

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, October 8, 2020

October Reflection: While reading “The Pianist” by Carolyn J. Fairweather Hughes, Mary Ellis was reminded of a home visit with a beneficiary who had a piano in the corner of the room:

Gnarled fingers of hands
that were once beautiful
fondle the yellowed keys.

When no one is listening,
she randomly strikes
a few dissonant notes.

Sometimes, I have to turn away
to keep from weeping
at her altered state.

But then, I see
the grey, wrinkled face smile
as chords, precise and graceful,

drop from her hands
like ripened plums.

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for our beneficiaries who we lost since the last meeting: Laura Law and Doris Fahey.

Clerk Gale Beaton called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Members in Attendance (Via Zoom): Bachman, Beaton, Beaulieu, Brooke, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, Mayall, McKnight, Melo, Natho, O’Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

Executive Director Clare Healy Foley and Office Administrator Jenny Costa also present.

Members Absent: Pinarreta. (On leave: Rothschild)

Report of Clerk: The minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

Report of President: President Saber reported:

1. Officially welcomed Cathy Mayall to the board
2. Acknowledged the work being done by all committees
3. Invitation for chairs to mentor new members
4. Susan Rothschild will be extending leave through end of the year

Report of Executive Director: Executive Director Clare Healy Foley reported:

1. FLO newsletter
 - a. Outings offered this month: Alpaca Farm, Buttonwood Zoo, Apple Orchards
 - b. Fall Grab & Go or Delivery
 - i. Will provide soup, apple & cookies
 - ii. Looking for volunteers
 - iii. Olivia – great for outreach to local businesses
 - c. Mary acknowledged Sharon’s hard work
 - d. Voting insert included again
2. ALBA
 - a. Sharon distributed ARAW brochures at GNB Health Center food distribution
 - b. Sharon attended Zoom meeting for Friendship Works and Mass Assoc for the Blind, Opening Doors for Seniors with Vision Loss
 - i. Highlights shared
 - c. Sharon and Clare attended Massachusetts Summit for Isolation & Ending Loneliness
3. RFP Application due November 13, 2021
 - a. Applications are in process
 - b. Finished last of info sessions
 - c. Have had a few one-on-one sessions
4. Quarterly Review 9/17/20
 - a. Participants were engaged and receptive
 - b. Reminders of processes – sharing the why
 - c. Small group stayed at end to go through monthly activity reports
5. Upcoming Report Deadline 10/15/20
 - a. Financial report due on the 15th
 - i. Acushnet, Dartmouth, Westport already in
 - ii. Fairhaven has connected
 - iii. Nothing from New Bedford nor IAC
 - iv. Long conversation with IAC
 - v. Will be following guidelines of grants committee
6. Sharon Vacation & Work from Home
 - a. Out of state vacation 10/9 – 10/14
 - b. In compliance with protocols, 14-day work from home upon return
7. Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Joanne DeSouza
 - i. Returning EPERS – too heavy & was “talked into getting”
 - ii. Up Walker – will be helpful in future & long walks
 - iii. Asking what else the ARAW offers
 - b. Kathleen Jennings

- i. Resistant to help in the past
- ii. Request for car insurance approved through EDDF

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

1. YTD budget amount on financials not updated on document distributed
 - a. Will redistribute to vote on at next meeting
2. Coming in under budget
3. Investment account up 3 million from September
4. Finance Committee
 - a. Identified candidates for Investment Advisory Committee
 - b. 4 candidates approached accepted
 - c. Next steps:
 - i. Mary will reach out to candidates
 - ii. Meet & Greet at next Finance Committee meeting 10/20
 - iii. First Investment Advisory Committee meeting in November

Report of the Outreach Committee: Chair Melo reported:

1. A motion was made to approve the Outreach Committee description as distributed. SO VOTED.

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Bachman reported:

1. Reminder calls are meant to be friendly visits, not investigations
 - a. Any requests or concerns should be directed to ARAW office
2. Invitation for all board members to attend meeting on Tuesday 10/13
 - a. Looking for feedback on process
3. Visit Reports
 - a. Jeannette Doyle: Betty Jones, Joan Cambra & Laurinda Cardoza
 - b. Rosemary Saber: Mildred Almeida, Joan Beaubian & Joan Shea

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. 15 requests, 1 on hold
 - i. On hold for funeral guidelines from beneficiary task force
 - b. New beneficiary highlight – Joyce Taylor
 - i. Referral from Justice Bridge
 - ii. Child support from divorce which paid her rent stopped
 - iii. Justice Bridge working to recoup alimony – court date December
 - iv. Potential for eviction – ARAW paid rent for 1 month (October)
 - v. Urged to seek support from children (9 children)
 - vi. Urged to reach out to SCCLS for additional support

- vii. Referral made to social worker
- 2. Beneficiary Task Force
 - a. Clarity on issues
 - b. Discussing cable bills
 - i. Outreach workers to gather info – the why for each service requested when update or request submitted
 - ii. Cable packages offered sent to committee
 - c. Working to set up policy on funerals

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

- 1. Board Handbook
 - a. Contents revised and updated
 - b. Will send to all members when finished
- 2. Orientation
 - a. New focused PowerPoint being created by ED Clare Healy Foley
- 3. Recommendation to accept move of bullet #2 and #3 of Goal 4 (Infrastructure), Strategy 2, item 1 to Goal 4 (Infrastructure), Strategy 2, item 2 and, in turn, change target date from June 2020 to January 2021 in the Strategic Plan. SO VOTED.

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Stankiewicz reported:

- 1. Deadline for RFP is November 13th
 - a. Will be in touch to schedule meeting

Report of Ad Hoc Personnel Committee: Chair McKnight reported:

- 1. Policies affect employees
 - a. Discussions will happen in executive session so board can speak freely
 - b. Recommendations voted on last meeting will be represented for discussion and vote this month

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.

Executive Session to follow

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk