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Gulf Coast Writers Association

Executive Board Minutes 09/14/2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by President Irene Smith. Members present at the Fairfield Inn in person were Irene, David Aiken, Judy Loose, Mike Cole, and Geneva Kelly. Christie Zarria was present by Zoom.

Irene informed us that Bob McCarthy (Programs Officer) and Jan Nieman (Officer at Large) have resigned. Judy will put a notice on the website looking for new volunteers. Bob will bring equipment to this Saturday’s meeting and someone will need to store it. Irene said she could do it if people would help bring it from her car to the meetings.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as moved by David and seconded by Judy.

Communications report: Geneva mentioned that her announcements for the September meeting had the wrong speaker and location. It was suggested that we inform the Fairfield Inn of the new location so they can direct anyone who comes to the wrong location. She talked about the TV interview. She talked about her presentation for this Saturday. She plans to do a raffle.

Programs report: Bob McCarthy was not present. Judy said there are speakers through January listed on the website. Geneva has a connection with a possible speaker. Christie said the September speaker who had to cancel is willing to come back after things clear up in Louisiana after hurricane Ida.

Treasurer’s report: Michael reviewed his report. He suggested marking off youth contest entries against the donations; everyone agreed. The report was approved as moved by Geneva and seconded by David.

Special Projects report: Christie and Geneva talked about the prizes for the Youth Contest; there will only be three youth prizes total. We talked again about finding connections with teachers in the schools to encourage students to enter the contest. Geneva suggested better flyers to be posted around town for the contest. Judy asked about what date to post the new contest on the website. Christie will send the new format for the forms and Judy will create online forms.

Membership report: Twenty people attended the August meeting in person, six by Zoom. David received an application that he didn’t think had made a PayPal payment. Judy will check PayPal.

New business: Mike will register GCWA for the March 2022 Reading Festival—$200 for the tent and one table, $20 for an extra table. It was decided to rent two tables and recruit authors to sell their books at the tables. We will charge $20 for a morning or afternoon session—10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42.

Judy Loose

(acting for Mary Charles, Secretary)