

GMDBC General Membership Meeting May 12, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening

Meeting called to order at Seabreeze Rec Ctr. at 6:37pm.

Secretary's Report

1. April board meeting minutes were previously posted on the GMDBC website.
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes by Jan Mitchell, seconded by Rita Girou, was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

1. Treasurer's Financial Report for April was reviewed
 - a. GMDBC membership as of April 30, 2026 is 420.
2. President Cheryl noted a Team Captains meeting is planned for June 2026 to determine and plan future financial needs.
3. Motion to approve report by Robin Lord with 2nd by RayAnn Bethel was passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Cheryl noted two Special Events took place in May and thanked the planners, steerers, team captains, paddlers, media, and those who prepared the boats.

1. **80's & Over Social Paddle** at Central Lake on May 8th was a success.
 - a. Clearing of wasp nests under the Central Lake bridge was completed.
2. The **Chicken Race on Lake Sumter** with all teams participating on May 1 was a success.
 - b. John Rohan was particularly pleased with how the event was planned and executed, and expressed his interest in this continuation as an annual event on Lake Sumter with the following considerations in future planning:
 - i. Mark boats/lanes, large & clear for spectators
 - ii. Add "start line buoys" for improved visual of start line for steerers.
 - iii. *Incorporate a strong fund-raising component* to benefit a local community charity.

Safety

1. Linda Braun reminded all Team Captains and Members of the outdoor temperatures rising as we approach the summer months.
 - a. Team Captains were reminded they may need to cancel practices when the outdoor "Feels Like" temperature is over 104 degrees. The app to be used for looking up that data in The Villages was noted.

- b. Drinking water should be taken on the boats for practices, ensure that paddlers are hydrating during training drills, and the role of electrolytes must be top of mind now.

Old Business

1. Rodeo Event

- a. Dennis Cheesboro will make a presentation to John Rohan on Thursday with date, budget and volunteers needed. Dennis reminded Members there will be 35+ volunteers needed for this event.

2. New Video Coming for The Villages and GMDBC

- a. Cheryl noted that Members may see video being taken of GMDBC teams, special events and generally. This will be used for The Villages for future media coverage and marketing deliverables.

3. Upcoming Election for Board Positions Open

- a. Cheryl reminded Members that an election is fast approaching for Vice-President and Treasurer.
 - i. Linda Braun has accepted a nomination for Vice-President
 - ii. Rich Einhorn has accepted a nomination for Treasurer
- b. Both candidates were provided an opportunity to speak to the club
 - i. Linda is the current VP and continues her enthusiasm for dragon boating and the GMDBC club. She is an active volunteer, steerer and coach for This Boat Rocks
 - ii. Rich described his relevant business experience for the Treasurer role. He is an active paddler and as the Webmaster for the club he has greatly improved our online presence.

4. A vote on the addition of a new 2nd Vice-President officer role as documented in the club Bylaws will be sent out with the VP and Treasurer election notice

- a. John Townley reviewed the need for this role based on club growth in membership, boat fleet size, club events and physical facilities.
- b. This role has been approved by the GMDBC board
- c. If approved by the General Membership, this role will be appointed by the board from candidates submitted to Cheryl Moran for the 2026-2027 year. This will be an elected position in odd numbered years moving forward.

PLEASE VOTE! It is important to vote in GMDBC elections so our organization continues to be prepared for the growth we expect and want to continue to enjoy.

New Business

1. Camp Villages - Summer 2026

- a. GMDBC will again be hosting Camp Villages for teenagers (13-18 year olds) this summer.

- i. Session 1 – June 18, 8:00 am – 10:00 am at Lake Sumter
 - ii. Session 2 – July 23, 8:00 am – 10:00 am at Lake Sumter
- b. Steve Printz will provide steerers for Camp Villages
- c. ALL regularly scheduled team practices in Sumter Lake WILL NEED TO RELOCATE THEIR PRACTICE FOR THAT DAY TO CENTRAL LAKE.
- d. Volunteers application forms should be submitted to Linda Braun
 - i. Buddy paddlers and 30 folding chairs are needed.

Close

The General Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Teams are encouraged to plan an event for Open dates below to use the facilities pre-scheduled.

Next General Meetings:

June 9 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
July 14 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
August 11 – CERT Training
September 8 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
October 13 – Annual Safety Meeting hosted by Vice President Linda Braun
November 10 – Taco Tuesday hosted by Eastport Sun Dragons
December 8 – Blackheart Christmas Party