

Gulf Coast Writers Association, Inc.  
General Meeting  
January 17, 2015  
Zion Lutheran Church

**Welcome and Intro**-- President Gary McLouth opened the meeting at 10:05 am with New Year's Greetings. He gave members a five minute writing exercise on remembering why we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. day each January.

**Welcome Visitors**—Gary asked all first time visitors to stand. Visitors were encouraged to come forward and to quickly introduce themselves telling a little about themselves and how they heard about our association.

**In Recognition**-Gary gave his thanks for Webmaster Judy Loose, Vice-President Denise Holbrook and Corporate Board Richard Georgian for their exemplary service to our association. All three are resigning their positions for the upcoming year. A round of applause and a standing ovation was given by the members.

Reports:

**Denise** shared that she was not seeking reelection as Vice-President due to her being the full time caregiver of both her mother and mother-in-law. She stated that she would offer support and encouragement to the next vice-president. She said that speakers have been lined up for the next several months. Marti Ambrose is our February speaker.

**Don** gave the treasurer's report stating that our beginning balance on December 1, 2014 was \$9,673.56 and ending balance of December 31, 2014 was \$10,247.78.

**Barb** stated that she would be taking new member pictures during the morning break and that anyone wanting to have their current picture updated to come as well.

**Alice** asked that anyone wishing to sign up for the Digital Workshop to do so today as the deadline was at noon. She announced that there were seventy-two entries for the writing contest and they have been given to the judges. Alice said that GCWA would have a table at the SWFL Reading Fest and asked for about six volunteers to man the table in two hour shifts. The table would be for publicity for GCWA and individual books/authors would not be showcased at this time. Jennifer Fitzgerald announced that she would give a brief course to the

volunteers on how to properly man the booth. She asked that the volunteers come to next month's meeting thirty minutes early and meet in one of the side rooms. She also told of upcoming events: January 31 Art, Craft & Music Festival sponsored by Arts of the Inland, May 2 INSPIREsarasota, sponsored by Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota, and May 28 Book Fair and Writers Festival, Venice

### **Announcements:**

Bob McCarthy has agreed to coordinate and initiate the forming of writing critique groups. He spent a few minutes telling what his own group did and that he would like to visit with other groups to see how they worked. He will be available to help members form new groups and/or get involved in a current group.

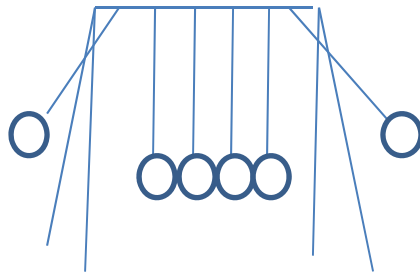
Gary announced the formation of a GCWA Facilities Search Committee to help locate a facility that would accommodate our growing membership. Gary and Don, plus two members from the membership will make up this committee. Gary asked that anyone wanting to be a part of this committee see him during the break. (During the break Tim Jacobs and Ben Feldman agreed to be a part of this very important committee).

Hospitality-Gary announced that after much consideration GCWA Executive Board has decided to provide coffee and water, only, at its general meetings beginning in February, 2015. He mentioned that anyone wanting to donate additional beverages (non-alcoholic) or snacks were certainly welcome to do so.

Good News—Gary reminded the members to only share news that was actually “new” and to keep it short.

Denise reminded those planning on having lunch at Mimi's afterwards with Kim to please sign up during the break so Mimi's could prepare tables.

After a short break, Denise introduced Kim Weitkamp as our guest speaker. Kim gave us a little history on how she became a storyteller. She drew a picture of Newton's Cradle and weaved a tale using it to show how our writing should affect our readers.



Using Newton's Cradle:

- (1) When you hear a story the first ball is released. It hits the second ball.
- (2) Your concept changes. The second ball hits the third ball.
- (3) Your world view changes. The third ball swings into the fourth ball.
- (4) Your attitude changes. The fourth ball swings into the fifth
- (5) Your actions change. The fifth ball ball swings into the final ball.
- (6) Your behavior changes.

You read a story, your concept changes of your opinion of the topic; your world view changes, your own actions change and a new behavior (or opinion) is formed.

In summary: We should write to change someone's concept. Our writing should bring about a change in the readers, their world view, their attitude and actions and ultimately their behavior.

Meeting adjourned shortly after noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi C Anthony, Secretary