

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, February 10, 2022

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting: Connie Mayer, Lorraine Rioux, Lolita York and Edna Hopkins (inactive/past beneficiary).

Reflective Moment: In Mary Ellis's absence and given all the last minute changes prior to the board meeting, Clare Healy Foley shared the mantra "Keep Calm and Carry On" to guide us during this busy end of the fiscal year stretch.

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: Bachman, Beaton, Beaulieu, deSa, Doyle, LaFlamme, Mayall, McKnight, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

Members excused: Brooke, Ellis, Natho, O'Connell.

The minutes of the January 13, 2022 board meeting were approved as written. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Will report on evolution of ARAW at March board meeting
2. Annual Meeting
 - a. Save the date – Thursday, April 28, 2022
 - b. Will invite grantees to attend
 - c. Zoom or In Person TBD
3. End of the year committee reports by chairs
 - a. Outline document to be sent via email
 - b. Submit reports to Clare
4. Kudos to Jane & grants committee for hard work over the last few months
5. ARAW eligibility for transgender individuals
 - a. Brief discussion of what ARAW's existing definition of a woman is & options to move forward
 - b. Motion made that individuals who self-identify as a woman are eligible for ARAW support. **SO VOTED**

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

1. FLO Newsletter – offering a raffle for a gift card to the movies
2. BA Report: No questions
3. Activity Sheet:
 - a. Beneficiaries not always accepting of resources offered & we need to accept that & focus on what we can do/offer

- b. SNAP is discontinued once at an Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) so limited funding for extra food beyond provided meals
 - c. Working to deepen engagement of beneficiaries at ALF – specifically Whaler’s Cove where we pay 1st & last month’s rent but don’t always have a connection to the beneficiary after that
4. Census
- a. Dartmouth COA: 29 (2 pending) – up 6 over last quarter
 - b. Fairhaven COA: 38
 - c. Westport COA: 22 (2 pending)
5. In person activities continue to be on hold (FLO and home visits) due to Covid
6. Valentine’s Day cards
- a. Thank you for signing & sending to your friends
 - b. Mail today if you have not already done so
7. FCOA Director
- a. Ann’s last day February 24th
 - i. Working two weeks with new hire to transition
 - ii. Will be working part time somewhere going forward
 - b. Hired Martha Reed
 - i. From Catholic Social Services
 - ii. Background in housing
 - iii. Ambitious
 - iv. Aware of ARAW – very hopeful to continue referrals after grant ends
8. Ocean State Job Lot
- a. Program awards gift cards to not for profits
 - b. Employees make decisions
 - c. ARAW under consideration – awaiting response
9. Internship Opportunity from BCC
- a. Meeting with Clare and Jenny
 - b. Assessed feasibility – timing for this round not ideal, will reach out in future, many opportunities available
10. PFML for Sharon
- a. State approved leave from February 17th to April 7, 2022
11. Beneficiary Highlight – Importance of repetition
- a. NBAM delivery of art kits advertised in newsletter for last couple of months
 - b. Now 30 signed up and 5 on waitlist based on last newsletter

Report of Finance Committee: Clare Healy Foley reported for Mary Ellis:

- 1. Meeting with Sarah Clark will be rescheduled
- 2. Draft budget included in packet – Discussion during executive session
- 3. January financials on hold until March
 - a. Portfolio down \$1,086,012.95 in January, still up \$516,780.83 from beginning of FY22

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Shannon Bachman reported:

1. Jeannette Doyle will be taking over as chair of committee
2. Will schedule committee meeting in new fiscal year
3. Visiting reports
 - a. In Debbie's absence, Rosemary Saber reported on Joan Shea
 - i. Often texts with sister
 - ii. Does shopping online
 - iii. Has always been involved with technology
 - b. Next month – Debbie Brooke, Jo-Ann Beaulieu

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Looking for recommendations for Sandy Fogg award
2. Beneficiary Task Force
 - a. Discussed guidelines for technology requests
 - b. Discussion of information on applications
 - i. Extra information is valuable to share unless it becomes distracting
 - c. Revised form for living alone exception created to ensure consistency
 - d. Guidelines for reimbursements discussed – consistent questions established
3. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee. SO VOTED
 - a. 13 requests, 4 new
4. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Gail Spearin
 - i. Long term partner moved to Florida to help with ill brother
 - ii. Adjusting to one income (-\$700 per month currently)
 - iii. ARAW to pay internet bill and 6 months of land rent
 - iv. Will not solve all problems

Report of Governance Committee: Clare Healy Foley reported for Debbie Brooke:

1. FY23 Committee interest
 - a. Email to be sent – will require response
 - b. Self-identify at least two committees
 - c. Lists of committees to be presented at Annual Meeting

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Thanks to committee and Clare for hard work over past few months
2. Guiding principles for decision making
 - a. New pilot programs – start small, can always grow support if successful
 - b. Pilot programs from FY22 – continue if potential shown
3. Individualized letters to be sent after approval
 - a. If partial funding – partner to send updated budget
4. Jane shared a brief description of each proposal/program
5. Motion made to accept recommendations of the Grants Committee for the FY23 Community Partner Grants. SO VOTED
6. Letter to Dartmouth COA included in board packet

- a. Transitioning to in house beneficiary advocate model
- b. Any questions – direct to ARAW office

Report of Legacy Committee:

1. Nothing to report

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Motion made to amend 6/10/2021 vote, to offer up to \$7,000 to new full-time employees (pro-rated for part-time employees) toward cost of health insurance, either any available ARAW offered plan or a plan of their choosing, if the employee is the primary policy holder. SO VOTED
2. Motion made to accept proposed changes to health and dental insurance policy as distributed in Personnel Committee minutes from 1/18/22. SO VOTED
3. Next meeting will be annual review of employee policy handbook and identifying FY23 goals

Other Business:

1. Coastline Elderly Services
 - a. Offers a few small discretionary grants
 - b. Katharine Pierce similar to ARAW parameters/guidelines
 - c. Information to be sent to board by email

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Executive session to follow. Gloria deSa to take minutes.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator