



Please note: MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR JUNE!!

Hi, all! First of all, in case you haven't heard – our next meeting **has been moved** from June 20th to **Saturday, June 27th**. Same time, same location, and same amazing guest speaker. This month, we welcome our creative and talented past prez, **Mary Charles**, a world-class storyteller. Mary believes that memories are the proof of a life, the substance of a life. To let those memories die is a shame – memoir is how lives endure. Join us as Mary shares her own path to memoir and leads us in some exercises to inspire us to skillfully commemorate life stories for our posterity.

So mark your calendars for **June 27th** and *do not* show up on the 20th unless you want to wish the retiring rector at St. Hilary's your best, as it's his retirement celebration that preempted our regular meeting (we sincerely wish him a happy retirement!).

About that meeting...

As promised, at our next meeting (which - one more time - is **June 27th**), we will have a short general membership business meeting to vote on our proposed dues increase.

About the increase. As we look at what's ahead for GCWA, I first want to take a moment to remind us all of what we already have — because it's genuinely impressive.

* Every month, industry insiders pull back the curtain and share what they know, and we walk away with their notes in hand.

- * Your books have a home on our website — cover, description, buy link, organized so readers can actually find you.
- * When you have news to share, GCWA's Facebook audience hears it, and you don't have to lift a finger.
- * And when events like the Fort Myers Reading Festival roll around, our members have the opportunity to be there amid thousands of book lovers eager to explore the offerings our members present.

But honestly? The part that can't be listed in bullet points is our community itself. The encouragement, the friendships, the people who understand exactly why you spent three hours on one paragraph. That's what keeps us writers writing.

Looking ahead...

And we're just getting started. We are working on things like a members-only blog which can provide a wider platform for your voice. We are also planning writing workshops — full-day, immersive, outside of our regular meetings. We are constantly looking for higher-profile speakers to spark our creative efforts. More resources, more opportunities, more reasons to show up.

All of that takes a little fuel. Which is why we are proposing a modest increase in dues — and why I believe every penny of it comes back to you. We believe this increase is reasonable enough to accommodate everyone, but adds enough buffer to our budget to enable us to forge ahead with the "dream big" ideas outlined above. If agreed upon by a majority of the membership present at our June meeting, the annual dues for individuals will go up to \$60/year and family memberships will increase to \$75 annually, effective July 1, 2026.

It may not sound like a lot — but as we continue to grow at the pace we've enjoyed this past year, those extra dollars will be reflected in every way we support and encourage you in your writing pursuits.

So, please join us on June 27...



GCWA

P.O. Box 60444, Fort Myers
United States of America

Thanks for reading, and please come prepared on June 27th to:

* learn all about memoir and..

* vote yes on our dues increase!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly at president@gulfcoastwriters.org.

Keep writing!!

Warmly,

Christie Zarria

GCWA President

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