

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

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiary who we lost since our last meeting: Maria Cabral.

Reflective Moment: Jo-Ann Beaulieu shared a quote from Sister Joan Chittister:

“A burden of these years is the danger of considering ourselves useless simply because we are no longer fulfilling the roles and positions of youth.

A blessing of these years is the freedom to reach out to others,
to do everything we can with everything in life that
we have managed to develop all these years in both soul
and mind for the sake of the rest of the human race.”

President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 9:36 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.

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

Members excused: Bachman, Beaton, Stankiewicz.

The minutes of the February 10, 2022 board meeting were approved as written. **SO VOTED**

The minutes of the February 10, 2022 executive session were approved as written. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Evolution of ARAW – Celebration of all accomplished
 - a. Interview conducted by Zelinda Zouhan of Marie Douglas
 - i. Mrs. Douglas served on ARAW board for 42 years
 - ii. ARAW investments grew from \$500k in 1934 to \$21 million in 2021
 - iii. In 1992 ARAW had 9 benefactors and 11 grantees
 - iv. In 1994 Hope Atkinson became President
 1. Instrumental in changes to the organization
 - v. In 2007 First executive director was hired and office space acquired
 - b. Task for Legacy Committee to gather and bring history up to present
 - i. Look at how ARAW history aligns with historical events
2. Annual Meeting
 - a. Wamsutta Club, Thursday April 28th at 3 pm (option to Zoom)
 - b. Committee chairs and community partners will have up to 5 minutes to present
 - i. Chairs need to be sensitive of what they share regarding beneficiary/personnel information (Can work with ED)
 - ii. Community partners may also bring materials to share

- c. Opportunity to mingle afterwards

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

1. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Shared photos of beneficiaries with their NB Art Museum projects
 - b. Wamsutta luncheon – looking for volunteers to host for 3/24 and 3/31
2. BA Report: lovely quotes shared by Patricia Midurski
3. Activity Sheet: no questions
4. In person activities/visits have resumed
5. Donations
 - a. Donation of \$150 made in memory of Connie Mayer
 - b. ARAW chosen by Ocean State Job Lot employees as recipient of a \$100 gift card
6. Community Partner updates
 - a. Coastal Neighbors' Network – ARAW invited to present on March 23rd
 - b. AHA!
 - i. Event 3/10 is all about women - ARAW listed as sponsor with Grants Committee approval
 - ii. FY22 Grant extended
 - c. Dartmouth COA
 - i. Response to grant award notification after reminder – crafting response to board, unable to have outreach position without full funding
 - ii. DCOA requested meeting – Clare shared options, no response from DCOA
 - iii. ARAW prepared to absorb beneficiaries
7. Sharon O'Malley
 - a. Had previously extended leave until April 7th
 - b. Will not be returning to ARAW – filing for disability
 - c. Email sent expressing gratitude – will share with board
 - d. Will be assisting in transition
 - e. April newsletter will feature retirement (Will be first notification to beneficiaries)
8. PT Beneficiary Advocate
 - a. Lots of interest – 2 viable candidates, interviews scheduled
9. Beneficiary Highlight – Maria Dos Santos: Importance of home visits
 - a. Referral from Dartmouth COA
 - b. Portuguese speaking
 - c. Initial application done with daughter living in Dartmouth
 - d. Beneficiary Committee approved stove based on info shared – family notified; Stan & Paul's not notified
 - e. Pat conducted home visit on Monday 3/7 – clear that family was living there, daughter Joanna admitted to this but refused to fill out new application, still pushed for stove
 - f. Family claiming Maria Dos Santos in hospital
 - g. Beneficiary Committee alerted – approval rescinded
 - h. Discovered on Wednesday Maria Dos Santos had died Saturday 3/5

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. Motion to conduct a financial review for FY 23 to meet our financial attestation obligations. SO VOTED
2. Finance committee will be meeting with Investment Advisory Committee and Bank of America to discuss investments for FY 23
3. Motion made to accept January finance report, as distributed. SO VOTED
4. Motion made to accept February finance report, as distributed. SO VOTED
5. Motion made to accept \$1,329,309 FY23 Budget, as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Thank you to Clare and committee for work on budget

Report of Visiting Committee:

1. Visiting reports
 - a. Debbie Brooke reported on Sofia Eleuterio
 - i. Difficulty walking and pain
 - ii. Less able to maintain property
 - iii. Children helpful but have own lives
 - iv. Independent – struggling to ask for help
 - v. Potential for social worker or Coastal Neighbors' Network?
 - b. Jo-Ann Beaulieu reported on Eleanor Mello
 - i. FLO participant, knows ARAW staff by name
 - ii. Feels supported by ARAW
 - iii. Loves to talk and is always on the go
 - iv. Health conscience
 - v. Grew up in Fairhaven, history of domestic abuse – alienated from family
 - vi. Minor stroke – proved to be blessing, reconnected with daughter and spent Christmas with her family
 - c. Next month – Shannon Bachman

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee. SO VOTED
 - a. 15 requests, 5 new
2. New Beneficiary Highlight – Barbara Sikorski
 - a. Husband died not long ago
 - b. Son moved in - took out home equity loan, son has died
 - c. ARAW paying off home equity loan

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. For purposes of By Laws, board members will be listed as directors
2. Will be emailing executive director evaluation – Rosemary will use for annual review

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

1. Discussed previous year and where committee stands

2. Decided to go back to Whaling Museum to look at restricted box – helpful to determine what is important to save
3. Excited to realign responsibilities and tasks

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Conducted annual Personnel Policies Handbook review
 - a. Many changes even though new
2. National Employee Appreciation Day
 - a. Staff given gift card to The Baker and lovely handwritten note of thanks
 - i. Staff expressed gratitude

Other Business:

1. Reminder admin@ email goes to both Clare and Jenny – use when appropriate

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator