

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

**Reflective Moment:** Angela Natho shared the poem *HOPE* by Margaret B. Moss:

Hope is the clear window that allows light and new possibilities to shine through.  
Kind gestures, words, love, and Beauty open those windows.  
Like a warming sun, hope can bring us back to life.  
Be someone's window.

**Clerk Gale Beaton called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.**

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

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

**Members absent:** McKnight.

**Report of Clerk:** The minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting were approved as written. SO VOTED

The minutes of the February 11, 2021 executive session were approved as written. SO VOTED

**Report of President:** President Saber reported:

1. April board meeting on 4/8/21 and annual meeting on 4/29/21
  - a. Both at 9:30 am on Zoom
  - b. Will invite Investment Advisory Committee to annual meeting
  - c. Annual meeting to be recorded
2. Annual meeting committee reports due 3/31/21
  - a. Celebration of tremendous work done
  - b. FLO report will be part of office report
3. Will be updating Strategic Plan – looking at goals

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

1. FLO newsletter & ALBA update
  - a. Will receive Sharon's written report in board packet now that position is established – no questions
  - b. Looking for volunteers for plant deliveries March 23<sup>rd</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>
2. Immigrants' Assistance Center update
  - a. Discontinued support and requested monies back
  - b. Amount IAC calculated much less than anticipated
  - c. Grants committee met to discuss next steps

- d. Clare met with Kristin Batstone Morrissey, Director of Development
  - i. Both IAC and Clare spoke freely and transparently
  - ii. Discussed challenges on both sides
  - iii. Kristin to send updated final accounting next week
  - iv. IAC will take year off and revisit FY23 RFP cycle
3. Pat Midurski start date 4/1/21
  - a. Part time outreach advocate – will work every afternoon
4. Office reconfiguration
  - a. Moved all offices at current location – wall installed
  - b. Moving some things to storage in basement
  - c. Storage room will become little library
5. Staff performance appraisals
  - a. Done last week – both glowing
  - b. Right people in right spots
  - c. Goals – both self and Clare’s aligned
6. Women’s Fund
  - a. Meeting with Executive Director Joanne Murray yesterday
    - i. Joanne attended info session and follow up brainstorm call but ARAW did not receive application
    - ii. Asked for funding – informed this cycle is closed
    - iii. Encouraged to apply for FY23 RFP cycle
7. Beneficiary highlight
  - a. Movement of beneficiaries from GNBCHC, NBCOA, IAC to ARAW
    - i. Starting to see differences in applications from previous versions
    - ii. Confirms need for right person to ask the right questions
    - iii. Meeting with Sharon next week to discuss plan to distribute beneficiary assignments equitably
  - b. Suggestion from Gale to have case studies?
    - i. Will be done at quarterly review

**Report of Finance Committee:** Treasurer Ellis reported:

1. Portfolio update
  - a. Investments earned \$5.7 million in FY21
2. A motion was made to approve February 2021 Financials as written. SO VOTED
3. Committee meeting update
  - a. Finalized FY22 budget
  - b. High gains on investments and positive performance on spending
  - c. Grants will be awarded in 2 installments – recommendation to have 1<sup>st</sup> installment to be paid in FY21
4. Motion made to have the \$169,019, designated as the first FY22 grant installment, be paid out in March 2021 against the FY21 budget surplus. SO VOTED
5. Motion made to accept \$1,198,117 FY22 budget, as distributed. SO VOTED

**Report of Visiting Committee:** Chair Bachman reported:

1. Reminder to sign up for meeting reporting
2. Jeannette Doyle reported on Betty Ann Livramento, Eileen Francis and Mary Hultgren
3. Mary Ellis reported on Briseda Garcia
4. Reporting in April – Shannon Bachman

**Report of Beneficiary Committee:** Chair Laflamme reported:

1. A motion was made to accept recommendations from the Beneficiary Committee as distributed. SO VOTED
  - a. 9 Requests (3 New) and 7 Updates
  - b. Louise Estrella
    - i. Asking for dental payment
    - ii. Louise has only made 3 payments since last ARAW payment
    - iii. On hold – will revisit if 6 months of payments made
    - iv. Louise came back with moving costs request instead
2. New Beneficiary Highlight
  - a. Mary Lou Hanlon
    - i. Bought house – needed a lot of repairs
    - ii. Initial request for homeowner’s insurance
    - iii. Amended request for dental and cable
    - iv. Committee approved dental, cable not approved

**Report of Governance Committee:** Chair Brooke reported:

1. Motion made to accept Personnel Committee job description as written. SO VOTED
2. Introduction of potential new member - Olivia
  - a. Maria Gloria deSa
    - i. Retired Professor of Sociology and Anthropology
    - ii. Librarian/director of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives at UMass Dartmouth
    - iii. Holds Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University
    - iv. Served as President of Spinner Publications Board of Directors
    - v. Serves on the CEDC and Discovery Language Academy boards
  - b. One week to send concerns to Debbie
3. Board education
  - a. Bibliography distributed
  - b. Lending library at ARAW office
4. Submit list of committee members for FY22

**Report of Grants Committee:** Chair Stankiewicz reported:

1. Award packets went out in February

2. Press release to go out in April
3. Meeting held to discuss IAC
  - a. Meant a lot to Clare to have support of committee

**Report of the Outreach Committee:** Chair O'Connell reported:

1. Governance committee working on final outreach committee description

**Report of the Personnel Committee:**

1. FY21 vacation time rollover
  - a. Exception made by virtual vote
  - b. One time exception documented in PTO summaries

**Other business:**

1. Portuguese interpreter – Ilda Lake
  - a. Will work with on trial basis
  - b. Offered hourly rate with knowledge of room to grow

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.

Recorded by,  
Jenny Costa, Office Administrator

Approved by,  
Gale Beaton, Clerk