

GCWA General Meeting  
July 18, 2015

Welcome:

Don Cappelli, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Don welcomed everyone and announced where the bathrooms and exits are located.

Executive Committee Reports:

Membership: Irene Smith

Irene announced that GCWA had 76 people attend last month's meeting. We had 190 members as of last month. There were at least 2 or 3 people who joined at this meeting.

Irene asked for volunteers to help with the room setup and takedown. She also made a plea for someone to come early to make the coffee. She explained the price members pay for Zion verses the price members would pay for another venue. At another venue, the setup and takedown would be done, but we would pay more for this service. She urged everyone who was capable to consider this time as a great way to meet other members and to network.

Irene reported dues of \$40.00 need to be paid on time. Members' dues are paid in January. If a member has not paid their dues by March 1, they will need to pay \$5.00 at the door.

Accounts Report: Don Cappelli, Vice President and Treasurer

Don announced the beginning balance bank as of June 1, 2015 was \$13,261.17. Total revenue was \$11.00 and total expenses were \$411.55. Total balance for June is \$12,860.62.

Secretary: Carla Webb

Don Cappelli introduced Carla Webb as the new secretary for GCWA. Carla is fulfilling Cyndi Anthony's term of office. Cyndi had to resign due to personal reasons.

Other Reports from the Committee:

Special Events Committee Chair, Alice Oldford, asked Carla Webb to present her report. Carla, reporting for Alice, announced the committee for the Writer's Workshop/Retreat has been working hard to find a great place for this event. At this time there are four possible places being explored. The projected time is

September 2016. The workshop would begin on a Friday with networking, workshops, and a sunset cruise Saturday, with a wrap-up on Sunday morning. Projected speakers will be announced later. A flyer will be passed out later with more updated information.

There will be a Social Media Workshop around January/ February 2016. Patti Brassard- Jefferson and Julie Ward will develop and present this workshop. Alice also asked that the members be aware that publication of stories and poems from the winners of GCWA Writer's Contest, in the FT. Myers, Southwest, Magazine is up to Andrew Elias, the publisher. We are given free space for the publication of some of the winners, but due to space, he cannot put all of them in the magazine. We are very grateful for the space we get free of charge.

A Few Words from:

Carmine Lombardo: Carmine gave a brief talk about the art of writing. He called writing an endless journey where destiny can take us anywhere. He considers GCWA writing community a family where we help each other.

He talked about the "5 R's in Writing."

1. Read- Read your writing aloud. Have friends, family listen as you read it. Then revise.
2. React- Is your writing logical, is there a main idea, etc.
3. (Missing this one. If you have this, please email me and I will put it in.)
4. Reflect—Cut out words that are not needed. Invert sentences and check the flow of your writing.
5. Refine-Read aloud again, is your writing clear?  
Revise, Revise, Revise. This will take time, but it is worth it.

Irene Smith-

Irene gave a brief talk: "Writers are Weird."

She gave examples of authors who are passionate, obsessive, and just plain strange. Some of the authors she discussed were Steven King, Dr. Seuss, Anne Rice, and James A. Michener. Irene said that some authors are impossible to live with, while others break rules both in society and in their writing. She concluded with "write for yourself."

First Time Visitors and Guests:

Many visitors came forward and introduced themselves to the members.

Good News:

Several members had Good New. If you have “Good News” please send it to Jennifer Fitzgerald so she can put it on the website.

Break—

Speaker Introduction:

Mike Neal introduced Jeremy Pilarski, Professor at Florida Southwest State College.

Jeremy Pilarski’s topic was Show, Not Tell.

His presentation included audience participation. He asked the audience to write a short paragraph using the five senses and to show not tell. He gave four titles and after allowing time to write, he asked volunteers to share their writing.

The second part of his presentation was Writing Dialogue. The audience was asked to write a brief dialogue between two to three people using one of the three scenarios.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Carla Webb, Secretary