

## GCWA January 2021 President's Letter

I wish to thank all of you who responded so well to our request to renew your 2021 dues. Without your financial support and the careful management of your funds, we would not be able to survive. Other writers' organizations do not appear to be holding events.

Gulf Coast Writers Association is your organization. Our officers are highly qualified and willing to donate their time and talents to provide us with the broad variety of speakers who have responded to our requests.

As promised in my previous letter we do have a new venue for our onsite meetings. However, the organization, Brotherhood of Heroes in Cape Coral, just completed their move to a new facility which had to be completely renovated before occupancy. They have not yet been able to purchase a large TV screen needed to accommodate the zoom technology. Media sellers like Best Buy, BJ's, Walmart's, etc. are being approached about a possible donation of one.

It is a slim chance they will have the TV in time for our January 16 meeting so we are planning on doing the meeting strictly as a zoom event. If by chance things change, we will put out a last minute notice on our website and one to the membership.

Meanwhile if you have not yet paid your 2021 dues please do so this week or early the following week. I will go to the post office on Thursday, January 14 to pick up any checks that have been sent to: GCWA, P.O. Box60771, Fort Myers, FL 33906. You can also pay via PayPal.

The info will be promptly sent to Membership and Christie, who will make sure you are eligible to tune in free of charge.

All visitors and unpaid members will be charged \$5.00 to sign in to the event. The annual subscription for these meetings does not come cheaply.

Our guest speaker, Eric Simmons of Atlanta, Georgia, will be discussing, "How to get your book into the libraries." What a great and necessary subject!

Regarding workshops or seminars for this coming year: we would require additional assistance in producing these events so when we put out the call we hope that some of you will be willing to volunteer your efforts to make these one-day events a success.

We hope and pray that 2021 will bring health and recovery to our country. In the meantime, I hope all of you are using this time to write or rewrite your articles, books, etc., that you have been neglecting. There is still time to send in your manuscripts for the 2021 Writing Contest. All entries must be postmarked by January 31.

God Bless You All!

Irene Smith, President

Gulf Coast Writers Association