

## **07/08/2020 MARCO ISLAND WRITERS' MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting was via Zoom [video/audio through our computers] and was called to order promptly at 6:00 P.M. by our Pres. Joanne Taillele, with 10 members in attendance. It was explained that this meeting, which had been scheduled to be held at the Art Center, was switched to a virtual meeting via Zoom due to the recent escalating cases of COVID-19 in the County, making in-person visits unwise.

Treasurer's report was not given at this time.

### **Announcements & Discussions:**

- Joanne requested discussion on whether to have or not have, the September meeting. Traditionally the September meeting is not held but since we have been in quarantine for many months without regular, in-person meetings, it might be helpful to have one. Majority said yes, but final decision will be made closer to time and depending upon circumstances.
- We were reminded to review the Newsletter carefully every month to find new opportunities for promoting our work and to send any news we have for publication.
- Dolores announced her book, *But You Don't Look Like Me*, will be out in hardcover soon. She decided hardcover would be better suited to libraries and institutions than the former soft cover versions that she self-published. Dolores asked for volunteers to proof read and they will receive an advance, autographed copy.
- Joan Peppe, one of our newer members, is pleased to announce her new book will be out soon.
- A discussion about 'what is a beta reader' ensued with Joanne explaining that basically a beta reader is one who proof-reads for content, not technicalities like spelling and grammar. Usually these readers are unpaid volunteers and can be found on different websites like Book Baby. One should always try to reward the reader with a copy of one's book, autographed, and consider giving a small gift card, perhaps \$25. One can also advertise the need in our club's own newsletter. Other sources of help can be programs like Autocrit or Grammarly which have various levels of participation at varying cost. They can be found online.
- We were asked our reactions to our '*Grabbing The Reader Workshop*' in which many had recently participated. The general idea was to submit a work for review by members commenting on certain determiners in particular. The main object was to "grab the reader" within the first 500 words. Everyone was enthusiastic, thanked each other for their kindness and help and generally thought the workshop is well worth arranging again. Some technical

difficulties with submissions and confusion about group allotments were the main reason for dissatisfaction and the Board is working to correct the situation for the future.

Our next meeting will be Weds, August 12 at the Marco Island Art Center beginning at 6 P.M. and there will be a Zoom Meet presentation by author Elena Hartwell, Senior Editor, Allegory Editing Co. [also writing under the name Elena Taylor.] From travels to real world locations to library archives, join author Elena Taylor as she discusses her research strategies and shares stories of her experiences.