

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, May 13, 2021**

Reflective Moment: Jo-Ann Beaulieu shared two quotes about gratitude:

“Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life.” – Rumi

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.” – Meister Eckhart

President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM.

Members in Attendance (Via Zoom): Beaton, Beaulieu, Brooke, deSa, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, McKnight, Melo, Natho, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

Members absent: Bachman, Mayall, O’Connell.

Report of Clerk: The minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

Report of President: President Saber reported:

1. Lunch at Wamsutta following the June board meeting
2. Thanks to Clare and Governance Committee for work on Board Member Handbook
3. Annual Meeting presentations were wonderful
4. Shared FY22 Goals for Clare – no additions offered
5. Board members’ thinking shift to visionary from operations
 - a. Strategic planning helped to define vision
 - b. Will revisit Strategic Plan regularly

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

1. Board Member Handbooks – available to pick up or drop off
 - a. Policy documents to be signed and returned with dues to ARAW office
2. FLO newsletter & ALBA/BA update
 - a. April Wamsutta Club luncheon successful
 - b. Ideas for newsletter or FLO activities can be sent to Clare
 - c. Separate Beneficiary Advocate report – will not be included every month, intro to Pat
3. FY 22 Community Partner Grants
 - a. Had preliminary discussion with Whaling Museum about program
 - b. SCCLS has hired the Rachel Howland Paralegal
 - i. Portuguese speaking
 - ii. To start in June/end of May
4. FY 21 Community Partner Grants
 - a. Immigrants’ Assistance Center sent updated financial report

- i. \$6,621 unspent to be returned – accounting in FY22
 - ii. Will accept report – hope to work together in the future
- 5. Social Work
 - a. Community Nurse Home Care unable to take new referrals
 - b. Will be using Sandra Cambra for referrals
 - i. Has her own private practice
 - ii. Beneficiary Margaret Medeiros will be first referral
- 6. Translation – Ilda Lake
 - a. Has been working with Sharon on updating applications for Portuguese speaking beneficiaries over the phone
 - b. May schedule office hours to be available for calls
- 7. Financial Reporting Changes
 - a. Now reporting year to date amounts for direct support line items
 - b. If 5 or more beneficiaries receive type of support within fiscal year, it will become its own line item
- 8. Visiting Assignments
 - a. Will be sending updated reports to board members next week
- 9. Quarterly Review
 - a. Request for adjustment to brochures
 - i. Something to speak to beneficiary
 - ii. Include practical info about process
- 10. May 17th
 - a. Office staff working from home – construction to start on building
- 11. Beneficiary highlight – Linda Somers
 - a. Lives in Dartmouth
 - b. Former nurse
 - c. Dealing with multiple medical conditions – homebound
 - d. Signed up for NBAM art program – Sharon and Pat taking turns delivering

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

1. A motion was made to approve April 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
 - a. New format to start with new year
 - b. Looked at doing a balance sheet – too labor intensive
 - c. Will include investment summary sheet to give a fuller picture
2. A motion was made to accept Investment Policy Statement as written. SO VOTED
 - a. A lot of work with Investment Advisory Committee
 - b. Gives flexibility
 - c. Will review annually
3. Working with Bank of America on spending policy
4. Bank of America has agreed to reduce management fees by 20%

Report of Visiting Committee: Executive Director Clare Healy Foley reported in place of Chair Bachman:

1. Updated visiting assignments to go out by email

2. Don't forget to sign up for reporting!
3. Diane Laflamme reported on Sandy Spooner
4. Olivia Melo reported on Zulmira Rosa
5. Reporting in June – Debbie Brooke

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - i. 11 requests, 3 new, 11 updates
 - b. Office will now be sending update letters to insure communication to beneficiaries
 - c. Beneficiary Task Force to discuss declination letters
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Mary Myers
 - i. Referred by Southcoast ENT
 - ii. Lives with disabled son
 - iii. Proactive planning
 - iv. Meager income
 - v. Request for hearing aids – not able to fully participate in life due to lack of hearing

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

1. Moved meeting day to last Tuesday of the month – next meeting 5/25

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Stankiewicz reported:

1. New Bedford Art Museum (NBAM)
 - a. Advertising included Coastline Elderly Services (CES) as partner
 - i. CES not included as partner in grant application or approval
 - ii. Requested letter from NBAM defining CES role
 1. Committee met to discuss
 2. Clare sent f/u email to NBAM with decision (see report)
 - iii. Clare had follow up phone conversation with NBAM
 1. Community Foundation, separating budgets under same program
 2. Will continue this session and meet after conclusion
 3. NBAM needs some education on grant
 4. Lack of communication
 5. ARAW doing a lot more work than anticipated

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Executive session to follow for discussion and approval of Personal Policy Handbook.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk