

Gulf Coast Writers Association
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes January 13, 2015

In attendance: Gary McLouth, Denise Holbrook, Judy Loose, Irene Smith, Don Cappelli, Alice Oldford and Cyndi Anthony. Guests: Bob McCarty, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Benny Anthony

Meeting began at 5:40 pm.

Reports

Secretary: A motion was made to accept Board Minutes as received. Seconded by Judy. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Beginning bank balance on November 1, 2014 as \$10,027.97. Our ending balance on November 30, 2014 was \$9,673.56. Alice made the motion to accept treasurer's report for November. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Beginning bank balance of December 1, 2014 was \$9,653.56. Ending balance on December 31, 2014 was \$10,247.78. Cyndi made the motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded by Alice. Motion was unanimously accepted.

Membership: Irene reported that we have 221 members.

Hospitality: Due to ongoing difficulty finding volunteers to handle hospitality, after the January meeting we will no longer offer refreshments at our meetings. Members will be encouraged to bring whatever they want to snack on, but GCWA will not provide reimbursement. Coffee and water will be available. Light refreshments will be available for the January meeting, and the membership will be informed of the new policy. Benny Anthony agreed to get the coffee ready each month (Gary will fill in in his absence).

Publicity: No report given. Barb was absent due to illnesses in the family. Prayers for Ed and Thomas are needed.

Program/VP: April is Poetry Month and March is the Election of Officers. Denise reported that surveys indicate that members would like more hands-on projects. We will have a “Point of View” session at our May general meeting.

Bob McCarthy agreed to coordinate critique groups. He was appointed as Critique Group Facilitator.

Special Projects: Alice reported that we have twelve signed up for the **Digital Workshop** scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at Florida SouthWestern State College. The board agreed to pay for lunch for the instructor and volunteer assistant(s). Saturday, January 17 will be the last day to sign up for the workshop.

Seventy-two entries were received for the **Writing Contest**. Judges are asked to have their decision ready no later than March 1, 2015. Alice will contact Pat Janda for publication information.

We will purchase a table at the **SWFL Reading Festival** for \$150.00 (there are no discounts available to our group) to publicize our association. Alice will ask for volunteers to man the table. Jennifer Fitzgerald will conduct a class on how to properly man the table to obtain the main objective (in this case—to promote GCWA).

Alice also mentioned that there are three book fairs coming up (no discounts available for us):

Jan. 31 Art, Craft & Music Festival sponsored by Arts of the Inland

May 28 Book Fair and Writers Festival, Venice

May 02 INSPIREsarasota, sponsored by Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota

Webmaster: Judy is retiring as our webmaster after more than five years of faithful service. Jennifer Fitzgerald is interested in filling this position and will be voted on by the membership at our election in March.

Venue: We will appoint a Facility Search Committee to locate a new venue for our monthly general meetings to be held in. Denise designed a Facility Specs

sheet to be used to help in finding the building that best fits our current and anticipated needs. Gary and Don have agreed to be on the committee with two members from our general population.

Some location ideas suggested:

Gary will check out the facility next door to the Alliance of the Arts

Judy will check out her current voting place

Irene will check out her church (1st Assembly)

Meeting was adjourned by Vice-President at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Cyndi Anthony, Secretary