

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, September 8, 2022

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

1. Pauline Benoit (84) Fairhaven
 - a. Alden Court last few years
 - b. ARAW provided cable
 - c. Sent many cards to ARAW over the years
2. Margaret Galley (85) Fairhaven
 - a. ARAW provided BCBS & EPERS
3. Lois Augustine (86) Acushnet
 - a. Ineligible referral – Pat worked with
4. Amelia Gomes (82) New Bedford
 - a. Inactive at time of death
 - b. Proactive about situation – moved to Florida to be with family
5. Isaura “Hazel” Souza (95) Dartmouth
 - a. ARAW provided hearing aids
 - b. Dynamic life story
6. Melba Gordon (90) Fairhaven
 - a. ARAW awarded phone/internet & dentures – not fulfilled

Reflective Moment: While reflecting on her friendly visits, Gale Beaton noted the differences in friendships. She shared the poem *Human Family* by Maya Angelou:

I note the obvious differences in the human family. Some of us are serious, some thrive on comedy.	I've seen the wonders of the world not yet one common man.	We seek success in Finland, are born and die in Maine.
Some declare their lives are lived as true profundity, and others claim they really live the real reality.	I know ten thousand women called Jane and Mary Jane, but I've not seen any two who really were the same.	In minor ways we differ, in major we're the same.
The variety of our skin tones can confuse, bemuse, delight, brown and pink and beige and purple, tan and blue and white.	Mirror twins are different although their features jibe, and lovers think quite different thoughts while lying side by side.	I note the obvious differences between each sort and type, but we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.
I've sailed upon the seven seas and stopped in every land,	We love and lose in China, we weep on England's moors, and laugh and moan in Guinea, and thrive on Spanish shores.	We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.
		We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:36 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, deSa, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, Macomber, Mayall, McKnight (via Zoom), Montague, Natho, O'Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

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

The minutes of the August 11, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed. **SO VOTED**

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Reminder: October's Board Meeting moved to October 6th
2. Retreat September 14th at Wamsutta Club
 - a. Executive committee serving as Retreat Planning Committee
 - i. Met with consultants
 - ii. Agenda has been finalized
 - iii. All data collected and reviewed
 - iv. Handouts given, will be follow up email from consultants

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

1. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Seagull naming contest – going over well
 - b. Over 150 responses to survey sent last month
 - i. Greenwood winner of cash prize – almost didn't answer phone thinking it was someone asking for money when instead she won money
 - c. Wamsutta Luncheon September 22nd
 - i. New Bedford Symphony Orchestra concert
 - ii. Looking for hostesses
 - iii. Feedback from surveys – listed transportation available, handicap accessible and dietary restrictions accommodated
 - d. Fishing Heritage Center luncheon was a hit
 - i. Laura Campbell and Laura Orleans did great job
 - ii. Positive feedback from those who attended
2. Activity sheet
 - a. Multipurpose
 - i. Peek at operations for board members
 - ii. Operationally – awareness, ability to cover for each other if out
 - iii. Record keeping – entered into database
3. BA Reports
 - a. Have some stability back, working well as team
4. Board Member Orientation for Leah Macomber & Helen Montague

- a. Mentors attended
- b. Cathy Mayall also attended (did not have in person orientation)
- 5. Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
 - a. Internet discount for those who qualify
 - b. Beneficiary Advocates sharing information with all beneficiaries
 - c. Question if should make requirement – to bring to Beneficiary Task Force
- 6. Community Engagement
 - a. Clare to present at Coastal Neighbors Network brunch this Saturday 9/10
- 7. CPG updates
 - a. New Bedford Police Department
 - i. Grants committee and Board excited about idea of project
 - ii. Women will opt into the program – home visit with checklist
 - iii. Pat and Clare did training – next steps were to put something in ARAW newsletter
 - iv. NBPD took other steps and posted on Facebook
 - 1. Market Basket donation of gift cards
 - 2. Did not list ARAW guidelines
 - 3. Generated list of about 90 women of questionable eligibility
- 8. ARAW Facebook page
 - a. Saw need to establish ourselves and share ARAW specifics as community partners using Facebook as promotion tool
- 9. Beneficiary Highlight – lack of available in-home care, issues with Senior Care Options (SCO): change in model
 - a. Rae Sousa
 - i. Has debilitating MS
 - ii. Currently at St. Luke’s hospital awaiting placement for LTC – having difficulty placing due to needs
 - b. Sherry Dillon/Bernadette Roderiques
 - i. Hospital trying to “kick out” because of perceived payment issues with Fallon
 - c. Additional resources and guidance needed as situations get more complex

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

- 1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. 10 requests (4 new), 20 updates (4 inactive)
- 2. New Beneficiary Highlights
 - a. Alzira Hilario (78 y/o)
 - i. Unusual request but personal WHY persuaded award
 - ii. Portuguese speaking
 - iii. Best friend at Tripp Towers speaks Spanish

- iv. Ask to add Spanish channel to help learn Spanish
 1. Previously had channel but lineup changed

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. August financials to be presented at October meeting
2. Finance committee, IAC & BOA – total team, great meetings 8/12 and 8/16
3. IPS – has been signed, copy distributed to put in Board Member handbook
4. Will look at Spending Policy (EDDF policy – revisit?)

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Jeannette Doyle reported:

1. No meeting this month
2. Updated visiting reports being created – please advise office if new friends needed or need to drop friends
3. Visiting reports: Gale Beaton
 - a. Had put calls on hold, reconnect went great
 - b. Barbara Costa
 - i. Limited contact with family
 - ii. Connection with landlord
 - iii. ARAW provides cable and taxi vouchers
 - iv. Rough upbringing – lived with grandparents and aunt
 - v. Lengthy conversations – daily life, news
 - vi. Dear friendship created
4. Next month – Mary Ellis

Report of Governance Committee: Nothing to report

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber

1. Will meet after board retreat

Report of Legacy Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Meeting scheduled September 19th

Report of Personnel Committee: Nothing to report

Other Business:

1. Sandy Fogg – board member for 37 years, very ill
2. Clare vacation – October 11th to the 26th – continue to use admin email
3. Sharon's birthday September 12th

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk