



Gulf Coast Writers Association  
Executive Board Minutes 06/22/2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Irene Smith. Members present at the Fairfield Inn in person were Irene, Christie Zarria, David Aiken, Judy Loose, Jan Nieman, Michael Cole, Andrew Conlyn, DL Havlin and Mary Charles. Members present by Zoom were Bob McCarthy, Geneva Kelly and Vee Byram.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Special Projects report: Christie and Vee will start early to develop a plan for next year's youth contest, targeting middle school students. Geneva suggested a GCWA table at Art Walk and other public events and asked board members to email or text her with ideas. There was discussion of ID badges for those soliciting donations and sponsorships and talk about who to approach for donations and how to define the benefit to donors. Teacher sponsorships were also addressed. Irene noted that the teacher who sponsored last year's entries is interested and has ideas. DL Havlin noted that other contests had over 700 entries, and it was agreed to establish a limit on number of entries, which might also serve as incentive to enter early.

Treasurer's report: Michael noted flaws in the proposed budget including the disparity between entry fee dollars and award dollars. Closing this gap needs to be addressed. The budget was approved with a motion by Andrew and a second by David. The Treasurer's report was approved with Judy's motion and Christie's second.

Membership report: David reported seven new paid members, three of whom have offered to speak and others to help.

Programs report: Bob McCarthy is working on ideas for an August presenter. One candidate is a workshop on filming and scriptwriting.

A discussion followed on creating a GCWA membership development tool such as a recruitment campaign via local media. Another idea was to require membership in order to have a writer's work read or reviewed. Members reading and reviewing other members' works is a valuable member benefit. Judy mentioned the writers' critique group every second Monday and the list of members' works on the website. DL suggested a local TV program about the writing life as the Daytona Writers Guild does. Irene and Geneva will collaborate to write an initial script.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Mary Charles  
Secretary