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President's Message

This has been a month of extremes, stormy weather that kept us at home, interspersed with warm sunny days that gave us a taste of spring. February kept us on our collective toes. After an absence due to COVID, this month saw the return of Trivia Night, the clubs biggest fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The turnout for the evening was phenomenal, so it was clear the event was sorely missed. The evening was a great success culminating in a three question faceoff for first place (which my team lost!). However, we had a wonderful evening, as did all who were in attendance. The event raised \$3232.37 for scholarships. Many thanks to the plethora of volunteers who made the evening such a great success. Thanks to Zoom we were able to conduct our monthly general meeting on a cold, icy and stormy night. Our speaker this month was David McNeil, CEO of the Brant Community Healthcare System. We learned about all the changes that have occurred over the last few years, as well as how the hospital is evolving to address the needs of our growing community, including the re-development of the emergency room and a new hospital tower. Dr. McNeil addressed a variety of issues related to the hospital and its future during a lively question and answer period. There is still a need for a Chair of the Nominations Committee so please consider putting yourself forward for the position. Also, please consider volunteering for a position on the Executive or as a President of the month.

*Respectively submitted
Betsy C.*



The Executive — A Time for change

A big thank you to Teddy B. and Lee Ann C. for stepping up to sit on the Nominations Committee. As these brave women start making calls and engaging in conversations to find members willing to step up and take on leadership roles, be kind, and do think about what you can do to keep our club vibrant. The current leadership group has been doing the job for a few years now and there are members of the executive who wish to rotate off the Executive.

Beginning with the President of the Month system in place this makes for a time limited commitment wherein the president creates the Executive and General Meeting Agenda and chairs those meetings for their month. The Executive assists one another and we support each President of the Month. Do not worry if you have never chaired a meeting before — as you can see from my example — anyone can do it.

Do we think that combining positions or breaking them up into smaller commitments will make the position easier to handle? Could we combine positions such as Membership and Interest Groups, Program and Social? Can we divide up tasks? Can there be two Secretaries to spread the work around? Our Articles and Bylaws outline the duties and positions but do not outline how they are filled.

Is it time to get creative?

How can 2023-24 be set up for optimal support of our wonderful membership, invaluable interest groups, and general meetings that are vibrant, educational and social. I challenge you....

I am willing and happy to stay as President in name and President of the Month, but here are some of the jobs that need people to step up to fill.

Positions on the Executive to be filled:

Past President - just keeping an eye on 'meeting process and decision making' and attending Scholarship meetings

Secretary - just keeping Minutes for the Executive, General Meetings and Scholarship (less than 3 meetings per month)

Advocacy Chair - if you want to move on any issues of social justice, equity, women's rights...

Program Chair - just setting up a committee who sources speakers for 6 speakers and either entertainment or a key note speaker for the May AGM/Banquet

Scholarship - sending applications to local high schools for Award A and social networks for Award B and reviewing applications with a committee of members who enjoy doing this work each year

Social - getting two people for each in-person meeting to bring treats, help set up and clear up after our General Meetings and work with the Banquet Committee.

Membership - sending out applications, following up with members and compiling membership information.

Please think about how you can assist in our club's leadership. Can you take on a position, can you buddy up and share a position, can you take on a president of the month?

Respectfully,
Betsy C.

Membership Renewal 2023 –2024

March is a busy month for Membership. I am preparing the renewal forms for 2023-2024 and will send them to you soon.

Good news! Our fees are remaining the same amount, \$121.00 which includes the \$15.00 scholarship donation.

This year our members will be able to pay their fees by e-transfer straight to Maria Timmons, our Treasurer, at mtimmons4653@gmail.com.

Or you may choose to mail a cheque to Maria Timmons at 40-11 Heath St., Brantford, ON, N3T 0N7.

In the past we have included the Interest Group Form with the Membership Form.

The Executive have decided that it would be easier to send the Interest Form straight to our committee chair, Roma Makkreel, so we will be sending the form to you soon.

I am ordering the long service certificates from CFUW National this month. The recipients will be contacted and presented with their certificate at the Annual General Meeting and Banquet at the Brantford Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 24th.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd.

Dian K.

Resolutions Announcement:

It is that time of year again when we receive resolutions from National. I have attached the resolutions in the links set out below. In order to meet the timelines set by National we will need to have two meetings-- the first for discussion of the Resolutions to make recommendations for the Club, and then for the club to discuss and vote on the recommendations. For those who would like to get together and discuss the resolutions you are invited to attend my home on March 30, 2023 at 7 pm. All those who are interested please come to enjoy a discussion about the resolutions. As the club needs to vote on the recommendations there will be a Zoom general meeting to which everyone is invited on April 20th, 2023 at 7 pm.

So please note the two dates: March 30, 2023 at 7 pm at my place and general meeting via Zoom April 20th, 2023 at 7 pm via Zoom.

The Resolutions:

Resolution 1 - CFUW Advocacy Committee
Title: Archiving Select CFUW Policies I

Resolution 2 - CFUW Advocacy Committee
Title: Archiving Select CFUW Policies II

Resolution 3 - CFUW Halifax
Title: Immigration Detention in Canada

Resolution 4 - CFUW Hamilton
Title: A comprehensive maternal death prevention strategy

Resolution 5 - CFUW Perth and District
Title: Fair Treatment for Canadians Suffering from Chronic Lyme Disease and Other Tick-borne Diseases

Resolution 6 - CFUW International Relations Committee
Title: Impact of international trade agreements

Respectfully, Betsy C.



Reminder: The clocks go forward one hour on Saturday, March 11th, 2023.

Committee Reports

NOMINATIONS for our 2023-24 Executive

The Nominations Process is well underway, and we are delighted that many of the seasoned Executive Members have volunteered to stay on for another term. However, there are positions still to be filled and we are looking to our membership in hopes that you are interested in becoming more involved with the running of our CFUW.

Positions available and brief description:

Scholarship: Janet K. and Lynda S. were Co-Chairs this year and are willing to stay on the committee next year to support the incoming Chair or Co-Chairs. Scholarship is an important component of our club, with scholarships to female students graduating from high school as well as to mature students. The job entails distributing applications, evaluating submissions, and issuing awards. The ideal candidates will have organizational skills and /or an interest in liaising with secondary and post-secondary schools.

Secretary: This could be a shared job like Lin Fines and Maria Timmons have done this year. They say that is a great job if you like summarizing decisions that are made at monthly Executive, General and Scholarship meetings. All you need is some familiarity with WORD, can take Minutes....two or three meetings per month - so about 6-8 hours per month. Lin Fines will mentor anyone wanting to be Secretary and Co-Chair if needed.

Membership: Dian Kuzyk has run this job single handedly for the past few years. You are welcome to set Membership up as a Co-Chair or Committee if you prefer. The job entails distributing and collecting the membership forms each Spring, creating a Membership list, advising the Interest Group Chair of what interest groups each member wishes to join, and that the dues are sent to the Treasurer. This job is busy in March-April. At the General meetings, the Membership person ensures that someone is greeting members and guests, and providing name tags, This job could be shared if you like greeting or have enough tech savvy to create a membership list.

Past President: This position is usually filled by a member who has previously been on the Executive. This is not a daunting job, and simply requires familiarity with Robert's Rules. You sit on the Scholarship Committee, and attend Executive meetings.

Advocacy: We are looking for someone to Chair our Advocacy Committee - raising issues that we face in our community. Each Spring, we review Resolutions that National sends, and make recommendations to our members about whether to support, amend or decline each resolution. Betsy Capitano will help with Resolutions.

The outgoing Chairs will assist the incoming members and provide all the help needed to be successful in the position.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!

The time is perfect if you are interested in participating because we have great bench strength for you to learn and enjoy the leadership process.

If you would like to discuss any of these opportunities, please feel free to contact me. I really look forward to hearing from you.

ph: 519-717-6675 e-mail: teddybuzek@gmail.com
Teddy B., Chair, Nominations Committee

Thank you to the Members for their support and enthusiasm for CFUW Brantford, for those who will stand for election to the Executive, those who will sit on Standing Committees, and those who have offered to pitch in on projects and activities as they arise during the year. This year was an easy year to fill positions, thanks to people job-sharing and 'many hands making light work'.

Submitted by the Nominations Committee: Teddy B. (Chair and Representative from the General Membership), Lee Ann C., and the 2022-23 Executive.



Nominations CFUW Brantford

Here is the current state of nominations for 2023-2024:

| Position | Name(s) |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Officers: | |
| President in Name | Elizabeth Capitano |
| Rotating Presidential Team | Elizabeth C. June-Aug/ MAY |
| | Lin F. MAR/APR |
| | Janet K. NOV |
| | Anne M. OCT |
| | Catherine S. SEPT/FEB |
| | Maria T. DEC JAN |
| Past President | TBD |
| Secretary | TBD (Lin F. will co-chair if requested) |
| Treasurer | Maria T. |
| Standing Committee Chairs: | |
| Advocacy | TBD |
| Communications | Sandra H. |
| Interest Groups | Roma M. |
| Membership | TBD |
| Program | Colette W. |
| Scholarship | TBD |
| Social | Bev G. |

| Committee | Committee Members |
|-----------------------|---|
| Advocacy | Chair: TBD Betsy C. (Resolution) |
| Communications | Chair: Sandra H. Archives/DropBox: Maria T. email: Marsha S. Facebook: Mary P. Goodwill: Leslie L. Newsletter: Sandra H. Networking: Gloria S. Webmaster: Marsha S. Zoom: Anne M. |
| Program | Chair: Colette W. Bev O. Dian K. Lynda S. Linda T. |
| Scholarship | Trustees: Chair: TBD Maria T. Lin F. Brenda M. (Member at Large) Members: Teddy B. Janet K. Carol K. Barbara M. Joyce M. Mary P. Lynda S. |
| Social | Chair: Bev G. Lynne D. Teddy B. and the respective person from Program each month |



TRIVIA and INTEREST GROUPS



A Celebration get-together for the Trivia Committee and other Trivia volunteers was held on the afternoon of March 3, at the home of Dian K. Suggestions for next year were shared and an enjoyable time was had by all. We even managed to get home before the Texas low arrived!

The Trivia committee realized a profit of \$3,232.27 for the Scholarship Fund. We believe that it is the most raised ever! Counting the committee, other volunteers and participants, approximately 30 CFUW members were involved in some capacity to make this year such a success. Trivia Night has brought in a total of \$29,590.27 since it began in 2008!

Congratulations!!!
Report by Lynn H.



Creative Cookery Group For our February Zoom meeting we shared recipes from related books we have read. For example: Joanne Fluke's mystery books, *The Spoon Stealer* by Lesley Crewe, and Frances Mayes' *Under the Tuscan Sun*, to name a few. The theme for our March Zoom meeting will be sharing recipes that contain something GREEN in keeping with St. Patrick's Day.

Dining Out: The group had lots of laughs over dinner at Devlin's Bistro on March 9th. The conversation was animated and varied with a lot of stories about musicals, theatre and travel adventures. And Devlin's food, as always, was delicious.



Teamwork - Pulling Together for CFUW

Thursday Book Club Review

The Thursday Book Club gave *Red Notice* an all thumbs up as a "must read" – not for entertainment but as an important backdrop to our current geopolitical reality, especially as it relates to the Ukraine war.

Browder was a financial wizard who capitalised on the new "open" Russia following the dismantling of the Soviet Union.

He operated as an honest broker but eventually came into Putin's cross hairs when he and his lawyer/accountant Sergei Magnitsky began uncovering and exposing massive corruption by Putin and the Russian oligarchs. Magnitsky was arrested, tortured and murdered in prison because he would not betray Browder. Following his tragic death Bill Browder moved from a life of finance to become a human rights advocate. He introduced The Magnitsky Act of 2016 allowing a government to sanction those foreign officials worldwide that are human rights offenders, freeze their assets, and ban them from entering their country.

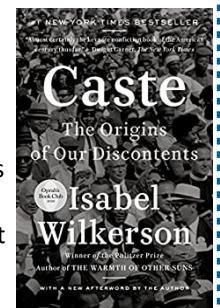
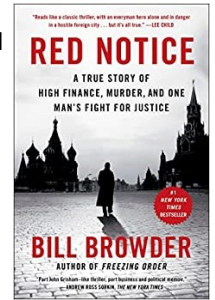
While the book focusses on detailed financial investment and a corrupt government, it reads more like a good mystery, but with chilling truth. The book exposes the real Putin and the massive corruption that laid the foundation for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bill Browder is a much sought after commentator on the current war in Ukraine, and how this war is impacting and will continue to impact global politics, economy, and democracy. For anyone monitoring the war and broader geopolitics, this book will provide an important window into the mind of Putin and his real objectives.

Monday Evening Book Group: A Zoom call enabled the group to discuss the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. The book sparked discussion of the central concept of caste and how it permeates the social structure of the United States as well as countries like India. The thorough examination of the caste system's development from the earliest settlement of the United States to today and its comparison with India and Nazi Germany were eye openers.

Biking Enthusiasts:

Hopefully spring is just around the corner. The CFUW biking group will soon be starting again with a ride each week. We bike the Brantford 'Loop' one week and on alternate weeks, we head out of town on our many trail choices. Last year we biked on Mondays. This could be changed to Wednesday or Friday if the group wishes. If your bike needs maintenance, now is the time to visit the bike shop before they get very busy.

Games Group: The games group met Thursday afternoon and reported lots of fun.



2022 –2023 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Elizabeth Capitano

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Lin Fines

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano—June, July, August, February, Second 1/2 May
- Lin Fines—September
- Anne Martin—October
- Janet Kempster—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Bev Golden—March
- Catherine Sawyer-April, May first 1/2

SECRETARY:

Lin Fines/Maria Timmons

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

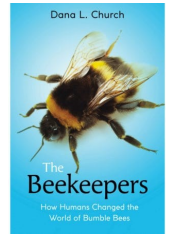
- Advocacy:** TBD
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Dian Kuzyk
- Program:** Linda Tripp
- Scholarship:** Janet Kempster/Lynda Stamer
- Social:** Bev Golden

MARCH

General Meeting: March 22, 2023

Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Carriage House or Join with Zoom

Dr. Dana Church will be our speaker for the March meeting. Dr. Church who lives in Waterloo, has a PhD in animal cognition (how animals think, learn and solve problems) and a passion for bumble bees, which she has studied for many years. She loves to describe their amazing lives and their importance to us. She has also studied the effects of humans on bees. Dr. Church will bring copies of her book, **The Beekeepers: How Humans Changed the World of Bumble Bees** to the meeting. Dr. Church is a popular speaker and is happy to share her knowledge of bees and insects with us.



Best Wishes on Your Recovery:

Diane M. is recuperating at Seasons from hip surgery . Visits and phone calls are welcome. Contact Seasons for more details.

Marg S. has been in hospital since mid-February.

Mary-Jo B. says she is feeling better and settling in at Charlotte Villa. She says she appreciates her friends at CFUW.



Save the Date:

AGM/Banquet — May 24th, 2023

Ladies, here is your invitation to attend our May Banquet.

It will be held at the Branford Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 24th.

This year, the price has been set at \$65.00. You can e-transfer anytime to our treasurer, Maria or bring a cheque or cash (correct amount) to the General meeting.

As it is the early days of planning, further information will follow.

Thank you,
Bev G.

OK Winter, you've made your point!



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference