

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the 155th Annual Meeting – April 28, 2022

President Rosemary Saber called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Members in Attendance: Bachman, Beaulieu, Brooke, deSa, Doyle, Ellis, Laflamme, Mayall (Via Zoom), McKnight, Natho, Saber, Stankiewicz.

Executive Director Clare Healy Foley, Office Administrator Jenny Costa, ARAW Liaison and Beneficiary Advocate Sharon O'Malley (Via Zoom) and ARAW Beneficiary Advocates Patricia Midurski and Leonora Robins also present. Also joined by past ARAW Board Members and representatives from FY23 Community Partners: Coastal Neighbors Network, New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, New Bedford Police Department, Cape Verdean Association of New Bedford, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, South Coast LGBTQ+ Network, South Coastal Counties Legal Services and YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

Members Absent: Beaton, O'Connell.

Report of the Clerk: The minutes of the 154th Annual Meeting, April 29, 2021 were approved as written. SO VOTED.

Moment of Silence: Beneficiary Chair Diane Laflamme read the names of beneficiaries who we lost during FY22, followed by a moment of silence: Dorothy Alfonso, Maria Cabral, Laurinda Cardoza, Dorothy Carriero, Sally Chace, Shirley Charbonneau, Peggy Costa, Joanne Duchesneau, Kathleen Foster, Lillian Freitas, Irene Harnois, Laura Herr, Edna Hopkins, Rosie Johnson, Elizabeth Jones, Bessie Leonardo, Constance Mayer, Jeanne Quintin, Lorraine Rioux, Aurora Rollins, Jeanne Souza, Ruth Swanbeck, Joyce Taylor, Kathleen Vincent and Lolita York.

Recommendation of the Treasurer: A motion was made to approve the preliminary FY22 year-end financial report. SO VOTED

President's Remarks: President Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Witnessed the adaptability of the board and staff to fully utilize virtual meetings as a result of the pandemic
2. Appreciated the productivity as a result of all of the committees in their respective roles, fulfilling the charge of the strategic plan
3. Recognized the thorough knowledge of the Association and the tasks before us, imparted by Clare and Jenny at the board retreat in 2021
4. Enjoyed two years as President – has been wonderfully fulfilling and gratifying
5. Has seen the possibilities of services to our beneficiaries by existing and newly formed partnerships

6. Noted her pleasure to have served in that capacity, women helping women, greatly appreciating the unilateral cooperation of all

Recommendation of the Governance Committee: Governance Chair Debbie Brooke presented the FY23 Slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and Committee Members.

A motion to accept the Slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and Committee Members for FY23 was made. SO VOTED

Remarks of Appreciation: Jane Stankiewicz shared a few remarks about Rosemary Saber in gratitude of her tenure as president: “Rosemary personifies what the ARAW is all about: women helping women and not alms alone but a friend. She is a tireless advocate, volunteer, leader and friend. She is the first to volunteer and the first to show up for an opportunity – be it serving on a committee, delivering a plant, making a phone call to a beneficiary, hostessing a luncheon, visiting someone when they are ill or, as we have been fortunate to experience for the last two plus years, serve as President of the ARAW Board. As she steps down from the role of President, we will miss her passionate commitment, gentle ways and quiet strength. We are thankful for her invaluable contributions. On behalf of all of us, Thank you for your past and continued commitment to ARAW, the staff, your fellow board members, our community partners and most of all the beneficiaries.”

Thank you gifts were shared with board members who are moving as chairs between committees (Diane Laflamme, Pamela McKnight and Jane Stankiewicz), board members stepping down from chair positions (Shannon Bachman and Rosemary Saber) and Sharon O’Malley who is retiring.

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. FY22 Achievements
 - a. Committee reviewed 202 requests as well as annual updates of all beneficiaries
 - b. Diverse group of referral sources
 - c. Task force met to review issues like parameters of technology requests
2. Goals for FY23
 - a. Continue to identify new beneficiaries
 - b. Review parameters as needed
 - c. Stive for consistency
 - d. Continue to utilize task force

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

1. Introduction of staff
 - a. Jenny Costa, Office Administrator – secret ingredient to everything we do, unflappable approach and calming presence coupled with abilities, expertise and many talents are exactly what the ARAW needs to help achieve full potential

- b. Patricia Midurski & Sharon O'Malley, Beneficiary Advocates – exceptional professionals with keen knowledge of community programs, resources and support available to elderly population, coupled with compassionate, understanding, accessible natures, have been a godsend to ARAW and to the majority of our beneficiaries

2.FY22 Achievements

- a. Day to day work of office fell into four distinct areas: administrative operations, direct beneficiary relations, community partner relations or board/committee support
- b. Clear increase in referrals
- c. Further realization of in-house Beneficiary Advocate role
- d. Recognition of our unique role as a private foundation
- e. Expansion of Friendship Lunches & Outings (FLO) socialization program
- f. Introduction of new community partners
- g. Full utilization of data management/bookkeeping systems
- h. Operations-based functions to complement the Board's visionary-based work
- i. Worked with 333 women (224 in house)
- j. 101 Referrals from non-partners
- k. 81 new women
- l. 58 left (25 deaths)

3.Sharon O'Malley

- a. Wish happiest of retirements starting in April 2022
- b. Will be missed, lucky to have had her on Team ARAW
- c. Illustrious history with ARAW – 14 year tenure
- d. Commitment and dedication knows no bounds
- e. Made a true difference in all of our lives

4.Leonora Robins

- a. Welcomed as part time Beneficiary Advocated in April 2022
- b. Wealth of experience
- c. Speaks fluent Portuguese

5. FY23 Goals

- a. Effectively work with FY23 community partners to ensure goals are met and intentions are realized to their full potential with focus on integration and introduction of programs to existing and potential beneficiaries
- b. Continue to work with the committees and board to achieve their goals

6. Heartfelt personal thank you to ARAW board and staff

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. FY22 Achievements

- a. Full year of getting business done
- b. Portfolio performance great
- c. Investment Advisory Committee – group of 3 professionals volunteering
- d. Developed Investment Policy Statement (IPS) and Spending Strategy

2. FY23 Goals

- a. Educate committee and board
- b. Review IPS and Spending Strategy

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. Ensured board operating at optimum levels
2. Assured all board members are feeling supported, heard and fulfilled
3. Strategic Plan
 - a. Almost fully accomplished 3 year plan in just 2 years
 - b. Continually review
 - c. Will finish up this year and look to next steps

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. FY22 Achievements
 - a. First full year of RFP process – evaluated over year
 - b. 11 Community Partners (7 new)
 - c. Learned about limitations
 - d. Look forward to continued success

Report of Legacy Committee: Diane Laflamme reported for Chair Roseanne O’Connell:

1. Established in 2021 as an outgrowth of the Outreach Committee
2. Original goals of Outreach Committee achieved
 - a. Organize 150th celebration
 - b. Collaborate with New Bedford Library and Whaling Museum
 - c. Develop website
3. FY23 Goal
 - a. Advance while preserving mission and history

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Pamela McKnight reported:

1. Growing staff presented need for committee – started in 2020
 - a. Ensure consistency and equity for staff
 - b. Develop and review policies
2. Biggest accomplishment – Development of Personnel Handbook approved May 2021
3. Greatest challenge – health care and benefit offerings for small staff

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Shannon Bachman reported:

1. Faced challenges due to Covid
 - a. Reached out to beneficiaries by phone (10-12 per board member)
 - b. Developed friendships with beneficiaries – reciprocal and rewarding

FY23 Community Partners’ Remarks: Brief presentations were given by Coastal Neighbors Network, New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, New Bedford Police

Department, Cape Verdean Association of New Bedford, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, South Coast LGBTQ+ Network, South Coastal Counties Legal Services and YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting adjourned at 4:58 am.

Recorded by, Jenny Costa, Office Administrator