

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

March 3, 2025, virtual

Next meeting: Monday April 7, 2025 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 7:03

Roll Call

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

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 currently a few teams advertising for coach openings on the website. If you need to post a listing on the website, please email president@gralva.com. If you are done with hiring and would like to remove the postings from the website, please also let us know that as well.
- 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 waiting on someone to switch the domain over.

- 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.
- SwimTopia (ST): As of Friday, we have converted from our free trial to officially being ST league-wide.
 - 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.
 - We had a high-level overview webinar on Meet Maestro on 2/17. It was well attended. Teams still have access to the sample meet so they can be playing around and practicing.
 - GRAL will have trainings on Meet Maestro and meet entries with coaches and computer reps in the spring.
 - You are welcome to open your registration now. I opened registration for my team, and then tested it out by registering my son. It all worked really well.
 - Rosters are being checked against times that were imported.
 - Some teams have not yet done anything beyond creating an account in ST. Now is really the time that you need to start getting yourselves up and running. Most teams open registration in March or April and so you need to get things set up.
 - Just a reminder that 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 will eventually be able 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 and assign a person to each role. It's one thing that is really simple to do. But for now, until all teams are fully on board ST, we need to stick with our current system. So if you need to make an update for this year, you need to complete the google contact form. You can find it on both the new and old website.
- After looking at the GRAL handbook, it is apparent that much of the information will become obsolete this year as we transition to SwimTopia. We can't make changes now as we don't know exactly what we will be doing instead or differently. We likely will need to create a committee in the off-season (in the fall of 2025) to look at the handbook and make it reflect our transition to SwimTopia. After we have a season behind us, we will be able to provide the necessary details for the handbook.
- February meeting minutes: Wembley made motion to approve, Hanover 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

- We are still missing 2 registrations checks. Remember there is a \$25 fee for late registrations. Current balance is \$48,245. Nothing has been paid for the upcoming season yet.

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

- Now is the time to start looking at your officials and ensure you have enough trained officials.
- 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.
- Ref Roundtables TBD.

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

- The current system of keeping track S&T trainees is too burdensome, and has not seemed to make a significant difference in the quality of judging. The following changes will be instituted for the 2025 season:
 - S&T trainees will still attend an in-person training session, complete the online test, and walk for three halves. However, the three walks may occur in any meet (odd or even) and may occur in either half. The third walk shall still be supervised (shadowed) by a certified Strokes and Turns judge who has worked at least eight GRAL halves or is USA certified.
- The current officials list is posted on the new swimtopia site under >Resources >Officials. If you see an error, please email training@gralva.com.

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

- New website is in the works.

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

- Not in attendance.

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.
- We will discuss this more during new business.

Old Business

- The handbook was changed to reflect the vote taken last month regarding 19 year old graduating seniors swimming in Champs. As voted at the meeting, the

following was added: “A swimmer may participate if they meet one of the following criteria. 1.They turn 18 years old prior to June 2 of the current year; OR. 2. They are 19 years old and graduated from high school in the same school year immediately preceding the season being swum.”

New Business

- VP of Champs: Sarah Butler (née Gee) was voted in at the January meeting. She had an extended family emergency and was out of touch for a few weeks. She is willing and able to take on Champs. Heather Jensen, the computer rep for Church Run, has also expressed that she is willing and able to help with Champs. They have spoken to one another and are planning to work together to divide the responsibilities. Motion by Hanover for Sarah Butler and Heather Jensen to be co-VPs of Champs. Second by Kings Charter.
- Time Standards- To be sent out as soon as Ralph finishes them.
- 2025 GRAL Meeting dates (tentative plan—dates likely to stick, but in person/virtual may change)
 - Monday, April 7th (virtual)
 - Monday, May 5th (TBD)
 - Monday, June 2nd (in-person—registration is collected and we hand out ribbons)
 - Monday, July 7th (in-person)
- 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
 - Registration due from teams by 11:59pm Friday May 23 (that is Memorial Day weekend, so plan accordingly) There are rules for adding swimmers later.
 - 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).
 - Coaches test due by 11:59pm Friday May 30th.
 - Coaches meeting Saturday, 5/31 at 9am—in person.

Good of the League or other discussions

- Discussion about colunteer coordinator asking for 2 clerk of course helpers from away team. The rule book is not specific and would like for it to be clarified exactly how many helpers are needed.Will change the wording in the handbook to “one clerk helper per half”
- Discussion about smaller teams providing coach’s meals for visiting team and the visiting team has many (sometimes 6) coaches. The home team needs to just set

the expectation with the welcome letter how many coaches get a meal so that other coaches are not expecting one and go hungry that night.

Adjourned at 7:04pm

Submitted by Michelle Shores, secretary