Gulf Coast Writers Association
Executive Committee Meeting
May 12, 2026 by Zoom
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm by President, **Christie Zarria**

Attending: Claudia Geagan, Claudia Volkman, Lori Swick, Laura Schueneman, Laura Fuller, Rita Angelini, Jeanne Meeks, Ginger Wakem, Amie Raterman

Absent: Mike Cole, Mary Charles, Cheryl Lynn Dratler, Andrew Conlyn, Mary Beth Leopold, Dave Kratzke

Reports from Officers:

Minutes: Laura Schueneman submitted the Minutes via email prior to the meeting. Claudia briefly discussed her addendum. Ginger moved to approve the minutes with the addendum and Claudia seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Rita Angelini submitted her report prior to the meeting. Lori moved to approve. Claudia Seconded.

Web Manager: Laura Fuller submitted a letter to the committee prior to the meeting. At the meeting, she asked if we will go forward with Wild Apricot. Pay Pal was discussed. Laura F suggested closing Pay Pall account due to problems with it. Stripe was discussed. Double charges from Pay Pal were discussed.
July 31 is the date at which Laura F will step down. We discussed hiring an outside web management company, or training a volunteer.

Programs: Lori Swick - FAPA Florida authors and Publishers Assoc. will speak to our group this Saturday. June - Mary Charles Memoir workshop, July - Nancy Kuski formatting book and book covers, August - contest winner readings. Lori discussed offering editing and writing tips to fill in lulls. Claudia V. suggested doing “break-out rooms”.

Membership: Jeanne Meeks. We have 39 new members since Jan 1. We have 10 life members. There are 154 paid members, subtracting members who haven't paid. Jeanne has been reminding members to pay. She also reminded us that the board and executive committee member must pay dues. Storm stories sales was discussed. Laura S., Jan Porter, and Sonia will man the membership table at the May meeting.

Special Programs: Claudia Geagan mentioned that the contest winners are on the website and they will read at the meeting in August. The losers were thanked for their contributions. She anticipates 7 or 8 readers.

Communications: Ginger Wakem told us that Sheryl Lynn will retire as of December 2026. Ginger and Mary Charles discussed marketing with Tom Cosse.
Increasing member dues was discussed. $75 per person, and $100 per family was mentioned. If voted in, the new dues will be paid when the members' rolling dues are due. Non-members cannot attend zoom meetings.

Next year's contest was discussed. Whether or not to span the contest over 2 tax years was discussed. When to pay the winners was discussed.

Treasurer: Rita Angelini discussed the budget that she sent the day of the meeting. Web costs and communications costs were discussed. She suggested leaving revenue the same because we may lose members due to the membership cost increase. She projected a net cash inflow of $3,360 based on the several items that were discussed. She will send a copy of her document for approval before the end of the month. She reiterated that we will lose members due to the dues increase.

Hiring a webmaster was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: June 16, 2026, 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schueneman