

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, February 9, 2023**

**Vice President Diane Laflamme called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.**

**Members in Attendance:** Beaton, Brooke, deSa (via Zoom), Ellis, Laflamme, Macomber, Mayall (via Zoom), McKnight, O'Connell, Saber.

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

**Members excused:** Beaulieu, Natho, Stankiewicz.

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

1. Sharon O'Malley
  - a. Part of ARAW family for 14 years
  - b. Integral part of ARAW both as a colleague & beneficiary advocate as well as a friend to all
  - c. Stoic and calm exterior with a bottomless amount of sensitivity & compassion
  - d. Board members hearing wonderful things about her from beneficiaries
2. Kathleen Jennings (71) New Bedford
  - a. Tragic but successful story
  - b. Became part of ARAW family through Women's Community Access Program (WCAP)
  - c. Very private, independent
  - d. Resistant to help – finally accepted ARAW help
  - e. House sold – landlord negotiated an extra year
  - f. Awarded Sandy Fogg award last year (held in trust)
  - g. Friends with ARAW beneficiary Beverly Fields who reached out to ARAW when unable to get in touch with Kathleen
  - h. ARAW reached out to landlord – found she had died in her apartment on December 1st

**Reflective Moment:** Mary Ellis shared a quote by A.A. Milne:

"In the quiet hours when we are alone and there is nobody to tell us what fine fellows we are, we come sometimes upon a moment in which we wonder not how much money we are earning nor how famous we have become but what good we are doing."

**Report of President:** Vice President Diane Laflamme reported:

1. The minutes of the January 12, 2023 board meeting were approved with change to wording of "Inactive at time of death". SO VOTED
2. The minutes of the January 12, 2023 executive session were approved as distributed. SO VOTED

3. Strategic Plan update (Clare)
  - a. Debbie stepped down from committee for personal reasons
  - b. Reminder of process – will send out in email to board
    - i. Full board met in September for retreat to determine key goals & priorities for next 3 years
    - ii. SP Committee formed to drill down through focused discussion based on what came out of retreat: Beneficiaries, Visiting, Grants, Governance/Infrastructure, Finance/Fundraising
    - iii. The DRAFT goals & objectives are then brought back to full board at March 30<sup>th</sup> retreat to discuss, revise & finalize to best of our ability
    - iv. Based on outcome of 3/30 retreat, the SP committee will rework the DRAFT goals & objectives & create a complementary timeline & budget
    - v. FINAL Strategic Plan brought to Annual Meeting April 27<sup>th</sup> for approval by full board
  - c. Met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> – draft Visiting/Friendship goals & objectives
  - d. Meeting today – review Visiting/Friendship, begin Grants discussion
4. Debbie shared Jane’s appointments of Committee Chairs: Pam for Beneficiary, Mary for Finance, Gale for Governance, Rosemary for Grants, Diane for Legacy, Angela for Personnel, Debbie for Visiting
5. Institute for Trustees Virtual Conference
  - a. Vetted by Amy Cahners (Consultant)
  - b. Cost of \$500 for any/all board members and staff to attend
  - c. Can pick and choose sessions
  - d. Taking place March through May – all virtually

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

1. FLO Newsletter
  - a. Luncheon w/Salsa lesson: registration going well – most want to dance!
  - b. Looking to integrate community partners into more luncheons
  - c. Reached out the New Bedford Police Department for info on scams
  - d. SNAP pandemic benefits ending March 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. BA Reports: good modifications to information given re: Challenges, Gratitude, Etc.
3. Activity Sheet: no questions
4. Community Engagement
  - a. Clare and Diane presented at Mattapoissett Woman’s Club 1/19/23
    - i. Great response afterwards – attendees who also were present at Whaling Museum presentation shared they learned more about ARAW at this presentation
  - b. Clare spoke with consultant from Community Action Program (CAP)
    - i. Working with New Bedford Light
    - ii. Underserved communities: how to reach, barriers, interests

- iii. Some ARAW Community Partners not on their radar (LGBTQ+ Network)
    - iv. Opportunity for New Bedford Light to be an all-encompassing convener: ARAW has a seat at the table
  - c. International Women's Day celebration March 8<sup>th</sup>
    - i. ARAW will have table at event
    - ii. Photo from ARAW 150<sup>th</sup> celebration included
- 5. CPG updates
  - a. One on one meetings conducted for FY24 applications
  - b. FY24 applications to be reviewed at Grants Committee Meeting 2/10
- 6. Sharon O'Malley
  - a. Thank you to board members for showing support & honoring Sharon as an advocate, person and friend
  - b. Received over \$1,000 in donations in her memory – would like to direct to FLO program – will notify family
- 7. Beneficiary Highlight: Budgeting
  - a. Seeing need for “financial literacy” program – reached out to YWCA: not reflected in FY24 application

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

- 1. Meeting with Bank of America and Investment Advisory Committee
  - a. Sarah Clark did a fantastic job – easier to understand material
  - b. Optimistic – still expect a recession but not catastrophic
  - c. Committee felt a sense of confidence in what is being done
- 2. Motion made to approve January 2023 financials, with change from wording of December to January. SO VOTED
  - a. Bump in admin due to Blackbaud annual renewal cost
- 3. Mary & Cathy working with Clare for draft budget – Finance Committee to review at February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting – will be voted on at March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- 4. Portfolio – started FY at \$21 million, dropped to \$17 million, up to \$19 million

**Report of Visiting Committee:**

- 1. Visiting reports: Diane Laflamme
  - a. Janice Tuite
    - i. Couple of falls last year – brief time in rehab
    - ii. Rocky relationship with daughter who moved back to area
      - 1. Daughter came to Janice's home for Thanksgiving
      - 2. Daughter committed suicide later that night – struggled with mental health issues
      - 3. Grandson now here for arrangements – getting to know him
    - iii. Avid reader
    - iv. Attended FLO luncheon – had wonderful time
  - b. Ethel Souza

- i. Positive & energetic – age is just a number
- ii. Recent oral surgery, doctors have suggested knee replacement
- iii. Goes out dancing with friends
  - 1. Went out Friday despite weather – “We’re not dancing outside.”

2. Next month – Roseanne O’Connell

**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. 16 requests (6 new), 9 updates
- 2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Patricia Duarte (67 y/o)
    - i. ARAW support was tough decision
    - ii. Newly retired – adapting to loss of income
    - iii. Credit card debt – receiving daily harassing calls
    - iv. -\$38 month end balance
    - v. Very honest about situation (reformed gambler)
    - vi. Being proactive
    - vii. Decision to pay larger of credit cards & see how she does

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

- 1. Motion to accept Grants Committee description changes, as distributed. SO VOTED
  - a. Eliminate beneficiary chair requirement
- 2. Motion to accept Board Member job description changes, as distributed. SO VOTED
  - a. Serving on Beneficiary committee will fulfill board members’ committee requirement – able to serve on other committees if desired
- 3. Recognition made of all the hard work Debbie has done for the committee
- 4. Constitution and Bylaws still with lawyer (delayed with other litigation)
  - a. Bylaws approved – will distribute for handbook next month
  - b. Constitution approved by board but not yet filed

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

- 1. Meeting tomorrow 2/10 – will review FY24 applications & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reports
  - a. New Bedford Police Department and New Bedford Symphony did not reapply (Symphony in flux due to Zeiterion closing for renovations)

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

- 1. Next committee meeting February 15
  - a. Continuing to go through boxes
  - b. Conducting interviews (discussion of how best to share)

c. Looking at future of committee

**Report of Personnel Committee:** To be discussed in executive session

**Other Business:**

1. ARAW Valentines to be mailed tomorrow if not already
2. Governance meeting moved to March 7<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gale Beaton, Clerk