

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

May 4, 2026 Virtual

Next Board Meeting Monday, June 1st at 7pm (Location: Battlefield Green,
6211 Rolling Forrest Circle, Mechanicsville, VA)

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 7:03pm

Roll Call:

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

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

- April meeting minutes approved without objection
- GRAL remains in need of a Secretary
- Please update the team roles in SwimTopia ASAP (e.g., board rep, parent rep, Champs coordinator, head coach, assistant coaches, officials coordinator, etc.)
- Coach's Meeting will be held Saturday, May 30, at 9 am (location: Atlee Rec, 9411 Staple Lane, Mechanicsville, Va)
- Registration:
 - Recall that if an athlete is listed on your team's Swimtopia Account, your team is responsible for the registration fee, regardless of whether they are competing in GRAL
 - Email with team registration (for fees) will be sent out shortly

- Registration fees (\$11 per swimmer as listed in Swimtopia) due at June Board meeting
- Len Everett Scholarship
 - Application Deadline: June 12
 - Letters of Recommendation Due: June 26
- Exemptions
 - Three types: employee (for swimmers switching teams for coaching/life guarding), special needs (ex. assistance, uniforms), and relay teams
 - Teams can start applying for exemptions now
 - Exemption application forms can be found on GRAL website (<https://www.gralva.com/forms>)
- Certificate of Insurance
 - Please email your team's certificate of insurance to president@galva.com by June 1.
 - Ensure that GRAL is listed as additional insurer

Secretary Report: vacant

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

- Paid league insurance, storage unit, medals
- Filed taxes for 2025

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

- Stroke & Turn Virtual Training Dates
 - 4/26 @ 6pm
 - 5/17 @ 7pm
 - 5/31 @ 6pm
- Referee Roundtable (Virtual) Dates
 - 5/26 @ 6pm
 - TBD, coming soon
- New Referee Training (Virtual)
 - TBD, coming soon
- Please continue recruiting for officials and certified positions.

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

- Online trainings are open for all positions
- Email VP of Training and Certification if you have questions about Concussion Training
- Questions / Discussion / Clarification
 - Do all returning referees only have to attend one roundtable discussion?
 - In addition to any online courses/tests, returning referees only need to attend one referee roundtable
 - After two years of S&T certification, do S&T officials need to attend virtual meetings?
 - No, they only need to complete any online courses/test, as relevant

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

- Ribbons have been ordered and will be distributed to teams June Board Meeting

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

- Keep officials and officers up-to-date on SwimTopia
- Ensure your Head Coach shared role is up-to-date
- Duplicate athletes in Swimtopia
 - Some athletes are appearing twice
 - Please identify the correct registrants and merge any duplicate athlete data accordingly; Ralph is on-hand to help

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

- Please assign your Champs coordinator now, as we will begin planning for Champs much earlier than in past seasons
- Champs Planning Schedule
 - 5/20: Champs kick-off meeting (virtual) for champs coordinators and other volunteers
 - 6/16: Champs follow-up meeting (virtual)

Computer Coordinator Report: Ralph Jones ralph@gralva.com

- No updates

Old Business:

- None

New Business

- Upcoming Board Meetings
 - (1) Monday, June 1st (Location Battlefield Green)
 - (2) Monday, July 6th (Location The Federal Club)

Good of the league

- Question on where to find Event Boards / Markers (for calling events to Clerk of Course)
 - The Dominion Club offered assistance
- Question on Time Drops: are away teams notified that they do not need Table Workers?
 - Yes. Best Practice: in meet welcome letter, notify away team that Time Drops will be used and that Table Workers are not required

Meeting adjourned:

Motion by Pebble Creek,
Seconded by The Dominion Club

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