

**Association for the Relief of Aged Women  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, March 14, 2024**

**President Diane Laflamme called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.**

**Members in Attendance:** Beaton, Brooke (Via Zoom), de Sá, Garibaldi, Laflamme, Macomber, Mayall, McKnight, Natho and Saber.

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

**Members excused:** Stankiewicz.

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

1. Dolores Adesso (93) Dartmouth
  - a. Part of ARAW family since August 2011.
  - b. ARAW provided nutrition, EPERS, credit card, AAA, car insurance, food card, social worker, holiday gifts (\$34K+).
  - c. Many board member visits. Special thank you to Rosemary Saber.
  - d. From niece, "My aunt always thanked and appreciated everything the ARAW did for her."

**Reflective Moment:** Debbie Brooke shared *We are the Lucky Ones* from Canadian Red Cross:

*You can read so you are luckier than over one billion people who cannot read at all. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness then you are luckier than the million who will not survive this week and even luckier because you have a provincial healthcare card that guarantees you will have healthcare in case of illness. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation then you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend any meeting you want—political, religious, social then you are luckier than 3 billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep then you are richer than 75 per cent of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace then you are among the top eight per cent of the world's wealthy. If you can read a list like this, then you don't belong to the 1 billion people who CANNOT read...*

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk Gloria de Sá reported:

1. Motion to have minutes of the February 8, 2024 board meeting approved as distributed. SO VOTED.
2. Motion to have minutes of the February 8, 2024 executive session approved as distributed. SO VOTED.

**Report of President:** Vice President Diane Laflamme reported in Jane Stankiewicz's absence:

1. Chairs recruiting for FY25 committees.
  - a. Membership sent in by 4/15/24.
2. Annual Meeting 4/25/24 3-5 pm at the Wamsutta Club.

- a. Extend invitation to community partners and retired board members.
- b. Opportunity for chairs to speak.
- c. Community partners give short presentation.
- d. Reception to follow.
- e. Invitations to be mailed.
3. Committees Annual Reports due 4/15/24.
  - a. Template sent out.
  - b. Friendship Task Force and Legacy Task Force to give updates.
4. ED performance assessment.
  - a. Will be receiving a survey form through Survey Monkey from Jane.
5. No regular meeting in April.
6. Discussion of FY25 meetings to skip.
  - a. Four months presented as possibilities – June, August, September and February.
7. Motion to decrease frequency of Board meetings by omitting June, August and February meetings in FY25. SO VOTED.

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

1. Activity Sheet/BA Reports/FLO Newsletter as distributed.
  - a. DEAF Inc attending FLO luncheon.
  - b. St. Patrick's Day raffle – looking for volunteers to make deliveries.
  - c. Coming attractions: Plant deliveries in May.
2. Community Engagement: events.
  - a. AHA Night tonight. Fishing Heritage Center having an event featuring ARAW beneficiary Elizabeth Belanger.
  - b. Women's Fund invited ARAW to be part of AHA Night. Declined – not ready for community engagement & intentional growth until done training new staff.
3. Tax refund – FY23, FY22 and FY21.
  - a. Amended tax returns filed.
  - b. Received FY23 check.
  - c. Concerns with Burke & Lamb. Will be meeting with B&L at next Finance committee meeting.
4. Mattapoisett COA.
  - a. Clare received call from director.
  - b. Mattapoisett resident who wants to donate home to Mattapoisett COA to start something like ARAW.
  - c. Directed to Community Foundation.
5. Beneficiary highlights:
  - a. Carolyn Moore

- i. Lives in Acushnet on many acres of land. House should be condemned.
  - ii. Reconnected with estranged sister.
  - iii. “Visiting” Florida and living in late mother’s house.
  - iv. ARAW in her will.
  - v. Two homes? Living with sister? Complex situation.
- b. Louise Desautels
  - i. High month end balance.
  - ii. God spoke to her to tell the truth.
  - iii. Able to handle her own expenses.

**Report of Finance Committee:** Chair Cathy Mayall reported:

1. FY25 Budget to be discussed in Executive Session.
2. Meeting with Burke & Lamb next week.
  - a. Many issues to discuss – B&L billing, audit, etc.
3. Portfolio doing well – end of February close to \$20 million.
4. Motion to conduct a full audit for FY25 to meet our financial attestation obligations.  
SO VOTED.
  - a. Have used KPM in the past.
  - b. Office should have a more active role than in past audits.

**Visiting:**

1. Cathy Mayall reported on Joanne DeSouza:
  - a. Delightful woman.
  - b. Cathy has learned a lot from her.
  - c. Born in New Bedford. Parents are immigrants.
  - d. Worked in a glove factory in New Bedford. Loved it.
  - e. Never married. Always wanted children.
  - f. Always upbeat. Doesn’t complain.
2. Reporting in May – Rosemary Saber.

**Report of Beneficiary Committee:** Chair Pam McKnight reported:

1. Motion to award Louise Martins the 2024 Sandra Fogg Beneficiary Award of \$1,500 for use to make her apartment a true home. SO VOTED.
  - a. 70 year old woman.
  - b. Lives at Boa Vista. Lived in boarding house for 11 years previously.
  - c. ARAW provided bed. Sought secondhand items from other organizations.
  - d. Boa Vista had bed bug problem. Had to get rid of many items.
2. Motion to accept the recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED.

- a. 11 requests (4 new), 7 updates (6 FLO, 2 inactive)
- 3. New Beneficiary Highlight – Sue Ann Perry.
  - a. Artist. Homebound and lonely.
  - b. Request for portable oxygen tank.
  - c. Has worked for 2 years to have approved through insurance but doctor unwilling to do what is needed.
  - d. In 1993 her daughter went missing and was never found.
  - e. Mental health issues.
  - f. Would like to go out especially to view artwork.

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

- 1. Double meeting February 2/6/24.
  - a. Continuing to tweak things. Always looking at where we are and where we are heading.
  - b. Pam presented Anna Reis as a potential board member:
    - i. Graduated from Brown. Went to law school.
    - ii. Worked for state dealing with child abuse cases.
    - iii. Retired a few years ago. Ready to become involved.
    - iv. Compassionate heart.
    - v. Next steps: Seven days to bring up questions. Governance committee invited to interview her.

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

- 1. Committee meeting update 2/22/24, 2/26/24 and 3/5/24.
- 2. Motion to accept FY25 CPG decisions of grants committee, as distributed. Tabled until executive session.
  - a. 19 grants totaling \$252,000.
  - b. Trust Based Philanthropy
    - i. Smaller amounts given to 19 organizations.
    - ii. Hope these grants will create connections that will have impact on environment and raise awareness and understanding of needs of low-income elderly women within community.
    - iii. Six-month and year-end reporting.
    - iv. New approach for ARAW. Will evaluate at end of grant cycle.
  - c. Pam voiced concerns:
    - i. A lot of money and participants for new program.
    - ii. Organizations with large budgets.
    - iii. Women’s Fund – would rather give money directly to individuals.

iv. Other ways to make connections.

**Report of the Legacy Task Force:** Chair Diane Laflamme reported:

1. Committee meeting 2/21/23. Update included in packet.

**Report of Personnel Committee:**

1. Employee Appreciation Day 3/1/24.

**Other Business:**

1. Retired board member Gillian Harris is looking for companion visits at Jewish Convalescent Home.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Executive Session to follow.

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

Approved by,  
Gloria de Sá  
Clerk