Allison Unowitz (Tuckahoe Village West) champs@galva.com.

- Absent, given by Kristin
- Champs is Sunday, July 30th for 12 and unders and Monday, July 31st for 13 and overs
- Timeline:
 - Friday, June 16th: Champs coordinator CONTACT INFORMATION is due. Please send this information to Julie at Secretary@galva.com.
 - Thursday, July 13th via Zoom: Mandatory Champs informational MEETING to review policies/procedures and answer any questions you

may have. A representative from each team must be present. Champs coordinator MUST attend, as well as Computer Reps who are responsible for Champs entries and coaches that will be on deck and/or working on entries. If the exact person who entered entries last year had perfect entries, that one person will not need to attend. Christy will let those people know. The schedule for the meeting is:

6:30PM-7:15PM - CHAMPS COORDINATOR

7:15PM-7:45PM - COMPUTER REPS

7:45PM-8:15PM COACHES

- Friday, July 14th: SENIOR SWIMMERS info due via Google form; we recognize ALL senior swimmers in the program, whether they go to Champs or not.
- Friday, July 21st: final ELECTRONIC ENTRIES are due. Christy will figure out how much your team owes based on champs registration, extra swimmers, heat sheets, t-shirts, ads, coaches lunches, etc. and she will send an email out on Saturday with the amount your team owes.
- Saturday, July 22nd: final CHAMPS VIDEO due. 90 Seconds max
- Saturday, July 22nd @ 6:00PM location TBD: mandatory CHAMPS REGISTRATION. Need to bring everything on your registration form, including the check to pay. A sign-up genius will be sent out for the teams to select their time to attend.
- Friday, July 28th: heat sheet and GRAL t-Shirt PICK-UP from 6:00-8:00pm @ East End: ARA (Atlee Recreation Association - 9411 Staple Ln, Mechanicsville 23116) OR West End: TVW (Tuckahoe Village West - 2100 Bradon Road, Henrico 23238). More details to come.
- Sunday, July 30th and Monday, July 31st - 2023 GRAL CHAMPS @ SwimRVA (5050 Ridgedale Parkway, Richmond VA 23234); Saturday 12 & Under; Sunday 13 & Older (TIMES TBD)
- NATIONAL ANTHEM: Looking for a swimmer or coach to volunteer to sing the morning of Sunday, July 30th and Monday, July 31st. Please email this information to champs@gralva.com.
- ENTRY FEES
Individual Events: \$5.00
Relays: \$20.00
- The ads are emailed to Christy. The email needs to include what team and the size of the ad. What you can't do is send a picture and words and ask to have an ad made. They need to be sent as completed ads.
- Question from Dominion Club: Are we doing the live stream again this year? Ads can be streamed on that, so is that a possibility?
 - Yes we are live streaming, so we need to check into seeing if we can add a banner streaming ad option.

Old Business:

- None

New Business

- Board meeting dates for 2023
 - Monday, 7/10 at 7pm at Colonies in person
 - Sunday, September 17th at 7pm—annual meeting (in-person)
- Meet Dates:
 - June 12th-17th
 - Wednesday, June 21st
 - Wednesday, June 28th
 - Wednesday, July 5th
 - Wednesday, July 12th
 - TUESDAY, July 18th

Good of the league:

Milestone has 25 meter old lane lines (4 full length, 1 that's a half) and are trying to sell them. If anyone is interested see the Milestone Board rep.

Motion to adjourn by Federal Club, second by Milestone.

Adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary