

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

March 6th, 2023, via Teams

Next Board Meeting Monday, April 10th, 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 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

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

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

- We will need to fill at least three Exec Board roles in September. Please let us know if you, or someone from your team is interested in serving as the Secretary, VP of Champs, or Treasurer, and maybe VP of Equipment.
- This is the time to start your Officials outreach- who is returning this season, who is not, who needs to complete training and/or quizzes to be certified. I would encourage the Officials coordinators to send personal emails to each team official to let them know if they are up to date or in need of training. For the officials returning- I would reply with your team schedule (emphasize the home meets) and asking which meets they are not able to volunteer.
 - Question from TDC: what if a team will be grossly understaffed for officials? Answer: consider the incentives you can give; do early outreach if possible, especially in person; telling potential officials they have no other volunteer responsibilities than official; reach out to individuals that you know based on their strengths (teachers make great clerks!); if none of those options work, reach out to your visiting teams and then if there are holes, let GRAL know and we can possibly help by finding someone else (that is not a long-term solution, but can help in the short-term).

- The February meeting minutes had an error, which was corrected—TimeDrops was stated as costing \$295 per year for the subscription but it is actually \$200 per year. Motion by Hanover to accept February meeting minutes as amended, second by Ashland; approved unanimously.

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

- Please read meeting minutes—we appreciate when corrections are needed and the info is there for your team. If you are absent from a meeting, then you especially need to go read them.
- 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. In the off season, give it a week, but if you don't hear back from her, please send it again.
- Certificate of Insurance for your pool will be due by May 30th. Wait to send it until you renew for the 2023 season.

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

- Started February with \$27k in the account; ended with \$30k. Incoming cash was from dues. One check was sent out for medals. Overall not much is happening with finances at this time of year
- We need a treasurer for next year. The GRAL treasurer position is really easy; Debi has been the treasurer for multiple organizations and GRAL is the easiest one. Please consider taking on the role!
- Thank you for all the prompt responses via email to approve the budget.

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

- We are going to have four in-person S&T trainings: two in May and two in June. If we are inundated with interest, we will have more sessions. These trainings are required for new S&T but any S&T or Referee can attend.
- Current USA certified officials in the position of S&T or starter don't need to certify with GRAL for those positions. Christy receives the list from VA Swimming and if she recognizes a name, she will add it to the GRAL officials list. If she doesn't recognize a name and misses someone, just have someone from your team send her an email. If their certification lapses, they receive a one year grace period.
- A current USA Swimming certified referee only needs to take one extra test one time to be GRAL certified. Otherwise, they don't need to take all the tests like a GRAL only certified ref needs to do. They should still attend the roundtable if possible; they have a lot of experience to share.
- There is no clerk certification from USA swimming that is comparable to GRAL.
- We don't certify computer, but will do training this year.
- The Referee roundtable is required for ALL refs, returning or new. It will be an online zoom meeting, approximately 40 minutes.

- Training dates for IN-PERSON S&T training
 - Wednesday, May 17, 7-9pm
 - Sunday May 21, 1-3pm
 - Thursday June 8, 7-9pm
 - Sunday, June 11, 2-4pm
 - Looking for locations: they must have a TV available. If you can host a training, please email officials@galva.com.
- Referees, new and returning, MUST attend a roundtable meeting via Zoom:
 - Monday, May 8, 7-7:45pm
 - Saturday, May 13, 5-5:45pm
 - Thursday, May 25, 7:30-8:15pm
 - Saturday, June 10, 11-11:45am
- Reminder that all positions are virtual training except for Strokes and Turns—that is the only one that is required to be in person. Only new S&T are required to be in person but any S&T may attend. Returning S&T will have to attend in person or complete the training online if their certification is due to be renewed this year.
- Question received by email regarding the officials list: Christy asked teams to let her know if people need to be removed from the officials list, but those people are still on there at this time. The list online won't change until Christy reports who has taken their tests, but she has removed them if you let her know.

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

- 2023 Time Standards are posted on the website.
- If you have Swim Manager, your meets will just show up in there this month. Otherwise, registration will be sent out at a later date.

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

- In the process of ordering ribbons. There are six teams who have a large number (thousands!) of ribbons left over. We will collect them and then redistribute to everyone. Nathan will send an email to those teams to coordinate that.
- We have more than enough DQ cards in storage.
- Ribbons and DQ cards will be handed out at the June meeting

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

- 2023 Champs dates are Sunday July 30th and Monday July 31st. Sunday is 12 and under, Monday is 13 and over.
- 2024 Champs is secured at SwimRVA for Sat July 20th for 12 and unders, Sun July 21st for 13 and over.

Old Business: None

New Business

- Board meeting dates for 2023
 - Monday, April 10th (virtual)
 - Monday, May 1st at Fox Hall

- 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
 - Wednesday, June 21st
 - Wednesday, June 28th
 - Wednesday, July 5th
 - Wednesday, July 12th
 - TUESDAY, July 18th

Good of the league:

- Some new parent reps have asked for a roundtable to share knowledge and tips, but Kristin needs to know who is interested in either sharing or participating. You will be receiving a survey shortly to forward to your parent reps. Will hold the roundtable sometime in April.
- Question from Canterbury about TimeDrops for 2023: referred to February minutes for all the details. Colonies will use it again this year and Christy will write a manual. In 2024 teams that would like to try it may begin using it.

Motion to adjourn by Atlee, second by Canterbury.

Adjourned 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary