

Gulf Coast Writers Association, Inc.
President's Annual Report
18th Session
April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Pursuant to Article I, Section 5 A, the following is the president's annual report. As president of the Gulf Coast Writers Association for the past year, I am happy to report that our organization is in excellent condition.

Membership: We have members 223. We held eleven meetings during the year, and through February 838 people have attended. The largest attendance was with 98 people at our April 2013 meeting.

Treasury: The bank balance is \$13,245.07, an increase of \$1,632.58.

Programs: open to the public.

April 2013 – Dr. Patricia A. Washington: Poetry: Dancing Across the Page Without Falling Off the Edge

May 2013 – Carmine and Dorayne Lombardo: The Making of a Musical

June 2013 – Dr. Ben Bova: 10 Things I Wish I Knew Before I Started Writing

July 2013 – Rik Feeney: Sell Your Book in 30 Seconds: Elevator speech basics and marketing description mechanics that sell books!

August 2013 – Jan Tourte: Shortcuts that writers should know when using a computer

September 2013 – Richard Georgian spoke about the "Road to Publication."

October 2013 – Liz Huntoon Coursen returned to visit our members and discuss "Yes, You! An Entertaining Autobiography in Three Easy Steps."

November 2013 – Sid Simon was our guest speaker and spoke about “Getting Clear on Why I Write: What Do I Consider Worth While Writing About? Some Tools for Figuring It Out...”

December 2013 – No meeting.

January 2014 – Mark Wayne Adams, an illustrator asked “Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words or Dollars?”

February 2014 – Jane Wood and Frances Fran Keiser, gave members plenty of tips and useful information on publishing, marketing, and thinking out of box when it comes to promoting your book or yourself.

March 2014 – Our annual membership meeting and awarding the winners of the writing contest.

Significant events/projects:

- GCWA established a reciprocal agreement with Marco Island Writers.
- GCWA conducted a 2013 Writing Contest.
- A few GCWA members attended “Matlacha Authors Day” event.
- A group of members spent a “writers get-a-way” weekend at Mt. Dora.
- The board raised the membership fee to \$40 a year and eliminated the \$3 door fee.
- A few GCWA members attended the Marco Island Author’s Fest.

Other activities:

- Judy Loose – Web master: Judy made significant improvements to the website by trimming down unnecessary pages and features, making the website easier to navigate. All photos from our meetings now published to our Facebook page.
- Denise Holbrook – Program Director – issued a ticket system for “Lunch with the Speaker” to keep the attendance to 20.

- Don Capelli and Julie Ward – Treasurer/Membership respectively: Implemented a quick sign in program, allowing members more time for networking prior to the start of the meeting.

Recommendations:

- Set up an annual meeting that involves all the writing groups GCWA has reciprocal agreements. An all day seminar with a few speakers, but allowing much network time for all members.
- Restructure and/or set time limits for announcing Good News. Meetings have a large attendance and Good News takes up too much time. We already put in place that all announcements go through the president.
- Have a Marketing Minute during the meeting where a member will share a tip on how to market. This would be in the same line as we do the Grammar Minute.
- Continue with Progressive Stories written by our members. These have always got good feedback and proved to be very entertaining to the membership.
- Schedule more events relating to writing and/or marketing that take place outside of the meeting other than book signings.
- Schedule more “hands on” meetings where members do worksheets, or break off into smaller groups.

Respectfully, submitted,

Timothy M. Jacobs
President, 2013-2014