

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, August 12, 2021

Reflective Moment: Roseanne O'Connell shared the poem *Psalm of Praise* by Joan Stephen:

Sing for joy in summer
When earth is bright and green.
Sing with fun in winter
When snow is velveteen.
In spring sing out with gusto
For the life to soon unfold –
And sing with zest in autumn
For the woodlands colored gold.

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for our beneficiaries who we lost since April: Dorothy Carriero, Shirley Charbonneau, Kathleen Foster, Irene Harnois and Jeanne Souza.

President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

A motion was made to authorize the Office Administrator to take meeting minutes for review, approval and distribution by the President. **SO VOTED**

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

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

Members absent: Beaton, Melo.

Report of President: President Saber reported:

1. The minutes of the July 8, 2021 board meeting were approved as written. **SO VOTED**
2. Rosemary attended FLO luncheon at Riccardi's
 - a. Sharon does wonderful job coordinating everything
 - b. Handles challenges with transportation well
 - c. Good feedback from beneficiaries - FLO newsletter provides lifeline/connection
3. More time for strategic discussion
 - a. Identified need for in depth discussion from board survey
 - b. Will initiate with Grants discussion this meeting
 - c. Historically meetings were long/redundant – should strive for meaningful discussion rather than rehashing details
 - d. Board has evolved to be committee driven – committee reports well done
4. Retreat discussion
 - a. Will touch base with Country Club closer to date planned
 - b. Ideally would like to have in person
5. Thank you for completing questionnaire

- a. Please submit if you have not already done so
- b. Clare will resend via email
- c. Will help create agenda

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

1. FLO newsletter and ALBA/BA reports
 - a. August newsletter was 2 pager
 - i. Hoping pictures of art would entice more registrants to NBAM program
 - ii. Buttonwood Zoo organizational membership – allows 10 at a time
 - iii. NBAM Art Classes
 1. Will be rescheduled to late September
 2. Reached out to COAs to host
 3. Looking at timing (Scheduled during lunch time)
 - iv. Intro to The Zeiterion program
 1. Taking time to get to know population
 2. Welcomed our feedback for flyer
 3. Giving away tablets (Not ARAW funded)
 4. ARAW may need to provide internet
 5. Share opportunity with your buddies
 - b. ALBA/BA Report
 - i. Applaud detail on activity sheet – shows special connection w/benes
2. COVID protocol update
 - a. Wearing masks in office
 - b. Limiting in person visits
3. NBAM Art Kits discussion
 - a. Learning process for NBAM and ARAW
 - b. Experiment to see if model works – will review and adjust for future RFP
 - c. Board members willing to deliver to registrants unable to pickup
4. Beneficiary highlight
 - a. Barbara Miranda
 - i. Part of WCAP friendly visiting program (This feature not part of FLO)
 - ii. Receives alimony check from ex husband that needs to be cashed
 - iii. Too scared to go to bank on her own
 - iv. Many options/solutions offered
 - v. Solutions declined by Barbara - beyond what ARAW is able to provide
 - vi. Jo-Ann suggested Crisis Center – will bring to Sharon

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

1. A motion was made to approve June 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
2. A motion was made to approve July 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
 - a. Mary gave explanation of reports included – if any questions, please reach out

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Bachman reported:

1. Reminder to sign up to report
2. Visiting reports
 - a. Diane Laflamme reported on Cecile Thibault and Ruth Swanbeck
 - b. Next month – Roseanne O’Connell

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - i. 20 requests, 5 new, 10 updates
 1. Many with complex issues
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Celeste Forte
 - i. ARAW contacted by Coastline
 - ii. Fridge held together with bungee cord and food moldy inside
 - iii. In the past, has not followed thru with applications for help
 - iv. Referral made to Anchor – will connect with programs

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

1. Compiled information from Board Survey
2. Areas identified for improvement
 - a. Board vs Staff functions
 - b. Knowledge of Programs (Affected by new grants model & remote meetings?)
 - c. Promoting ARAW to friends – why we do this?
 - d. Clarification of Foundation vs Non-profit
 - e. Impact of virtual meetings
3. Survey conducted yearly - some ideas to improve identified
 - a. Less options
 - b. New members
 - i. Find difficult to answer, affecting validity
 - ii. Will wait a year to participate in survey

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Stankiewicz reported:

1. Reviewed 1st quarter reports (Apr-Jun) submitted by Community Partners
 - a. Some community partners doing well, some need additional education
 - b. Clare continually educating on expectations
 - c. New process for ARAW and partners – getting to know each other
 - d. Partnership – ARAW wants to be involved
 - i. Acushnet COA –
 1. Stepped down
 2. Hindered receiving town funds
 3. New referral model established
 - ii. Fairhaven COA & Westport COA – operating as usual, no issues
 - iii. Dartmouth COA

1. Engagement Coordinator established
2. Tech class in addition to ARAW outreach
3. Not meeting expectations – formal letter sent
4. Position not approved by town until June
5. Funds used for COA business rather than ARAW
6. Lack of understanding despite many reminders
- iv. AHA! – Cable access just started filming, September air date expected
- v. Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford
 1. Unable to fill position
 2. Immigrants' Assistance Center changed venue arrangement
 3. Want to return money
 - a. ARAW wants partnership
 - b. Will discuss possible other program with CVA board
- vi. New Bedford Art Museum
 1. Many challenges – continuing to work on model
- vii. New Bedford Whaling Museum
 1. Excellent communication
 2. Shared video about Intergenerational High School Apprenticeship element
- viii. South Coastal Counties Legal Services
 1. Hired Raquel Antonio
 2. Good communication
 3. Possibly holding off on info session due to COVID
- ix. YWCA (Widowed Persons Program) – doing more outreach
- x. Zeiterion
 1. Opened applications in July
 2. On track – may need to adjust due to COVID

Report of Legacy Committee: Chair O'Connell reported:

1. Submitted email conversations with Mark Procknik from NBWM about ARAW archives
 - a. See sequential re-establishment of relationship
 - b. Whaling Museum provided record of archives
 - c. More about digitization to come

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair McKnight reported:

1. ED Evaluation
 - a. Rosemary will create sub-committee (To include one member from each committee)
 - b. Self-Evaluation
 - c. Will offer opportunity for employees and partners feedback (not required)
 - d. Once all data received, will pick out themes and follow up about any

differences

- e. Will work on timeline – need to allow time for surveys to go out and come back

Other Business:

1. Sharon wrote thank you note to board – very thankful for outreach from board
2. Jenny celebrated a birthday last weekend
3. Cathy given Sandy Fogg's ARAW pin by daughter who spoke very highly of her mother's time with the ARAW
4. Community Foundation – Summer's Last Blast event
 - a. Gale Beaton is co-host
 - b. A motion was made to sponsor the event at the Innovator level \$2,500. SO VOTED
 - i. Discussion about purpose of sponsorship – Opportunity for community engagement and name recognition
 - ii. ARAW logo would be on website, program and displayed at event
 - iii. Will receive 8 tickets - networking with area organizations
 - iv. 10 affirmative votes, 3 dissenting votes
 - v. Clare to send information
 - vi. More discussions in the future regarding a policy/guideline for handling of sponsorships
5. Because of some technical difficulties, Rosemary and Clare will be available to go over the minutes with the board members who attended via Zoom (Angela, Pam, Roseanne and Jeannette)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator