

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

**President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.**

**Members in Attendance:** Beaton, Brooke, deSa, 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:** Beaulieu.

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

1. Frances Devlin (81) New Bedford
  - a. Inactive at time of death
  - b. ARAW had provided Social Day, cable and personal care items
  - c. Many long, involved voicemails – lots of time/work

**Reflective Moment:** Pam McKnight shared an excerpt from Gabriel García Márquez's book *Love in the Time of Cholera*:

“Age has no reality except in the physical world. The essence of the human being is resistant to the passage of time. Our inner lives are eternal, which is to say that our spirits remain as youthful and vigorous as when we were in full bloom...Think of love as a state of grace. The alpha and the Omega. An end in itself.”

**Report of President:** President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. The minutes of the November 10, 2022 board meeting were approved as distributed.  
SO VOTED
2. The minutes of the November 10, 2022 executive session were approved with change to include Jo-Ann Beaulieu's absence. SO VOTED
3. Helen Montague
  - a. Jane met with Helen
  - b. Stepping away from board – too big of a time commitment currently
4. Received email from Jo-Ann – doing well, hoping to be back soon
5. Strategic Plan update
  - a. Committee had first meeting with consultants
    - i. Committee discussions will be based on what was covered at retreat – 1<sup>st</sup> was Beneficiary
      1. Looking at controlled growth vs organic growth
      2. Will revisit Beneficiary at December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting – if time, will move on to Grants
  - b. Goal for committee is to have goals/objectives to bring to mini retreat for Board review in February 2023

6. Holiday party
  - a. Potluck Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 pm at Debbie's

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

1. Big thank you from staff for yearend gifts – never expected, always appreciated
2. FLO Newsletter
  - a. Holiday luncheon – very popular, closed registration after 3 days (23 benes)
    - i. 3 board members & 2 Zeiterion staff attending
  - b. White Christmas at the Z – small group attended, rave reviews
  - c. SRTA free thru end of December
  - d. CNN Greens Making Workshop today
3. Activity sheet & BA Reports: lots of mental health situations
  - a. Emily Gomes – primary sources not doing job
    - i. Previously made inactive – beyond ARAW scope
    - ii. Called ARAW fixated on December 7<sup>th</sup> deadline (outstanding bills)
    - iii. Coastline CM not getting back to her
4. Walt's Mobile Closet – doing wonderful work, pop up free “shopping” event for clothing
5. Community Engagement – impact/stats
  - a. Thank you to Jenny for harvesting information
  - b. Organic growth currently (not pursued outreach)
  - c. Top referral sources last FY (27 sources) – NBCOA, Coastline, ARAW benes
  - d. Top referral sources this FY (33 sources) – FCOA, Coastline, ARAW benes
6. CPG updates
  - a. Community Partner meeting next week
  - b. Zeiterion – Ashley Moore left, hired 2 new staff
  - c. New Bedford Art Museum – Michelle Borges leaving, Devin continuing
  - d. Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford – fabulous program but closed group
7. Beneficiary Highlight: Housing Insecurities
  - a. Josh Amaral: new director of Office of Housing & Community Development (formerly worked for PACE)
  - b. Unsustainable situations
  - c. Section 8 safety concerns
  - d. From Ana – 7 individuals facing eviction: nowhere to go, on waitlist

**Report of Finance Committee:** Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. Invited IAC members to ARAW holiday luncheon – Kevin & Hans accepted but unable to attend due to illness
2. Committee Meeting 11/15/22
  - a. Calendar included in packet
  - b. Budget suggestions from chairs due January 10<sup>th</sup>
3. November financials will be presented at January meeting

4. Breakdown of financial line items distributed and discussed
5. No meeting in December
6. Joint meeting with IAC and BOA in January

**Report of Visiting Committee:** Chair Jeannette Doyle reported:

1. Visiting reports due by January 31<sup>st</sup>
  - a. Discussion of what to include in reports – think of archival use, alignment with “Not alms alone, but a friend”
2. Visiting reports: Rosemary Saber
  - a. Joan Shea
    - i. Very appreciative: “Tell ladies I can hear the pump working!”
    - ii. Uses smart phone for shopping and texting sister
  - b. Agnes Simard
    - i. One of 11 children
    - ii. Dog named Johnny – brings on walks, keeps her active
  - c. Maria Gibau
    - i. New buddy, very isolated
3. Next month – Cathy Mayall

**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. 8 requests (2 new), 11 updates (1 inactive)
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Charlotte Powell (76 y/o)
    - i. Everything costing more – using credit cards
    - ii. Decreasing health has led to decrease in income (bookkeeping)
    - iii. Lives in own home – rents unit that mother previously lived in
    - iv. Request for mattress – expensive & already purchased
      1. Seen as paying off debt
3. Eligibility Guidelines
  - a. Social Security increasing by 8.7% in January
  - b. Motion made, as of 1/1/23, to increase the ARAW income eligibility guideline to \$1,650 for subsidized housing residents and \$2,300 for non-subsidized residents due to scheduled CY23 8.7% SSI increase. SO VOTED

**Report of Governance Committee:** Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. No minutes from November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - a. Discussed succession plans, bylaws and volunteer policy

**Report of Grants Committee:** Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Closed RFP for FY24 – invitation only
2. \$200,000 placeholder for budget (down from last year)

3. Clare to do review of reporting with Community Partners
4. RFP out 12/7 to all previous partners – due February 1st
  - a. Others interested may send letter of interest – Clare received call from Deaf Inc. Boston

**Report of Legacy Committee:** Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Continuing to go through boxes
2. Interviews
  - a. Diane met with Gillian Harris
    - i. Member for 21 years
    - ii. Discussion of what organization was like during tenure
    - iii. Favorite aspect was visiting
  - b. Roseanne to meet with Jean Silver

**Report of Personnel Committee:** Chair Angela Natho reported:

1. Meeting next week

**Other Business:**

1. Handouts distributed for Handbook – EDDF Policy, Personnel Committee description
2. Current Covid Policy
  - a. Must be vaccinated to attend ARAW luncheons
  - b. Will reassess in Spring

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.

Holiday luncheon to follow.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gale Beaton, Clerk