

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

April 7, 2025, virtual

Next meeting: Monday May 5, 2025 at 7pm—Federal Club

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 7:02pm

Roll Call

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

President's Report: Julie Zubris (Rockville) President@gralva.com

- At the end of 2025 we will need several new Exec Board members: President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Training & Certification, and VP of Equipment and Technology. We have someone in place for President and possibly have a VP of T&C, but the other positions are open. Ask your teams for anyone interested. You don't have to be GRAL board rep to take on one of the positions.
- There are still a few teams advertising for coach openings on the website. If you are done with hiring and would like to remove the postings from the website, please email president@gralva.com.
- The new website is ready. If you Google "Greater Richmond Aquatic League Swimtopia" it will come up. But if you just google GRAL it still takes you to the old one with our domain of www.gralva.com. We are just trying to get the domain switched over this weekend. We did just realize today that Board meeting minutes are only viewable by those with an account. If you haven't registered your swimmer yet and aren't a team admin, you won't have an account, so you cannot see them. Julie will attempt to "unlock" them tonight since not everyone has registered their swimmer and has a swimtopia account.

- Teams please send in your logos to President to be included on the bio page of the website. Your logo is included, as well as your address and website, and if you want a contact person and/or email, that's fine too.
- Time Standards have been sent out (the one emailed was missing one random time) and been posted to the new website.
- SwimTopia (ST):
 - For billing we are using the 90/10 plan instead of their normal billing. This means we will pay for 90% of our numbers of swimmers now (based on previous season) and then in July we will pay for the remaining 10%, based on actual season numbers. The first payment was made in the last month (\$6,768)
 - Teams should still have access to the sample meet so they can be playing around and practicing.
 - Just a reminder that GRAL will have trainings on Meet Maestro and meet entries with coaches and computer reps in the spring. I will work on getting them scheduled for the second week of May and send out info. Trying to keep all the graduations in mind with scheduling.
 - The ST customer service is phenomenal, so if you are struggling with something, reach out to them. They are very helpful and timely in their communication.
- For tracking team contacts, we are planning to do that through ST. The league roles have been pushed down to each team (Board rep, parent rep, coach, champs coordinator, computer rep, officials coordinator). As swimmers register and their parents are in the system, you (or your admin) will need to go in assign a person to each role. It's one thing that is really simple to do.
- Teams need to be getting organized as season starts earlier: registration, officials, etc. For officials, 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.
- In the past GRAL differentiated between non-competitive swimmers (did not pay registration fees) and those who competed on the team (paid registration). With the switch to Swimtopia, all swimmers registered on that platform must pay \$9.40 registration fee. If you have a pre-team and don't want to pay fees for them, you must use google forms or some other system for tracking them.
- March meeting minutes: Battlefield Green made motion to approve, Milestone seconded. None opposed; accepted into the record.

Secretary Report: Michelle Shores (Battlefield Green) secretary@gralva.com

- Certificate of Insurance is due in May. Please work on getting that emailed to me as soon as you can. Ensure that it has GRAL listed as an additional insurer.

Treasurer Report: Cindy Anderson (Raintree) treasurer@gralva.com

- Paid for Swimtopia and ribbons in the last month.
- Current balance is \$33,329.

VP of Officials Report: Tom Connolly (Pebble Creek) officials@gralva.com

- S&T training are 5/18, 6/1, 6/8. **Need location volunteers for these!** Also if you would like to pay \$35 and take the USA swim officials training, it is a great course. The training videos are live. If you see errors related to swimtopia, etc. reach out to Tom.
- Ref Roundtables TBD.

VP of Training and Certification: Debi Knott (Wembly) training@gralva.com

- The current officials list is posted on the new swimtopia site under >Resources >Officials. If you see an error, please email training@gralva.com.
- Debi reviewed the clerk course training videos and they are correct, but added more instruction so that they are more clear.
- The courses are posted on the new website under the training tab.

VP of Equipment (and technology) Report: Moira Sweazey (Hanover) equipment@gralva.com

- You will have enough ribbons for your 6 meets regardless if they are home or away, but every team will provide their own ribbons at a meet. Home team will no longer provide for both teams. Swimtopia allows printing of labels by team, so that will be the easiest way to follow the new process.
- Medals are going to be ordered soon.

Computer Coordinator Report: Ralph Jones ralph@gralva.com.

- Optimistic about the upcoming season using swimtopia.

VP of Champs Report: open position champs@gralva.com

- Champs is scheduled for July 19-20, 2025 at SwimRVA. 12 and unders will be Saturday, 13 and over on Sunday.

Old Business

- Based on discussion at March 2025 meeting, a clarification was added to the handbook regarding clerk assistants. 2 clerk assistants.. one from home and one from away team. If a team wants more than one they need to pull from their own pool of volunteers.

New Business

- 2025 GRAL Meeting dates—we need locations for June, July, and annual meetings)
 - Monday, May 5th (Federal Club)
 - Monday, June 2nd (in-person—registration is collected and we hand out ribbons) **Need location**
 - Monday, July 7th (in-person) **Need location**
- 2025 Meet Dates
Meet 1 = Wednesday, June 4th

Meet 2 = Wednesday, June 11th

Meet 3 = Wednesday, June 18th **teams need to let us know if it not on the 18th

Meet 4 = Wednesday, June 25th

Meet 5 = Wednesday, July 2nd

Meet 6 = Tuesday, July 8th (must be on Tuesday because of the tight timeline for Champs)

Champs = Saturday, July 19th and Sunday, July 20th

- Other important dates for the season
 - Online registration form due from teams by 11:59pm Friday May 23 (that is Memorial Day weekend, so plan accordingly). This will be a simpler form than in years past.
 - Registration paid at June Board meeting (6/2) \$9.40 a swimmer this year (same \$7 as last year, with an additional \$2.40 per swimmer for SwimTopia). The form will likely change, but will still need to attest that all swimmers are members in good standing.
 - Coaches test due by 11:59pm Friday May 30th.
 - Coaches meeting Saturday, 5/31 at 9am—in person. Coaches will need to have viewed the SwimTopia training by this date as well.

Good of the League

The teams that are already on the swimtopia platform. should get a refund since they are already on the platform. Reach out to ST.

Adjourned at 7:43pm Old church motion and Battlefield green second.

Submitted by Michelle Shores, secretary