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Gulf Coast Writers Association

Executive Board Minutes 08/17/2021

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, Jan Neiman, David Aiken, Judy Loose, Claudia Geagan and Mary Charles. Geneva Kelly, DL Havlin and Andrew Conlyn were present by Zoom.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as moved by Jan and seconded by Judy.

Programs report: Bob McCarthy was not present, but there was much discussion about the proposed presentation for November. It was agreed by the attending board members that all presentations must conform to the guidelines published by GCWA and must be focused on helping writers rather than on promoting the presenter’s work. It was suggested that a previous presentation [e.g., DL’s from early 2021] be shared with the proposed November presenter to help her understand how presentations are intended to inform members.

Treasurer’s report: Michael was not present but his report was approved after discussion.

Special Projects report: Christie reported that the speaker at the September meeting will be present by Zoom. This meeting will also be the first at our new venue: Word of Life Church off College Parkway. Christie also reminded us that judges [perhaps teachers] need to be found for the youth writing contest.

Communications report: Geneva has submitted press releases to magazines and the GCWA Facebook page to announce the August and September meetings. Irene reminded the committee of the need to script 3-minute TV interview segments. DL also mentioned the potential for an 8-12 minute segment on the Fox 9:00 talk show. Judy mentioned a radio station in Punta Gorda, where DL has a contact.

Membership report: David reported four new or returning paid members, with 28 attending the July meeting. David also mentioned a Great Courses editing program that he will present to members.

New business: Irene reminded the committee of the November book signing and sale from 10am to 2pm on 11/6 at McGregor Baptist Church on Colonial. For this event, the club rents the room and sells tables for a $50 fee. There will be an ad in The Breeze as well as press releases. DL pointed out that it is easy to attract authors but not as easy to attract the public. One suggestion was to place a poster in libraries: “Meet Local Authors.” It was also proposed that the club rent a table and 10’x10’ tent at the SWFL reading festival on March 5, 2022, at a cost of $200. Jan needs greeters for September. Bob and Claudia volunteered

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05, as moved by David and seconded by Christie.

Mary Charles

Secretary