

Lettre de la présidente

Spring 2015

Dear Colleagues,

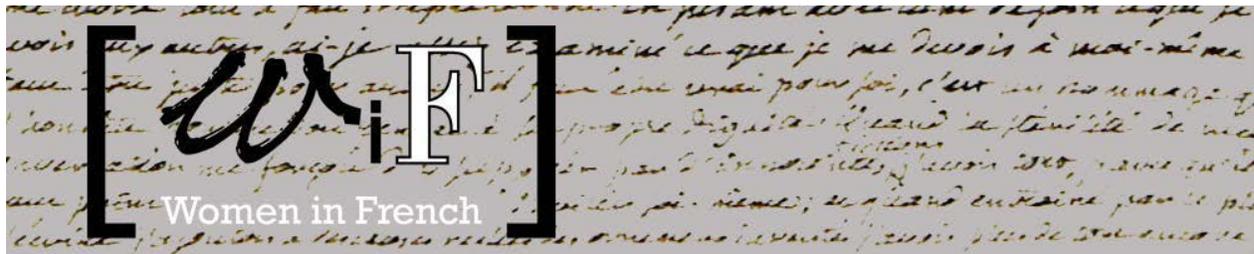
I am writing this “Spring” newsletter while many of us are still in the throes of winter. Fortunately, we have some good news to warm our hearts.

Our membership numbers remain solid, totaling 432 in December 2014. We are strong financially also (see the Treasurer’s Report below). Importantly, thanks to the hard work of Molly Enz, we have regained our non-profit status.

I wish to congratulate and welcome two new Regional Representatives, Névine El Nossery (Great Lakes) and Anna Rocca (New England and Eastern Canada) elected in December, along with Eileen Angelini (New York State) who was re-elected. Congratulations and welcome also to our new Graduate Student Representative, Mélissa Jane Gauthier. The elections were closely contested and my thanks go to all those who volunteered to run for these positions. Our representatives are doing a wonderful job at promoting Women in French and organizing WIF sessions at the various regional MLA conventions. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a call for nominations for positions to be filled in our December 2015 elections: Representative for the South; Representative for the Western United States and Western Canada; President; and Vice-President. Please consider throwing your hat in the ring – or someone else’s with their permission.

Due to a last-minute flight cancellation and weather-related problems of re-booking, I was unable to attend the MLA Convention in Vancouver. I wish to thank Michèle Schaal and Florence Ramond Jurney who filled in for me at the Business Meeting and other WIF events at the convention. We are continuing to co-host the cash bar of the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages. It might interest you to know (or remember!) that WIF’s connection to the MLA was initially as a subcommittee of the WCML. In addition, we have been hosting our own cash bar/business meeting. This year the President of the George Sand Association, Catherine Masson, approached us with the offer of co-hosting the cash bar in the future. We have a long association with GSA and their offer is very welcome. The cost of hosting a cash bar in the convention hotels is increasingly exorbitant; we are hoping to find an off-site location for the convention in Austin in 2016.

I wish to offer a special thanks to our Vice-President, Cecilia Beach, for the work she is doing for WIF. Our bylaws do not specify the duties of the Vice President but Cecilia has taken on many tasks, including coordinating and editing submissions to the WIF bibliography, coordinating our mentoring/mock job interviews, and establishing a WIF Dropbox folder for important documents. The Dropbox, along with our website so ably run by Michèle Schaal, will go a long way in assuring smooth transitions as officers change. I would be remiss also in not thanking Cheryl



Morgan for her dedication to producing our excellent newsletter. There are many others I should mention, but I will leave that for my final President's letter in our Fall 2015 newsletter.

Last but not least, it is not too early to start looking forward to our next WIF Conference that will take place in the summer of 2016 at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Thanks to Florence Ramond Jurney for volunteering to organize and host the conference.

Best wishes to all for a happy and enjoyable summer.

Mary Anne Garnett
University of Arkansas at Little Rock