

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, June 9, 2022

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting: Irene Almas and Maria Ruas (previously inactive).

Reflective Moment: Angela Natho shared Words of Wisdom from St. Therese:

“May today there be peace within
May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others
May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you
May you be content with yourself just the way you are
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love
It is there for each and every one of us.”

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:37 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, deSa, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, McKnight, Natho, O’Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

Members excused: Brooke, Mayall.

The minutes of the May 12, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed. **SO VOTED**
The minutes of the May 26, 2022 special board meeting were approved as distributed. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Consultants’ engagement
 - a. Consultants excited/impressed by ARAW accomplishments
 - b. Suggested one day retreat to determine next steps – sent proposal
 - c. Next steps – one of three options
 - i. Continue to work with current Strategic Plan
 - ii. Create Strategic Plan 1A – add to original/focus
 - iii. Create new Strategic Plan
 - d. A motion was made to approve \$8,700 expenditure for a one day retreat conducted by Cahners and Donahue Associates LLC. **SO VOTED**
2. Shannon Bachman resignation
 - a. Very hard decision – so committed to ARAW
 - b. 11 years on board – will be big loss
 - c. Thank you for her service and hard work especially with visiting over the years

3. Board education
 - a. Charts distributed for FYI illustrating ED vs Board President vs shared functions

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

1. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Lots of programs – talk up with your buddies
 - b. Flag pins will be sent to everyone
 - c. Young at Heart performance rescheduled to November 13th due to Covid
 - d. New Bedford Art Museum classes postponed one week due to Covid
2. Activity sheet and BA Reports: no questions
3. Past Board Members
 - a. Emails from Nancy Kurtz and Zelinda Douhan included in packet
 - i. Celebrated the work being done by ARAW
 - ii. Striking balance between business and compassion
 - b. Clare met with Pam Sherman
 - i. Pam on board of Unitarian Church
 - ii. Looking for ways to use space to apply for City of New Bedford grant
 - iii. Given several organizations to reach out to
 - iv. Discussed needs of elderly community
 - v. May apply for FY24 CPG
4. CPG updates
 - a. Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford
 - i. Clare met with Jan Baptist (Board President)
 - ii. Struggled with hiring/Immigrants' Assistance Center as location for programs
 - iii. Have now hired a Program Director
 - iv. ARAW excited to be partnering – engagement with Cape Verdean population
 - v. Jan congratulated board – hearing about ARAW from multiple sources in community
 - b. New Bedford Police Department (NBPD)
 - i. Pat and Clare conducted training for 10 police officers
 1. Very receptive
 2. Also included presentation on elder abuse and Alzheimer's
 - ii. Working on execution of grant intentions
 - c. New Bedford Symphony Orchestra (NBSO)
 - i. Featured at last FLO luncheon
 1. Great success
 2. Follow up calls made for feedback – all positive
 3. Next time – set up as concert before and then lunch – more interaction between musicians and beneficiaries

- d. Coastal Neighbors Network (CNN)
 - i. Seeing referrals from CNN
 - ii. Sent one beneficiary over to CNN
 - iii. Andy Pollock will be “guest star” at future FLO luncheon in Dartmouth or Westport
 - iv. Speak about CNN with Dartmouth and Westport buddies
 - e. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center – Grants committee touring next week
 - f. Southcoast LGBTQ+ - PRIDE event at Buttonwood Park last weekend
 - g. AHA!
 - i. Contacted by Lee Heald – will be returning grant funding
 - ii. Unable to finish project – filming done but public access can’t do script writing, too long a job for AHA!
 - iii. Will be writing letter to include with check
 - h. Dartmouth Council on Aging (DCOA)
 - i. Sent letter of appreciation included in packet – no response from Amy or Ann
 - ii. Ann submitted resignation to DCOA
5. Move to 174 Union update
- a. Move date July 12th
 - b. Mail will be forwarded – beneficiaries will need to be contacted to change address for some bills
 - c. Received Letter of Intent (LOI) and Lease
 - i. Sent to legal for review
 - ii. Submitted minor adjustments to owners
 - iii. Landlords approved and ready for signatures
 - d. A motion was made to authorize the President of the ARAW board and the Executive Director to sign the initial lease for 174 Union Street, Unit 4W on behalf of ARAW. SO VOTED
6. Beneficiary Highlight
- a. Andriana Carreiro
 - i. Featured in Standard Times and New Bedford Light
 - ii. Lived in Fall River – moved to New Bedford when Fall River rent increased – is homeless
 - iii. Family support and other resources available to her
 - iv. ARAW saw as referral from Immigrants’ Assistance Center
 - 1. Not eligible for ARAW – over income/assets and outside of area
 - 2. Connected to SCCLS
 - b. Cecile Thibault
 - i. Lived 29 years in basement – recently moved to housing
 - ii. Has matching couch and chair – first time ever
 - iii. Able to look out window and be “looking out on God’s creation”

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. Working with Investment Advisory Committee to bring recommendations
 - a. Meeting with IAC and Burke and Lamb
 - b. Will be meeting with Sarah Clark (BOA)
2. Due to market, investment portfolio down – being proactive
3. Motion made to accept May finance report as distributed. SO VOTED
4. Motion made to accept FY22 Financial Review/Statements as distributed. SO VOTED

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Jeannette Doyle reported:

1. Will be scheduling meeting of the committee
2. Visiting reports: Roseanne O’Connell
 - a. Mary Lou Rapoza
 - i. A lot of health issues – pain and unable to take pain medication
 - ii. Suffers from depression – has had many losses
 - iii. Used to like to cook mother’s Polish recipes
 - b. Rita Robillard
 - i. Healthy 95 year old
 - ii. Homeowner – home filled with memories
 - iii. Daughter lives in Florida but checks in frequently
 - iv. Recently had birthday – called but unable to reach – office to f/u
 - c. Shared quote by St. Francis of Assisi “A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.”
3. Next month – Angela Natho

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Task Force meeting scheduled for June 20th – all welcomed to attend
 - a. Clare to bring feedback from OW/BA survey to discussion
2. New Beneficiary Highlights
 - a. Sandy Quirini
 - i. Active, gets out
 - ii. Asked for SRTA Demand Response
 - iii. Committee added Comcast (low end of month balance)
 - iv. Stick with request or look at whole? Go back to beneficiary advocate? – discussion for task force (survey out to BAs/OWs for feedback)
 - b. Maria Miguel
 - i. Suffers from severe depression
 - ii. Lives with daughter, daughter’s significant other, significant other’s mother and granddaughter
 - iii. Attends social day (2 days covered by SWH, 1 covered by NBCOA)
 - iv. In Foster Care Program – family receives money for in home PCA
 - v. Qualifies for Adult Day Health – would be covered by MassHealth

1. Daughter doesn't want to change models
- vi. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to change beneficiary recommendation of funding for sixth months and reassessment to gift of 3 months and stop. SO VOTED
 1. Will give family time to adjust and explore other options
3. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee with amendment for Maria Miguel. SO VOTED
 - a. 13 requests, 11 updates

Report of Governance Committee: Mary Ellis reported for Chair Debbie Brooke:

1. A motion was made to invite Leah Macomber to join the ARAW board. SO VOTED

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk