

Gulf Coast Writers Association
General (Annual) Meeting
March 28, 2015
Covenant Presbyterian Church

President Gary McLouth called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He announced the location of the restrooms and coffee area. He went over the planned order for the meeting.

Welcome Visitors—Fifteen individuals were applauded as they stood up as first time guests.

President's Annual Report-Gary McLouth announced that the annual report for 2014-2015 (attached) would be posted on the website and encouraged all to read it. He stated that "... unlike most other organizations created to enhance and involve individual efforts to achieve the goals of the whole, the Gulf Coast Writers Organization exists to support the goals and objectives of the individual: writers..."

Outgoing Officers of Executive Board:

Gary gave special recognition to Denise Holbrook (Programming) and Judy Loose (Webmaster).

Recognition of other officers: Barbara Burnett (Public Relations), Irene Smith (Membership) and Don Cappelli (Treasurer).

Membership Report-Irene stated that there were 238 members at the end of February and that she has received several applications today. She thanked the board for all their hard work. She praised Denise for being the most organized. She said that Denise arrives early to meetings and immediately begins setting up and looking for things that need to be done. Irene said that not only is Denise a good board member but a good member. She encouraged all members to get involved by offering assistance wherever it's needed. She thanked Judy for being the webmaster and a genius. She thanked Richard Georgian for his nine years of service as board and corporate member. She asked members to consider stepping up to help on sub committees and volunteering where needed.

Special Projects-Alice Oldford shared her enthusiasm over the success of GCWA's involvement in the SWFL Reading Festival. She thanked Carla, Irene and Mary Ann for making the storytelling fun and interesting. Alice also thanked Jennifer for organizing and giving guidelines to the volunteers who manned the GCWA booth. Alice said that each time she went by our table the volunteers were up on their feet and engaged in conversation with someone about

our organization. Alice reminded us of a quote from Richard- "You don't sell anything sitting on your butt, get on your feet!"

Alice reported that she is working on a Writer's Workshop & Retreat for next year in April and asked for volunteers to help with the planning and implementing.

Financial Report-Don gave the monthly report stating that our bank balance at the end of February was \$12,096.37. He then presented the proposed budget as outlined in the printed program (attached) and invited questions. One question was asked about the expense of "Donations & Grants" inquiring on the donations part. Don said that we may be giving money to different organizations and/or schools for books to encourage future writers. There were no other questions. Larry Stiles made a motion to accept the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 year. Judy Loose seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Election of Corporate Board Members-Richard Georgian presiding
Corporate Board Members serve a three-year term.

Outgoing:

Carol Drummond Richard Georgian Pat Janda

Candidates:

Judy Loose

Larry Stiles (up for new term)

Pat Janda (up for re-election)

(Tim Jacobs is a member whose term is not expiring.)

Richard asked for a motion to elect the candidates as presented. Ken made a motion to accept. Alice Oldford seconded. Motion carried.

Outgoing Officers of Executive Board:

Denise Holbrook-Programming and Judy Loose-Webmaster

Election of new Executive Board-Richard Georgian presiding

President – Gary McLouth

Secretary - Cyndi Anthony

Treasurer - Don Cappelli

Membership – Irene Smith

Programming – Michael Neal
Publicity – Barbara Burnett
Special Projects – Alice Oldford
Webmaster – Jennifer Fitzgerald

Richard invited nominations from the floor. There were none. He then asked for a motion to elect the candidates as presented. Denise so moved. Judy Loose seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Break/Networking Gary asked those wishing to meet with Bob McCarty about critique groups could do so during the break.

Writing Contest Winners-Alice Oldford, Special Projects. There were over seventy entries. Alice gave a special thank you to the sponsors and judges.

Fiction: Chief Judge, Gary McLouth

Third Place-Richard Rimrot

Second Place-Frankie Patman Maguire

First Place-Jim Marcotte read his entry, "Billy Hurts"

Non-Fiction: Chief Judge, Martha Jeffers

First Place-Eva Romanczak read her entry "Smoke and Fire"

Poetry: Chief Judge, Joe Pacheco

Third Place-Joyce Ferrari

Second Place-Dan Reed England

First Place-Barbara Rohde read her entry, "The Final Journey"

Children's: Chief Judge, Carla Webb

First Place-Nancy Leake read her entry, "Tommy the Leaf"

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Anthony, Secretary