

Corporate Board Meeting for the Gulf Coast Writer's Association

28 July 2015

Present were: Tim Jacobs, Pat Janda, Judy Loose, and Larry Stiles. Absent was Gary McLouth and no visitors were present.

Larry called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Larry gave the Board an overview of the Constitution and Bylaws (which is a work in progress). He introduced in Article II a new membership category, "Associate Membership" for qualifying youth, described as a person under the age of 18 years. He cautioned the Board that "minors can't engage into a contract," therefore could not be eligible to serve as an officer or director.

Also under Article II is Exceptional Circumstances which gives the Executive Committee to review if and/or when a member may be excused from paying yearly dues.

Lastly, Expulsion of a Member if deemed a threat to members and/or displays disruptive behavior during meetings was included. This would require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the Board. An expelled member has the right for reconsideration after a 30-day period, but neither the Executive nor the Corporate Boards are obligated to rehear the matter.

Under Article III, it is recommended that "communication is essential" between the Executive and Corporate Boards.

The committee reviewing the Constitution hopes to have a final draft by January 2016, in order to present to the general meeting of March 2016 for vote.

Next on the agenda was a financial review of the Gulf Coast Writer's Association. Larry presented the Board with guidelines and two sample letters, and requested the Review Committee work with Don Cappelli, the GCWA Treasurer. The committee shall consist of two Corporate Board members, and one member from the general membership.

One letter, to be signed from the Treasurer goes directly to the bank and requests that two months worth of statements be sent to the Chair of the committee overseeing the financial review. The second letter is signed by all three members of the review committee and presented to the Executive Board.

Tim inquired about having access to review the Paypal account as well. It was suggested to contact the Treasurer to obtain the access to that account when conducting the review.

Tim and Pat volunteer to nominate a third member for the review committee during the August general meeting. The financial review will be due in January 2016 to be presented to the Executive Committee at the March meeting.

Last on the agenda was a review of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from July 14, 2015. There was some discussion about the Amazon affiliate program, about which Judy gave the Board further

information. There was also discussion as to why taking the speaker to lunch has stopped. There was no formal vote on this matter, but agreed it should continue as it offered a gesture of thanks to the speaker and offered members more networking time. There was discussion on the matter of no awards having been handed out in nearly three years, and that there are members who have been of great service to the group without being recognized. Larry suggested at the March meeting, two awards should be handed out. That each Board can vote for a member and maybe setting a certain criteria to be eligible to receive an award. Lifetime awards will not be handed out every year; they will be on an "as deserved" basis. Currently there are four active lifetime members in the group.

It was decided to not make any recommendations to the Executive committee at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

No date or time was scheduled for the next Corporate Board meeting.