AUGUST LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month an august team of speakers (pun intended) will walk you through the process and procedures of critique groups. To critique doesn’t imply cruel criticism of a work, but rather to analyze, review, and provide commentary on submitted writing.

Each of our four speakers has distinctive skills to point you in the right direction.

Hunter Leake II practiced pediatrics in academia and private practice for 50 years before retiring in 1999. Now he prefers to focus on character behavior in any circumstance. His delight and challenge as a writer are for his readers to understand and experience the emotions his characters instill in him.

Christie Zarria was an executive assistant for the CEO of the largest medical malpractice insurer in Texas for over twenty years. Married for nearly 50 years, she has five children and 14 grandblessings. Christie likes to write about family, travel, personal experiences, and occasional philosophic reflections, although her secret wish is to do a historical novel of some sort.

Bob McCarthy has been a professional writer, editor, and producer in both freelance and corporate positions. He has written video scripts for marketing and training along with numerous collateral materials. Bob has also written, press releases, collateral materials, and more.

Jen Yontz-Orlando, MBA, MLIS. After many years in the corporate world, Jen now dedicates her time and energy to writing. Jen’s themes include culture, class, language, family dynamics, education, religion, mental illness, alcoholism, and the transformational power of love.

If this is your first attempt at preparing a script for (hopefully) publication you can’t afford NOT to join a critique group. The panel will point out the “Do’s” and Don’ts” of analyzing a member’s written work.

The meeting will be conducted on zoom as well as onsite attendance. Remember if you are doing Zoom you need to register ahead of time.

**On another note**: in September we will have a new meeting location in Fort Myers. The location is excellent and easy to access. The facility is roomy and has plenty of room for growth. This location will offer other opportunities for us as well.

We are expanding our 2022 writing contest for the Youth group, with media coverage and sponsorship. To my knowledge we are the first writing group in our area to offer this.

In early November we are planning a large book sale event. We have room in our new facility to offer other local writers to participate as well.

GCWA members will have first opportunity to sign up at a reduced rate. If enough people sign up we might bring in a food vendor. This also will be advertised.

This is just the beginning! We are on a roll. Keep checking our website for further details.

Irene Smith,

President