

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women**  
**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, November 11, 2021**

**Reflective Moment:** Cathy shared a poem written by her brother along with words about the poem (Clare Healy Foley asked to read due to emotional nature):

“It’s very special because I think when you hit a certain point in your “health” life, there is just so much loss. Every day, whether you are cognizant of it or not, you are faced with it. I keep it in my office to remind me to try to enjoy every day.”

*Can I Keep Her One More Day? (The Day Frisky Died, 1998)*

*Her eyes tearfully sparkling blue through her sadness of knowing,  
And we donned our coats as her arms became a basket of final protection,  
For the sparkless gray eyes peering out of the fur.  
Until she held out the basket to the woman,  
With the warmest, gentlest knowing eyes.  
And she smiled and took the basket.  
And it was okay.*

**Moment of Silence:** All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting: Joanne Duchesneau, Rosie Johnson and Laurinda Cardoza.

**President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:39 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 (Via Zoom), deSa, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, Mayall, McKnight, Natho, O’Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

**Members excused:** Beaton, Melo.

The minutes of the October 14, 2021 board meeting were approved as written. **SO VOTED**

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

1. Welcome back from vacation to Clare
2. Recognition of the wonderful work of the staff during Clare’s vacation
3. Thanks to Governance Committee for succession planning and members willingness to step forward
4. Celebrate the performance of treasurer/finance chair in conducting meetings with BOA and the members of IAC

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

1. Special thanks to Jenny, Sharon, Pat and the board for handling everything during vacation
2. November FLO Newsletter – no questions
3. ALBA/BA Report – comments on how excellent and thorough

4. Activity sheet – shows volume of contacts with beneficiaries, points of clarification
5. November soup delivery – sign up sheet passed around
6. NEXT Monitoring/Yellow Cab/SWH update
  - a. NEXT has been taken over by A1 Alert
    - i. All beneficiaries have been contacted by their beneficiary advocate/outreach worker and given consent to share info with A1 Alert
    - ii. Have now received correct invoicing and handwritten note from Ray (NEXT)
  - b. Yellow Cab has closed as of October 31, 2021
    - i. ARAW will be using BlueBird for beneficiary transportation (Has already formed relationship)
  - c. Senior Whole Health (SWH)
    - i. SouthCoast will not be in SWH network as of January 1<sup>st</sup>
    - ii. Office will refer beneficiaries to a SHINE counselor or Coastline Care Manager for assistance with any transitions needing to be done
7. Holiday Meals
  - a. PACE offering uncooked meals
  - b. Some COAs offering meals on small scale
  - c. If a board buddy shows a self-identified need for a meal with no other option – alert the ARAW office
8. Beneficiary Highlight – Barbara Costa
  - a. Zeiterion offered 20 tickets to Doo Wop show as recruitment tool for Intergenerational Program
  - b. ARAW office making calls on Friday before show to give away last few tickets
    - i. Message left when Barbara didn't answer
    - ii. Barbara called back and when offered the tickets wanted to check with her aunt to see if she wanted to go – called back again delighted to be able to go
  - c. Email from Sharon read
    - i. Call from Barbara Monday morning after the Doo Wop show
    - ii. Had a fabulous time with her aunt at the show on Saturday evening
    - iii. Her aunt sang along the whole show and called everyone Sunday morning to share what a wonderful time she had at the show with Barbara
    - iv. Aunt passed away Sunday afternoon
    - v. Barbara sad about aunt's passing but also very grateful to have had this last wonderful experience with her aunt

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

1. Virtual Meeting with Jason (Bank of America) and Investment Advisory Committee
  - a. Investment Policy Statement and Spending Strategy – final BOA review
  - b. Bill Jarvis (BOA) will meet with Finance Committee to review IPS & Spending drafts
2. Office space
  - a. Clare, Mary, Rosemary and Cathy met

- b. Nothing tangible to offer yet
3. A motion was made to approve October 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED

**Report of Visiting Committee:** Chair Shannon Bachman reported:

1. Committee will meet after Thanksgiving
2. Visiting reports
  - a. Mary Ellis reported on Betty Watkins and Maria Miranda
    - i. Betty: spider bite on leg three years ago caused need to have leg amputated above the knee – has prosthetic and remains in good spirits
    - ii. Maria: From Portugal, one of 8 kids, abusive/alcoholic ex-husband, Naturalization Ceremony next Thursday
  - b. Next month – Pam McKnight

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

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee with addition of fridge for Maria Christy. SO VOTED
  - a. 20 requests, 7 new – 2 withdrawn
  - b. 3 requests show issues with isolation/depression
  - c. FLO program exceptions – leniency during pandemic
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Aida Carreiro
    - i. Request from Westport COA
    - ii. Son died earlier this year
    - iii. Other son lives with her – no job (Exception granted)
    - iv. Approved one day of social day – helping her
3. Motion made, as of 1/1/22, to increase the ARAW income eligibility guideline to \$1,500 for subsidized housing residents and \$2,100 for non-subsidized residents due to scheduled CY22 SSI increase. SO VOTED
4. Motion made to gift \$150 as a 2021 holiday gift to all 185 current ARAW beneficiaries for a total of \$27,750. SO VOTED
  - a. FLO participants will receive \$50 each from FLO budget

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

1. Grateful to Diane for willingness to take over Vice President position
2. New officers/chairs will be voted on at next annual meeting (April)
3. Recruitment for new board members – bring ideas to Governance Committee
4. Community Resource Guide & Housing Guide
  - a. ARAW office staff Q&A on 11/30 at 9:30 am

**Report of Grants Committee:** Chair Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Reviewed FY22 CPG second quarter reports
  - a. A few partners behind due to pandemic
    - i. Cape Verdean Association of New Bedford still looking to hire position

- ii. Zeiterion having recruitment issues but adapting
- iii. Dartmouth COA – no action made on performance improvement plan, letter sent, will hold funds for two months and reassess
- b. FY22 CPG 2<sup>nd</sup> payments released, except for DCOA
- 2. FY23 CPG RFP - process underway
  - a. Possible new partners – New Bedford Police Department, Coastal Neighbors Network, Community Nurse Home Care/PACE, Women’s Fund

**Report of Legacy Committee:** Chair Roseanne O’Connell reported:

- 1. Included in board packet – ARAW’s gifting of archival materials to the Whaling Museum
- 2. Small group of board members view archives on 11/8 – will have another small group viewing on 11/15 – still a few spots available

**Report of Personnel Committee:** Chair Pam McKnight reported:

- 1. Committee discussing compensation and bonuses – will discuss in executive session

**Other Business:**

- 1. Holiday luncheon will take place at Wamsutta Club following the December 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator