

Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, February 11, 2021

Moment of Silence: All present had a moment of silence for our beneficiaries who we lost since the last meeting: Sr. Jean Marie Lyonnais

Reflective Moment: Shannon Bachman shared the poem *Night Fire* by Nancy Wood:

The cold of winter makes a fire in my heart and fills my ears
with the music of the meadowlark. Here in my house, made
of the memory of summer and the desire for green grass,
I know that loneliness will never kill me.
Here in a room filled with sorrow for all the world in pain,
I know that fear can never blind me from seeing
eagles rising from the ashes of my fire.
Asleep in a bed covered with longing for spring,
I know that anger never soothed my heart nor
silence solved the problems of my world.
In my dreams I see a perfect little flower, and then I know
that love will heal most anything,
my loneliness included.

Clerk Gale Beaton called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

Members in Attendance (Via Zoom): Bachman, Beaton, Beaulieu, Brooke, Doyle, Ellis, LaFlamme, Mayall, McKnight, Melo, Natho, O'Connell, Saber, Stankiewicz.

Executive Director Clare Healy Foley and Office Administrator Jenny Costa also present.

Report of Clerk: The minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

Report of President: President Saber reported:

1. Annual meeting will take place 4/29/21 at 9:30 am on Zoom
2. Annual meeting committee reports
 - a. Document outlining guidelines will be sent out next week
 - b. Brief oral report at annual meeting
3. Outreach committee chairperson
 - a. Olivia will be stepping down as chair, will remain on committee
 - b. Roseanne will take over as chair
 - c. Meeting next week to discuss committee plans

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

1. FLO newsletter
 - a. Last month – fun & games giveaway – 27 beneficiaries signed up

- b. February offerings
 - i. Sign up to receive Senior Scope delivered
 - ii. Raffle
- 2. ALBA
 - a. Four referrals this month including from Southcoast, Community Nurse, NBCOA and Whaler's Cove
 - i. 2 submitted, 1 ineligible, 1 holding off
 - b. Home visits still suspended
 - i. Made exception for Sally Chace this month
 - c. Introductory letter sent to Encompass Home Health
- 3. Immigrants' Assistance Center
 - a. Contacted about submitted RFP
 - i. Replied withdrawing application as not able to meet reporting requirements, will be returning \$4,000 because transportation was not possible
 - b. Given \$19,698 (Transportation over \$4,000) for whole year (FY21)
 - c. Due to Covid limited activity through November – expecting more than \$4,000
 - d. Email sent – no response yet
- 4. Office
 - a. Evaluating space given new potential hire
 - b. Office seen as working space, Wamsutta to be used for meetings
 - c. Convert conference room to office
 - i. Complete wall & add door - \$600-800
- 5. Performance Appraisals
 - a. In process
 - i. Self-appraisals – Jenny done, Sharon working on
 - ii. Will be done within next two weeks
- 6. Donations
 - a. Barbara Miranda: Sharon delivered bird food, so relieved and happy, sent card with \$5 donation
 - b. Eileen Francis: First year since being married came out ahead, so thankful for ARAW help, sent \$50 donation
- 7. Reminders
 - a. Beneficiary Valentines need to be in mail by today 2/11/21
 - b. Sign up for Visiting Reports & Reflective Moment
 - c. Emails to office sent to admin@arawofnb.org – go to both Jenny & Clare
- 8. Vacations
 - a. Jenny on vacation next week 2/16-2/19
 - b. Sharon back from vacation – working from home until Feb 22nd
 - c. Clare will try to take her 5 days before end of fiscal year
- 9. Wamsutta Club

- a. Still closed – take out for Valentine’s Day weekend, members can take advantage.
- 10. New Activity Sheet format
 - a. Sheet pulled from new database – request for feedback.
- 11. Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Lorene Almeida
 - i. Approval for couch at requested amount
 - 1. Used towards more expensive couch.
 - 2. Financed additional – now has monthly charge.
 - 3. Will bring back to beneficiary task force to discuss.
 - b. Covid-19 having different effects
 - i. Brought one beneficiary closer to daughters.
 - ii. Another beneficiary now has strained her relationship with her daughters.
- 12. Age Friendly New Bedford
 - a. Exploring elder fraud and elder abuse education
 - i. AFNB’s Social isolation Domain is working collaboratively to develop handbook to have fraud, scam and abuse resources in one place.
- 13. Companions of 75+ elders are now able to get vaccine at Mass Vaccination Sites
- 14. New Bedford Whaling Museum to put together article about ARAW for their publication *Bulletin*.

Report of Finance Committee: Treasurer Ellis reported:

- 1. Portfolio update
 - a. Down \$136,000 in January, up \$5.2 million in FY21
- 2. A motion was made to approve January 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
- 3. Investment Advisory Committee
 - a. Working on Investment strategy
 - b. Met with Jason Hantman from Bank of America
 - i. Jason to gather and send more info
 - c. Working on benchmarking
 - i. Evaluating management of funds
 - d. Will present to board when finalized – will be after year end

Report of Visiting Committee: Chair Bachman reported:

- 1. Will be meeting quarterly
- 2. Roseanne O’Connell reported on Laura Herr and Mary Sharples
- 3. Angela Natho reported on Dianna Sousa and Marguerite Whitehead
- 4. Reporting in March – Jeannette Doyle

Report of Beneficiary Committee: Chair Laflamme reported:

- 1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED

- a. 13 Requests (5 New) and 13 Updates
- b. Discontinued support for Theresa Yousif
2. Looking for recommendations for Sandy Fogg award
 - a. 1-3 Recipients for any reason, not need based
 - b. Past recipients – Priscilla Taylor and Peggi Medeiros
3. New Beneficiary Highlight
 - a. Madeline Sinclair
 - i. Recent fall – EPERS approved
 - ii. 4 children who are very involved
 - iii. Outreach worker connected with other services
 - iv. Needed why on furniture ask
 - v. Update from Clare: approved RX coverage through EDDF

Report of Governance Committee: Chair Brooke reported:

1. Roseanne finishing history for board member handbook
2. By Laws in process of being reviewed by Bank of America
3. Succession Plan developed
 - a. Allows for time for member to learn new position from incumbent.

Report of Grants Committee: Chair Stankiewicz reported:

1. Thank you to committee and Clare – culmination of 2 years worth of work
2. Brief description of each recipient given
3. Motion made to accept decisions of Grants Committee for FY22 grant awards totaling \$275,092. SO VOTED

Report of the Personnel Committee: Chair McKnight reported:

1. IRA Match
 - a. Simple IRA
 - i. Easy and inexpensive
 - ii. Yearly decision for contribution
 - iii. Two options
 1. Matching – 1-3% based on employee contribution
 2. Non-elective – 2% regardless of employee contribution
 - iv. Recommendation for 3% match
 - v. Must give employee 60 day notice
 - vi. Employees eligible after period of time and if making at least \$5,000 during year

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

Executive session to follow.

Recorded by,
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,
Gale Beaton, Clerk