

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

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

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

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

Members excused: All present.

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

1. Marilyn Mortensen (85) Fairhaven
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2021
 - b. ARAW provided EPERS, cable and hearing aids
 - c. Supportive family and partner of over 40 years
2. Mariette Menard (88) Westport
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2022
 - b. ARAW provided 2 years of car insurance
3. Rosalie Lada (103) New Bedford
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2017
 - b. ARAW provided cable (enjoyed watching baseball & game shows)
 - c. ARAW named in obituary
 - d. Polish translator during WWII
 - e. ARAW beneficiary Barbara Murach wrote email – learned Polish from Rosalie
4. Lillian Pacheco (89) Fairhaven
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2010
 - b. ARAW provided EPERS & BCBS
 - c. Went into LTC, became inactive with ARAW in early 2023

Reflective Moment: Jane Stankiewicz shared finding a reflective moment is not her strong suit and so shared a brief humorous quote by Eleanor Roosevelt:

A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water.

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. The minutes of the May 11, 2023 board meeting were approved as distributed.

SO VOTED

2. Motion to approve creation of Friendship Task Force, purpose and timeline as distributed. SO VOTED
3. Volunteers needed for membership in Friendship and Legacy Task Force (chairs needed as well) – reach out to Jane or Clare
4. Board Member Check-Ins:
 - a. Jane and Diane will be reaching out to schedule one on ones
 - b. Time to discuss likes, dislikes, frustrations, achievements/celebrations, ideas/suggestions, etc.
5. ED Goals - distributed
 - a. In line with Strategic Plan goals
 - b. Clarification given on fundraising, culture of philanthropy, development plan
6. Reminder: No August Board Meeting
7. Summer Soiree August 9th – please RSVP and sign up for dish

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

1. FLO Newsletter
 - a. Ice Cream Social at The Bucket in lieu of luncheon
 - i. Open invited to all board members to attend
 - ii. Feedback about missing variety in outings from a few beneficiaries
 - iii. Selling points to The Bucket – handicap accessible, pavilion, plenty of parking, nice breeze
 - b. Future newsletter to have brief history of ARAW
2. BA Reports
 - a. Two reports are similar – very telling
 - b. Trust but verify - BAs given license to ask to see documentation when in doubt, i.e., bank statements, receipts, etc.
 - c. Office now having weekly “Brain Trust” meetings – sharing stories, challenges, BlackBaud training
3. Community Engagement
 - a. In June Clare met with Christine Monska, new ED of Women’s Fund
 - i. Very accomplished, established as advocate in women’s issues
 - ii. Christine having series of get-to-know-you meetings – has heard about ARAW repeatedly
 - iii. Women’s fund in the past with ARAW – no follow through, hopeful with new ED
 - iv. Potential collaboration for financial literacy/economic empowerment
 - b. Rosemary attended Cape Verdean Association’s Island Park groundbreaking
 - i. Architect Kathryn Duff

- ii. Garden will be sustainable, no maintenance required
- iii. Speakers acknowledged long time efforts to make happen

4. Staffing Update

- a. Pat going part time officially in September (using PMFL now)
 - i. Encyclopedia of resources, breadth of knowledge
 - ii. Committed to helping find and train next BA
 - iii. After retirement – still interested in consulting position
- b. ARAW still has capacity to grow
 - i. Clare and Jenny have made adjustments to assist BAs
 - ii. “Assess and refer” philosophy being used as much as possible

5. Reminder to send in needs for Board Member Handbooks (may also come into office to go over)

6. Beneficiary Highlight

- a. Barbara Sikorski
 - i. Sandra Fogg Award recipient – to be used for debt relief & video cameras
 - ii. Used tax rebate to pay credit card – now unable to pay property taxes & medical supplies
 - iii. Motion made to approve payment of property taxes & medical supplies. SO VOTED

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Mary Ellis reported:

1. Motion made to approve 1st Quarter financials, as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Finance Committee reviewing finances monthly, Board will review quarterly
 - b. Financial reports now include income (previously only expenses reported)
2. Motion made to accept FY23 Financial Review/Statements, as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Finance Committee met with Peter and Michelle from Burke & Lamb – discussion of financials to give greater understanding to committee
 - b. Discussion of programmatic vs operational expenses
3. Committee meeting with Bank of America and IAC on 7/26 – to review 1st quarter performance

Report of Visiting Committee:

1. Visiting reports: Jane Stankiewicz
 - a. Jacqueline (Jackie) Morin
 - i. Lives at Presidential Terrace in Acushnet – recently moved to first floor apartment
 - ii. Rough couple of years – heart surgery, broken hip

- iii. Always positive but also realistic
 - iv. Talks herself out of depression
 - v. Impressive woman
2. Visiting Reports: Angela Natho
 - a. Laura Almeida
 - i. FLO participant
 - ii. Very active with church, Dartmouth COA, Coastal Neighbors Network
 - iii. Describes many health issues – comes with age
 - iv. Has one son and grandson who live in Connecticut – cannot see because of daughter-in-law
 - v. One of 8 siblings – last one left
 3. Reporting in September – Pam McKnight
 4. Visiting Reports due July 31st

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. A motion was made to revise the Executive Director Discretionary Fund (EDDF) policy, as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. Going from \$800 to \$1,600
 - b. Based on raising costs of average emergency situations, i.e., water heaters
2. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
 - a. 20 requests (5 new, 2 EDDF), 8 updates (2 inactive)
3. New Beneficiary Highlight – Joan Monteiro
 - a. Custody of 18 year old grandson since he was 4 years old – was receiving welfare stipend but has now ended
 - b. Behind on rent and electric
 - c. Social Security being reduced by \$100 – worked while receiving SS and needs to pay back
 - d. Filed bankruptcy – no current credit cards
 - e. Applied for RAFT – may not qualify

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Gale Beaton reported:

1. Continue to keep track of time spent on duties (Jun, Jul, Aug) – helpful for recruiting
2. Please submit bios – helpful for onboarding
3. Survey results – appreciate hard work
 - a. Comparison to last year – improvements have been made
 - b. Areas identified were same as those identified in Strategic Plan
 - c. Gale will be connecting with committee chairs

- d. Next year – committee will work on wording of survey questions for clarification
- 4. Bylaws
 - a. To be used as resource
 - b. Instead of meeting, reach out to Clare or Gale with questions
- 5. New Board Member Candidate – Linda Garibaldi
 - a. Initial meeting with Gale and Mary
 - b. Full of energy, low-key, intelligent
 - c. Whole life has been involved in philanthropy
 - d. Received law degree as an adult - Helped in set up of legal advocates being in Boston hospitals (worked with SCCLS)
 - e. Very interested in joining ARAW – loves mission, reviewed website
 - f. Next steps:
 - i. One week for committee members to bring concerns to Gale
 - ii. Meeting with members of Governance Committee and Clare
 - iii. Motion to approve a virtual vote to add Linda as board member due to not having a board meeting in August. SO VOTED

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

- 1. Board Survey showed uncertainty surrounding Grants
 - a. Sent list of opportunities to learn more about grants
 - b. Any questions or concerns can be brought to the committee
- 2. Community Partner update
 - a. New Bedford Art Museum (NBAM)
 - i. Remedial work to obtain foundational documents
 - b. South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS)
 - i. Housing issues – ARAW has no one to refer to
 - ii. Sent list of questions to SCCLS
 - iii. Education session to be given to ARAW staff by SCCLS
 - c. 1st Quarter Reports (Apr, May, Jun) due July 15th

Report of Legacy Committee: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

- 1. Diane and Debbie continued to go through boxes at beginning of June
- 2. Diane met with Roseanne – Roseanne wants to write history from Zelinda’s to now

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Angela Natho reported:

- 1. No meeting in July
- 2. Meeting August 18th – tighten up policies

Other Business:

- 1. Building update – more tenants
 - a. Seeing more foot traffic during day – may affect elevator and parking

- b. Other fourth floor unit reportedly being rented
 - i. As early as September move in
 - ii. Considerable construction to be done

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gloria deSa, Clerk