



Annual Report

2022

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Introduction

The Constitution of the University of Regina Women calls for an annual general meeting (AGM) to be held in the spring of each year. The main purpose of this meeting is to select officers (members of the Executive). In addition, the Constitution provides for alteration or amendment by majority vote of members at a regular business meeting, and the AGM has served this purpose. The Treasurer also provides an annual financial statement for the information and approval of members of the organization. The 2022 AGM Agenda will come in a subsequent email to those attending the event.

A copy of the Annual Report is provided electronically to all members and in hard copy to those who request it in that form. A hard copy of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting (unless the meeting is held virtually).

Reports from Members of the Executive

President

As a result of your efforts, creativity and enthusiasm, I am pleased to report that 2021-2022 has been successful for the University of Regina Women. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the Executive and members at large who have stepped up to make our organization vital, relevant and interesting for our members. Despite challenges related to the pandemic, we have provided the opportunity to expand our thoughts, support learning and lastly provide our members with the company of others through gatherings and interest groups.

Our membership has held steady this past year and in fact we are pleased to have welcomed some new members. I believe that more women will join us with your encouragement and offering creativity in evolving our organization through communication and by offering new opportunities and offerings to engage a wider age dynamic.

When the Executive met last summer, we decided that since the Welcome Back Reception, held at Kensington Close the previous year, was very well received, that we would once again accept Cara Gay Driscoll's invitation to use the clubhouse. Under the direction and hard work of Samira McCarthy and Bonnie Dobni, promotion of the event by Maryam and Ruth, and efforts of others on the Executive, it was a great success! The ladies socialized, signed up for the Interest groups and generously donated to our bursary. Barbara de Vlieger with the support of Marilyn Lewry updated memberships which we have confidentially provided to you under separate email.

I want to acknowledge Samira for working with the University to promote and award the bursary through their financial aid program. This year's Bursary Honoree is Ruth Heinrichs, a tireless member of your Executive. She has been our communications link to you for over 10 years and is well deserving of this special recognition.

Joanne Durst liaised with the Interest Groups' Convenors to keep us all up to date. Throughout this Pandemic, the Interest Groups' Convenors and their members have exercised prudence and flexibility to make safety their priority. If you have an idea for a group that you think would interest 6 or more people, let's talk about it!

Ruth Heinrichs, as our Communications Officer, has provided newsletters and promoted events and other information via email and on our webpage to keep communication between you and your Executive. We thank her for her years of service, and she will be greatly missed.

Past President, Samira McCarthy has been an invaluable advisor to me as your new President. In addition, she has stepped up to plan our long awaited in-person AGM with dinner and guest speaker,

Wilf Perreault, renowned local artist and educator. Note that this dinner event is partially funded by your membership fees.

As Vice-President, Mary Okumura has been working with the Registrar's Office to facilitate a means to increase the awareness of our organization and to congratulate the new University of Regina graduates. The Fall 2021 Convocation unfortunately did not include a tea for graduates and their entourage; however, we are encouraged that the Spring 2022 Convocation may provide us with some other options. More information to follow as plans are currently under development.

Eclectic Events included an in-person presentation to about 20 members by our own Cara Gay Driscoll, who highlighted the fascinating process to publish her first book, *Giulia*. Recently, Lynn Tomkins was instrumental in arranging for a private guided tour of the newly renovated Darke Hall for approximately 30 members. I appreciate and commend these women for their leadership in engaging our membership.

The Executive for 2022-23 will have some familiar faces as well as some new ones. Returning Executive include Carmelle Beaudry (President), Samira McCarthy (Past President), Mary Okumura (Vice-President), Catherine Arthur-MacDonald (Treasurer), Barbara de Vlieger (Membership) and Aline Munro (Secretary). Vacant positions to be filled include Communications, Interest Groups and Events.

Special mention to Aline Munro, our Secretary, who quietly works away behind the scenes to keep us organized and to Catherine Arthur-MacDonald for managing our annually growing bursary initiative and the club's financial well-being!

I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have dedicated their focus and efforts to the club over the past year. This includes both those that are leaving, and those who are staying. I look forward to welcoming the team of those who are coming on board and those who are staying! Thank you for making the past year one of friendship and hope. Let's continue on the path of supporting each other and working to keep our organization dynamic and meaningful.

My sincere wishes for continued health to you and yours,

Carmelle Beaudry

Past President

The 2021-2022 Bursary honoree was Susan McLaren, who has been a member of our Club for many years and served as its President. Her choice of area of studies was in the Faculty of Science, with a major in Biology. Her interest in that area was the result of a Biology professor at college inspiring her in her own academic path.

The recipient of the Bursary is Naomi Wee, a Bachelor of Science student majoring in Biology. We are hoping that we will be able to honour and congratulate her in person at our Annual General Meeting in May.

Ruth Heinrichs has been chosen by the Executive as the honoree for the 2022-2023 Bursary. Ruth has been a member of our Club for at least 15 years, serving as Communications Officer for 10 of those years. We will miss her efficiency and dedication to the job as she steps down from the Executive at the end of this fiscal year.

Ruth has asked that the Bursary be awarded to a female student in the Faculty of Arts majoring in a language taught at the University of Regina. Her choice of the area of studies is no surprise, as most of her life has been dedicated to the teaching of language: reading in primary school for 7 years and ESL in a community college for 5 years, prior to 26 years in the ESL department at the U of R from which she retired in 2012.

Samira McCarthy

Vice-President

Traditionally we have had the honour of hosting the Convocation Tea where we had the pleasure of meeting and congratulating graduates and introducing them to our organization. The Fall of 2021 convocation was open only to graduates because of the pandemic.

Spring 2022 Convocation is being celebrated on campus in the Centre of Kinesiology, Health & Sport. Due to the changes, the Convocation Tea will not be a part of the celebration.

Mary Okumura

Membership

Last year, my predecessor started her AGM report with the words: "2020-2021 will be remembered as the year of the Covid-19 pandemic", implying hope for a return to a more normal situation in 2021-22. That hope was perhaps a little premature; vaccines did indeed improve our prospects but then the arrival of new variants meant that activities remained curtailed and concerns about safety made many members hesitant to take part in the activities which were proposed or offered. Our activity groups have had to deal with a lot of uncertainty and have had to make adjustments to their normal way of doing things.

Our membership numbers have remained constant this year at forty-three (43), with a few new members added and a few departures. However, the drop in membership that we experienced the previous year has not been reversed. We fervently hope that, by the time we begin our next year of activity in September, the improvement in the Covid situation will have stabilized and that we will be able to plan our activities with more freedom and confidence from the outset. And we hope that former members will reconsider their decisions and that new members will want to join us.

Barbara de Vlieger

Communications

A key point of communication is the URegina Women's website www2.uregina.ca/urw, offering information on events, interest groups and newsletters.

The purpose of the URW newsletter is to keep everyone informed of URW events, to advertise Interest Groups, to introduce new members, and to advertise the URW Bursary with a short biography of the URW woman chosen as bursary honoree. There are usually two newsletters-one in October and another in March. The newsletters and additional reminders of events are sent by e-mail, except for a few women who would rather have a hard copy.

Ruth Heinrichs

Events

Welcome Back - October 2021

- The URW organized an in-person event through our member Cara Gay Driscoll who made the arrangements for us to gather at Kensington Close - Club House. The club house setting was the perfect place for us to socialize, snack, donate to the bursary and renew our membership. Lastly this was an ideal time to find out about and join an Interest Group.
- This event was attended by an estimated 30 members which included 5 new members.
- Thanks to Cara Gay Driscoll, Samira McCarthy, and Bonnie Dobni who went above and beyond in making the event a success!

Presentation by Cara Gay Driscoll - November 2021

Cara, fellow member and friend, is a newly published author who gave us an insight into her fascinating journey and the process she went through in developing and publishing her first book, *Giulia*. About 20

ladies attended the presentation in one of the private rooms at the George Bothwell RPL location. We look forward to hearing about this talented lady's next endeavour!

Tour of Darke Hall - March 2022

Lynn Tomkins was instrumental in organizing a tour of this newly renovated performance hall. The guided tour, attended by 30 of our members and associates, took place over a month before the public grand opening. Many of our members have been patrons of that entertainment venue and they expressed their delight at what they saw.

AGM - May 12, 2022

The AGM dinner and presentation by Wilf Perreault at the Royal Regina Golf Club is the long awaited brain child of Samira McCarthy and promises to be THE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

As this is my final report as a member of the URW executive, I wish to thank the Executive and the members for all their assistance and participation in the events. My best wishes to all of you.

Carmelle on behalf of Maryam Bozong-Mehr

Interest Groups

The Interest groups play an important role in meeting one of many objectives of the Club to promote sociability and welcome newcomers. Although the COVID-19 pandemic remained in 2021-2022, the COVID-19 vaccines have allowed some groups to meet while other groups felt safer gathering via zoom.

