

## Surfwriters minutes 28 January 2011

Meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m., Maria Ruiz, President, presiding.

Minutes from last meeting not available.

Treasury report not read.

Old business: Elayne Sidley reminded membership that she has updated the current scrapbook and would appreciate anyone having materials for the scrapbook to submit them to her.

New business:

Kendell Cornwell reviewed upcoming meeting schedule:

March – she's looking for a speaker

April – no meeting: Poetry and Music Event

May – need speaker

June – end-of-the-year party

July and August – no meetings

September – no speaker to be scheduled

October – need speaker

Members present gave reports on past month's writing activities:

Maria Ruiz, through Toastmasters, gave a talk on the theme of "Knowledge is Power"

Gloria Fuld had nothing to report.

Elayne Sidley had a poem published in her monthly poetry column.

Marilyn Litvak read writings of disabled students and is working on the anthology.

Kendell Cornwell hosted the History Club with speaker Clarence Lee.

Irene Alvarado – is writing poetry

Alice Sesno – has completed a book with 2 publishers interested

Connie Constant – is working on her book.

KC Johnson – "The anthology from 2006 is proceeding in orderly fashion....It is an intensive project... is in the next phase."

10:45 – Maria Ruiz suggested we break for coffee (our speaker had arrived). The meeting was not formally concluded.

11:00 – Speaker: Bill Sharpsteen focused on non-fiction

writing. He emphasized verifying sources and the advantages of the Internet, doing interviews and including quotes of significance.

He gave an example of his experience in writing *Docks*. He followed people around to observe them at work. He emphasized “getting in there” and getting as much first-hand involvement as possible, thus bringing the reader in.

He suggested that the interview form be prepared with specific questions but not reading off the paper—making it as conversational in tone as possible.

He recommended recording the interview, digitally if possible for its advantages, including computer backup potential. He recommended being prepared for followup questions, bringing the interviewee from general to specific.

The Sharpsteen presentation was concluded at 10:10 with sale and inscription of his books.

NOTE: Maria will not be present at the February meeting—she will be celebrating her forty-fifth wedding anniversary. Marilyn Litvak will chair the meeting.