

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting August 11, 2022

Moment of Silence:

Lucille Duquette (87)

- Dartmouth resident, with ARAW since FY09
- Worked with DCOA, ARAW
- No family only friend Nancy for support

Reflective Moment: Clare Foley read poem “From Blossoms” by Li-Young Lee for Roseanne O’Connell

From blossoms come
This brown paper bag of peaches
We bought from the joy
At the bend of the road
Where we turned
Toward
Signs painted Peaches.
From laden boughs, from hands
From sweet fellowship in the bins,
Comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
Peaches, we devour, dusty skin and all,
Comes the familiar dust of summer,
Dust we eat.
O, to take what we love inside,
To carry within us an orchard, to eat
Not only the skin, but the shade,
Not only the sugar, but the days to
Hold.
The fruit in our hands, adore it, then
Bite into the round jubilation of peaches.
These are days we love
As if death were nowhere
In the background; from joy
To joy, to joy, from wing to wing
From blossom to blossom, to
Sweet impossible blossom.

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM

Members in Attendance: Beaton, Beaulieu, Brooke, deSa, Doyle, Ellis, Macomber, Mayall, Montague, Natho, Saber, Stankiewicz

Members excused: Laflamme, McKnight, O’Connell

Executive Director Clare Healy Foley also present.

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Welcome to Helen Montague. Helen spoke of her family and background. Career in education from first grade teacher to college counselling, her three children and new interest in pickleball.
2. Strategic planning retreat planned for September 14th. Had executive planning meeting in July. Consultants held two focus groups this week with board members, will meet individually with staff and have sent out surveys to all beneficiaries.
3. October monthly board meeting is changed to October 6th due to Clare's vacation.

The minutes of the July 14, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed. SO VOTED.

Report of Executive Director: In addition to the information in the monthly packet, Executive Director Healy Foley reported:

1. Office space update – all going well.
2. FLO newsletter – emailed to board members at same time as mailed to beneficiaries so able to talk to our beneficiaries and plan to go to events ourselves if desire.
3. Fishing Heritage Center luncheon at Wamsutta Club August 26th 12:30-2PM. 21 attendees so far. Lunch and learn program. Staff members will help with travel arrangements on both ends. Using “Yes We Van” for transportation. Clare will send list of attendees to board members.
4. September 22nd New Bedford Symphony will attend to provide concert and interaction.
5. Have received 100 responses to Strategic Planning Beneficiary survey so far. Approximately 280 sent out.
6. Activity sheet and Beneficiary Advocate reports included with board packet. Time spent this month on change of office address issues with beneficiaries.
7. Staffing update – New Beneficiary Advocate Ana has jumped right in doing a great job on requests.
8. Community engagement
 - a. People starting to notice us in new office. Much more visible location.
 - b. Remember – we are all ambassadors
9. CPG updates
 - a. Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford – have submitted a new proposal for socialization for elderly Cape Verdean women now that they have hired new staff. There will be a cap of 15 women in the program. Will be located at Boa Vista Housing Complex
10. Coastal Neighbors Network

- a. Silverbrook lunch for ARAW Dartmouth and Westport residents held. CNN presentation to participants. Sending referrals both ways. Will hold another lunch/presentation in the fall.
11. Beneficiary Highlight – Theme of education. Beneficiaries seem to have difficulty understanding the difference between board members and staff. Discussed possibility of sending out photo of board members and staff members separately describing differences in duties. Board members are “buddy volunteers”.

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

1. Meeting with IAC & BOA held July 22nd.
2. Wrapping up IPS. Sarah to attend tomorrow’s Finance Committee meeting with portfolio recommendations based in IPS guidance/allocations.
3. Next on plan is to work on spending strategy.
4. Mary thanked all involved in Finance Committee progress.
5. A motion was made to accept the Investment Policy Statement (IPS), as written. SO VOTED
6. A motion was made to accept the July 2022 FINANCIALS as written. SO VOTED

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Doyle reported:

1. Committee meeting held July 21st.
2. Former board member Shannon Bachman has requested ability to stay in touch with her former beneficiary friends as ARAW representative. There would need to be an official vote to allow contact under ARAW umbrella. After lengthy strategic discussion board decided to wait for retreat before making a recommendation for non-board member involvement.
3. Clare reported that Shannon stopped by ARAW office before moving out of state. Clare will follow up with Shannon re board discussion.
4. Visiting report highlight: Jeannette spoke about relationship with beneficiary Mary Hultgren, 86yo. Jeannette was assigned to connect with Mary in ’20 and repeatedly attempted to connect without success. Request put in January ’22 for hearing aids. Jeannette able to connect March 1st when Mary called her to thank her for the hearing aids. Mary reports recent sadness in her life having lost her son and husband in the last year. She had seven children. Mary lives in Fairhaven in subsidized housing. Her son comes on Sundays to help with cleaning.

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair McKnight excused: Clare offered time for any questions concerning committee’s recommendations. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

1. Board survey results
 - a. Average board member tenure is 6 years

- b. Positive results on board relationships
 - c. Discussed asking questions during meetings. Seems to have improved now that meetings in person.
2. Volunteer Policy Handbook
- a. Advised by attorney to produce handbook
 - b. Clare to bring physical copy to next meeting for all board members
 - c. Will need to acknowledge receipt annually

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Natho reported:

- 1. Unemployment insurance reviewed at recent Personnel Committee meeting.
- 2. Also needed to have policy for continuing health insurance benefit during paid family medical leave (PFML).
A motion was made to continue health insurance benefit during paid family medical leave (PFML). SO VOTED.
- 3. Will also be looking at short and long term disability in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale Beaton, Clerk