

Gulf Coast Writers Association
General Meeting
April 18, 2015
Zion Lutheran Church

President Gary McLouth called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Gary McLouth gave recognition to Joe Pacheco who raised the profile of GCWA writers with his focus on poetry.

Treasurer Report: None

Membership Report: Irene Smith-244 members. 55 members in attendance today includes 9 guests. Four out of the nine guests heard about us through the SWFL Reading Festival.

Secretary Report: Cyndi Anthony-None

Special Projects Report: Alice Oldford-None

Program Chair Report: Michael Neal gave Denise Holbrook accolades for a wonderful job as past Program Chair. Michael stated that at a later date members would have the opportunity to fill out a survey about their interests.

Webmaster Report: Jennifer Fitzgerald reported that the website would be undergoing changes and asked for helpers to volunteer if they had some knowledge of WordPress and social media.

Critique Groups: Bob McCarthy spoke briefly on critique groups and their functions.

Publicity Report: None

10 Minute Warm up Poetry Exercise-Larry Stiles (New Corporate Chairman)

Members were divided into groups of 6 to 8, given a picture, and asked to individually write one line about the picture. Dan England, Carol Drummond, John Robilotta, Mary Beth Lundgren, and Joyce Berrian Ferrari made lovely poems using each group's one-liners. The focus was on revising and editing to make our work more concise and entertaining.

Welcome First Time Guests- Four guests came to the front and introduced themselves.

Good News/Announcements:

- Russ Miller promoter & producer of Tale Tellers announced that on the first Tuesday of each month at Calusa Harbor beginning at 7:00 PM the storytellers deliver a 750 word (5 minute) tale. Volunteers wishing to be a storyteller could see him at the break.
- Tim Jacobs and Patti Brassard Jefferson have started [Gulf Coast Bookstore](#) for local authors at the Butterfly Estates, Fowler St., Fort Myers.
- Judy Loose stated that the downtown library was having an event for teens on June 19- a good opportunity for authors of young adult genre to attend (see calendar for info).

- Dorothy Brooks will be the Featured Poet Sunday, April 19 at Holiday Inn during the Empower and Inspire Teen Tea and Fashion Show. \$40 per person.

Gary McLouth read his favorite poem, "Lying in a Hammock on William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota" by James Wright.

10:30 – 11:00 **Break/Networking**

Main Speaker: Jim Gustafson spoke on Revision. He gave us his definition on the difference in prose and poetry. Poetry being written for the ear (sounds) and prose being written for the eye (sights). He listed numerous revision techniques:

Read your own work, erase what's not necessary, find better verbs, use images instead of clichés, edit/revise in short frequent sessions, interrogate your work by asking questions, seek the opinion of others, and never quit.

Gary McLouth invited members to attend the next general meeting May 16, 2015 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Anthony, Secretary