

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

February 2, 2026 Virtual

Next Board Meeting Monday, March 2nd at 7pm (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 7:00pm

Roll Call:

- Present: AshCreek, Ashland, Atlee, Bell Creek, Canterbury, 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: Battlefield Green, Burkwood, Church Run,

President Report: Roy Sabo (Milestone) president@gralva.com

- January meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Secretary Report: vacant

- GRAL is in need of a new Secretary, as current officer has resigned (due to work commitments)
- Please update the team roles in SwimTopia ASAP (e.g., board rep, parent rep, Champs coordinator, head coach, assistant coaches, officials coordinator, etc.).

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

- Final proposed 2026 budget projects running a ~\$10k deficient, resulting in a projected ~\$23k year-end carry-over (in line with carry-over from before Covid).
- Please mail registration checks (\$200; made out to GRAL or Greater Richmond Aquatic League) to Cindy Anderson, 2108 Willowick Lane, Henrico, VA 23238.

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

- It is never too early to start recruiting for officials and certified positions, so begin talking to families now, especially families of younger swimmers.

VP of Training and Certification: Steve Harness (Bell Creek) training@gralva.com

- No updates

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

- No updates

VP of Technology Report: Mark Rakes (Colonies) technology@gralva.com

- Keep officials and officers up-to-date on SwimTopia
- Meet schedules have been updated in SwimTopia. Teams should double-check their meets (dates, home/away) for accuracy, letting VP of Technology know if there are any errors.
- Please notify President, VP of Technology and Computure Coordinator if teams decide to switch meet location

VP of Champs Report: Heather Jensen (Church Run) champs@gralva.com

- Absent; no updates
- (From January): Please assign your Champs coordinator well-before the season, as we will begin planning for Champs much earlier than in past seasons (likely April or May).

Computer Coordinator Report: Ralph Jones ralph@gralva.com

- No updates

Old Business:

- Proposal to remove Relay Divisions
 - Motioned by Pebble Creek, seconded by Federal Club
 - Dominion Club made several comments against motion, including lack of adherence to league commitment to equity, it's potential for favoring larger teams (with more relays), significant reduction in available points, and several others. These points were echoed and seconded by many teams.
 - Old Church suggested no changes now and taking the time to consider a more comprehensive proposal after the season
 - Tuckahoe Village West suggested to ask SwimTopia for options as to what other leagues do for relays
 - Points in favor (from several team reps and Exec. Board members) focused on simplicity and improving meet experience for coaches and volunteers
 - Motion failed (19 opposed)

New Business

- **2026 GRAL Board Meeting Dates** (tentative plan—dates likely to stick, but in person/virtual may change)
 - Monday, March 2nd (virtual)
 - Monday, April 6th (virtual)
 - Monday, May 4th (TBD)
 - Monday, June 1st (in-person to collect registration and we distribute ribbons, TBD)
 - Monday, July 6th (in-person, TBD)
- **2026 Meet Dates**
 - Meet 1: Wednesday, June 3rd
 - Meet 2: Wednesday, June 10th
 - Meet 3: Wednesday, June 17th
 - Meet 4: Wednesday, June 24th
 - Meet 5: Wednesday, July 1st
 - Meet 6: **Tuesday**, July 7th (must be on Tuesday due to tight timeline for Champs)
 - Champs: Saturday, July 18th and Sunday, July 19th

Good of the league

- Question from Pebble Creek: could we consider a tee-shirt vendor at Champs (the type with several shirt / sweater options with ability to print teams, names etc. directly on shirts)
- From President: the league runs because of the board; each team, through their GRAL rep, has the proposal and motioning power, so please bring any topics to the meetings.

Motion to adjourn by Pebble, second Tuckahoe Village West.

Respectfully submitted by Roy Sabo, President (acting as Secretary)