

Montreal South Shore University Women's Club – SSUWC

Report as of November 17th, 2018

Membership - Bilan des Membres

- As of this date we have 62 paid members and one honorary member.
- 6 new members joined the Club this fall, but we lost several members through death, relocation or non-renewal.
- A Welcoming Kit has been prepared for new members that explains the Club's mission, history, affiliations, etcetera. New members are also invited to a Wine & Cheese reception following the Executive meeting in December.
- Club volunteers produced a printed 2018 Club member directory, the first in many years.
- Our recruitment strategy has been, and still is, word of mouth, through the sharing of our Facebook page and responses to enquiries via the website.

Program and Activities - Le programme et les Activités

- Monthly meetings attract a majority of our members (with guests) for a full program of speakers, with topics as diverse as Moral Decisions in Bioethics, Mental Health, Genealogy and Black History Month.
- All eight active Interest Groups meet regularly, with almost all members belonging to at least one group.
- New this year is a Movie Appreciation group.
- Two dinners with entertainment and/or activities are held every year – one in January (Festive Dinner) and one in May at the AGM.

Fundraising - Levées de fonds

- The 45th Annual Book Sale netted \$6,500 for the Education Fund.
- We now have a Fundraising Chair who has proposed many new fundraising activities such as a Wine Tasting, participation in a well-attended Antiques, Arts and Crafts fair in a local church and a table at the St. Lambert Garage Sale.

Scholarships - les Bourses

- A total of \$7,250 was awarded this year to 12 women – 4 at the university level, 3 at the CEGEP level and 5 at the adult education (vocational) level, attending both English and French educational institutions.
- The SSUWC also donated \$400 to the CFUW Charitable Trust, to bring the total to \$7,650 in educational awards this September.

Advocacy - Défense d'intérêts

- Our SSUWEC Executive makes special efforts to publicize advocacy issues and CFUW/GWI news in the Newsletter.
- We have sustained CFUW's educational mission by providing bursaries for women at all levels of post-secondary education as well as to the CFUW Charitable Trust.
- Our Advocacy Committee studies resolutions proposed by CFUW and reports to the membership. The Club follows through with actions as required.
- We participate in the Remembrance Day ceremonies in St. Lambert by donating and laying a wreath.
- We have written a letter of support for the AFDU-Montérégie Part'Age proposal and several of our members expressed a desire to actively participate should the project receive funding.

Communications and Publicity - Communications et la publicité

- Both our bilingual website and Facebook Page are updated regularly to promote our activities and mission.
- We have business cards, and our Club co-ordinates are mentioned on the reverse side of AFDU-Montérégie's business card for those more comfortable in English.
- Our Club has been an accredited regional organization of the City of St-Lambert since 2017. A link to our website is now on the city's website and a description of our Club also appears in their periodic program of activities.
- We publish our Educational Award winners in South Shore journals and are in the process of designing a new Club banner to promote our Club and CFUW at all future fundraising activities.
- We are also a member of the Facebook Group, St. Lambert FORUM, where we can notify members and population of St. Lambert of upcoming events.
- Our Chair of Publicity has made exploratory attempts with respect to explaining our mission on MATV.

Links with other groups and CFUW - Liens avec les autres Clubs et FCFDU

- We regularly attend CFUW Provincial Council meetings as well as the CFUW AGM. Many members who might not otherwise have attended did so for the virtual AGM this past June.
- After our 2018 book sale, we donated unsold books to local churches, a cat rescue centre "Moustache", the Mansonville Elementary School Library and private sponsors donating books to institutions in Haiti.
- We nominated two members to be honoured at St. Lambert's Soirée de reconnaissance aux bénévoles, which is an annual event honouring St. Lambert volunteers. Our nominee won last year.
- We are also a member of the Montreal Council of Women.

Sustainability and Governance - La viabilité durable et gouvernance

- Our constitution and by-laws are updated and distributed as required, and are also available on our website.
- Our financial situation is currently stable, but new sources of funding must be explored to sustain the Club and its Educational Awards.
- We have a full slate of officers for 2018/19 with the exception of recruiting a vice-president.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Ellison
President
SSUWC