

**NEWSLETTER 3  
DECEMBER 2012**



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**ACI BOARD 2012-2013**

**President**  
Veerle De Jonge  
Eyerstraat 23  
9160 Lokeren  
BELGIUM  
[Veerle\\_de\\_jonge@yahoo.com](mailto:Veerle_de_jonge@yahoo.com)

**Vice President**  
Sandy Van Niekerk  
P.O. Box 4285 Louis Trichardt  
Limpopo RSA  
SOUTH AFRICA  
[svn@mweb.co.za](mailto:svn@mweb.co.za)

**Secretary**  
Karen von Koschitzky  
Sudetenstr. 7  
29664 Walsrode  
GERMANY  
[Karenvoko@t-online.de](mailto:Karenvoko@t-online.de)

**Treasurer**  
Nikkie Grewar  
N°1 Mykonos – 217 Smit Street  
Fairland  
2170 Gauteng  
SOUTH AFRICA  
[nikkie@dwalsh.co.za](mailto:nikkie@dwalsh.co.za)

**Immediate Past President**  
Elisabeth Hiller  
Hamwiede 48  
29664 Walsrode  
GERMANY  
[Elisabeth.hiller@gmx.de](mailto:Elisabeth.hiller@gmx.de)

# AGORAclub international



Dearest friends,

As we approach the Holiday season, the ACI Board and I would like to wish you a lovely time, planning and preparing for Christmas.

The American writer and poet Maya Angelou wrote : *"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights"*.



So since it is the season to encounter at least some of these things, I wish you all the power to be happy if and when they would happen to you. Smile and try to find happiness.

Happiness is the elixir of life, a wonderful medicine to prolong life!

**Afrikaans:** Gesëende Kersfees

**Dutch:** Vrolijk Kerstfeest

**French:** Joyeux Noel

**German :** Frohe Weihnachten

**Romanian:** Crăciun fericit

**Hebrew:** Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova ניטל לעבעדיק

**Icelandic:** Gleðileg jól

**Italian:** Buone Feste Natalizie

**Norwegian:** God Jul, or Gledelig Jul

**Esperanto:** Gajan Kristnaskon

**Arabic:** Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah مجيد م بلاد ع يد

*Merry Christmas everyone!*

**Veerle De Jonge, ACI President 2012-2013**



# INDEX NEWSLETTER

1. Important dates	
• Next 3 months	Page 2
• International charters in 2013	Page 2
2. News ACI Board	
• Rebus from the ACI Board	Page 3
• Photo charter AC Brasov 3, Romania	Page 3
3. Reports Countries	
• Agora countries in the picture : Belgium	Page 4 - 5
• Preliminary Charter program AC Iceland	Page 5
• 30. Jubilee Tangent Denmark by Barbara Arend-Kylling, TC Germany	Page 6 - 7
4. ISP Viva con agua	Page 8 - 9
Solution of the rebus in page 3	Page 9
5. Miscellaneous	
• Christmas greetings from LCI	Page 10
• Christmas greetings from RTI	Page 11



# IMPORTANT DATES

## Next 3 months

- 20. January AGM AC Israel
- 13.-19. February ACI Boardmeeting 3 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2. March Charter TC 52 Nordenham, Germany
- 23. March Charter AC 46 Amiens, France

## International charters in 2013

- 5. May Charter AC Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom
- 11. May Charter AC Akureyri and AC Reykjavik, Iceland
- 26. May Charter AC Rogaland, Norway

# NEWS ACI

## Do you know the ACI Board?

Try to identify the 5 board members



1



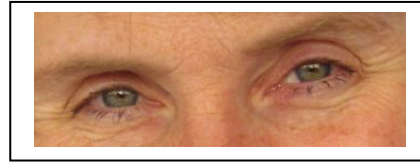
2



3



4



5

You find the solution of this rebus on page 9 of this newsletter.



ACI President Veerle with English and Romanian ladies during the Charter of AC 3 Brasov, Romania in November 2012



### *Beautiful experiences as national president of AC Belgium*

During the past four months I had already a lot of fantastic, marvellous moments in Agora club.

My year started with the charter meeting of Agora Club Roeselare-Rodenbach and Arlon le Sud in Belgium. Those events took place in a harmonious atmosphere full of friendship. We could share on both evenings a good organised gala diner in company of the new enthusiastic members.

It was also a special honour to attend, together with our International president Veerle De Jonge, the birthday of a new Agora club Brasov 3 in Romania. As godmother of Romania, Germany, Israel, South Africa, Morocco, Switzerland and Zambia AC Belgium had in the past already a lot of interesting contacts all over the world. Next year we are so proud to welcome again as godmother AC Iceland and AC Norway.

Veerle year's motto: "Stronger through diversity" is about how we respect each other's uniqueness. And if we accept this we can share a lot of passions in our club live. That's the reason I feel so good with my year motto: "Share your passion ". When we are talking about our passions, there is a solidarity that binds us. Those are the elements that bring us together, to share with each other, to learn from each other.

Culture is necessary for dialogue and dialogue is needed in culture. Cultural exchange contributes to mutual understanding between different societies. Exchange with other cultures is also an enrichment of our own existence, insights that broaden our knowledge.

I think we have still a lot to learn from each other in many ways


Let's work together on "Communication" with the exchange of thoughts, feelings, information and ideas between Agora Club members all over the world and let us further propagate the spirit of "Friendship for ever across all borders "!

I wish you all a lot of the thru spirit, motivation , tolerance, understanding and affection to enjoy you Agora club live and beyond.

With the warmest regards of the national board Agora Club Belgium, wishing you a prosperous, healthy and successful New Year.

Karine ( president), Karin (treasurer), Yvonne (vice-president), Mimi (past-president), Marise (secretary)



	<p><b>Preliminary program Charter AC Iceland May 2013:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> or Friday 10<sup>th</sup> arrival of foreign guests (depending on your best flight tickets)</li><li>- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Agora Charter program</li><li>- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> half day tour (Blue lagoon and Reykjanes peninsula )</li><li>- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> till Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> two days tour (Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir, South-coast, Jokulsarlon )</li></ul>
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Autumn Meeting TC DK and 30th Jubilee of TC Denmark in Kolding and Middelfart(Fyn)



Friday : Get -Together with a (or more!?) fine glass of Champagne in Jeanett's House in Strib, near Middelfart

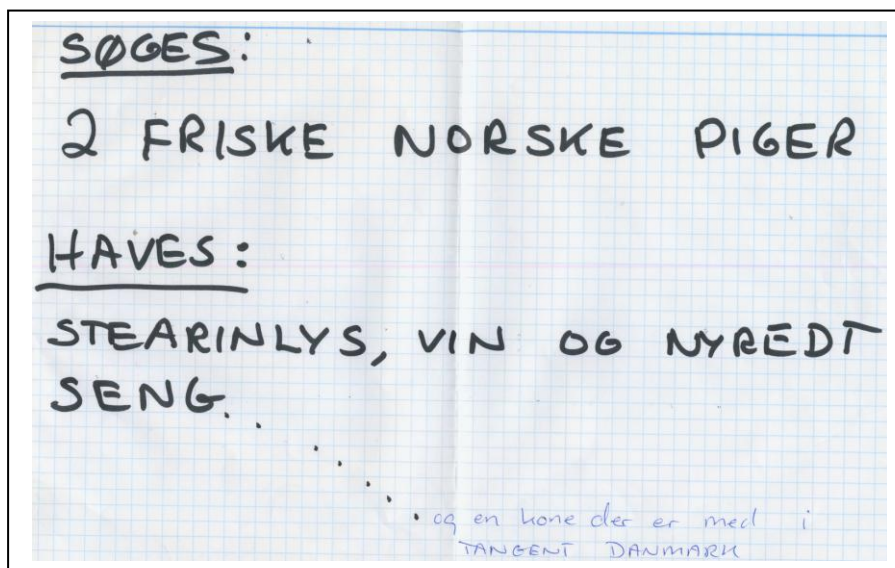
Guests : Jan Dowling , Gill Preston  
(both accompanied by their husbands)  
Peter and Barbara Arend-Kylling (OT 1 / VP-TCD)  
Board TC DK and TC 3 Fyn

It was a tremendous reception with a splendid sight on the Lille Belt and the city of Fredericia opposite to Middelfart.

The vivid conversation in a very relaxed atmosphere was continued during the dinner in the Park Hotel, Middelfart.

Back in the B&B, Birgitte and Morton were already waiting for us with the ladies from Sweden and Norway - - and another bottle of delicious red wine.

Morton told us, how he met the Norwegian ladies on Billund Airport – see his paper:



You can imagine the reaction of the two ladies....!!!!

Saturday, starting at 9.00 a.m.:

Autumn Meeting and **30 th Jubilee of TC DK** in the School of Design in Kolding.

It started with a guided tour around the school, accompanied by Elsebeth Nielsen, former Minister of Education and the Arts

The **honorary member** of TC-DK, Elsebeth Christiansen, made the 3 - Minutes` Speech.

Aase Boegh was appointed (2<sup>nd</sup>) **honorary member** of TC-DK!

Before all participants sang the TC-DK song at the end of the conference, Jeannett invited everybody to the next **National AGM** in Middelfart, April, 19-21 2013.



A small remark at the end: TC Denmark dearly wants to be informed about the German events to come!

Barbara

AC-TD Vice President and IRO TCD



Dear ladies,

here are some extracts of the latest WATER-NEWS written by the German ISP team:



Rudi in the winter

What happened since Rudi tried to convince you to give him a new home somewhere in this world?

We received incredible pictures from Rudis' trip around the world. Please keep them coming, we are planning a photo contest awarding the best pictures from Rudi and his friends from around the world on LCI conference in Zambia.

Since this ISP will end with the next LCI conference, please be aware that your donation for the ISP has to be **transferred to the ISP bank account by June 30th 2013.**

After that the money will not be spent to Viva con Agua.  
So please make sure to transfer the money early enough.



### **News from the drill “RIG”?**

You certainly are all wondering how RIG is doing and what happened in the meantime. To be honest: the entry of RIG into Ethiopia was a nightmare (esp. the customs authorities were!).

But now RIG is in! And has started its work.

Until December VcA together with Welthungerhilfe will get the first experience with RIG and the local conditions. This is important to give us a more exact idea on how much wells can be build with the LCI donations.

### **Afar Region:**

“Afar is an active volcano area with high temperatures and low precipitation. Most people live in rural households predominantly as nomadic, stock farming people. The region is low developed and there is an insufficient access to fresh water. Deficiencies in health care and education – only 19 % of all kids go to primary and 5 % to a secondary school - complete the picture. So, the development program, e.g. of United Nations, are focused to improve health care, education and access to fresh water.

### **New merchandising products**

Maybe you ask yourself „Which new merchandising stuff are available to support VcA?“

Here is the answer:

☑ Beautiful calendars created by Tangent Germany with individual painted pictures

☑ We are currently designing a pin which will be released in January

☑ **And...there will be baby ducks ...available in three lovely colors**

The VcA-Team is looking forward to receiving your orders and to present to you our new merchandising articles. More details soon...

Until today we were able to transfer more than 70000 Euro to Viva con Agua, which roughly calculated can help more than 60000 people in the Afar region. This is an amazing amount and we would like to thank every single one of you for that!

Solution of the rebus on page 3:

1 = Nikkie

2 = Elisabeth

3= Veerle

4= Sandy

5 = Karen

# Miscellaneous

*Dear Veerle and members of Agora*

*On behalf of Ladies Circle International I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*Thank you once again, for inviting me to the ACI AGM in Lübeck 2012 - it was an honor for me to participate. My best wishes to all newly elected members of the National Boards and to the International Board with Veerle de Jonge as President.*

*For those of you who don't know of Ladies Circle International - I can tell you that our association is worldwide and we count approximately 12.000 members in 34 countries. Our motto is Friendship and Service and my motto for this LCI year is "Many hearts - one spirit". Our members are all ambassadors for Ladies Circle - for life, whatever happens - our time as Circler will mark our hearts forever.*

*My vision for the LC year is to keep our association strong and solid, as we walk side by side with Round Table, Tangent and Agora - and together we shall develop our friendship, grow new ideas on how to do even more service and how to grow in numbers.*

*The LCI Board are pleased to announce the chartering of a new Circle Country LC Portugal in March 2013.*

*I look forward to the work to be done, till the LCI Conference in Zambia 2013 and to see you somewhere around the world ☺*

*Yours in friendship*

*Gitte Høyer  
LCI President 2012/13*



Dear Veerle and members of the Agora board,  
And all of the lovely ladies of Agora,

On behalf of the Board and our members we would like to wish you all an excellent year. Please share this year with your family and friends because for my opinion you have to share this wonderful experience with people who are close to you.

Never forget your roots and the philosophy of Agora it is the key to your future. Stay connected with your members and potential members they will support you create these steps to the future.

An easy way to connect with each other is to meet each other at AGMs. During an AGM we can learn from each other. Learning from each other is a big gift, which we, Round Table, actively pursue. As you know Adopt, Adapt and Improve is our motto, which takes us to our future.

This year our theme is 'Connection' because we believe without Connection you cannot learn and grow. We believe you should stay Connected with your members, National associations, board members and fellow friends like us. In this respect, please feel free to invite the National Round Table and 41 Club to your AGM, to create this excellent Connection between our organisations.

The month December is for most associations a special month which will be shared with Family and friends. On behalf of Round Table, I would like to wish you all an amazing month and an even better new year. Enjoy your year and we would be pleased to stay Connected.

With kind regards and friendship

Jeroen de Graaf  
Round Table International President



**RTI Board members 2012-2013, Picture from left to right**

<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Moffat Nyirenda (RT Zambia)</b>
<b>Africa chairman:</b>	<b>Dominique Moncheaux (RT Madagascar)</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>Jeroen de Graaf (RT The Netherlands)</b>
<b>EMA chairman:</b>	<b>Nicolas Perrin (RT Belgium)</b>
<b>Asia Pacific chairman:</b>	<b>Chamika Godamanna (RT Sri Lanka)</b>