

## Greater Richmond Aquatic League

### Board of Directors Meeting

July 11, 2022 at Colonies

Next Board Meeting SUNDAY, September 18, 2022 in person, location TBD

*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, Church Run, Colonies, Federal Club, Fox Hall, 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: Chestnut Oaks, Dominion Club

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

- Teams have been really great about filling in for other teams with needed officials positions. Thank you so much for all the teamwork.
- Last season, Rockville had a pilot for a semi-automatic timing system, which did not go well. This year, Colonies is piloting a system called Time Drops, another semi-automatic timing system. We are trying to figure out if there is some type of system that is accurate, cost effective, and makes everyone's life easier that can be used across the league by interested teams in the future. It starts automatically, stops with the timer, and also has a back-up stopwatch timer.
- We will need three executive officers to be voted in at the annual meeting: Secretary, Champs Coordinator, and VP of Officials. The VP of Officials needs to be a USA certified strokes and turns judge.
- Scholarships: We have received quite a few applications and are waiting on the recommendations to arrive (due by the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- Mid-Season Reminders: Visiting team should always come to a meet with stopwatches, ribbon box, extra ribbons, extra DQ cards, and a charged starter. The last three can stay in the car unless they are needed.

- Weather (questions have arisen because of Week 2): The rule says that you can't cancel a meet based on the weather forecast. If the weather is awful at 4pm, you can tell your families to stay home until a call is made and keep them updated. Families do not need to sit in their car beginning at 4pm. In the case of weather such as in week 2, you can wait to do set up as well.
- Meeting minutes for June 2022 meeting were accepted into the record with no objections. Motion made by Federal Club, seconded by Hanover, approved unanimously.

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

- None: Everything has been received for the season.

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

- Beginning of June, GRAL had approximately \$12,000 in the account.
- Right now, the account has approximately \$30,881. That high number is because we brought in \$24,600 last month for registration. In the next month, we will have lots of expenses related to Champs.
- We have spent \$3500 on regular season expenses, such as the storage unit, computer software, and officials expenditures.
- Have also bought umbrella insurance for Champs; combined with regular season expenses, we have spent \$5700.
- Budget is on target at this point in the season.

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

- Have been receiving feedback from coaches and officials in the league that there have been too many "no calls," where S&T judges are missing a lot of calls and it is happening frequently. Referees need to be watching the S&T officials to be sure they are making disqualification calls as appropriate. Missed calls happen, but S&T need to step up into the splash zone to be able to see clearly, be scanning all the lanes equally (not fixating on one particular lane), and raise their hand if they make a call so the ref can see it. If the ref sees an issue, the ref needs to speak with the S&T official during the meet, and may need to switch out the S&T official for the rest of the half as a last resort. Coaches may also feel free to bring their concerns respectfully to the ref during the meet.
- Will be sending out emails in the near future asking for officials for Champs.

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

- Christy has been receiving a lot of emails from parent reps about how to contact other teams. Please let your parent reps know where and how to find that info on the website (under the board tab, password leneverett).
- Parents should not be calling Christy, so please try to get issues from parents and then the board rep can bring them to Christy and the exec board.
- There is no rule about where home team and visiting teams sit at the meets.
- Concussion list is posted on the website. Pebble Creek is the only team that has every certified official complete concussion training. It's a once and done training, and then the official should send a screen shot of their certificate to Christy. S&T and starters must take the training, as well as coaches (all the coaches have completed it).
- Coaches may want to look at the events in which there are entering swimmers for the last two meets, specifically the short free (25 and 50) and other short strokes. Coaches need to make sure they have all swum these events once so they can participate in it in a Champs relay. Coaches can look at a 2022 only Top Times list to see who needs it.

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

- If you need DQ cards, we have some up front. Get them before you leave.
- If your team is running short on ribbons, Nathan can get them to you within 48 hours.
- Champs Medals that you received tonight were the ones that were missing from last summer (we ran out).
- The new medals look different (the ribbons) because to have them look the same, they would be more than \$1.00 more per medal.

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

- First email went out to Champs Coordinators last Thursday. Another one will go out this evening with forms.
- The eligibility forms will be sent out the day after the last meet. You can find Champs swimmers info online right now.
- \$5.00 per individual event; \$20.00 per relay.
- Senior swimmers need to be sent to Allison; let her know even if there are no seniors.
- Battlefield Green, Burkwood, Mechanicsville, Raintree, and Dominion Club have not sent team logos to Christy. Please do that ASAP.
- Thursday, 7/14 Champs Meeting via Zoom
  1. 6:30-7:30pm champs coordinators must attend
  2. 7:30-8pm computer rep

3. 8-8:30pm coaches; new coaches and coaches who didn't pass their audit the year prior must attend
- Friday, 7/22 final Champs electronic entries are due by 10pm. Sooner is always better.
  - Saturday, 7/23 Champs registration in person 6-9pm, place TBD. Each team will sign up for a 15 minute slot via sign-up genius to bring all their paperwork and payment. They will have a registration check list to make sure everything is brought. Champs Coordinator does not have to be the one to come; may send it with someone else. Need to bring banner that night.
  - Saturday, 7/23 the final Champs video is due to be sent electronically. The format should be .wmv, mp4, or .mov
  - Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup> t-shirt and heat sheet pick up
    - East: Atlee 6-8pm or Friday, 7/29 8:30-10am
    - West: Tuckahoe Village West 6-8pm

#### Old Business

- Champs Umbrella Insurance: Purchased and in place.
- Last chance for replacement of 2021 medals will be at Champs.

#### New Business

- Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, location TBD. It's a big meeting—we look at suggestions from the year to consider making needed changes at the January meeting. September is the last meeting of the calendar year.
- A team is unable to host their home meets this year, and instead is renting Nova Regency for their home meets. Originally we said no wedges on the blocks, no guards for feet for backstroke, no score board, no touch pads, and judges couldn't be assigned more than 4 lanes. The team would like to use the touchpads for their last two meets. Kings Charter made a motion to not use touch pads, Canterbury seconded. The vote sounds like a majority to pass so teams were asked to raise their hands for a count. Then discussion ensued whether touchpads would provide a competitive advantage to swimmers (the times being faster) and whether it would cause issues in the future with teams wanting to hold meets with automatic timing systems. Kristin was asked how TimeDrops was any different than the use of touchpads. Kristin explained that the three key differences are that TimeDrops is semi-automated, not automated, we have a license to run TimeDrops, the Colonies are also collecting stopwatch times for every race. Additionally, the use of TimeDrops is a pilot that was decided on during the off season and could potentially benefit other teams. automatic system, and touchpads are a fully automatic system. Took a second vote, 5 teams voted nay (they voted to allow the use of touchpads): Church Run, Milestone, Colonies, Burkwood, and Hungary Creek.

The majority voted that touchpads are not allowed, so they will not be used in meets 5 and 6. We can discuss this issue and clarify it in the handbook at the September meeting.

- Canterbury lost a swimmer on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Julia Budzinski, and this is the second swimmer they have lost in the last couple years. We are asking (not requiring) that teams have a moment of silence at 5:55pm before the start of the meet on Wednesday, 7/13. Julie will send out an email to teams with info if your team would like to participate in the moment of silence.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Federal Club, seconded by Hanover.

Adjourned 7:58 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary