

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, June 10, 2021**

**Reflective Moment:** Gale Beaton shared her father would be 101 today, and he always taught her about the importance of listening. With this in mind, she chose to read *A Time to Talk* by Robert Frost:

When a friend calls to me from the road  
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,  
I don't stand still and look around  
On all the hills I haven't hoed,  
And shout from where I am, What is it?  
No, not as there is a time to talk.  
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,  
Blade-end up and five feet tall,  
And plod: I go up to the stone wall  
For a friendly visit.

**President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM.**

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

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

**Members absent:** Melo.

**Report of Clerk:** The minutes of the May 13, 2021 board meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

The minutes of the May 13, 2021 executive session were approved as written. SO VOTED

**Report of President:** President Saber reported:

1. Thank you for hard work on Board Handbook, Personnel Handbook and By-Laws
2. Thank you to staff for all of their work
3. Thank you to chairs for monthly meeting reports – gives more thorough handle on what is happening throughout the committees
4. Attended May FLO luncheon at Wamsutta – wonderful opportunity to engage with beneficiaries
5. Phone call connections with beneficiaries is gratifying for both sides
6. Executive Committee meeting 6/4
  - a. Looked at Community Based model vs In House Model
  - b. Prompted board's need to look at where we're going - vision
7. Board Retreat
  - a. End of August possibly – dates to be determined

- b. Comprehensive look at where we are, a global look ahead and determination of next steps

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

1. FLO newsletter and ALBA/BA reports
  - a. FLO Lunch at Wamsutta – board members sign up to attend by 6/11
2. FY22 Community Partners Update
  - a. South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS)
    - i. Hired new paralegal (grant funded position)
    - ii. Clare had meeting – chance to get to know each other
    - iii. Meeting to introduce program to community organizations – July 15<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Zeiterion
    - i. Meeting July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Cape Verdean Association
    - i. Difficulty finding person for position – continuing to look
    - ii. Submitted formal communication of delay
  - d. New Bedford Art Museum
    - i. First session has ended
    - ii. Clare meeting with later today to discuss next sessions
  - e. Dartmouth Council on Aging
    - i. Position approved at town meeting
    - ii. More information to come
3. Proposed Pilot Approach with Acushnet COA
  - a. Community based outreach workers - hard to gauge return on investment
  - b. Pat Midurski resigned from ACOA – triggered discussion and need for more immediate action
  - c. Funding ARAW work at COAs not successful model
    - i. Not getting what ARAW needs
    - ii. Filling seat at COA for work they need that could be funded from somewhere else
  - d. How to move forward and keep connection
    - i. ACOA will return unused grant funds and become referral source only
    - ii. Referrals will go both ways between ACOA and ARAW
    - iii. In house beneficiary advocates will handle all ARAW work (private foundation) and refer back to COA or to other organizations for other needs
    - iv. Ensures beneficiaries needs are being met in all areas
  - e. A motion was made to accept increase of Patricia Midurski hours from 20 to 30 to meet the needs of the pilot approach with ACOA. SO VOTED
4. Activity Sheet – no questions
5. Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Many referrals from NBCOA for Social Day Program funding
    - i. One this month, more to come

- ii. Scholarship funds through New Bedford no longer available
  - iii. Researching other possible funding
  - iv. Extremely complicated requests – very time intensive
6. Vacations – already have coverage plans in place
- a. Clare: Oct 15 – Nov 1
  - b. Pat: Jul 29 – Aug 4
  - c. Jenny: Aug 2 – Aug 6
  - d. Sharon: Sep 13 – Sep 23

**Report of Finance Committee:** Treasurer Ellis reported:

- 1. Finance Committee Timeline – information only
- 2. Developing Spending Strategy – hopefully present next month for board approval
- 3. A motion was made to approve May 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
- 4. A motion was made to accept FY21 finance statements, as distributed. SO VOTED
- 5. A motion was made to conduct a financial review for FY22 to meet our financial attestation needs, as distributed. SO VOTED

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

- 1. Reminder visits are purely friendly – needs to be identified by beneficiary advocates/outreach workers
- 2. In person visiting
  - a. Not required
  - b. If desired, office needs vaccination info and protocols must be followed
- 3. Visit notes due by July 31<sup>st</sup>
- 4. Visiting reports
  - a. Debbie Brooke reported on Sofia Eleuterio
  - b. Next month – Shannon Bachman and Jo-Ann Beaulieu

**Report of Beneficiary Committee:** Chair Laflamme reported:

- 1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
  - i. 16 requests, 5 new, 10 updates
  - ii. Two placed on hold, one denied
- 2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Anna Ramos
    - i. Stroke at 65 – not walking
    - ii. Needs to have feet up
    - iii. Only able to do this in bed, unable to get off of sofa
    - iv. Request was for lift chair – granted with addition of incontinence products from Westport Apothecary (Age exception granted)
    - v. EDDF for 4 washable pad for chair

**Report of Governance Committee:** Chair Brooke reported:

- 1. ByLaws revision – Gale presented – no questions – to be sent to legal for review
- 2. Board Survey will be sent soon – highlight thoughts for future

**Report of Grants Committee:** Nothing to report

**Report of Legacy Committee:** Chair O'Connell reported:

1. Committee meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Assess what needs to be done
  - b. Prioritize action items

**Other Business:**

1. My Brother's Keeper
  - a. Spring cleaning - consider donating
  - b. Give to people in need – no questions asked
  - c. 14 employees, 4,000 volunteers
  - d. Clare will send phone number
2. Board Lending Library
  - a. Encouraged to read *Yes and*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gale Beaton, Clerk