

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

June 2, 2025 at Wembly

Next meeting: Monday, July 7, 2025 at 7pm—TBD

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 7:04pm

Roll Call

- **Present:**, Ashcreek, Ashland, Atlee, Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Burkwood, Canterbury, Chestnut Oaks, Church Run, 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:** None

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.
- SwimTopia (ST):
 - As of Friday, ST rolled out the divisional scoring on a league wide level. The league meet templates have been updated and pushed down to all the meets on team sites, so it will simplify the computer reps' pre-meet work. Computer reps have been notified of the change.
 - ST also added division badges to swimmers in the meet entries section of ST. Coaches were shown these updates at the coaches meeting on Saturday.
- Coaches meeting: all teams were represented. A few coaches did not take the coaches test before the deadline. Those names were read at the coaches

meeting and the coaches for the teams didn't seem surprised, so they may be junior coaches who don't plan to be on deck at Champs as a coach. However, two coaches took the test after the deadline and were notified by Debi that the deadline had passed. One isn't on our coaches list (as of Friday afternoon), so we don't even know her team.

- Team contacts: There was a slight issue with coaches being assigned in ST as some teams don't want their assistant/jr. coaches to have the same privileges in the system as the head coach. An assistant coach position was created and you can assign your privileges for the coach vs. assistant coach role as you desire at the team level. That way all coaches can be in the system (which is how we track it) but not all have privileges in your team site.
- Some reminders as we start the season; these were also discussed at the coaches meeting.
 - Need to have positive check-in. Don't print anything until check-in is completed. You can use the Athlete Meet Entry report to complete your check-in
 - Dive certifications: coaches must have paperwork with them. Swimmers should be marked if necessary (with X or O) at check-in.
 - Exemptions: We talked about them in detail last month. Be sure your team has submitted them. We are now 48 hours before the first swim meet and there is no guarantee we can get it done in time. As the season progresses, don't expect that they will make it through the approval process the day of (or even the day before) a meet. Any change from the typical bathing suit requires an exemption and it is requested through the special needs exemption form.
 - All caps worn at GRAL meets need to either be a GRAL team cap (no year-round teams) or plain.
 - Weather: It is the lifeguard's responsibility to blow the whistle to clear the deck. Only four people make the decisions regarding delay/cancelation of a meet and three of them are from the home team. It is the two (home and away) parent reps, pool manager (if your manager is 16, figure out who that should be at your pool), and the meet director who make decisions. Review the weather policy and have it handy at meets to answer questions.
- May meeting minutes: TFC made motion to approve, WEM seconded. None opposed; accepted into the record.

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

- Absent, no report

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

- Collected registration checks.
- The balance as the end of May was \$13,592.

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

- Absent, update given by Debi
- One more ref roundtable tomorrow, Tuesday, 6/3 at 7pm. Same link as before, posted on website.
- Last S&T training is Sunday 6/8 at Burkwood in the fitness center.
- Officials must take tests prior to walking.
- Julie and Tom are processing exemption requests but DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit them.

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.
- The list will not be updated as people take tests. It will be updated at the end of the season.
- People do not receive an email from Debi letting them know they have completed their certification. If the test went through on Thinkific, they are good. There are too many tests coming in so send emails to everyone.

VP of Equipment (and technology) Report: Moira Sweazey (Hanover)

equipment@gralva.com

- Ribbons and DQ cards are in Moira's car, so as you leave you need to pick them up.
- Be careful with DQ cards and ribbons. If your team loses some, lets mice eat them, drops DQ cards in the pool, etc., your team will have to replace the items. We are tracking how many ribbons and DQ cards each team uses so everyone should have enough.
- One final reminder that teams should not share ribbons. Everyone should use their own ribbons.

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

- Ralph is doing the best he can, but there is a LOT. He knows that coaches are integral to our league and he wants to keep them happy. He doesn't mind if they are asking for report or other things, but he also can't fulfill every request.
- Three teams have duplicate athletes that need to be taken care of—think they are BC, TVW, and HGC

VP of Champs Report: Heather Jensen and Sarah Butler champs@gralva.com

- Champs is scheduled for July 19-20, 2025 at SwimRVA. 12 and unders will be Saturday, 13 and over on Sunday.
- There will be a contest for t-shirt design.
- Went over important dates. Some deadlines will be earlier as vendors are requiring earlier order dates.
 - 6/15: Champs Coordinators role must be assigned in SwimTopia
 - 7/1: t-shirt and lunch orders due

- Sunday, 7/6: Virtual Champs meeting for coordinators, computer reps, and coaches
- Thursday, 7/10: Other Champs coordinator info due: heat sheet orders, forms for voting for awards, etc.
- Friday, 7/11: Electronic entries due by 11:59pm
- Saturday, 7/12: In-person registration, 11am-3pm at Mechanicsville
- We have 180 boxes left to go with medals, so they will likely be used for 1st place medals before we move to bags.
- League is considering sending out heat sheets for coaches by PDF. The problem is that if teams share that file with everyone, no one will order heat sheets and that will be a financial issue for Champs/GRAL.

Old Business

- Len Everett scholarship applications are open on the website. Received the first one over the weekend. Due June 20th and recommendation are due July 1st.

New Business

- 2025 GRAL Meeting dates—we need locations for July and annual meeting
 - Monday, July 7th (in-person) **Need location**
 - Sunday, September 21st (in-person) Need location
- 2025 Meet Dates
 - Meet 1 = Wednesday, June 4th
 - Meet 2 = Wednesday, June 11th
 - Meet 3 = Tuesday June 17th or Wednesday, June 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
- Some people do not think they are receiving the emails from SwimTopia that are being sent out. It seems that most of them are not assigned correctly in their roles in SwimTopia. That is a TEAM issue, not a league issue. ALL board reps should have admin rights in their team's site so they can make changes as necessary, send emails to the team, view reports, etc. Julie will investigate further to see if there are truly issues with people not receiving the ST emails.

Good of the League – none

Adjourned at 8:30ish Motion by ARA, second by TFC

Submitted by Julie Zubris, president