

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

February 6th, 2023, at Milestone

Next Board Meeting Monday, March 6th, 2023, virtual

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 7:07 pm

Annual league dues checks collected by Debi Knott, Treasurer.

Roll Call:

- Present: Ashcreek, Ashland, Atlee, Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Burkwood, Chestnut Oaks, Colonies, Dominion Club, 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: Canterbury, Church Run

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

- We will need to fill four 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, VP of Equipment, or Treasurer.
- Time Drops is Semi-automatic timing system. The Colonies asked to pilot TimeDrops for 2022. Thank you to the leaders from the Colonies, Burkwood, Canterbury and Raintree, who all used the system last season. We appreciate their ownership of learning the system and preparing adequately because the pilot went smoothly.
 - We appreciate the three visiting teams for their openness to trying TimeDrops and for providing feedback to the Colonies and the Exec Board.
 - The Exec Board spent time talking through many details to determine if we are ready to expand this pilot to other teams. We have decided it would be best for us to work with the Colonies for another season to gather more information and then create a GRAL TimeDrops manual for teams.

- Raintree, AshCreek and Twin Hickory will be swimming at the Colonies this summer, so we ask that these teams agree to using TimeDrops and they make notes about their experience.
- Our plan is to create a manual and list of required items (such as hot spot, non-Apple tablet, etc.) before the 2024 season. We will determine which teams are interested in implementing in initiating TimeDrops in 2024 and the league will identify up to 3 more teams to join the pilot. We want to provide adequate support so that we can ensure a good experience for all GRAL swimmers and families.
- Cost: \$815 initial fee to purchase the system (includes annual subscription for the 1st year), and then \$295 annual subscription. Plus will need a tablet, hot spot, Meet Manager upgrade, etc. Minimum of \$1100 startup fee.
Note that Mark Rakes at Colonies let us know there was an error in the cost. The yearly subscription is actually \$200.
- Hungary Creek, Fox Hall, Twin Hickory, Raintree, and Dominion Club are interested in joining the pilot for 2024.
- Motion by Federal Club to accept January meeting minutes, second by Twin Hickory; approved unanimously.

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

- Board meeting minutes are posted to the GRAL website. Under the board tab, go to board meeting minutes, and then use 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

- Nothing financial has happened between January and February meeting, so no official report. We have approximately \$27k in the account.
- Budget will be sent out this week. Please reply by email with your vote to approve the budget since we can't officially spend any money until it is approved.

***Note: An email was sent to all Board members on 2/8/23 that included the 2023 budget and a form for voting to approve the budget. As of 2/12/23 25 teams responded, and all 25 voted to approve the budget: Rockville Dolphin Club, Goochland, Hungary Creek, Chestnut Oaks, Federal Club, Tuckahoe Village West, Atlee, Kings Charter, Foxhall, Ashcreek, Wyndham, Old Church, Mechanicsville, Bell Creek, Colonies, Wellesley, Church Run, Ashland, Wembly, Twin Hickory, Battlefield Green, Hanover, Raintree, Burkwood, and Milestone

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

- Virtual trainings over the last few years have been successful in some areas, but not in others. There were a record number of disqualifications at Champs. Therefore, new strokes and turns officials training will be in person.
- We need locations with a TV for trainings. If your facility could host, let us know. Federal Club is willing to host a training.
- USA Strokes and Turns officials will still be grandfathered in.
- Ref round table will be on Zoom for both new and returning refs.
- All other positions will have online trainings, including a training for computer rep.
- Will have training dates in May and June, both nights and weekends; will release dates soon.

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

- If you are interested in Swim Manager, which is a web-based registration system that works with Meet Manager, speak with Christy for more information and to get a meeting with Hytek set up. Cost is a straight 3.5% of every registration. Coaches can do all entries online and your team can track volunteers and send emails. You can pay extra for a website. Swim Manager eliminates your need for Team Manager. You only use Swim Manager and Meet Manager, and using SM takes a lot of work off your computer rep.

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

- We have ordered some new medals and cases.
- Starters are backordered, so please order ASAP if needed. If your team's starter is not working, check the battery as that is replaceable.
- GRAL has several starter stands and a few mics if you need one.

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.
- Will start sharing more info in July.

Old Business

- 2024 Schedule: Many teams asked the Exec Board to consider a change to the 2024 schedule to better align with the new school calendars in Hanover and Henrico Schools. Two motions were made at the February meeting but neither passed. Since this requires a decision, we needed to determine a majority vote to move forward. A survey was sent to each team on 1/15/23 and teams were asked to vote by 1/22/23. As of today, we have votes from all 28 teams.
 - 15 teams: Rockville, Ashland, Old Church, Dominion Club, Burkwood, Raintree, Wembly, Hanover, Kings Charter, Church Run, Fox Hall,

Ashcreek, Battlefield Green, Twin Hickory, and Bell Creek voted to start the season the week of June 3rd and host champs on 7/20-21

- 13 teams: Wellesley, Pebble Creek, Canterbury, Hungary Creek, TV West, Wyndham, Chestnut Oaks, Goochland, Atlee, Milestone, and Mechanicsville voted for the week of June 10th.
- There is a majority, so Wednesday, 6/5/24, will be the first meet of the season (won't need flexibility of dates because everyone will be out of school). Champs will be 7/20-7/21.
- Relay Carnival: The original proposal for a Relay Carnival did not involve GRAL as the money collector or contract signer. It also wasn't shared that an Exec Board member would be needed as a leader. Therefore, we have asked that the original proposal be revised and shared again for consideration in 2024. Many of you would like to see this event come together so please let us know if you are interested in taking on a leadership role to help with the planning and execution.

New Business

- 2024 Champs location- An email was sent on 2/2/23 with a variety of details about the price, capacity, and features from SwimRVA and NOVA. We need to decide about the 2024 Champs location so we can attempt to secure weekend dates for the event. Before asking for a motion- does anyone have any questions or want to open a discussion?
 - ARA: Where would clerk of course be at Nova? Possibly behind the computer desk or out in the covered parking deck
 - Difficult to regulate clerk of course or the deck at Nova.
 - There will be no "on deck" at Nova. Between events the swimmers will have to be outside so parents can come in and see their kids swim.
 - JRAC had complaints about car fumes being an issue because of the covered parking deck at Nova.
 - Nova can't do meters, so we would need to be at SwimRVA (or another facility with that capability) every other year.
 - Motion from Wembly for 2024 Champs to be held at SwimRVA, second by Hanover. Fox Hall opposed; Dominion Club abstained. Motion passed for champs to be held at SwimRVA in 2024.
- Board meeting dates for 2023
 - Monday, March 6th (virtual)
 - Monday, April 10th (virtual)
 - Monday, May 1st at Fox Hall
 - Monday, June 5th at Ashcreek Clubhouse (registration monies are due, ribbons are distributed)
 - Monday, 7/10 (in-person, location TBD)
 - Sunday, September 17th—annual meeting (in-person)

Good of the league:

- New Time Standards posted? No, but Christy will post them in March
- ARA: Do we need to have a policy that pools must swim in their own pool? The only requirements we have now are about a pool joining the league, but there are

no rules about where we hold our meets. Last year we had a situation where an accommodation was necessary, and we would do that if needed, but do we need language in the by-laws that says that meets are held at their own pool or at least at an approved pool in the league in case of an issue with a home team pool?

- Colonies: Revisited discussion of changing the relay requirements to require two males and two females. Some discussion of pros and cons. GRAL was founded on the premise that we want to be inclusive of the largest number of swimmers possible; looking at the numbers it seems that a change to this rule would hamper more swimmers than help and possibly exclude more swimmers rather than including more. A parent at Ashland gave the suggestion, but both the coach and the Ashland Board feels that a rule change would be a bad idea, and that opinion is coming from a bigger team. Dominion Club talked about the possibility of kids swimming an age group up; possibly it could be tied to time standards. But how would that work for kids with no times or novice times?
- Motion from Colonies to form a committee in off season to discuss relay composition; second by Milestone. Motion passed. At September meeting we will ask for volunteers to be on this committee.

Motion to adjourn by Wembly, second by Hanover.

Adjourned 8:03 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary