

## **SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

Provincial Council Meeting, October 26, 2019

### **Membership**

In June, membership was at 75 (including one student and two dual members). Sadly, our member Anne-Marie Trahan passed away in July, but four new members have joined since. Our Club has set a long-term goal to reach at least 100 members by our 100th anniversary in 2027.

### **Public Profile –**

- Through the creative efforts of our Communications Chair, Barbara Lewis, we have increased our public profile on Facebook with regular posts of local, provincial, federal and international interest.
- Our Newsletter Editor, Noran Ahmed, is establishing a connection with the Concordia Women in Business Club (CWIBC). She will set up an information booth in the school lobby before Christmas break to publicize our club.
- We plan to sponsor a table at the CWIBC Annual Conference in March and hope to have a couple of our members speak at it.
- Just last Thursday, Noran and Barbara volunteered at the downtown YWCA “Soirée Inspirationnelle” to man the table (for \$500) to increase brand recognition and membership.

### **Scholarship –**

- The Foundation has set up an account with Canada Helps for our Annual Giving Campaign, is offering a series of smaller evening and daytime fundraisers in addition to our more traditional Basket Raffle (now moved from Christmas to the evening of our AGM) and our primary fundraiser, usually held in the spring.early summer. This past year, the Foundation was able to support five bursaries to Concordia University (one in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CFUW) and one to Ecole Polytechnique; in addition a donation was made to the Betsy Barber Endowment fund at Concordia (established by the Club some years ago in memory of a past-president and graduate of Concordia).
- This year, two members stepped forward as Foundation co-presidents and are in the midst of planning a primary fundraiser for spring 2020.

### **Advocacy –**

- The Foundation was also able to disburse funds to Auberge Shalom, Auberge Madeleine, the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, and the Atwater Library.

- Our Advocacy Chair and CFUW Liaison, Gawa Atif, is representing the Club at monthly meetings of the Montreal Council of Women and is actively liaising with other local non-profit groups whose focus is on supporting women.
- The Christmas Shoebox Project will be our Christmas charity focus again this year to help bring a bit of holiday cheer to women who find themselves in local shelters over the holidays.
- Spurred on by the success of the Networking interest group at the MLUWC, we have added this group to our own selection in hope that it will attract local professional women to attend.
- Gawa will be focusing our members' attention on national and international initiatives such as International Women's Day, Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and Earth Day.
- We would like to extend an invitation to all members of our sister clubs to attend any of our monthly dinner meetings held at La Classe Restaurant. Interesting speakers, current topics and a three-course meal for \$25.00 (cash, tax and tip included).

#### **Sustainability –**

- Based on the findings of an extensive six-month investigation of a Relocation Committee, the club moved from the Atwater Club Coach House into a much more affable room in which we hold monthly board meetings, Foundation Trustee meetings, and interest-group gatherings at half the monthly rent. This new space is located at the downtown Atwater Library housed in a beautiful heritage building that shares our mission of education and supporting local community groups. Club members agree that it very nicely holds club artefacts, furnishings, paintings and memorabilia.
- We have recently purchased Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance to cover both Board and Foundation Trustee members. The annual premium is just under \$1,000; the two Boards have agreed to share in the cost (UWCM, 80%; Foundation, 20%).
- For the first time, this year we have had to form an entirely new board of directors with some fairly new club members who are willing and eager to start fresh and move forward. We have committed to bringing some fun back into our club and to reach out to all our members to re-establish a feeling of belonging, community, support and cooperation while working together to help those who are looking to form new friendships and offering them new ways to be involved.
- We are beginning to set our sights on our 100th anniversary – a mere seven years from now – with a focus to increase our membership and propel us into the next generation of women, education and advocacy.