



## Newsletter issue 1 November 2017

Dear Agora friends,

This newsletter will be entirely dedicated to the 21st AGM Conference in Malta 12-15 of October 2017.

Lot of picture were taken during the conference and they for sure say more than thousand words.

Enjoy !!!



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# Introduction of the Newsletter first newsletter 2017 - 2018

Dear Agora Ladies, Dear Friends,

Please discover our **1<sup>st</sup> ACI Newsletter**, completely dedicated to our ACI Conference 2017 in Salina, Malta and to the presentation of the new ACI Board members 2017-2018.

First, I would like to congratulate Sue Micallef and the Maltese Committee for their really great job to prepare us an unforgettable AGM! A big thank also to our so nice hostess and National President of AC Malta, Simone Busuttil.

Of course, a big thank to Ursula Lejeune, our ACI President 2016-2017 for her great job for ACI, and to Thanh Thao, Brigitte and Yvonne the board members.

The ACI Newsletters will be **your** Newsletter! The next ones will be for you! Please send us reports and a lot of pictures of your events: AGM, Charters, charity events... What you want, please send us a **small** text, but a **lot of** pictures! Share with all the agora members around the world your experiences, your ideas and the good relations you have with our brother and sister organizations.... And more!!! (recipes, funny stories...)



With my motto “**Let’s Open our Eyes, Let’s Open our Heart and Let’s Do More**” I just would like you to get out of your comfort zone... Whatever you organize, please, try to do furthermore!

**Let’s open our eyes**” to recognize people who need help, who need us... not only to give money, clothes, medicine... but also to give time. In another vein, we need to keep our eyes opened in order to point out some women who would like to join us, to create a new club or “cherry on the cake” a new Agora country!

“**Let’s open our heart**” to help them, guide them. I know that all of you already did a lot! Please go on! Even, if you are a little bit demotivated... Don’t stop! You are a big example for us!!

“**& Let’s Do More!**” Please, just always try to do a little bit more...

Never forget during your charity events to work for our International Service Project: “Eyes for the World”, but also, for the “Knitting project”, for the new Ladies’ Circle International Project “Happy Heart” or your local project.

Never forget that we belong to the wonderful Round Table family with Ladies’ Circle, Tangent Club, Round table and Club 41. Please try to meet them during events or charity projects, locally, nationally and internationally. It is important to share Agora Club’s dynamism, our values, our qualities through meetings and service and to continue the good relationship we have all together.

My dear Agora Ladies, my dear Friends, could you please help me during this year because alone I can do nothing whereas all together...

...”**Let’s Open our Eyes, Let’s Open our Heart and Let’s Do More!**”

With all my Love and Friendship,

Isabelle SEGUINOT, ACI President 2017-2018

# Introduction of the ACI Board 2017-2018



Well, I am very proud and honored to be your incoming International President.

During one year I worked and learnt a lot with Ursula, Thanh Thao, Brigitte and Yvonne.

I am very happy this year to have a new team with 4 lovely women. We are 5 and we all come from different countries: Malta, Germany, Belgium, Iceland and France... plus our

advisor board member, our ACI Weblady from Belgium.

I am French and I live in Hyères in the south of France, on the French Riviera, between Marseille and Nice.

I have been working for myself for 25 years as a physiotherapist and osteopath and I have 2 co-workers to help me.

I like travelling, scuba-diving, skiing, hiking, discovering new countries and new people while travelling, taking pictures underwater...and above water too, dancing and spending quality time with my friends... and working on my laptop!

I became a circler in 1999... I was the National President of LC France in 2003-2004 and LCI Weblady in 2004-2006. When I was 45 years old, I decided to continue my involvement in the same spirit, Side by Side. I was the founder President of Agora 39 Hyères in 2009. I was the Area's President for 2 years and Conference Convener for the 17<sup>th</sup> ACI AGM in Hyères in 2013.

I have no husband, no children, no pet.... but I have a lot of friends all over the world and another family: the Ladies's circle and now the Agora family!

Lots of Love

**Isabelle SEGUINOT**

*ACI President 2017-2018*



Dear friends,

I'm really so honoured to have been elected as your VP during the AGM in Malta, and to have met so many of you there. But I hope that through this short message I meet more of the ladies that couldn't make it and begin our road of friendship.



I am excited about the prospect of dedicating the next three years to this marvelous organization called AGORA where friendships are renewed and others made. I have a lot to learn from Ursula our IPP, Isabelle our President, Yvonne who is now in her second year as a treasurer and María Erla our secretary, who starts the journey with me.

I have a lot to learn from you all and I'm looking forward to getting in touch with all the VP's in our family with the hope of involving you all in the strategy for the growth of AGORA in your own countries and to introduce AGORA to new countries.

I will be looking at the VP's as the ambassadors to continue building on the good work others have done and of course to have lots of fun side by side with all the Round Table family which includes, Ladies Circle International, Tablers, Tangent and 41'ers. we all have the same interest which at the center of it must be supporting each other's service projects both financially as well as through our involvement in a sustainable way.

I would like to wish you a good ACI day on the 14th November. Celebrate this day by 'Opening your Eyes, Opening your Heart and doing that little bit more' as Our Presidents Isabelle's asks us to do through her motto. It is really a motto to remember throughout our lives.

Anna Tabone

Agora VP 2017/8



I feel a lucky woman to be your ACI treasurer for the second year. The first year in the international board was wonderful with a lot of fun and friendship.

Let's continue to spread the friendship between all our members. It was a pleasure to meet so many members from all over the world at our ACI in Malta.

Some background about myself : I have studied accountancy and several years ago I made a career switch and professionally I am now a Human Resources Officer and I have a huge affinity for numbers and people.

My husband and myself have two sons, Kris and Michiel. They both have left the parental nest.

Yvonne Houben

ACI Treasure 2017-2018



Dear Agora Ladies,

I'm so grateful and excited to be a part of the ACI Board as the secretary. By that I have the opportunity to make a difference and contribute to the Agora organization.



I did join Agora in the beginning of 2014 so I have still a lot to learn but I'm confident in my role because I'm for sure not alone. I have a lot of support from the lovely ladies in the board.

I look forward to all the great Agora years yet to come with lots of fun and laughter.

María Erla Hilmarisdóttir

ACI Secretary 2017-2018



## 21st ACI Conference in Malta

What a wonderful conference to conclude my very busy, interesting and fascinating presidential year!

Back home in Germany, I took great pleasure going through all of your pictures on Facebook of our Conference in Malta. To see all of your smiling faces made me very happy and these pictures will always remind me of the special time we had together!



Once again a big thank you to our lovely **Ladies from Agora Malta** for their perfect organisation! You took such good care of all of the participants and your warm hospitality made everybody feel welcomed and loved. You have really done a superb job! I also thank our hosts Simone and Conny who spoilt us during our stay in Malta and made our work and our preparations comfortable and very pleasant.



I want to thank my **Boardies** for their commitment to Agora Club International and for their continuous support throughout the year. Ladies, **you were great!**



I am also thankful for the special interruption and presentation of all of the „**Ladies in Red**“ of **Agora Club Tangent Germany** who spoil Brigitte and me during this conference with their kind attention and very appreciated gift! **Love you Ladies in Red!**



To all the **National Presidents 2016-17** I say thank you for your commitment to your National Agora Clubs worldwide. You made Agora grow considerably and you are the reason why Agora remains a healthy and growing organisation. Thank you, ladies!



Thank you for your precious presence **Anne** and **Alex**! Your speeches really touched my heart and I will cherish these moments I spent with you! Thank you!





Last but not least I want to say thank you to **all participants!** Your active participation, your positivity, your enthusiasm made this Conference a very special one. **Agora at its best!!!**



Your support, your encouragement, your hugs and your numerous gifts totally overwhelmed me! Thank you for your friendship! I am happy and very thankful for an interesting, fascinating year together with you and for a memorable Conference!



**We were „Stronger United“  
and we will open our eyes and our  
hearts and we will do more!**



**Good luck to our new International President Isabelle Seguinot! I wish you a wonderful year ahead and I am happy to be part of your new Board!**



Dearest friends,

Agora Club has given me so much! It gave me the possibility to continue friendships made in LC days, and to make new friends all over the world. It gave me personal growth and confidence, and it gave me the feeling that we can make a difference in the lives of the less privileged.

So after 6 years on the ACI Board as your secretary, VP, P and IPP, I am happy to keep on giving back to this wonderful Club that has changed and enriched my life and that of my family.



As your web lady, I will be happy to report on our Club and your Clublife : send me your pictures, your reports, invitations etc. so we keep our website vibrant and up-to-date. The website is our window to the world. Let's throw that window wide open and tell the world about our beautiful Agora Club!

The website has currently been updated with new reports, pictures of the ACI Conference in Malta, all info on the ACI Board, President's welcome words, info on the ACI International Service Project EFTW and so much more.

Please ask your national board for the passwords for more official items, and the password for the picture gallery.

Have a look at [www.agoraclubinternational.com](http://www.agoraclubinternational.com)

Looking forward to your contributions 😊

Yours in Agora friendship,

Veerle De Jonge



I am reflecting on my three month stay in Vietnam to keep company of my eighty-two- year -old Dad.

I pleasantly told him about my beautiful experiences in Agora, especially on the International Board. I showed him the gorgeous photos of my Agora friends, of the memorable Conferences, of the friendly get-togethers, of the heart-warming charity projects, of the beauties of the Agora countries. He listened to me with great interest; at times he smiled, at times he laughed.

When I told him that I would forever cherish the image of the little Moroccan girl who, with a big smile, kept the adjustable glasses close to her heart , I saw tears in his eyes.

My Dad kept silent for a while, then said: “ Through your Agora experience, something new has come into your life, and something new has come out of you. And for this you have to be grateful .”

I fully agree with him. Now I am trying to put down in words my feelings of gratitude before definitively saying “goodbye” .

First of all, my thanks go to each and every Agora member: whenever I think of you, I beam with joy and happiness.

I should say that I was happy to end my three year term in Malta. All words are useless to describe the huge job of our Maltese friends to make the Conference so extraordinary. What’s more, they have “created” the occasion for me to visit and contemplate the two most prized masterpieces of Caravaggio, namely “The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist”, and “Saint Jerome”. I will forever treasure these memories. Thank you my friends. And I really mean it.

Looking back at the history of Agora Club International gives me the perspective I need to see how far we’ve come and what incredible difficulties we have overcome.

My thanks thus go to all ACI Past Presidents and Past Officers for having the courage to dream big, for loving and believing in the spirit of “Service and Tolerance”.

My thanks go to all Boardies for their enthusiasm and efforts not only to bring more accomplishments to Agora but also to add freshness and novelty to the Agora life.

My thanks further go to my Italian friends for their support and their commitment to excellently organize the 20th ACI Conference and the celebration of the 20th Anniversary .

Last but not least, my thanks go to my beloved family for their vibrant interest in all I did for Agora.

Finally a deep thank to my Dad who has inspired me to write this thank-you note.

One more thing: when I kissed my Dad goodbye, he reminded me to forward his regards to his friends, and relatives in Italy, and added : “ Please send my best regards to all your Agora friends!”

At this moment my mission is fulfilled! 😊😊😊

Yours always in friendship and love

Ly thi Thanh Thao

“Hand Head Heart”

ACI Past President 2014-2017



Dear Ladies!

Time to say good-bye!



Thank you for the two fulfilling years and your support during this time. It was an honor for me to be your secretary, to receive your reports and to be one of the first who got to know what is going on in the countries. A big thank you to my colleagues! It was interesting but also challenging to face all duties in the most difficult phase of my life. As we are a team the Boardies gave me a helping hand whenever needed.

I will miss the exchange with you but nevertheless I am looking forward to be a “normal” floor member in the future without any duties during our ACI Conference. The conference in Malta, which was so well organized and the fantastic and vibrant atmosphere was a successful finish for me.

I wish Maria Erla our new secretary all the best for her term of two years – good luck and always a friendly computer!

Yours in friendship

Brigitte Colberg

ACI Secretary 2015-2017



# First attendance on ACI Conference

## 21<sup>ST</sup> AGORA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MALTA - OCTOBER 2017

I must say that, attending the AGM was the highlight of my year. Though attending for the first time, I enjoyed every moment. From the tours, meetings, welcome party and gala dinner it was awesome. The interaction and friendship were phenomenal, for me it was a build up from my circle years and did not feel strange at all.

The Maltese ladies did commendable work, hats off and well done!

Naomi Sakanjole, National President AC ZAMBIA



## ACI Malta 2017 Salini Resort Hotel

Firstly, I am grateful to the ACI board for travel grant to attend International AGM in Malta.

I arrived at the venue on Thursday and received a very warm welcome from the ladies at the registration desk. As a first time attendee of the ACI AGM the embrace, love, friendship and the happiness I received proved what Agora is all about (Friendship and Service).

I was thrilled when Veerle called my name, I first saw her in South Africa in 2013 when my club AC-KOPANO was inducted.

At the councillors meeting I didn't know what was expected of me but I blended in as members countries were introducing themselves and exchanging ideas. I was so inspired by the services most clubs are rendering. I also felt that we need charter more clubs in SA. I learned that we need to communicate and share events in our countries so that we can support each other.

I promised to take everything I learned back to ACSA, like the diaries for 2017 -2018. As National Secretary I went back home equipped with knowledge, skills and new ideas.

I surely met my friends from all over the world and promise to keep the friendship light for the years to come. I will never forget my first ACI AGM.

Thanks to AC Malta for their hospitality.

Bongekile Mkhithi, National Secretary AC South Africa



A BIG THANK YOU  
TO ALL COUNTRIES  
WHO ATTENDED  
OUR ACI CONFERENCE 2017

IN

SALINA, MALTA!



AC AUSTRIA





**AC BELGIUM**







## AC FRANCE



A big Thank you to the French delegation led by Micheline & Maryse !



A Big big Thank you to the friends from my own club. Aaora 39 Hvères







**ACT GERMANY**





## AC ICELAND





**AC ISRAEL**





## AC ITALY



# AC MALTA



A Big Thank you to our super hostesses Simone and Connie for your perfect warm welcome!

And a big Applause to the Maltese Ladies who made an amazing job to organize us an amazing Conference 2017!







AC MOROCCO





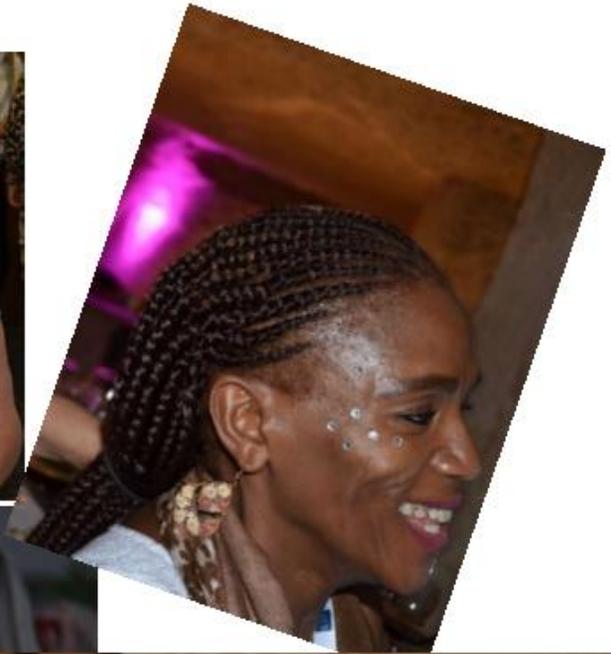
AC NORWAY



## AC ROMANIA



## AC SOUTH AFRICA



**AC SWITZERLAND**





**AC THE NETHERLAND**



**AC UNITED KINGDOM**





AC USA





## AC ZAMBIA



## OUR VIPS :

ANNE AHLEFELT,

LCI President 2017-18





**ALEX ABELA, 41 Int Treasurer 2017-18**



**ACI BOARD 2016-2017**





**OUR 2 TELLERS :**  
**PETRA & ANNE-MARIE**

**OUR NOMINEES :**

**MARIA-ERLA & ANNA  
+ VEERLE (ACI Weblady  
& ISP Convenor with SANDY)**



## THE INCOMING PRESIDENT... EUH... ME! ISABELLE



## THE HANDOVER DURING THE GALA DINNER...







**END OF AN AMAZING ACI  
CONFERENCE IN MALTA...**

**A NEW YEAR IS BEGINNING!**

**NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE IN  
GENT : VREE WIJS !!!**

