

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, July 14, 2022

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for the beneficiaries who we lost since our last meeting:

1. Madeline Sinclair (84)
 - a. Westport resident
 - b. ARAW assisted w/EPERS, chiropractic, house cleaning, dentures
 - c. Devoted children – shared thanks for all ARAW has done
2. Shirley Mendonca (85)
 - a. Dartmouth/Whaler’s Cove resident
 - b. Made cards from own photography – many sent to & kept at ARAW office
 - c. Daughter couldn’t thank ARAW enough

Reflective Moment: With all the turmoil in the world, Jane Stankiewicz felt it appropriate to share a poem by Emily Dickinson about hope:

“Hope is a thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops – at all

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard
And sore must be the storm

That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest Sea
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of Me.

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:35 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, Brooke, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, Macomber, Mayall, McKnight, Natho, O’Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

Members excused: deSa.

The minutes of the June 9, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Welcome to Leah Macomber
 - a. Neighbors of Mary and Debbie – has been learning about ARAW for 5 years
 - b. Has been volunteering for 48 years
 - c. Professional life – non-profit fundraiser/consultant
2. Met with Bank of America Philanthropy team
 - a. Board education services available: Creating meaningful change, Board diversity and other topics
3. Board Retreat – September 14th
 - a. Executive Committee will serve as retreat committee – first meeting tomorrow
 - b. If need for Strategic Planning Committee identified during retreat – will be formed from whole board membership

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

1. Welcome to new office space
 - a. Thanks to all for making it happen – especially Cathy
 - b. Moved officially on Tuesday
 - c. Comcast not set up yet – will be next week
 - d. Used Tavares movers – great, got the job done
 - i. Also used by Fresh Start
 - e. Building owners and Jay, building manager, have been wonderful
 - f. County Street location – ours till end of July
 - g. So nice to all be together in ARAW's own office space – will always have option for Zoom in the future
2. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Coastal Neighbors Network luncheon
 - i. Andy Pollock hosting at Silverbrook Farm
 - ii. Open to Dartmouth and Westport beneficiaries
 - b. Fishing Heritage Center event next Tuesday
 - c. Encourage attendance for each with friends – you can join them
3. Activity sheet and BA Reports: would like to acknowledge all of Pat's hard work
4. Staffing update
 - a. Leonora
 - i. Not right fit for what ARAW needs right now
 - ii. Gave letter of recommendation (included in packet)
 - iii. Left with good feeling – going to be full time PCA for her mom
 - b. Ana Paz
 - i. Starting Monday 7/18 as full time beneficiary advocate
 - ii. Speaks Portuguese, critical thinker, hard worker
 - iii. Very eager and excited to join ARAW

5. Investment Conference
 - a. Attended with Mary, invited by Kevin O'Connell (IAC)
 - b. Very informative – many great presentations
 - c. Thank you for opportunity
6. Community Engagement
 - a. Have connected with more people in process of office move
 - b. Diane Edwards – new beneficiary
 - i. “I have been on my own since I was 16. So wonderful that strangers are helping me.”
 - ii. Has been sharing ARAW with employees at Rockland Trust – would like brochures to be sent to them
7. CPG updates
 - a. AHA! – received check for returned funds
 - b. Fishing Heritage Center – Grants Committee visited for a tour
 - c. Coastal Neighbors Network – ARAW has sent a few referrals
 - d. Cape Verdean Association
 - i. Zoom meeting rescheduled due to connectivity issues
 - ii. CVA will be sending new proposal
8. Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. In contact with many to update addresses for ARAW move
 - i. More capable than given credit for
 - ii. A few beneficiaries sent in thank yous by email
 - b. Inflation – affecting many beneficiaries (cost of groceries and gas)

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. Investment conference was excellent
 - a. Opportunity at lunch for interaction with peers
2. Office space was last big item to check off of Finance's Strategic Plan goals
3. Kathleen McQuiggan's education presentation included in board pack
4. Meeting next Friday, July 22nd with IAC & BOA – all welcome to attend
5. Motion made to accept June finance report with change of color on the accounting line item. SO VOTED

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Jeannette Doyle reported:

1. Meeting on July 21st
 - a. Will discuss how it's going, potential for in person, reporting
2. Visiting reports: Angela Natho
 - a. Marguerite “Marge” Whitehead
 - i. Sent lovely thank you note
 - ii. Joking about long name
 - iii. Ongoing issues with son's addiction – doing better
 - iv. Sounds more upbeat recently

- v. Loved dancing at the COA
- vi. Calls 97 year old neighbor every day
- vii. Daughter calls everyday
- b. Isabel Sousa
 - i. Sits with other residents at her building outside
 - ii. Loves to bake
 - iii. Health decline in 2021 – getting back to normal
 - iv. Has never been so bored but says “If we can eat, walk, talk – we’re doing fine.”
- 3. Next month – Jeannette Doyle

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Beneficiary Task Force meeting June 20th
 - a. FLO Program
 - i. Opened up to more people during pandemic
 - ii. Back to original intent – socialization for those who are isolated and meet eligibility guidelines
2. New Beneficiary Highlights
 - a. Edith Lammers (77 y/o)
 - i. Recently moved to subsidized housing
 - ii. Lived with mother and nephew until mother’s death
 - iii. No friends her own age to share experiences
 - iv. Approved to join FLO program
3. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. 16 requests, 9 updates
 - b. Discussion about facial & dental whitening – important for self confidence and socialization – stressed one time only

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. A motion was made to invite Helen Montague to join the ARAW board. SO VOTED
 - a. President will send email
 - b. Orientation will be scheduled
2. Board survey sent out – responses due by end of today
 - a. Will help inform retreat planning

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Retreat will provide opportunity to look forward for RFP process
 - a. Calendar for RFP process will be reworked
2. Visit to Fishing Heritage Center – wonderful, very enthusiastic

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Angela Natho reported:

1. A motion was made to opt out of the employer sponsored health plan and continue with the lump sum offering (up to \$7,000) towards a plan of the employee's own choosing, if the employee is the policyholder. SO VOTED
2. A motion was made that there be no waiting period for payment towards a Health Insurance Plan. SO VOTED
3. A motion was made to adopt Juneteenth as a paid holiday for our employees. SO VOTED

Other Business:

1. ARAW phone company Clear Sound subcontracts with New Horizons
 - a. Owner of New Horizons, Brad Fackler sent \$300 donation with letter which was shared with the board

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk