

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women**  
**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, April 13, 2023**

**President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.**

**Members in Attendance:** Beaton, Brooke, deSa, Ellis, Laflamme, Macomber, McKnight, Natho, Saber, Stankiewicz.

Executive Director Clare Healy Foley and Director of Data, Administration and Quality Assurance Jenny Costa also present.

**Members excused:** Mayall, O'Connell.

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

1. Jane Sykes (85) Westport
  - a. Part of ARAW family since 2018
  - b. Inactive with ARAW at time of death
  - c. ARAW provided dentures, credit card payment, 1 time cable
  - d. Decided she wanted to pay cable on her own – moved to FLO
2. Linda Tetrault (79) Acushnet
  - a. Part of ARAW since 2020
  - b. Inactive with ARAW at time of death
  - c. ARAW provided bathroom floor repair (safety issue)
  - d. Devoted niece
  - e. Many health issues – in and out of hospital
3. Barbara Holden (83) New Bedford
  - a. Part of ARAW family since December 2022
  - b. ARAW provided health insurance (paid for 2 months)
  - c. ARAW connected with other resources
  - d. Sister-in-law advocated for her
  - e. Went into hospital – Covid complications

**Reflective Moment:** Debbie Brooke shared the Starfish Parable:

One day, the old man was walking along a beach that was littered with thousands of starfish that had been washed ashore by the high tide. As he walked he came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

Puzzled, the man looked at the boy and asked what he was doing.

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied “Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can’t return to the sea by themselves,” the boy replied. “When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water.”

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

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

1. The minutes of the March 9, 2023 board meeting were approved as distributed. SO VOTED
2. The minutes of the March 9, 2023 executive session were approved with change to budget total. SO VOTED
3. Motion made to add "low income" to mission statement, as distributed. SO VOTED
4. Motion made to decrease frequency of Board meetings by omitting June, August and November meetings in FY24. SO VOTED
5. Jo-Ann Beaulieu
  - a. Resigned from ARAW Board – family and health issues
  - b. Possible volunteer opportunities in the future (has not been mentioned yet)
  - c. Will receive letter and gift at Annual Meeting along with Shannon and Jeannette
  - d. Very thoughtful Board member – mission was always front & center
  - e. Her quote for ARAW Board members - "Wise stewards doing a damn good job"
6. Strategic Plan update
  - a. Retreat went very well
  - b. Follow up committee meeting on Monday was a slower process
    - i. Setting dates was easy, success indicators have been challenging
    - ii. Meeting again April 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Will vote on Strategic Plan at May Board Meeting
7. Please RSVP for Annual Meeting if you have not done so

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

1. FLO Newsletter
  - a. Financial Literacy – 2 signed up so far, will be test run
  - b. March Luncheon incident
    - i. Thank you to hostesses who showed grace under pressure
    - ii. One beneficiary passed out
      1. 911 & ARAW office called
      2. Office called emergency contact
      3. Teaching moment – requiring emergency contact for all

4. Special credit to Cathy & Rosemary who were right there & handled situation well
    5. Thank you from beneficiary for care and concern
  - iii. Potential Covid exposure
    1. Everyone notified (no names given)
    2. No known cases reported
    3. Shows importance of vaccination requirement
  - c. In need of hostesses for April luncheon & Salsa class with Z
2. BA Reports – both seeing same trends of unsustainable living situations
3. Activity Sheet – longer & longer
4. Increase in referrals
  - a. 26 received since last meeting (14 pending, 10 ineligible, 2 withdrawn)
  - b. From multiple sources
5. Community Engagement
  - a. Thanks to Board members Gloria, Pam, Angela and all staff for attend Herstory event at NBFHC
    - i. ARAW beneficiary who was interviewed attended – exciting, doesn't get out much
    - ii. Angela Natho one of interviewees – fishing family
    - iii. Students conducted interviews
6. CPG update
  - a. Info session held to help with foundational report
    - i. Helped, evident with those who didn't attend
  - b. Majority of partners are attending Annual Meeting
7. Bequest
  - a. Received notification of bequest from Beverly Wilson of Fairhaven
    - i. Not known to ARAW
    - ii. Jo-Ann Beaulieu's husband is executor of will
    - iii. Partner predeceased her by two months
    - iv. ARAW is 1 of 4 to receive
    - v. Clare reached out to lawyer
      1. Not much info given – 2 estates to settle & house to sell before bequest realized
8. Institute for Trustees Virtual Conference Sessions
  - a. Board members shared some thoughts of sessions attended so far
  - b. May set up viewing of a particular session or sessions – discussion could follow
9. Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Joan Pryor
    - i. Living in house that was sold – essentially a squatter
    - ii. Wanted to move to Texas

- iii. Would not follow steps given by social worker
- iv. Ultimately realtor to finance entirety of move to Texas
- b. Birthday Cards
  - i. Receive many thank you calls
  - ii. Barbara Miranda
    - 1. Suffers from severe depression
    - 2. Recently “dumped” by ARAW Pen Pal
    - 3. Received lottery ticket – going to hold on until birthday as it may be her only celebration

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

- 1. Motion made to approve March 2023 financials, with change to green on March Actual Direct Support. SO VOTED
  - a. Not finalized – bills still coming in
- 2. Portfolio – down \$2.3 million YTD – not unexpected
- 3. Meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> with Bank of America and Investment Advisory Committee
  - a. Will review full year results and look at FY24 outlook

**Report of Visiting Committee:**

- 1. Visiting reports: Debbie Brooke
  - a. Hilda Pine (87)
    - i. Beneficiary since 1996
    - ii. Born in Freetown, lived in New Bedford, now in Fairhaven
    - iii. Plaintive voice
    - iv. Worked in a mill that made elastics
    - v. Debilitating arthritis (especially knee)
      - 1. Hard time accepting situation
      - 2. Disillusioned with doctors
    - vi. Formerly drove disabled son until not able to – brother-in-law helps
    - vii. More isolated now – frequency of calls increased
    - viii. Needs wheelchair & knee surgery
- 2. Next month – Gloria deSa

**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. 12 requests (6 new), 12 updates (7 FLO, 4 inactive)
- 2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Brenda Connors (66 y/o)
    - i. Month end balance -\$652
    - ii. Lives frugally

- iii. \$80k mortgage – bought out ex husband
- iv. 16-year-old dog – spending \$400 per month on meds
- v. Unstainable situation (young)
- vi. Many health issues
- vii. Help from Dartmouth COA – connected to resources
- viii. Ana connected with RAFT, SCCLS, ACP and others
- ix. To join FLO – isolated, lonely
- x. Will look again at 3 months when resources may have made impact

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

1. Motion made to accept Leave of Absence policy, as distributed. SO VOTED
  - a. Spoke with consultants – large enough board to have policy
  - b. When on leave – not a voting member
  - c. Will aid in avoiding awkward situations while showing compassion

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

1. Extension granted to NBAM to offset cost of materials used out of NBAM stock
2. Rosemary had discussion with Gail Fortes – pleased ARAW is partnering with YWCA for Walt’s Mobile Closet event as well as Financial Literacy presentation
3. Receiving 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports – summary to come

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

1. Still going through boxes
2. Committee will morph into task force then become part of Governance Committee

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

1. Three meetings since last board meeting – thanks to committee and Clare
  - a. Discussion of employee categories, PTO, etc.
    - i. Clare sent to legal – will discuss at next meeting
2. FY23 Goals have been completed

**Other Business:**

1. Office closed Patriot’s Day

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gale Beaton, Clerk