

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, January 11, 2024

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

Members in Attendance: Beaton, Brooke, de Sá, Garibaldi, Laflamme, Macomber, Mayall, McKnight, Natho, Saber and 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 we lost since our last meeting:

1. Virginia Gomes (97) New Bedford
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2015.
 - b. ARAW provided Ensure and incontinence products.
 - c. Per Ana – “Spitfire with the bluest eyes.”
 - d. Very devoted son – called to thank ARAW.
2. Emily Gomes (83) New Bedford
 - a. Part of ARAW family since 2020. Inactive with ARAW at time of death.
 - b. ARAW provided SRTA Demand Response.
 - c. Participated in WCAP.
 - d. Clare’s beneficiary once Sharon left. Narcissistic personality.
 - e. Devoted to son Anthony who has Parkinsons Disease and resides at Sacred Heart.

Reflective Moment: Diane Laflamme shared a quote by Frederick Buechner:

The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place and time my touch will be felt.

Clerk’s Report: Clerk Gloria de Sá reported:

1. Motion to have minutes of the December 14, 2023 board meeting approved as distributed. SO VOTED.

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Nothing to report.

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

1. Activity Sheet/BA Reports/Newsletter as distributed. No questions.
 - a. Ana’s report – financial trauma portion very enlightening.
 - b. Lunch & Learn with SCCLS:
 - i. No lottery – test to see if more beneficiaries will sign up.
 - ii. Two hostesses and 22 beneficiaries already signed up.

2. Staffing update
 - a. Three interested in BA position:
 - i. Applicant from Bristol Elders:
 1. Interview delayed – weather and Covid.
 2. Meeting tomorrow 1/12/24.
 - ii. Applicant from Women’s Center:
 1. Spanish speaker.
 2. Interview delayed - brother just died.
 - iii. Applicant known to Clare:
 1. Rochester town nurse.
 2. Interview to be scheduled.
 - b. WCOA agreed to take on more Dartmouth beneficiaries if needed.
 - i. Ana handling work load well.

3. Community Engagement update
 - a. Funding opportunity sent out by email to all known to ARAW.
 - i. Post up on Facebook as well.
 - ii. Encouraged board members to share with members of their networks.
 - iii. Past grantee - Dartmouth COA will apply.
4. December Donations \$945, YTD \$6,040.

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Cathy Mayall reported:

1. Last quarter review – BOA believed funds would stay steady – portfolio up significantly last month and YTD.
2. BOA Q3 Review with IAC 1/16.
3. Draft budget numbers due to Finance Committee by 1/31/23.
4. Motion made to approve 3rd quarter financials, with change to switch Social Day and Holiday Gift category labels. SO VOTED.

Visiting:

1. Gale Beaton reported on Barbara Costa:
 - a. Impactful relationship to both – calls make a difference.
 - b. Barbara is a talker – also good at getting others to talk even when reluctant.
 - c. Moved and has adjusted nicely.
 - d. Last call - detailed how she had spent ARAW holiday gift.
 - e. All kinds of friendships play a part in our lives.
2. Reporting next month – Gloria de Sá.

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. 6 requests (4 new), 22 updates (10 FLO, 1 inactive)
 - b. Discontinued Natalina Ventura (97) – MEB over \$1,000 & living with daughter.
2. New Beneficiary Highlight –
- a. Odette Botelho (76):
 - i. Request for dental work.
 - ii. High month end balance – Ana called and dug deeper to get a more accurate MEB, which was lower than initially reported.
 - b. Diane De Frias (74):
 - i. Young but many medical issues.
 - ii. Very independent, raised 3 children, worked 3 jobs.
 - iii. Using son’s car and ran over branch – put repair on credit card.
 - iv. Medical debt – has other options to explore.

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Gale Beaton reported:

- 1. Committee meeting date changed to 1/30/2024.

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

- 1. Funding opportunity for FY25 announced and application released 1/8/24.
 - a. Email to existing community partners detailed changes
 - b. Offering chance for one-on-one meetings and info session.
 - c. Applications due 2/8/24.
 - d. A few have reached out. Dartmouth COA applying.
- 2. FY 24 3rd quarter reports due 1/16/23.

Report of Personnel Committee: Chair Angela Natho reported:

- 1. Committee meeting update took place on 12/15/23.
 - a. Finance committee was present.
 - b. Looked at potential staffing costs.
 - i. Clare presented salary recommendations. Committee concurred with recommendations as placeholders for budget.
- 2. Not meeting in January. Next meeting February 16th.

Report of Friendship Task Force: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

- 1. Task Force met on 1/4/24 and further discussed the new Friendship Program:
 - a. Buddy lists will be discontinued but opportunity to keep existing friends.
 - b. Entirely voluntary.

Report of Legacy Task Force: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

- 1. Will set up time with Whaling Museum to view archives.

Other Business:

1. Handbook handouts:
 - a. Vice President description and bios.
 - b. Will be given at next in person meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.

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

Approved by,
Gloria de Sá
Clerk