

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, April 8, 2021**

Reflective Moment: Mary Ellis shared a quote by David Steindl-Rast:

“A single crocus blossom ought to be enough to convince our heart that springtime, no matter how predictable, is somehow a gift, gratuitous, gratis, a grace.”

Clerk Gale Beaton called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

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

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

Members absent: Beaulieu, Stankiewicz.

Report of Clerk: The minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

Report of President: President Saber reported:

1. Annual meeting on 4/29/21 at 9:30 am
 - a. Excellent committee reports coming in
 - b. Investment Advisory Committee has been invited to annual meeting
 - c. Annual meeting to be recorded – can send to past members
2. Susan Rothschild
 - a. Brought board materials to office from her home
 - b. Included a note saying she misses friendship of the board
3. Office staff
 - a. Excellent work – new brochure, press release
4. Welcome to Patricia Midurski
 - a. Beneficiary Advocate (Part time)
5. Plant delivery
 - a. Wonderful project
 - b. Positive feedback

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

1. FLO newsletter & ALBA update
 - a. March plant giveaway – opportunity for board members and beneficiaries to connect
 - b. Meeting with Sharon last week
 - i. Look ahead to FLO plan for next year
 - ii. Assigning beneficiaries to Pat Midurski

- iii. Trial FLO luncheon planned for 4/16 at Wamsutta Club for 5 beneficiaries
 - c. Ilda Lake on board to assist with Portuguese translation
- 2. FY 22 Community Partner Grants
 - a. All signed agreements in and checks sent out
 - b. Meeting with New Bedford Whaling Museum on 4/26
 - c. Connected with New Bedford Art Museum
 - i. Re: contacts at Oxford Terrace, Solemar and Whaler's Cove for their art program
 - ii. Expected to start by end of April
 - d. Press Release: Community Partner Grants FY22 & ARAW introduction
 - i. Picked up by New Bedford Guide
 - ii. Nothing in Standard Times yet
 - iii. Taping segment with WBSM on 4/15
- 3. FY 21 Community Partner Grants
 - a. Reached out to Immigrants' Assistance Center
 - i. Still no check for unspent FY21 funds received
 - b. Receiving final FY21 reports from partners
 - i. Requesting unused funds be sent back to start FY22 "fresh"
- 4. Database all up to date
- 5. Quarterly Review 4/22
 - a. Introducing new program partners
 - b. FY 22 expectations
 - c. Will be receiving updated census
- 6. Please send all info to admin@arawofnb.org – Very important!
- 7. Beneficiary highlight – Susan Braley
 - a. ARAW pays for nutrition supplement from Westport Apothecary
 - b. No update for 3 years
 - c. Reached out to conservator for info – one reply, no info supplied
 - d. Sent letter to Susan and conservator – heard nothing back
 - e. Let Westport Apothecary know March would be last month of support
 - f. Received call from Susan, made appointment for application, did not call
 - g. Trying to work with her but fiduciary responsibilities

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

- 1. A motion was made to approve March 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
- 2. Draft YE financials – will be available at annual meeting
- 3. Meeting with BOA and IAC next week
 - a. IAC to finalize Investment Policy Statement – will go to committee, then to board

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Bachman reported:

- 1. Meeting scheduled for 4/13 – will discuss annual report and FY22 goals

2. Shannon Bachman reported on Lucille Fredette
3. Rosemary Saber reported on Dolores Adesso and Lorraine Perry
4. Reporting in May – Diane Laflamme and Olivia Melo

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Alzira Curado
 - i. Accepted help from SCCLS per ARAW recommendation – now not using credit cards
 - b. Pat Vincent
 - i. Request for tablet was denied – purchased herself – request for internet
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Margaret Medeiros
 - i. Referral from Spark’s Auto
 - ii. Lost mother, sister and husband within 5 months
 - iii. Needs a break/reset to get back on track
 - iv. Trust Sharon’s recommendation
 1. Sharon will manage expectations

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

1. Motion made to invite Gloria deSa to join the board pending a CORI check. SO VOTED
2. Motion made to accept the Legacy Committee description, as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Formerly Outreach Committee – tightening focus

Report of the Personnel Committee:

1. Received handbook back from lawyers
 - a. Few changes to make – committee to review 4/16
2. Committee recommends professional development
 - a. This will benefit employees and organization
 - b. \$5,000 “budgeted” for FY 22
 - i. Not in original budget, will be separate line item to track
 - c. Clare will manage

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk