

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, December 14, 2023**

President Jane Stankiewicz called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Members in Attendance: Beaton, Brooke, de Sá, Garibaldi, 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 women who we lost since our last meeting:

1. Anna Ramos (71) New Bedford
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2021.
 - b. ARAW provided lift chair, incontinence products and OTC products.
 - c. Called her lift chair her “throne”.
 - d. In recent application said, “I’m too young to die.”
2. Alice Oliveira (89) New Bedford
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2012.
 - b. ARAW provided EPERS, personal care, nutrition, glasses, BCBS and dental.
 - c. Had dedicated son whose wife recently died.
3. Edith Marshall (93) Dartmouth
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2021.
 - b. ARAW provided cable, rent and CNN membership.
 - c. Was owner of Sunnyside Bakery.
 - d. Was an organizer of the Whaling City Festival.
 - e. Donations being directed to ARAW.

Reflective Moment: Pam McKnight shared a quote by Maggie Kuhn:

There are six myths about old age:

1. *That it’s a disease, a disaster.*
2. *That we are mindless.*
3. *That we are sexless.*
4. *That we are useless.*
5. *That we are powerless.*
6. *That we are all alike.*

Clerk’s Report: Clerk Gloria de Sá reported:

1. Minutes of the October 12, 2023 board meeting were approved as distributed.
SO VOTED.

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Review of Board member check-ins.
 - a. Four common themes:
 - i. Grants – concerns with current model.
 - ii. Board structure – happy with less meetings, increase Board member diversity.
 - iii. Fundraising – concern overall with what this will look like.
 - iv. Volunteers – how will they be used?
2. Strategic Plan
 - a. Reminder to check upcoming dates and report out on progress made.

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

1. Activity Sheet/BA Reports/Newsletter – no questions.
2. Exponent Philanthropy Conference
 - a. Exponent Philanthropy is an association of lean funders (small staff).
 - b. Thanks to the Board for opportunity to attend.
 - c. Reinforced ARAW is doing a good job/in line with best practices.
 - d. Brought back a few gems and resources – reviewing with appropriate committees.
3. Staffing update
 - a. Pat Midurski's last day is December 20th.
 - b. Staff working together to prioritize – have a plan in place to ensure all beneficiaries needs are met.
 - c. One applicant for position so far – Clare to meet with her.
 - d. Discussing BA salary at Personnel Committee tomorrow.
4. Community Engagement update
 - a. Met with Meg Rodgers, Head of Philanthropy at SouthCoast Health.
 - i. Meg from Fall River – meeting with key players in New Bedford area.
 - ii. Interested in CPG funding.
 - iii. Will help intro of ARAW to appropriate people at SouthCoast Health.
5. November Donations \$1,500, YTD \$5,095.
6. Beneficiary Highlight – 2 success stories from Financial Workshops
 - a. Alice Bissonnette
 - i. In past resistant to anything.
 - ii. Breakthrough at workshop – realized she is not alone in situation.
 - iii. Loves dog Jessie – strengthened connection to office.
 - iv. Attended luncheon in October and enjoyed so also attended holiday luncheon.

- b. Cynthia Smith
 - i. Ego would not allow her to reach out to resources previously.
 - ii. Attended workshop and since has reached out to several resources including ACCS for bankruptcy (\$40k in credit card).

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Cathy Mayall reported:

1. BOA Q2 Review with IAC 11/6
 - a. At time of meeting, portfolio had dropped.
 - b. BOA thought a few murky months ahead but would eventually clear up.
2. Committee Meeting update 12/7
 - a. Kathleen McQuiggan demystified of BOA Q2 review.
 - b. Reviewed Q2 finances.
3. Budget
 - a. Chairs: Draft Budget numbers due to Finance Committee 1/31/24.
 - b. Per Kathleen's suggestion, asking BOA for fee reduction.
4. Plans to review IPS annually
 - a. What are the goals? – budgeting, preserving, growth.

Visiting:

1. Angela Natho report on Isabel Sousa:
 - a. Don't speak often but Isabel is always positive and wants to hear about Angela.
 - b. Always says, "Everything is wonderful."
 - c. Born in Africa and moved to Brazil.
 - d. When receiving her chemo treatments, she accidentally went down wrong hallway where young babies were on chemo – gave perspective.
 - e. Tells everyone, "Just keep on going."
 - f. Always answers phone by saying, "Thank you."
2. Recent beneficiary interactions through volunteering/hostessing:
 - a. Pam – attended holiday luncheon.
 - i. Everyone had a great time.
 - ii. Circular tables made conversation easier.
 - iii. Blair from Z told fascinating stories about life.
 - b. Leah – attended October luncheon with Fishing Heritage Center.
 - i. Sat with board buddy Donna Collins who she met for first time.
 - ii. Laura Campbell did excellent presentation of stories.
 - c. Rosemary – provided soup deliveries.
 - i. When delivering to Claire Metivier, daughter recognized and knew Rosemary.
 - ii. Also, recently visited with Priscilla DaRosa who spoke of plant ARAW had given her.

- d. Debbie – friendly calls.
 - i. During call with board buddy, a family member in the background asked, “Who is that?” and the buddy responded, “A friend of mine.”

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. A motion was made to accept the recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED.
 - a. 12 requests (3 new), 12 updates (7 FLO)
2. New Beneficiary Highlight – Ellie Martins (74)
 - a. Attended holiday luncheon – best dressed person in the room.
 - b. Has strong opinions.
 - c. Recognizes she was middle class and now is not.
 - d. Adapting and being resourceful.
 - e. Is an actor/artist.
 - f. Negative month end balance.
 - g. Keeps unique financial records – everything stored in boxes.

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Gale Beaton reported:

1. Interviews done by Jane and Diane – do feedback from appropriate committees tasked with follow up.
2. Motion made to accept REVISED Vice President job description as distributed. SO VOTED.
3. Motion made to change date in Strategic Plan regarding non-Board member Volunteers to be accomplished to April '24 from Dec '23. SO VOTED.
4. Bios
 - a. Final chance to make changes – send to Gale or Clare.
 - b. Will go in handbooks.
5. Time Commitments
 - a. Recorded for Sep/Oct/Nov – please turn in.

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Meeting tomorrow – relook at process.
 - a. Potential new approach – Trust Based Philanthropy.
 - i. General operating support.
 - ii. Paperwork required is daunting for smaller organizations.
 - iii. Simpler process and provides more flexibility.
 - iv. Finds balance between keeping tabs and valuable investment.
 - v. Levels playing field between Grantor/Grantee.
 - vi. Encouraged all to attend meeting.
 - b. Multiyear grants?

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Angela Natho reported:

1. New structure of performance reviews was reviewed.

Report of Friendship Task Force: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. Friendly Visiting Program:
 - a. Would be voluntary for board members.
 - b. Hope to create more meaningful relationships.
 - c. As ARAW census has grown and model has evolved, visiting has had to be assessed.

Report of Legacy Task Force: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Still going through boxes – almost done.
2. Task Force was charged with 3 tasks – will begin working on others as well.

Other Business:

1. If you have not already done so, please turn in surveys.
2. Building Manager has asked able-bodied persons to park in auxiliary parking lot.
 - a. Clare working on getting Z parking passes for Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Executive session and holiday luncheon to follow.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa
Director of Data, Administration & Quality Assurance

Approved by,
Gloria de Sá
Clerk