

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, May 12, 2022

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting: Lorraine Perry and Joanne Methia (inactive). Also, past board member Jean Bennett. Some information was shared about each as well.

Reflective Moment: Debbie Brooke read the poem *Will I Lose Myself* by Patricia Fleming:

Will I slowly wither like a leaf That falls upon the earth? Once void of all its Autumn hues, It loses all its worth.	And will I drift so far away I never make it back?
Will my strength and vigor for this life Just one day start to wane? Will all these lines and wrinkles guise My once familiar face?	Will I be that old forgotten soul That no one comes to see? Kept in the hands of strangers, A shell of who I used to be.
Will I feel no longer needed By my family and my friends? Will that thrill of feeling deep in love, In time come to an end?	I pray I'm spared such cruelty, For if I am to live. I don't want to be a burden When I still have much to give.
Will I lose my sense of purpose, My reason for each day? Will my mind grow dull and cluttered Till I somehow lose my way?	I want to treasure every moment, Every love my heart embraced. I need to know each pain I felt, Each tragedy I faced.
Will I outlive all my loved ones And find myself alone? Will I lose my independence, My possessions and my home?	So if someday I disappear Before I leave this life, I beg you to reach out to me And hold on with all your might.
Will all my fondest memories Escape my aging grasp?	For despite how far away I go, I need the world to care. For somewhere in that bewilderment, I still linger there.

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:44 AM.

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

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

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

Members excused: Bachman.

The minutes of the April 14, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed with post-President approval amendments. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Honored to be serving as President
 - a. ARAW has rich history and important mission
 - b. In awe of accomplishments of fellow board members and staff
2. Theme for coming year – Leading Together
 - a. Many changes over the past few years – all coming together now
 - b. Over past few weeks - met with committee chairs in small groups to discuss committee make ups and goals for the coming year
3. Goals for upcoming tenure
 - a. Finalize current strategic plan and work towards next steps
 - b. Continue to define board vs staff functions
 - c. Board education
 - d. Board culture conversations (Covid interrupted coming together)
4. Annual Meeting
 - a. Everyone enjoyed format of having community partners attend
 - b. Great to see interaction afterwards at reception
 - c. Opportunity to tighten some things up
 - d. Remarks from board members – impressed by community partners, glad to be funding
 - e. Potential to invite community partners unable to join to a future board meeting
 - f. Community partners learned from each other as well

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

1. Thank you for Annual Meeting
 - a. Effort put into committee reports
 - b. Taking a chance on new format
 - c. To Jenny for data/reports from database
2. FLO Newsletter: reminder to use as tool when speaking with beneficiary buddies
3. BA Report: Clare added Pat spending time mentoring/training Leonora
4. Activity Sheet: next month will list staff responsible for task rather than outreach person
5. Volunteer Opportunities
 - a. Thank you to Rosemary, Jo-Ann and Cathy for making deliveries of raffle items – still a few left to deliver
 - b. Hostesses needed for Wamsutta luncheon featuring NBSO on May 26th
6. Referral process: Streamlining – referral form to be sent to admin email (able to vet in advance and not bog down beneficiary advocates)
7. Community Engagement
 - a. Always intentional
 - b. Coastal Neighbors Network presentation led to potential new board member
8. CPG updates

- a. LGBTQ+ Network
 - i. Will have area geared for elderly during Pride Day in June at Buttonwood Park – asked ARAW for suggestions for activities
 - ii. Have free Zeiterion tickets available for recruitment purposes
- b. New Bedford Police Department
 - i. Received outstanding elements of grant agreement – check sent
 - ii. New to grants – going to take work but will be worth it
 - iii. Training session with ARAW on June 1st (tentatively)
 - iv. Will start with ARAW Beneficiaries
- c. Closing up FY22
 - i. Missing a few YE reports: NBAM, Zeiterion, AHA!, DCOA
 - ii. Survey sent out to all for feedback on process/experience
- d. Beneficiary Highlights
 - i. Isidora Conway sent email with positive feedback on New Bedford Art Museum field trip
 - ii. Patricia Rose called to thank for hearing aids – shared the radio in her car was too loud and can now hear dog’s nails on the floor
 - iii. Group of beneficiaries at Presidential Terrace who get together every month to read the ARAW newsletter

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

- 1. April 12th meeting with Investment Advisory Committee and Bank of America
 - a. Standard investment banking presentation – difficult to understand
 - b. Kathleen McQuiggan offered to meet with committee to “translate” – meeting tomorrow May 13th via Zoom (all board members invited)
- 2. Motion made to accept April finance report as distributed. SO VOTED

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Jeannette Doyle reported:

- 1. Visiting reports: Jane Stankiewicz
 - a. Cecile Begnoche
 - i. Always upbeat and happy
 - ii. Has friends where she lives and is connecting with family
 - iii. Four upcoming doctor’s appointments – was able to set up transportation
 - iv. Had granddaughter up from Virginia over the holidays
 - b. Jacqueline “Jackie” Morin
 - i. Worked at St. Joe’s preschool
 - ii. Daughter is a nurse
 - iii. Needs heart valve replacement – will need to have dental work done first, also exposed to Covid which has caused delays
 - c. Next month – Roseanne O’Connell
- 2. Will be scheduling a committee meeting in June to discuss format and next steps

3. Updated visiting reports to be handed out – contact office if able to take new friends or need to drop any current friends

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee.
SO VOTED
 - a. 8 requests, 7 updates
2. Task Force meeting coming up to discuss:
 - a. EPERS – safety, available monthly balance
 - b. FLO exceptions
 - c. Declination letters
3. New Beneficiary Highlights
 - a. Holly Graybill
 - i. Artist all her life (low Social Security)
 - ii. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2013
 - iii. Went through divorce – left financially unstable
 - iv. ARAW approving car repair – connect to SCCLS and ACCS
 - b. Teresa Tripp
 - i. Hairdresser – business affected heavily by Covid
 - ii. Declining health and rent increase – probably going to have to give up business
 - iii. Major credit card debt, low Social Security
 - iv. ARAW approving six months of car payments with stipulation of SCCLS referral

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. Potential board member – Helen Montague
 - a. Recently widowed
 - b. Mainly involved in education – retired 2018
 - c. Mentors at NB Whaling Museum
 - d. Passion to be engaged with people
 - e. One week to bring concerns or questions to committee or office – then will set up initial meet and greet
2. Leah Macomber initial meet and greet completed – will be bringing information back to Governance committee, then make recommendation to board in June

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Angela Natho reported:

1. Committee has one year under their belt – amazing amount of work done
2. Still have more work – have goals for upcoming year
3. Small staff but still important to have policies and consistency
4. Thank you from Clare for committee's work and support

Other Business:

1. Rosemary Saber expressed gratitude for flowers and diary
 - a. Board members to sign letter for Rosemary regarding her tenure as president
2. Shared Sharon's thank you card to the board
3. Round of applause for getting through the first month of meetings of the new FY – including three board meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Recorded by Jenny Costa, Office Administrator