

**Gulf Coast Writers Association, Inc.  
Executive Meeting  
July 14, 2015**

**Vice President, Don Cappelli, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM**

**Members in attendance:**

**Don Cappelli, Irene Smith, Michael Neal, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Carla Webb, Pat Janda, and Judy Loose**

**The minutes of the June Executive Committee meeting were not available at this time. The minutes will be read for approval at the August meeting.**

**Officers Reports:**

**Because of Cyndi Anthony resigning her position as secretary, Gary McLouth has appointed Carla Webb to fill the position of secretary. The Executive committee members voted to accept her as secretary.**

**The treasurer's report was read.**

**Jennifer Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Michael Neal seconded the motion. Committee members voted and motion passed.**

**President Gary McLouth was absent, so no report was given.**

**Irene Smith, membership, reported 190 total members. 76 people attended at the June meeting.**

**Irene reported a need to make membership renewals easier. A discussion followed. Judy Loose made note that non-members pay \$5.00 at the door for the meeting. Following the discussion, it was decided that if members have not renewed their membership, they must pay \$5.00 at the door. This is not a penalty, but a rule that has been in place for many years.**

**Jennifer Fitzgerald reported that on July 1, 2015 the new GCWA website was up and running. She reported that approximately 60 members had completed their profile and updated their biography. She will continue to remind the members to send in their information. Jennifer opened a discussion about having an Amazon Affiliate button on the GCWA website to sell our books through**

**Amazon. Don Cappelli had concerns relating to selling our books on Amazon through the GCWA website. He stated that this would cause problems with the organization's status as a non-profit, 501C3. When someone bought a book through the Amazon Affiliate program on the GCWA website, we would make money.**

**Following the discussion, a motion was made by Michael Neal to accept selling our books on Amazon through the GCWA website. Jennifer Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Members voted NO to the motion to sell our books through Amazon on the GCWA website.**

**Publicity, Barbara Burnett was absent.**

**Programming, Michael Neal, read the list of speakers for the upcoming months. A problem with scheduling a speaker for the August meeting has occurred. Gary McLouth has been notified.**

**Michael reported several options for speakers. There will be more information given in the next few days.**

**Michael reported the kitchen supplies are now being stored at Zion. The layout of the tables for the meeting was discussed. Don volunteered to draw up a layout of the tables to see if there is a better layout than the one set up at the June meeting.**

**Special Projects, Alice Oldford, was absent, but asked Carla Webb to present her report. Alice and a sub-committee are working on a Writer's Workshop/Retreat. In her report, she listed the goals for the workshop. This workshop would begin with networking on a Friday and end with a wrap-up on Sunday. There are four potential sites, along with a proposed budget for each site. A date of September 2016 has been suggested but not finalized. . A list of presenters was read and it was noted that Kim Weitkamp has been contacted to be a presenter. She would be the only paid speaker. The committee has asked for a minimum of \$1,000 to help with the cost of the workshop.**

**Alice has been working on a Social Media workshop projected for January/February, 2016. Julie Ward and Patti Brassard Jefferson have agreed to develop and deliver a program.**

**In Alice's report she discussed a misunderstanding concerning the publication of winners' stories/poems from the GCWA Writing Contest. Ft. Myers magazine**

**prints some of the winners' writing in the magazine and does this free. The editor, Andrew Elias, always has the option to choose which stories/poems he wishes to publish. He cannot publish all the winners because of space in his magazine.**

**No Old Business.**

**New Business:**

**There was a discussion concerning the idea of Newsletter being published by GCWA. Irene felt that there are many parameters to establish before a vote could be taken.**

**The next General meeting will be held July 18, 2015 at Zion. The Executive Committee meeting will be held August 18, 5:30 PM, at Fairfield Inn.**

**Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Irene seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted by  
Carla Webb, Secretary**