



2025-2026

Annual Report

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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.

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.

This annual report was compiled by the Secretary, Barbara de Vlieger, using reports provided by the members of the current executive.

Reports from the Executive Committee

President

Our year started with the Welcome Back on September 24, 2025. Members and guests enjoyed a time for visiting and an opportunity to sign up for one or more of the Interest Groups being offered by U of R Women's Club. We appreciate the attention to details offered by the staff at Luther College for this event.

The U of R Women's bursary continues to help a female student with her studies at the University of Regina. Your generous donations make this possible.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive for their work and support during my term as President.

Mary Okumura

Past President

In recent years, we have experienced numerous problems with the advertising and awarding of our annual U of R women bursary, which is handled by the university. After consultation with the university, there has been a decision to change the terms on which it is awarded. The Bursary will continue to be awarded to a female student in financial need. However, it will no longer be tied to a specific discipline and it will no longer be named in honour of any individual member of the U of R Women; for the sake of clarity, the bursary will be known and publicized as the University of Regina Women Bursary.

Bursary donations of \$1,250 were collected October 2025, however the bursary award continues to be \$1,500 with the shortfall coming from a small credit balance we have with U of R Awards and Bursary account.

Carmelle Beaudry

Vice-President

In May, 2025 I joined the executive, serving as Vice- President.

Our welcome back reception was held September 24, 2025. Hors d' oeuvres, and dessert were served. 2 door prizes were given.

Our AGM and dinner will be held May 27, 2026 at Luther College.

A chicken dinner and dessert will be served. The guest speaker will be announced at a later date.

Last year's Annual General Meeting was held on May 21, 2025 in Room 100, Luther College at the University. Members were pleased to be joined by the most recent winner of the U of R Women Bursary, Abigail Kachelueba and her husband. The formal meeting was followed by a dinner, catered by Luther College and a presentation by Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen, CEO of the YWCA in Regina, who gave a very interesting, informative and entertaining account of the YWCA, its work in Regina and the many needs it addresses in the community.

Cara Driscoll

Membership Officer

The University of Regina Women membership for 2025-26 was 40 including five new members and the three Honorary Members. This is a slight decrease from the 43 women who were members last year. Unfortunately, some former members moved away, others had mobility issues, and some did not renew their membership due to other commitments which made it no longer possible for them to participate in UR Women interest groups and other activities.

At the last Executive meeting it was suggested that recruiting recent University of Regina alumnae might be one way for UR Women to recruit new – and younger – women to join the group. We will be in discussion with Alumni Relations to see if it could be possible to let UR women graduates know they can join the group when they graduate. One way to do that could be by producing a brochure or business card with information about the group along with contact details including the email and website addresses.

Ideally this would be given out at graduation ceremonies and potentially included in Alumni e-newsletters in case women who graduated in earlier years also wish to join our group. Another way to promote the group could be to have an article about a current member included in the Degrees magazine.

Last year it was decided to open membership to all women university graduates. The question is how to reach them? Any and all ideas about how to do this would be most welcome!

Kerrie Strathy

Events Officer

In September, a number of members visited the gazebo created by Vic Cicansky at the Grow Regina Community Garden. Gary Robbins gave an informative talk about the gazebo and the artist.

Unfortunately, a planned October visit to the Moose Jaw Art Gallery had to be cancelled because of a scheduling problem.

We welcome any suggestions you may have for future activities.

Linda Paul and Sue Mitten

Communications Officer

A newsletter as well as invitations to events have been circulated to the membership by email. The website has been updated.

The email distribution list is up to date.

The material for the Annual Meeting is prepared by the Secretary and distributed to membership in advance of the meeting.

Lynn Tomkins

Interest Groups Officer

Tuesday Morning Walking Club. Convener is Mary Okumura

If you enjoy the outdoors, please join us for a walk around Wascana Lake on Tuesday mornings. We meet at the Willow Island parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Curling Club. Convener is Mary Okumura

The Matinee Ladies Curling League's first square is October to December and the second square is January to March. We curl at the Callie Curling Club at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. New members are welcome to join.

Gourmet Cooking Club. Convener is Cara Gay Driscoll

We have 12 members who work in pairs, hosting, cooking and serving one meal per year. We have fabulous dinners along with good conversations.

Duna Barber hosted a fall potluck and Samy McCarthy hosted Christmas potluck. Our spouses or guests are invited to attend our potlucks.

Culinary Explorers. Convener is Kay Antrobus

We go out for dinner on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except for the dark months when we go at noon. We enjoy good food and conversation. In the past year we have met at:

The Dragon Boat, Copper Kettle, Siam, Lakeshore, Darbar, Four Seasons, NIK, Smokin Outlaws' BBQ, Pronto.

Le Cercle français. Convener is Louise McCullough

The group met once a month and participants enjoyed speaking French. It did not meet in January due to extreme cold weather. New members are welcome.

Book Club #1. Convener is Kay Antrobus

This book club has been going for over 50 years!

We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of the month, hosted by members. Books are chosen by the members, resulting in a variety of reading, which expands our world. The member who chose the book introduces it, then each member shares their experience of reading the book. Of course, we also enjoy goodies and coffee. New members are welcome.

Books on this year's reading list:

September: *Shakespeare, the Man who Pays the Rent* by Judy Dench

October: Jane Austen, 200th year anniversary of her death – read any book by her

November: *The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley

December: *Violetta* by Isabelle Allende

January: *The Museum Detective* by Maha Khan Phillips

February: *Piranesi* by Susanna Clark

March: *Not My Father's Son* by Alan Cumming

April: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman

May: *The Last Crossing* by Guy Vanderhaeghe

June: *The Poet's Dog* by Patricia MacLachlan

Book Club #2. Convener is Tatiana Levit

Book Club #2 has one more meeting left to happen in May 2026, and the format is a BYOB (bring your own book to discuss, of course!) We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We had a good year - reading and reflecting on a variety of books, among them several novels, such as:

Three Days in June by Anne Tyler

The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus by Emma Knight

But, also non-fiction, such as

Who We Are - autobiography by Murray Sinclair

The Revenge of the Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

We will be looking for 1-2 new members in 2026-2027!

Coffee & Movie - a convener is required for next year.

This group has flourished in the past but was not active this past year due to several factors, including lack of a coordinator.

Louise McCullough

Annual Financial Report (April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026)

Revenues: Bank balance as of April 1, 2025	\$1769.71
Membership fees 2025/26	\$1110.00
AGM dinner 2025 (Luther College)	\$ 775.00
GIC interest (Oct. 2025)	\$ <u>435.24</u>
Total Revenue	\$4089.95

Expenses: 1. AGM dinner May 21, 2025	\$1217.18
a) Catering (Luther College)	911.93
b) Honorarium (Guest Speaker)	200.00
c) Liquor licence and wine	105.25
2. Welcome Back Reception Sept. 24, 2025	\$ 687.92
a) Luther College catering	637.92
b) Gift Cards	50.00
3. Bank fees	\$ 4.50
4. Administration (printing 2025 AGM reports)	\$ 20.00
5. "Gazebo Event" honorarium	\$ 150.00
6. Flowers	\$ <u>57.00</u>
Total expenses	\$2136.60

Bank balance as of March 31,2026	\$1953.35
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UR Women Bursary Account U of R:

Bursary donations, October 2025	\$1250.00
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University of Regina Trust Fund (March 2026)	\$3051.00
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GIC deposited (Oct, 2025-Oct. 2026 at 3.03%)	\$4000.00
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Samira McCarthy, Treasurer