



Gulf Coast Writers Association  
Executive Board Minutes 07/13/2021

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 Zarría, David Aiken, Judy Loose, Michael Cole, Andrew Conlyn, Bob McCarthy, Claudia Geagan, and Mary Charles. Geneva Kelly was present by Zoom.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as moved by David and seconded by Bob.

Programs report: Bob McCarthy presented the agenda for August. Christie, Bob, Hunter Leake III, and Jen Yontz-Orlando will be on the panel for a presentation on critique groups. Bob is also looking for ideas for presentations in the first months of 2022 when attendance is likely to be higher.

Treasurer's report: Michael made note that June is the start of the new fiscal year. A new format for reporting was also presented, which includes a double-check for consistency. The Treasurer's report was approved with Bob's motion and Andrew's second.

Special Projects report: Christie reported that Vee has resigned from the Special Projects committee. Claudia Geagan will replace Vee to work with Christie and Geneva. Christie presented a detailed contest timeline for now through the end of the contest in April 2022. Problems to be solved include finding a way for electronic entry submissions.

Communications report: Geneva is looking for new ways to get sponsors for the youth writing contest and to create general outreach. Two new resources will be added to the GCWA website. Duotrope.com exists to help writers find publishers and agents. PW.com provides a digest of writing contests. [PW stands for Poets and Writers.]

Membership report: David reported four new paid members and solicited two more who are expected to join. At present there are 50-55 paid members with a total of 150 former or unpaid members. It was noted that the application form needs the full address of applicants.

New business: Geneva noted that the presenter at the Saturday, July 17, meeting will present via Zoom. She also suggested that group lunch after the meetings be resumed. It was noted that reservations need to be made in advance, which will require commitment to attend before the meeting. Judy confirmed that the website includes a link to the GCWA Facebook page. Claudia has agreed to administer the critique groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30, as moved by Christie and seconded by Judy.

Mary Charles  
Secretary