At the *Welcome Back Reception*, members (including new members) signed up for the Interest groups of their choice and the lists were updated for 2021-2022. Five interest group coordinators resigned at the beginning of this year. We are thankful to Alison Hayford (Movie Potluck group), Laurie Carlson Berg & Alison Hayford Co-ordinators for le Cercle français, Lise Lundlie (coordinator of Culinary Explorers for many years), Barbara de Vlioger (Gourmet Cooking Club), and Linda Paul (long time Coordinator of the Mixed Bridge Group) for their service. We are so fortunate that new and continuing members have volunteered to assume the role of convening these Interest groups as noted below.

Book Club #1, convened by Cara Gay Driscoll, continued to meet on Monday afternoons. **Tatiana Levit** coordinated **Book Club #2** monthly on the first Tuesday evening via Zoom. **Culinary Explorers** met once a month, skipping January (due to high Covid numbers) in a selected restaurant coordinated initially by **Lise Lundlie** and then by **Kay Antrobus**. Members of the club have dined at a variety of Regina Restaurants in 2021/2022 including *Royal Regina Golf Course, Agave Authentic Mexican Grill, The*

Cottage, Barbar (East Indian) for lunch and *Roots in Harbour Landing & Korean BBQ*. Usually up to 12 members gathered and enjoyed the opportunity to socialize while enjoying a variety of cuisines. Those who live alone found that eating with friends was especially enjoyable. The **Gourmet Cooking Club**, convened by **Lynn Tomkins** enjoyed a lentil themed dinner in the fall, and a Persian meal in December, and a dinner in late February. **The Movie Club**, formerly “**The Movie Potluck Club**” convened by **Magda Cismaru** with assistance initially from **Bonnie Dobni** has been very active. Members of the club have enjoyed watching the following entertaining movies on the big screen: *Titane, King James, House of Gucci, Belfast, Westside Story and Donkey Head* (an award-winning Canadian film that was filmed in Regina). The group enjoyed social time at a restaurant or café nearby the theatre before or after the movie.

Le Cercle français is convened by our new member, **Louise McCullough**. With her past experience of tutoring and giving conversation classes with the U or R Bilingual Studies Centre she brings special skills to this club. The club has met several times via zoom for social conversations and is looking forward to meeting in person.

Mary Okumura convenes the **Walking Club** which continued to meet weekly, enjoying the outdoors, and the exercise even on the very cold winter days while walking around Wascana Lake. The **Curling Club**, which is also convened by **Mary Okumura**, has had a wonderful curling season with the Matinee Women’s Curling club at the Caledonian Curling club. This is another great way to exercise during the winter months and enjoy a social time after the game. Two new UR women members (new to curling) joined the club to curl on Wednesday afternoons. With the teams changing in the middle of the season, curlers get to know many of the other participants. Curling started on October 13, 2021. On December 15th members enjoyed a Christmas luncheon and social. The second square took place from January 12th to March 16th, 2022 bringing the season to a close with the wind-up social on March 16th. The curlers followed the regulations set out by the Caledonian Curling Club regarding the pandemic.

To date we are without a coordinator for the **Mixed Bridge group**. Although there was some interest from new & old members this group did not meet this year. Convenor: vacant

Thank you to our interest group convenors for all their endeavors this past year. Your planning has brought a bright light into our lives during a time of increased isolation due to the pandemic and the cold and dark of the winter.

Joanne Durst

**UNIVERSITY OF REGINA WOMEN
FISCAL YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Feb. 28, 2021- April 1, 2022**

Opening bank balance **\$4462.52**

INCOME

MEMBERSHIPS 1200.00

DONATIONS 62.00

BANK

- GIC 1500.00
- GIC interest 6.75
- Deposit interest .07

\$7231.34

EXPENSES

EVENTS

- Garden Club Gift Cards 200.00
- Honorarium 100.00
- Convocation 341.24
- Tea Bags 61.75
- Postcards 279.49
- Welcome Back 340.79
- Room Rental 50.00
- Wine 61.30
- Food 229.49
- Library 142.15
- Honorarium 100.00
- Coffee 42.15
- Darke Hall 100.00
- Honorarium 100.00

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Stamps/ 19.32
- Cheques 192.78

BANK

- Service fees 5.50

Total **\$1341.78**

Balance: **\$5589.56**

Prepared and submitted by Catherine Arthur-MacDonald