

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

January 3, 2022 via Zoom

Next Board Meeting February 2022 in person

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 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

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

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

- Kristin introduced herself; took over as president at September meeting, which is a 2-year term.
- Board survey that Kristin sent out: 58% wanted Monday meetings, 81% wanted virtual meetings whenever possible. Only 11% were willing to move Champs to a weekday to save money and those same 11% wanted to change the schedule. Majority rules, so we will have Monday meetings that are virtual when possible and will keep Champs with the same weekend schedule as in the past.
- A few teams will share in February regarding topics that teams stated they would like to hear about.
- We need a new treasurer. Keith has been in the position for quite a few years, and we need someone to take over as soon as possible. The new treasurer does not have to be a current board member, it could also be a person within your team, so please take the request back to them.
- We are creating a new medal that will replace the old medals with the monument in the middle. The new medal has a unisex swimmer in the middle. Those who didn't receive medals (about 30) in 2021 (we ran out the end of day

2) will receive them when the new ones come in, which will be in April. Furthermore, any swimmer who would like to trade their 2021 medal for the 2022 medals will be allowed to do so.

- Meeting minutes for annual September 2021 meeting were accepted into the record with no objections. Motion made by Tuckahoe Village West, seconded by Federal Club, approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Julie Zubris secretary@gralva.com

- Each team will need to submit proof of insurance (often called COI—certificate of insurance) directly to secretary by May 30th. It needs to have GRAL listed as an additional insured.

Treasurer Report: Keith Carroll (Bell Creek) treasurer@gralva.com

- Keith was absent, but Kristin presented the treasurer's report.
- Balance on hand is \$29,000.
- Need to buy a large number of medals and look at purchasing a system for virtual training.
- Annual 2022 team dues must be brought to the in-person meeting in February. Dues are \$200 per team.

VP of Officials Report: John Datovech (Ashland) officials@gralva.com

- Working with exec board to make changes to certification and recertification processes for some official's roles in order to simplify the process and recognize USA Swimming officials.
- John will put all the proposed changes in writing and send it out to teams so it can be reviewed by teams. These changes will be voted on at the February meeting

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

- League needs to investigate a new integrated testing service.
- We shouldn't need to do anything with software for this year. Most teams are using Swim Manager so that allows to give us the other software for free.
- If your team is interested in using Swim Manager, let Christy know and she will get you more info. There is a league price for each team of 3.5% per registration. Many teams pass that cost on to families.

- List of contacts on website is not updated yet but will be soon. The password to this information (and meeting minutes) is leneverett. Check the contacts as listed and make sure they are correct. Right now we don't need coaches, officials, or champs coordinator. Let Christy know if any changes need to be made.
- There was a problem with spam on the group address, so the names were changed and hopefully the problem has resolved. If you are still receiving spam messages, let Christy know.
- The calendar is updated on the website for meet dates and board meeting dates.
- Ads for coaches are posted on the website and facebook. If you would like her to post an ad, send her an email. We will only post ads for GRAL coaches.

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

- Nathan absent, so Kristin gave update
- Only thing right now is medals, which was addressed above.

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

- 2022 champs will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, 2022. Saturday will be 12 and under and Sunday will be 13 and over.
- Champs will be same format as in the past with a 1.5-hour lunch break. Start times aren't known until closer to the date.
- Possibly for 2022 there will be a new streaming system with Swim RVA.

Old Business

- Over the last few months, a committee met to discuss revising the bylaws. The committee included Roy Sabo (Milestone,) Shelley Morris (Raintree), Julie Zubris (Rockville), Kirsten Francis (Fox Hall), John Datovech (Ashland), and Christy Evanko (contractor, not employee of GRAL)
- Went through the highlights of proposed changes
 - Remove Len Everett info as it's on the website
 - Changes to application for new member club
 - Team removal from GRAL, change to 2/3 majority
 - Treasurer account--how we audit the treasurer process
 - Clarified membership structures
 - Clarifying info regarding swimmer exemptions: 3 types (employee, medical, mixed relays due to small size). This info is on the website under the leneverett password

- Code of conduct—added that it includes all swim team business, not just swim meets; described possible sanction if code of conduct is not followed
- Meet entries: if adding swimmers to a meet it needs to be sent to Christy, coaches, and computer rep on other team
- Board rep doesn't need hard copy of handbook to phone
- Parent rep position has specific duties, proposed that some of the responsibilities can be given to anyone on the team as long as they are completed
- Schedule is determined based on ranking (formula that Christy has)
- Add to coaches' section that concussion training required (only one time)
- Changes to officials training, as already discussed earlier in the meeting
- No more false start rope holder
- Head table worker certified
- Away teams bring starter (instead of starting gun)
- Grievance procedure was changed. It will include a standardized form; decisions are final (no appeal); grievance committee is a subset of the exec board
- Added Len Everett award scoring info
- A lot of clean up in language and removal of redundant language
- Proposed changes will be sent out by email. Board reps need to review them and be prepared to vote on changes in February

New Business

- 2022 meeting dates: were sent out by email and on calendar. 2/7 (person), 3/14, 4/11, 5/2, 6/6, TUESDAY 7/5
- 2022 meets: were sent out by email and are on the calendar. They will be in person (two teams on one deck). The only meet with flexibility is week one. That meet may occur between Monday 6/13 and Saturday 6/18. Results must be uploaded by 6pm on the 18th
- Division Calculations: that is the process for how we divide the divisions. Bylaws committee discussed the best way for determining divisions. We have 28 teams, we need an even number of teams, so 2 divisions with 6 teams and 2 with 8 teams. We want the least amount of variability between the teams to make the divisions as competitive as possible. So we have proposed a change how we determine divisions in the future. That will change the divisions for 2022. In February we will vote on the proposed change. What we are voting for is the process for how we determine divisions rather than who you want to swim against this year.
- Insurance update will be provided in February

No questions from Board.

Adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary