

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, May 11, 2023**

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

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

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

**Members excused:** Macomber, Mayall.

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

1. Lucille Fredette (92) New Bedford
  - a. Part of ARAW family since 2017
  - b. Lived at Taber Mill
  - c. ARAW provided health insurance
  - d. Disabled daughter – devoted to each other’s care
  - e. Devoted son
  - f. Niece sent donation – recognized importance of ARAW and WCAP in her aunt’s life
  - g. WCAP mentioned in obituary

**Reflective Moment:** With the approach of Mother’s Day, Gloria shared “For My Mother” by Michele Wolf:

I sharpen more and more to your  
Likeness every year, your mirror  
In height, autonomous  
Flying cloud of hair,  
In torso, curve of the leg,  
In high-arched, prim, meticulous  
Feet. I watch my aging face,  
In a speeding time lapse,  
Become yours. Notice the eyes,  
Their heavy inherited sadness,  
The inertia that sags the cheeks,

The sense of limits that sets  
The grooves along the mouth.  
Grip my hand.  
Let me show you the way  
To revolt against what  
We are born to,  
To bash through the walls,  
To burn a warning torch  
In the darkness,  
To leave home.

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

1. The minutes of the April 13, 2023 board meeting were approved as distributed.  
SO VOTED
2. Annual Meeting
  - a. Comments: wonderful, good to have Community Partners there

- b. Sandy Fogg forgotten in Memoriam – death happened between board meetings, email notification sent to board instead of reporting at meeting
  - c. Community Partners who did not attend will be invited to future board meeting
3. Reminder: No June Board Meeting
  4. Motion made to approve creation of Legacy Task Force, purpose and timeline with change to closing line from “following tasks” to “above tasks”. SO VOTED

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

1. FLO Newsletter
  - a. Two volunteer opportunities
    - i. Plant deliveries May 19<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Wamsutta Luncheon May 24<sup>th</sup> featuring talk by Andy Pollock from Coastal Neighbors Network
  - b. Financial Literacy Workshop
    - i. 10 beneficiaries signed up, 4 attended along with Pat and Rosemary
    - ii. Positive feedback from those who attended
    - iii. Good 1<sup>st</sup> step, not exact match for ARAW needs – exploring other options
2. BA Reports – evolving, providing good data
3. Activity Sheet – no questions
4. Community Engagement
  - a. ARAW table at Walt’s Mobile event at the YWCA
    - i. Thanks to Pat for “womanning” the table
    - ii. Mostly younger, homeless in attendance
  - b. Future luncheon with Our Sister School – intergenerational experience
    - i. Thanks to Gale for coordinating
5. CPG update
  - a. All foundation reports in
    - i. Some concerns with New Bedford Art Museum
      1. Waiting on Q4 reports
      2. Foundational reports sent back 4 times for edits (did not attend info session)
      3. Clare had discussion with ED Suzanne de Vegh
        - a. Suzanne wants to sign grant agreement
        - b. Shows leadership wants grant to be successful
      4. Programming is good – just need reports to reflect
6. Please return Policy Documents, Dues and Info Sheet if you have not already
7. Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Barbara Costa
    - i. Landlord sold building

- ii. Unknown to us - has been living with Barbara and claiming to be PCA (receiving 23 hours)
- iii. Landlord pushing to find 2 bedroom so he can stay with her
- iv. Coastline and NB Housing Authority involved
- v. Two protective cases have been filed for financial exploitation & the case has been picked up
- vi. Landlord spoke with Clare – identified himself as Barbara’s son
- vii. ARAW has extracted from situation – redirected to Coastline
  - 1. Will step in if a financial need presents itself

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

- 1. Portfolio – First month of FY24 – down \$36,640
- 2. In process of finalizing year end for FY23
- 3. Financials will be reviewed by full board quarterly, by committee monthly
- 4. Meeting with Bank of America and Investment Advisory Committee
  - a. Went well, will continue to meet quarterly

**Report of Visiting Committee:**

- 1. Visiting reports: Gloria deSa
  - a. Fatima Furtado (74)
    - i. ARAW has assisted with credit card debt, Eversource, Charlie Card
    - ii. Immigrant from Portugal
    - iii. Hotel cleaner on Cape Cod for 30 years
    - iv. 3 children – not much connection with them
    - v. No car – feels isolated
    - vi. Section 8 housing – difficult landlady, issue with stairs
    - vii. Still goes to day care 1 to 2 times per week
    - viii. Would like to move to a different neighborhood
    - ix. Would like to take a trip to the Azores – may considered moving there permanently
- 2. Next month – Jane Stankiewicz and Angela Natho

**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 (5 new, 2 EDDF, 1 Withdrawn), 13 updates (4 FLO, 1 inactive)
- 2. Sandy Fogg Award recipient
  - a. Barbara Sikorski (83)
    - i. Recent surgery for ovarian cancer, decision of no chemo
    - ii. Lost son 2 years ago

- iii. Lots of anxiety – trips to emergency room
  - iv. Award to pay off credit card debt and remainder for in home camera system
- 3. Motion made to approve Beneficiary request decisions via email in the months the Board does not meet. SO VOTED
- 4. In lieu of a New Beneficiary Highlight, FY23 data slides were reviewed
  - a. 20% increase in requests from FY22
  - b. Down in number of people who received support, up in total \$ support
  - c. Breakdown of towns compared to populations – still many more in need to be reached
  - d. Number of new beneficiaries down but received more referrals – many ineligible referrals, BAs referring to other resources
  - e. Ongoing Direct Support – health insurance & cable biggest categories by \$ amount
  - f. Gifts Direct Support – car bills, holiday & hearing aids biggest categories by \$ amount
- 5. Take aways:
  - a. Office is busier than ever – more referrals, resources
  - b. Committee seeing more requests
  - c. Fewer beneficiaries, more money spent
  - d. Many more to reach
  - e. FLO thriving
- 6. Reporting data benefits
  - a. Annual Meeting - helps past Board Members & Community Partners understand ARAW
  - b. Good to focus in on information at board meeting
  - c. Can always ask for other data (Age breakdown to be sent)

**Report of Governance Committee:** Chair Gale Beaton reported:

- 1. Motion made to accept Contingency Plan for President Succession, as distributed. SO VOTED
- 2. Motion made to accept Contingency Plan for Officer Succession, as distributed. SO VOTED
- 3. New Board Member Onboarding Guidelines – to be distributed for hand book at future meeting
- 4. ARAW Board Self-Evaluation Survey – will be sent soon, please use comment sections

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

- 1. Approved incremental \$2,760 to Coastal Neighbors Network for technology program

2. Will be setting a meeting date to review Q4 and Foundational reports – will bring summary to board

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

1. Still going through boxes, transitioning to task force
2. Next meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>

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

1. No meeting – nothing to report

**Other Business:**

1. Roseanne resigning from board July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - a. Will focus on Legacy tasks until then
  - b. ARAW well positioned with clear vision for future per Strategic Plan
  - c. Privilege to have served on board since 2008
  - d. Jane – thank you for leadership and all hard work

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gloria deSa, Clerk