

# Vasa Previa Foundation

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for 1 December 2003

### Executive Committee members present:

- Amy Brown Gaghagen, President / Chapter Formation Committee Chairperson
- Marlou van Dijck, Vice President / Netherlands Chapter Leader / Assistant Treasurer, NL
- Cynthia Balota Paris, Secretary / Membership and Nominating Committees Chairperson

Carol Prentice, UK Chapter Leader / Assistant Treasurer, UK was not in attendance due to illness; and Victoria Goldstein, Treasurer / PR, Research, and Fundraising Committee Chairperson was on leave of absence.

### VPF Committee chairpersons present:

- None

Meredith Kirby, Education Committee Chairperson and Kathy Blades, Support Committee Chairperson were not in attendance.

Meeting began at 18:34 GMT (12:34 PM CST)

Executive Committee Minutes from 17 November 2003 were approved for archival and distribution.

### **Agenda:**

- [Officer Reports](#)
- [Treasury Reports](#)
- [Chapter Reports](#)
- [Membership Committee Report](#)
- [Public Relations Committee Report](#)
- [Research Committee Report](#)
- [Fundraising Committee Report](#)
- [Chapter Formation Committee Report](#)
- [Education Committee Report](#)
- [Support Committee Report](#)
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- [Budget](#)
- [Old Business](#)
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### **Officer Reports:**

- The next Monthly Members' Meeting takes place on 3 December 2003. Amy will host.
- Certified copies of the articles of incorporation amendment have been forwarded to Amy Brown Gagghagen for IRS papers and to VPF legal counsel Dawn Haley for filing with the county.
- Annual meeting letters and voting proxies have been postal mailed out to all participating members. Secretary has emailed out reminder notices urging members to respond promptly.

### **Treasury Report:**

- Netherlands:  
Donations and interest: € 0.00  
Dutch expenses: € 0.00  
Total Dutch cash on hand: € 2532.11  
Thank-you notes sent to donors: 0
- UK:  
Donations received: £ 5.00  
UK expenses: £ 0.00  
Total UK cash on hand: £ 467  
Thank-you notes sent to donors: 1
- USA:  
Donations received: \$ 253.00  
USA expenses: \$ 358.04  
Total USA cash on hand: \$ 26,273.78  
Thank-you notes sent to donors: 1

### **Chapter Reports:**

- NETHERLANDS:
  - No report given.
- UK:
  - No report given.
- USA:
  - No report given.

### **Membership:**

- There are 59 participating members of VPF, and 0 pending.
- There are 299 IVPF email group subscribers (7 new subscriptions, 11 unsubscriptions, because of unworking email addresses).
- There are 143 Vasa\_Previa email group subscribers (6 new subscribers, 7 unsubscriptions, 4 pending subscribers).
- There were no edits to the birthday calendar.

## **Public Relations:**

- NETHERLANDS

- Marlou has written an article on vp for the Kraamzorg Delfland. The contact is pleased with the way it was written and will send it to the head-editor for publication. Marlou has requested to receive a copy of the magazine and will send the same article to other Dutch Kraamcenters, asking them to publish it. This item will appear in the Spring edition of the 'Contactpunt'.
- On November 27 and 28 Marlou sent an email to the most important Dutch newspapers (Trouw, de Volkskrant, Telegraaf, Algemeen Dagblad, het Parool, NRC, Spits, Metro, Haagsche Courant, het Limburgs Dagblad) regarding the recent European investigation about child deaths at birth or shortly afterwards: The Netherlands got the worst score of all. One of the conclusions made after the investigation was that the Dutch care is far beyond any level and that there is hardly any screening. In her email Marlou informed them about the devastating condition vasa previa and the necessity of screening to save those healthy baby's. She asked them to write a piece about VP in their newspaper. Marlou has had no response at all yet, but is very curious about what they are going to do with it.
- Marlou reported writing a letter to the Dutch State Secretary of Health (= assistant of the Minister of Health), informing them about VP and asking them to make sure that VP will be investigated if there will be a new guideline: 2 ultrasounds for every pregnant woman. (This is being investigated as we speak). She is writing the article on behalf of the Dutch chapter of the VPF. In the Netherlands there are no laws that prohibit writing to politicians or preventing Foundations from being able to have a tax exempt status if they do write to politician. She is sure that the American chapter will not get into any problems since the American politics are standing apart from the Dutch. There is no law that prohibits a Foundation to address the Dutch politician. To be sure Marlou has consulted VPF legal counsel via an email and is hereby asking VPF permission to send the email. There was some discussion on this issue that resulted in it being tabled pending further information on the consequences this action would have on the rest of the VPF.

- UK

- Carol wrote an update piece on vasa previa and Dr. Oyelese's recently published paper on management for the Health Council magazine. It has been accepted and submitted for publication. She also gave details of the funds raised so far via "Sophie's Walk".
- Carol has been asked to be involved in up-coming focus groups in Scotland on midwifery practice and the changing Midwives Rules (book of guidelines which govern practice in the UK). She will be taking part in a group in Glasgow on 5 December. The programme covers Standards for Supervisors of Midwives, Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives and the Review of the Midwives Code of Practice. This promises to be a worthwhile and interesting day.

- Letter/Pack sent to “BBC Parenting” magazine 28 November. This is a brand new magazine which covers birth – age 12.
- Letter/Pack sent to “Real Lives” television programme on 28 November which covers a wide range of important issues in people’s lives.
- Carol has received the outline programme for the RCOG Conference to be held in Glasgow next year. She continues to talk to the organiser and has reported back on all costs etc. The UK could fund someone to talk to a paper if that route was chosen as this costs £450 for the full conference. Full details of conference are to be found on the website. There was a question about this item centered on the words “funding someone to talk to a paper”. Since Carol could not attend today, further discussion was put on hold pending clarification.
- Carol will be attending a Nursing and Midwifery Council Seminar day in London on 4 December. There will be a variety of speakers talking about topics including the new GP (General Practitioner) Contract in the UK and it’s implications for access to healthcare and issues around midwifery.
- USA
  - Article from Dr. Oyelese will be published in the December issue of Prevention Magazine.

#### **Research:**

- Marlou has sent an email to the Dutch NVOG on Sunday November 9, telling them about Dr. Oyelese’s article on management and asked them to take into consideration Dr. Oyelese’s advice in the current protocols. She’s since received a reply from the NVOG that they have sent my email to the Commission Guidelines. They will decide whether or not to do anything about it. Marlou talked to her OB about the NVOG. Her OB thinks it is the right way to have the protocols changed. She had talked to a member of the NVOG about VP and he told her that Marlou’s earlier letter to them did make sure that VP was mentioned in the protocol about ‘Blood loss in the third trimester’. That was good to hear!

#### **Fundraising:**

- The second set of Sophie’s Walk meetings were held 20 and 21 November. Only captain attended. Summary will be written and distributed to captains shortly. Next captain’s meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- A new PayPal account has been created, enabling donations to be given without shipping charges added. Cindy’s changed the links in the store to reflect 2 price structures for USA/Canada and Europe/UK, enabling us to utilize one shipping table. (We are only allowed one shipping table.) This method should work in the future as we expand to include sales from the UK and the NL.
- NETHERLANDS
  - Nothing new to report.
- UK
  - Nothing new to report.

- USA
  - Nothing new to report.

**Chapter Formation Committee Report:**

- No report given.

**Education Committee Report:**

- No report given.

**Support Committee Report:**

- No report given.

**Nominating Committee Report:**

- No report given.

**Budget:**

- No report given.

**Tax Exempt Status:**

- No report given.

**Old Business:**

- Donor data to complete the private donation page for the VPF website is still needed. Tabled since forever. A participating member offered to help compile the necessary data. In the process, it was realized that with the huge numbers of individual donors giving during the Walk and other VPF events, this project may need to be rethought.
- UK will need a VPF Assistant Secretary. Tabled since 24 June 2002.
- Netherlands needs a VPF Assistant Secretary.
- VPF website banner for use on other websites. Tabled 8 July 2002 pending sample submission.
- Gavel sound for Board Room in the chat café. Tabled since 24 Feb 2003.
- Victoria is working on Spanish translations of the VPF brochure and Sophie's Walk information for the website. Tabled since 24 March 2003 as this is a work in progress.
- Press releases for the Kennedy March and Carol's nomination for Scotswoman of the Year. (19 May 2003)
- New page for the website about volunteering for the VPF. (19 May 2003)
- VPF document on management of vasa previa. (Tabled 19 May 2003 pending publication of pending medical articles)
- Two more medical doctors have accepted the invitation to join the VPF Medical Advisory Board (one invitation still outstanding). The VPF Medical Advisory Board currently has five members: Yinka Oyelese MD, Jason Collins MD, Jason Birnholz MD, Dolores H. Pretorius MD and Val Catanzarite MD

PhD. It was suggested that VPF re-contact the one outstanding invitation. Amy will follow up.

- VPF must obtain the permission from the artist to use Christina's painting <http://members.fnol.net/~tree/Christina/painting.htm> for future note card sales. Pending since 20 October 2003. Cindy will follow up.
- VPF participation in the British Conference of OB/GYNAES (<http://www.bcog2004.co.uk>) July 7 - 9 in Glasgow. Tabled 3 Nov 2003 pending further information.
- Film committee needs to meet. Amy will organize a meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- It was proposed that Marlou's email to the Dutch State Secretary of Health (= assistant of the Minister of Health) be sent by Marlou as a private citizen rather than from the Netherlands Chapter of the VPF. Because it was thought that sending this email from a private citizen would be useless in the Netherlands, this issue was not seconded, and after discussion was tabled pending further information on the legal consequences such action (sending it from the VPF Netherlands Chapter) would have on the rest of the VPF.

**The next regular VPF Executive Committee meeting will take place on Monday, 15 December 2003 at 18:30 GMT (1:30 PM EST, 12:30 PM CST) in the Board room of the VPF Chat Café.**

Meeting Adjourned at 20:22 GMT (2:22 PM CST)