

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, January 13, 2022

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting: Lillian Freitas, Elizabeth “Betty” Jones, Bessie Leonardo, Aurora Rollins, Kathleen Vincent and Jeanne Quintin (inactive/past beneficiary). The poem *Afterglow* by Helen Lowrie Marshall was read as it was included in Betty’s obituary and was fitting for all.

Reflective Moment: Clare Healy Foley shared quotes from Reese Witherspoon and Ina Garten about their differing new year’s resolutions highlighting how everyone is different like our beneficiaries.

President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:42 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: 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 excused: Bachman, Beaton.

The minutes of the December 9, 2021 board meeting were approved as written. **SO VOTED**

The minutes of the December 9, 2021 executive session were approved with signature of Gloria deSa added as person who took the minutes. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Reflect on how nice it was to be together in December for meeting and luncheon before shut downs
2. Thank you for bonuses from staff were shared in packet – board happy to make it happen
3. Diane Laflamme shared a summary of her memoir on Priscilla Taylor
 - a. Priscilla was a long-time beneficiary residing at Our Lady’s Haven
 - b. Diane’s relationship with Priscilla left a lasting impression
 - c. Met every Tuesday and conversed on many topics
 - d. Huge spirit, strong force, unconventional woman, never complained
 - e. Not afraid to die because she knew where she was going
 - f. Reciprocal relationship

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

1. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Organizations provided flyer inserts
 - b. Wamsutta luncheon postponed
2. BA Report – no questions
3. Activity Sheet – no questions

4. In person activities put on hold (FLO and home visits)
5. Holiday card and gift response
 - a. Many calls and cards received on display at office
6. Increase in referrals
 - a. Many referrals received over past two weeks
7. Puzzle delivery – volunteer opportunity, please contact office to sign up
8. Visiting reports due January 31st
 - a. If interested in adding to assignments – let office know
9. OTC COVID tests
 - a. Private insurance will cover/reimburse starting 1/14/22
 - b. Medicare does not cover
 - c. Have some on hand in office for emergent need
- 10.WCOA
 - a. Has some grant funding to use
 - b. Have offered to provide transportation and community room for Zoom portion of New Bedford Whaling Museum’s program
- 11.Valentine Cards – will use same format as holiday cards
 - a. Board members to sign beneficiary list cards
 - b. Card and stamps will be given to board members to mail directly
- 12.Beneficiary Highlight – Outpouring of gratitude
 - a. Personification of board members, Sharon, Pat from handwritten notes – many called to thank individuals by name
 - b. People talking to friends about ARAW – more referrals
 - c. Achieving strategic plan goal of deepening impact and broadening reach
 - d. Some referrals complex cases or not eligible - gathering data for the future

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Mary Ellis reported:

1. A motion was made to approve November 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
2. A motion was made to approve December 2021 Financials with change of color from green to red to the staffing costs. SO VOTED
3. Bank of America
 - a. Jason Hantman resigned – long and satisfactory relationship with ARAW
 - b. Sarah Clark taking over ARAW account
 - c. Will set up meeting with Finance Committee and Investment Advisory Committee to meet Sarah

Report of Visiting Committee:

1. Visiting reports due to office January 31, 2022
2. Visiting reports
 - a. Cathy Mayall reported on Maria Christy
 - i. Self-assured, confident, go getter
 - ii. Tough upbringing
 - iii. Husband gave away financial assets

- iv. Son died of heart attack around Christmas 2021
- v. Relationship very important to Cathy
- b. Next month – Debbie Brooke

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee with change to put Bernice Rose on hold. SO VOTED
 - a. 10 requests, 4 new – 3 on hold
 - b. Bernice Rose on hold pending Beneficiary Task Force discussion on technology requests (Meeting January 26th)
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Karyn Ponte
 - i. Referral from Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD)
 - ii. Living beyond means, in the hole \$700 per month
 - iii. OHCD working with Karyn for home repairs
 - iv. ARAW to pay Comcast and car insurance – will not solve problem

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. Nothing to report – no December meeting

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Jeannette Doyle resigned from committee – thank you for opinions and knowledge
2. Read list of applicants for FY23 Grants
 - a. In interview process currently

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

1. Nothing to report – no December meeting

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Working on recommendations for FY23 budget

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator