

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, February 8, 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, Saber and Stankiewicz.

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

Members excused: Natho.

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

1. Laura Camara (71) Dartmouth
 - a. Part of ARAW family from July 2022 to May 2023.
 - b. ARAW approved payment for Parkinson's yoga classes at Sangha.
 - c. Unfortunately, did not attend classes.

Reflective Moment: Cathy Mayall shared the poem *On Aging* by Maya Angelou:

*When you see me sitting quietly,
Like a sack left on the shelf,
Don't think I need your chattering.
I'm listening to myself.
Hold! Stop! Don't pity me!
Hold! Stop your sympathy!
Understanding if you got it,
Otherwise I'll do without it!
When my bones are stiff and aching,
And my feet won't climb the stair,*

*I will only ask one favor:
Don't bring me no rocking chair.
When you see me walking, stumbling,
Don't study and get it wrong.
'Cause tired don't mean lazy
And every goodbye ain't gone.
I'm the same person I was back then,
A little less hair, a little less chin,
A lot less lungs and much less wind.
But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in.*

Clerk's Report: Clerk Gloria de Sá reported:

1. Motion to have minutes of the January 11, 2024 board meeting approved as distributed. SO VOTED.

Report of President: President Jane Stankiewicz reported:

1. Annual Meeting 4/25.
 - a. Committee chairs: start work on annual reports (include Strategic Plan activity).
 - b. Transitions of officers and chairs have been discussed.
 - c. Jane will touch base with chairs in the coming week.

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

1. Activity Sheet/BA Reports/Newsletter as distributed.

- a. Ana's report: Lots of work for beneficiary who became inactive so included story in report as an example of work done that may not be brought to the committee.
 - b. Marion Ponte: Daughter needs open heart surgery. Marion not allowing anyone else in home to help. Susan Routhier (WCOA) said doing so is a disservice to daughter. Marion turned words around and said Susan accused her of child abuse.
 - c. January luncheon issues
 - i. Sherry Dillon fell and twisted ankle. No one would give up corner seat for her. Taken to hospital. Emergency contact called but incorrect number. Correct number found but no call back.
 - ii. Asked Wamsutta for round table set up. Instead long table was set up.
 - iii. Slow service, complaints, beneficiaries clearing tables.
 - iv. Rudeness to presenters when attendees could not hear them.
 - d. February newsletter is a kindness edition.
 - i. Cancelled February luncheon. For those who ask, office will be saying "We will be stepping away from the table for the month of February to focus on showing kindness and respect for one another."
2. Staffing update
- a. Heidy Olivero hired. Starting 2/12.
 - i. No questions based on email sent to Board announcing hire.
 - b. Nice letter sent to the other candidate. Well received.
3. Community Engagement update – RFP info sessions.
- a. Opportunity to get to know ARAW.
 - b. Clare learned what other organizations are doing in the area.
 - c. Jonathan Howland at New Bedford Art Museum info session.
 - i. Impressed by where ARAW is now.
 - ii. Willing to serve in an advisory role for ARAW.
4. Beneficiary Highlights – Referrals.
- a. Debra Miller
 - i. Cable/phone shut off.
 - ii. Living with daughter who made referral but also keeping own home.
 - iii. After Ana calculated finances, \$424 not accounted for. When asked, Debra said she is giving it to daughter and grandchildren.
 - b. Kathleen Carreiro
 - i. Referral from Coastline Elderly Services.
 - ii. Referral for lift chair.
 - iii. Kathleen wanted a spare recliner (not lift chair).
 - iv. Has enough money in bank to buy recliner.

- c. Someone looking for housing in Rhode Island.
- d. Jandira Medeiros
 - i. Needed window repair.
 - ii. At end of home visit, Ana discovered Jandira lied about age and is underage for ARAW.

Report of Finance Committee: Chair Cathy Mayall reported:

1. BOA Q3 Review with IAC update 1/16/24.
 - a. Error in percentage in minutes – up 5.4% not 15.4%.
 - b. Forecasted loss due to recession never happened.
2. DRAFT budget to be reviewed by Finance Committee at 1/20/24 meeting.

Visiting:

1. Gloria de Sá reported on Maria Costa:
 - a. With ARAW since November 2019.
 - b. 82-year-old widow in own home.
 - c. Good relationship with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
 - d. Hip surgery 3 years ago. Slipped and fell shortly after.
 - e. Still drives locally.
 - f. Cooks and sews
 - g. Mostly watches TV – Portuguese soaps, Mass and Rosary. Thankful for ARAW support.
 - h. Attends church every day if weather allows.
 - i. Prays for self and family and also for the world which some people say is a waste of time but “only God knows if it is”.
2. Reporting next month – Cathy Mayall.

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. 10 requests (2 new), 11 updates (4 FLO)
 - b. Hilda Pine had protective filed. Not fulfilling nutrition needs is seen as self-harm.
 - c. Janice Tuite is giving significant money to Catholic Charities. Giving because daughter committed suicide and she is afraid for her soul.
2. New Beneficiary Highlight – Maria “Stella” Pereira.
 - a. Negative month end balance.
 - b. Retired salon owner.
 - c. Many medical issues.
 - d. Husband died in November 2023. Income dropped significantly.
 - e. Ana has provided information for many resources.

- f. Asking for assistance with credit card debt and real estate taxes.
- g. We will see her again as things settle.

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Gale Beaton reported:

1. Committee meeting update 2/6/24.
 - a. Highlights of Board Engagement survey:
 - i. Appreciated one-on-one meetings with Jane and Diane.
 - ii. Discussion of time spent and frequency of meetings.
 - iii. Recommendations and interests in offices and committees.
 - b. Proposed for next fiscal year: Diane, President; Gale, VP; Cathy, Treasurer; Gloria, Clerk.
 - c. Board Self Evaluation Survey to go out soon.
2. Next meeting will be in April.

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Rosemary Saber reported:

1. Application deadline 2/8/24.
 - a. Clare working on access to reviewer portal.
 - b. Clare gave presentation to previous partners to review changes to Grants re: Trust Based Philanthropy.
 - c. Majority of applicants requested one-on-one meetings.

Report of Personnel Committee:

1. Nothing to report.

Report of Friendship Task Force: Chair Debbie Brooke reported:

1. Task Force meeting update 2/1/24.
 - a. Re-emphasized this is a new Friendly Visiting Program.
 - b. Phone lists will end. Anyone who has made a bond with their beneficiaries will have the opportunity to roll them into the new program.
 - c. Volunteers would be board members. Opportunity for non-board members down the road.
 - d. Soft announcement/ask in next newsletter to get idea of number of beneficiaries interested.

Report of Legacy Task Force: Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Task Force meeting update 1/22/24.
 - a. Winnowed down 25 boxes to 5.
 - b. Finishing up interviews of past board members.
 - c. Working to set up template for President to report at annual meeting.

Other Business:

1. Handbook handouts: Vice President description, new member onboarding guidelines and bios.
2. Raffle items can still be donated. Raffle to happen in March.

3. Emergency protocols for luncheons reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am.

Executive Session to follow.

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

Approved by,
Gloria de Sá
Clerk