

GRAL January 2024 Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 7pm, The Federal Club

1. Call to Order—Happy New Year!

2. Roll Call

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

3. **President's Opening Comments:** Julie Zubris (Rockville) President@gralva.com

- a. Welcome to new Board members and Exec Board members. Julie is the new President. She has been secretary over the past couple of years and has been on the board for 8 years. Michelle Shores is the new secretary. (battlefield green) She has been on the board for 5 years as a GRAL rep. Our equipment VP is Moira Sweazey. Welcome to the new GRAL board reps. New process of updating the contacts for the board. A google form was created and will be sent out to the board. Each role needs to fill out a contact form for that role and it will populate to a spreadsheet.
- b. 2024 divisions and meet schedule are available on the website. Remember our season starts a week early!
- c. Restructuring of the Executive Board and changes made to the paid GRAL position.
 - Computer Coordinator position. No applications. Position description sent via email. Email sent out in November. President will send the job description out again. Major duties of this position include: Registrations, champs entry, processing meets for the week, Auditing the relays, updating the computer manual. Microsoft Access is the software that is used. Time intensive during the swim season. Suggestion to send email from GRAL, not personal email address. Is the salary set in stone? No- It can be discussed.
- d. Currently there is no VP of Champs- Does not have to be a GRAL board member. Allison is the outgoing person. Please ask your clubs if there is anyone that would like to serve in this position!
- e. TimeDrops- People wanting to use the new system were supposed to email the GRAL board with intent. Only a handful requested to use it. We will revisit when we have more support to the board and Christy's position has been filled. The board is unable to take on any more new pilot groups this year, due to the lack of troubleshooting support with the system.
- f. Reminder that the season is starting earlier. GRAL has no rules about temp of water for practice, that is up to individual teams. If your pool has temp. rules, then those rules are enforced. No board recommendation can be made at this time concerning temperature. If the board would like to make changes to the bylaws, a motion needs to be set to be

voted on. Greg to send a motion via email regarding the earliest time a meet can be canceled.

- g. Meet results- In the past, Christy has stayed up all night processing the meets for 28 teams. With only one person in charge of processing the meets, this is not a realistic expectation. New standard for meet results to be processed within 48 hours..
 - h. Role of Exec Board vs. Role of Board- Exec board is not the rule makers. The full board makes a motion to change a bylaw. The board has to raise a concern and put it on the agenda. The executive board enforces the rules and appeals to decisions. The power of the league is in the full board. Bring concerns up at monthly meetings.
4. **Acceptance of Annual Meeting Minutes from September-** Posted on the website since September. *leneverett* is the password. motion to accept the minutes- Ashland. Bellcreek second. no opposed.
5. **Officer Reports**—will introduce themselves with their name, role, and team
- a. Secretary—contact updates. Certificate of insurance (COI) with GRAL as an insured party needed by May 30th. If your coach opening is not on the website, please let Julie or Michelle know. secretary@gralva.com
 - b. Treasurer—Cindy Anderson (Raintree) Team dues will be due at the February meeting. \$200 check made payable to GRAL. Budget will be sent out February agenda and will be voted on at the Feb. meeting.
 - c. Officials-Roy S. is returning (Milestone) Working with a new VP of training and certification. Check your officials for your team. Think big picture with clerks, S&T, all positions. Start planning and recruiting. Debbie will revise the training in an attempt to reduce the time commitments for training. Training for ref and S&T will be coming up this spring. Recerts and in person training needs to be identified for your teams. Clerk/starter/ref/S&T training will be revised. Videos will be re-done. We have heard your concerns and are considering expedited training. USA certified do not re- test. Possibly having an expedited coach test/course. Last March- new changes to S&T. Virginia highschool changes do not affect GRAL rules. Our backstroke follows highschool not USA swimming. S&T complaints last year regarding lots of missed calls. The training is conveying the information, its enforcement at the pools that is the issue. Ref training suggestions include emphasizing that the ref leaves the box and talks to officials.
 - d. Computer- No other updates.
 - e. Equipment- Manager is not here tonight. Ribbons may be given out at the May meeting.
 - f. Champs—July 20th and 21st Need a VP of CHAMPS!! See deadlines at the end of agenda
6. **Old Business**
- a. Sandbag Rule—discussed at the annual meeting in September. At CHAMPS-those year round swimmers and really fast summer swimmers have an unfair advantage to swim “down” when the majority of the events are swam at a higher level. 12 and under- 4 events are the cut off. 13 and up is 6 events. Time from last champs is used as seed time. change options: Option 1 is no change to the current sandbag rule. Option 2 is to eliminate the rule completely. Option 3 is to keep the rule as is but does NOT include

the champs time from the previous year in the seed time. Option 4 is that the swimmer can “swim up” and swim in the event at the level of the majority of events. So a SV swimmer could swim an event that is normally not an option to him because of his V time and the sandbag rule. He could swim the event but would swim it in the SV category. This would require manual entry by the computer coordinator. Option 5 is to combine options 3 and 4. Kristin met with 7 coaches and heard the request was to “let the swimmer swim.” Still limited to the number of events that can be entered. The process for computer entry will be manual, if allowed to swim up. Motion was made to vote on the topic next month by battlefield green. Second. Motion was made to eliminate the previous champs seed time. Second made by Dominion Club. No majority for the vote with only 8 yays. Prepare to vote next month.

7. New Business

a. 2024 GRAL meeting dates

- Monday, February 12th (in-person at Battlefield Green, team dues are paid)
- Monday, March 4th (virtual)
- Monday, April 8th (virtual)
- Monday, May 6th (in-person) (ribbons, etc. will be sent out)
- Monday, June 3rd (in-person, registration monies are due, ribbons are distributed)
- Monday, July 8th (in-person)
- Sunday, September 15th—annual meeting (in-person) in Burkwood.

b. Meet dates

- Wednesday, June 5th
- Wednesday, June 12th
- TUESDAY, June 18th (raindate of Thursday 6/20 due to Juneteenth)
- Wednesday, June 26th
- Tuesday July 2nd or Wednesday July 3rd (consider Tuesday because of July 4th holiday and need for a raindate)
- TUESDAY, July 9th (raindate of Wednesday 7/10)

c. Important Champs dates

- Champs July 20th and 21st
- Champs Coordinators contact info submitted 6/20
- Champs meeting for coordinators and coaches Sunday 7/7 (virtual)
- Electronic entries due by 11:59pm 7/12
- In-person registration 7/13

d. Other important dates for the season

- Registration due from teams by 11:59pm Friday May 24 (that is Memorial Day weekend, so plan accordingly) There are rules for added swimmers.
- Registration paid at June Board meeting (6/3) \$7 a swimmer again this year.
- Coaches test due by 11:59pm Friday May 31st.
- Coaches meeting Saturday, 6/1 at 9am—in person

e. Divisions - concerns with the schedule being home vs away team. Recommendation to change divisions every 2 years instead of yearly. Switch the home and away status. Will vote at the next meeting.

- f. Weather -If you want something in the bylaws about the weather, you can bring it up in the next meeting. Greg can write a motion and recommendation for the next meeting.

8. Good of the league

9. Adjourn. Motion bell creek. atlee seconds