

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

April 10th, 2023, via Teams

Next Board Meeting Monday May 1st, 2023, virtual via Teams

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 7:01 pm

Roll Call:

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

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

- There will be four open roles on the Exec Board in September: Secretary, VP of Champs, Treasurer, and VP of Equipment. We must fill them, so please let us know if you, or someone from your team, is interested in serving on the Exec Board.
- Parent Rep roundtable will be held virtually at some point in April. Anyone from your team will be welcome to attend. Topics will be volunteers, hosting a home meet, and retaining older swimmers. We are working on scheduling a date now.
- Teams need to reach out to potential officials this month. A personal email is helpful asking someone to consider becoming an official. For returning officials, this month is a good time to send a thank you email and include the info regarding trainings for this year.
- Motion by Federal Club to accept March meeting minutes into the record, second by Kings Charter and 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 be sent to secretary. She will reply via email when changes are made.
- Certificate of Insurance for your pool is due by May 30th. Wait to send it until you renew for the 2023 season.

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

- Report given by Kristin as Debi was absent.
- Started March with approximately \$30k in the account; spent approximately \$5,000 on ribbons. We came in \$2800 under budget on ribbons as we have extra ribbons from last year. Current balance in account is \$25,078.84.

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

- Roy also encouraged board reps to reach out to their teams to start nailing down the list of officials for the season.
- A large number of USA Swimming rule changes were released last month. They automatically take effect for GRAL unless someone would like to bring up a rule for discussion and we vote not to implement it. Roy has reviewed them and feels that they are all reasonable and should work for GRAL. He thinks that the new rules are better for the swimmers as they give them more benefit of the doubt and better for the officials as it makes it easier to officiate.
 - In backstroke at end of the race swimmers may now resubmerge in the last 5 meters of the pool for safety reasons. Allows swimmers to look back to see where the wall is.
 - In backstroke, in any pool with ledges, at least one toe on each foot must be touching the wall.
 - Previously in breaststroke both arms and legs had to be in the same horizontal plane. That is no longer true. They still need to be simultaneous, but not in the same plane. This makes it easier for S&T to know what they are looking for.
 - Starters will now say, “take your marks” instead of “swimmers, take your mark.”
 - If someone does not think one of those rules should apply in GRAL, then you may open for discussion and provide a motion (with a counterproposal—which may be to keep the previous rule).
- **New** S&T officials need to attend an in person training. We need locations to hold these trainings, so please volunteer if you are able. We will need a television.
- Training dates for NEW S&T training; will be IN-PERSON
 - Wednesday, May 17, 7-9pm
 - Saturday, May 21, 1-3pm
 - Thursday June 8, 7-9pm
 - Sunday, June 11, 2-4pm
- All referees, new and returning, **MUST** attend one of the following synchronous roundtable virtual meeting
 - Monday, May 10, 7-7:45pm
 - Saturday, May 13, 5-5:45pm
 - Thursday, May 25, 7:30-8:15pm

- Saturday, June 10, 11-11:45am
- All other trainings are asynchronous—taken on your own time online.
- There is no clerk training or head table worker training from USA Swimming that applies to GRAL. But for S&T, ref, and starter we do recognize USA Swimming certification.

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

- If an official is a new certified USA official, then you need to send their name to Christy. If it is a new ref for GRAL, they do need to take a one-time GRAL test. The test is not about refereeing, it is about GRAL paperwork.
- There is no requirement for Safe Sport training in GRAL. There is the requirement for starters, coaches, S&T, and refs to have concussion training.
- The newest handbook for 2023 will be posted soon. One change that was voted in last year was to increase Champs fees to \$5/individual and \$20/relay. This will be reflected in the new handbook.
- We will have the option for people to order officials shirts. They don't need to wear a GRAL shirt, but Strokes & Turns judges, Referees, and Starters need to be in a white shirt with navy blue on the bottom while working. Those not working in those positions should avoid a white shirt. It's also better if coaches do not have white shirts.

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

- Ribbons are on their way and medals are already in storage.
- Will be talking to six teams with large amounts of inventory to get those ribbons back in order to redistribute them.

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

- 2023 Champs dates are Sunday July 30th and Monday July 31st. Sunday is 12 and under, Monday is 13 and over.
- Fees for 2023 will be the same as 2022 fees: \$5 per individual event and \$20 per relay.

Old Business: None

New Business

- Board meeting dates for 2023
 - Monday, May 1st virtual (**this is a change**)
 - Monday, June 5th at Ashcreek Clubhouse (registration monies are due, ribbons and DQ cards are distributed)
 - Monday, 7/10 at Colonies
 - Sunday, September 17th—annual meeting (in-person)
- Meet Dates:

- June 12th-17th--both teams to agree on the date: If you have not already talked with the other team to nail down a date, you need to do that ASAP and then send the exact date to Christy.
- Wednesday, June 21st
- Wednesday, June 28th
- Wednesday, July 5th
- Wednesday, July 12th
- TUESDAY, July 18th

Good of the league:

- Ashley from Kings Charter: at their pool board meeting they were discussing concessions and how long they should be open during a meet. Asked for feedback on how long other teams have their concessions available during the swim meet. Several teams said that they use a food truck. BG opens 15 min before the meet starts and ends when they run out of food or before the last event. TVW opens one hour before the meet and then wraps up at the end of the meet.

Motion to adjourn by Federal Club, second by Ashland.

Adjourned 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary