

Feminist Caucus Report to the LCP Annual General Meeting, June 14-16 2018, by Anne Burke, Chair email: femcaucusburke@yahoo.ca phone 403-239-1285

Please plan to join us for the Caucus events at the Canadian Writers Summit in Toronto:

a) The Caucus Business Meeting, when the members receive the Annual Report and we plan the program for the coming year, **in the Tea Room, Harbourfront Centre Main Building Friday, June 15 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.** All welcome.

b) Carol Casey, "Remembering Forward," with six feminists engaging in a discussion about how feminist visions, ideals, and objectives change over time. **Friday, June 15 2:00 pm in the Main Loft, Harbourfront Centre Main Building.**

c) followed by the launch of the 2017 chapbook and then the open reading, all welcome, at the mic until 5 p.m.

Carol Casey organized the 2018 panel on "Remembering Forward: Lest We Forget". Her Call for Participants follows. The Feminist Caucus panel for the 2018 LCP Conference will consist of a mix of older and younger members who strongly resonate with the term "feminist". Each member will submit a c1500 word essay (please try to include at least one poem!) on what feminism means to them, how they became a feminist, what issues most resonate, what it means to be a feminist poet, and what they hope to accomplish for future generations (i.e., what changes would you like to see for women, and society, 30 years from now). I am looking for older members who were active in the feminist movements of the 70's and 80's. They will also be asked to recall and reflect on the vision they held, at that time, of the changes they hoped to effect for younger generations. Once the submissions are in, each older poet will be paired with a younger one. Each pair will review and respond to each-other's submissions and prepare to co-present on the panel.

Audited Financial Statement: as of March 31, 2018 *I am pleased to announce that the unacknowledged assets we were carrying since 2013-2014 have now been updated due to diligent bean counting! The difference is substantial. We earned \$7545 by 2017 not \$7095. Our 2017 surplus was \$4884 not \$4443.

Note: 8. LIVING ARCHIVES

The League administers the sale of certain publications, referred to as Living Archives, on behalf of others. Prior to 1997, sales revenues in excess of expenses were accounted for as deferred contributions on the statement of financial position. Beginning in 1997, the annual revenues and expenses have been accounted for as revenues and expenses of the League in the statements of operations and changes in net assets.

Cumulative revenues and expenses since the beginning of the year ended March 31, 1997 are as follows:

	2018	2017
Total revenues	\$ 7,635	\$7,545
Total expenses	(2,661)	(2,661)
Balance:	\$ 4,974	\$ 4,884

"News from the Feminist Caucus" are monthly reports by the Chair posted on the League website. These contain news, views, reviews, and poetry by new members, who share the goals of the Caucus. In 2017, at our Business Meeting, we launched the Caucus Action Committee, the intent of which is to bring interest and support to the Caucus. Vanessa Shields stepped up as head of this subcommittee. Additional members are welcome to join. Only a few of the identified goals are to plan a reading, write a collaborative poem, promote the Living Archives Series, help with the design of the Caucus web pages, etc. Those who attended the 2017 Caucus panel were asked to sign in and invited to join the e-list to receive Caucus breaking news. The form this has taken is our inaugural and periodic *Lit Feminist*, with curated content, and a variation on "feminist words", in the *Museletter*, familiar to those who are longstanding Caucus members.

Our 2017 Caucus Panel featured SUSAN G COLE as moderator and contributors ADEBE DERANGO-ADEM, JANICE JO LEE, PAULINA O'KIEFFE, and ANDREA THOMSPON. Vanessa Shields and Charlie Petch edited the proceedings of "Revisit, Revise, Revolutionize: A Two Part Harmony". Nicole Brewer graciously offered to hand-stitch the chapbook. The League, through the Canada Council, generously sponsored the printing of this new title in the Living Archives Series.

This year the award amount for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award was doubled and the long list was released before the shortlist was announced. This prize is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, then League Chair, who was a victim of spousal murder, in 1979. Thank you to the jurors: 2018 Jury: Bruce Meyer, Cheryl Antao-Xavier, and Julie Cameron Gray for their diligent work and insightful comments. Congratulations to the poets whose books were longlisted or shortlisted for the Lowther Award. The winner will be announced at the League Awards luncheon on Saturday, June 16. Thank you to all those who entered and their publishers for supporting poetry!

Living Archives Legacy Update

May 23, 2018

Dear Anne,

It has been ages since we corresponded about the Feminist Caucus Living Archives chapbook series! Over the last couple years, I have been occupied with the teaching and research projects that constitute the early years of professorship. Although I did publish an academic essay on the Living Archives series (in *Canadian Literature*), I am just now circling back to the idea of digitizing the series, and perhaps also the Feminist Caucus newsletters. Would the Feminist Caucus be interested in that? If so, would the League of Canadian Poets be able to host the digital files on their website, which I notice has been recently revamped?

I have scans of almost all the chapbooks that I would be happy to send along to the Feminist Caucus and the League if that would be helpful. The scans are in jpeg and tiff file formats. I have also attached my own list of the chapbooks and their contributors, which might be of some use. Of course, there would be copyright issues to sort out if the chapbooks were made public on line.

If the Feminist Caucus wants to proceed with digitally archiving this material, and if the League is not able to do so, I still think that CWRC (Canadian Writing and Research Collaboratory) could be a good site for them. CWRC offers a long-term, stable home for digitized literary texts. Again, chapbook contributors would have to agree to that open access.

Very best wishes,

Dr. Andrea Beverley
Canadian Studies & English
Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick

** Each year, the Feminist Caucus publishes a collection of writing from the previous Feminist Caucus panel. The Living Archives Series documents the presentations of the panels sponsored yearly by the Caucus since its founding within the League in 1982, and includes various texts, correspondences, and other works significant to its history and the discussion of women and language in poetry. The series is the object of study for **Women and Words: Canadian Feminist Literary Collectives 1980-2000**. The first phase of this project focuses on the activities of the Feminist Caucus of the League of Canadian Poets.

Related motions from the 2008 Fem Caucus Business Meeting:

4) Report from Susan McMaster on the Feminist Caucus and the National Archives Proposal.

- a) Moved that the Feminist Caucus approves of donating its papers, its historical archives to the National Library and Archives, Ottawa, by December 2009, Moved by Penn Kemp, and Seconded by Cathy Ford, Carried unanimously.
- b) The Feminist Caucus appoints Susan McMaster to carry this Archives Project forward, Moved by Mary Ellen Csamer and Seconded by Penn Kemp, Carried.

News from Sue Bracken and Prairie Fire (from January 2018 Caucus Chair)

Prairie Fire had a call for Submissions: Canadian Women and the Vote 1918-2018 Special Issue. But there were exclusions: it would be a long time before Asian Canadians after WW2 and Indigenous people 1960 both men and women were granted the vote.

We welcome submissions in all sorts of styles from writers who live anywhere on the gender spectrum. *Prairie Fire* is indeed committed to trying again for this special issue.

Sue Bracken was to be the guest editor." If you could let members of the LCP Feminist Caucus know this news and indeed if you or any members want to send us ideas, suggestions, schemes we'd appreciate all such help."