GCWA

Gulf Coast Writers Association

Executive Board Minutes 4/19/2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by President Irene Smith. Members present at the Fairfield Inn: Irene Smith, David Aiken, Mike Cole, Christie Zarria, Judy Loose, and Mary Charles. Attending by Zoom: Geneva Kelly, Jeanne Meeks, DL Havlin, and Susan Grunin.

**Minutes** of the March meeting as previously submitted via email were accepted. Motion to approve by Christie, seconded by Dave.

**Communications Report:** Geneva had trouble getting notices posted but will make attempts for next month’s meeting. Florida Weekly and The Breeze newspapers were contacted, and she will try to list our events on the online calendar. Mary offered her contact, Valerie, at The Breeze to get a better result. The Happenings section of Fort Myers Magazine requires one to two months advance notice of events, but Geneva got in for May and June. Our Facebook page is not working well, and Geneva said she needs to post earlier. She cannot tag anyone. Mike offered to study the issue.

In May Geneva will begin posting our general meetings and any special events on Meet Up, the fee for which has been budgeted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mike distributed copies and reported March revenues of $627.55 which consist of three new members’ dues and six renewals, all through PayPal. We are a bit behind in renewals. Expenses of $295 for the month included: $120 for the meeting site, $100 for Loose Lines, and $75 for the speaker. After the contest, we are $376 in the hole, which includes $200 for the Reading Fest. We are $73.58 over budget for the year. (Mike, please correct any dollar amount errors.)

Since our fiscal year ends June 1, we must meet to create a new budget for the coming year. Mike will email a budget proposal in advance of the next meeting.

**Program Report:** Mary announced our speakers have been booked for the next six months. For October’s program, she booked Mary Lou to speak about storytelling. Last week Mary visited Alliance for the Arts to listen to their storytelling program and was impressed.

In August Mary would like a writing workshop and suggests a sub-group to organize the event.

In an effort to support members who host or participate in outside events, Irene and Mary attended Karen White’s program at the library. They noted her Power Point presentation, which Karen uses as a vehicle to market her books, was “cute” and “slick.”

Susan Grunin will be the speaker in May and has provided an overview and her Power Point files to Judy. GCWA will provide the laptop. DL warned not all Power Point versions are compatible with other versions.

**Contest Report:** Christie had emailed to board members a list of contest winners to be presented with certificates and prize money at or before the next general meeting. Four winners will attend in person; three will attend via Zoom; two cannot attend at all and asked their work be read by a member. Winning guests should arrive about 10:30.

Irene noted that we might calculate the time needed for reading by using the standard one hundred words per minute as the Toastmaster do. The reading may take too long, so our business portion and networking may be shortened. Traditionally, only first place winners read their work and others read if time allowed. We’ll attempt to have all winners read, but those not in attendance will be left until the end in case we run short on time.

Fort Myers Magazine may try to publish winners. Discussion ensued about publishing all entries on our website or just the winners. Geneva suggested only the winning entries, because “not all the entries were polished enough” and may reflect on GCWA if we seemed to endorse poor writing. DL asked about our time frame, suggesting perhaps entries could be returned for editing before publishing. Mike noted that writers sometime don’t like feedback. Others agreed, especially if unsolicited .

**Membership:** Dave reported we have one new member this month and one former member rejoined. (How many total members?) (How does this line up with the 3 new members’ dues the Treasurer reported?)

**President report:** Irene discussed the need for new branding for GCWA. The board suggested we don’t change the logo, but the mission statement may be too long. A sub-committee should be formed to revise the missions statement.

**New Business:** It was suggested Jan Neiman be awarded a free lifetime membership in recognition of her years of service to GCWA. All were in favor, though it was thought Jan may already have a lifetime membership. Judy will look into that possibility.

DL offered to approach speakers at the writers conference he will soon attend in Melbourne with an aim to enlist the better speakers to be our future program presenters. All agreed.

DL announced his good news. His publisher sent him the galley for the first of his three books and gave him an option for six more in the series. He also dug up an older manuscript about Ukraine which his agent sent to two publishers. He has the possibility of five traditionally published books.

**Next Meetings:**  Executive - May 17th. General - May 21

**Adjournment:**  Motion to adjourn made by Mary, seconded by Judy. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Submitted by: Jeanne Meeks, Secretary