

NEWSLETTER 4  
January 2013



[www.agoraclubinternational.com](http://www.agoraclubinternational.com)

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Dear Agora friends,  
In 2013....

Think something good  
And do something better

Think something fun  
And do something funnier

Think something nice  
And do something nicer

Think something dynamic  
And let's **AGORA** for it in 2013!

Veerle ☺

Dearest Agora friends,  
dear friends of Agora

The ACI board members and I wish you all a terrific 2013, filled to the brim with happiness, love, positivity, fun and friendship.

May the values we stand for contribute to a better and friendlier world, strong in its diversity.

**START 2013 WITH A SPARK!**

Love from the entire ACI Board,

Veerle,  
Sandy, Nikkie,  
Karen and Elisabeth





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# IMPORTANT DATES

## Next 3 months

- 13.-19. February ACI Boardmeeting 3 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 16. February Charter AC 3 Kopano, South Africa
- 2. March Charter TC 52 Nordenham, Germany
- 19. March AGM AC 2 Lausanne, Switzerland
- 23. March Charter AC 46 Amiens, France
- 05. April Charter AC 4 Craiova, Romania
- 20. April Charter AC 15 Chaudfontaine, Belgium
- 20. April Charter TC 20 Dillenburg, Germany
- 27. April Charter AC 48 Maubeuge, 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

Dear ladies,  
 we received a big amount of beautiful Christmas greetings and best wishes for the new year from you. So we would like to share some of them with you. Thank you very very much.



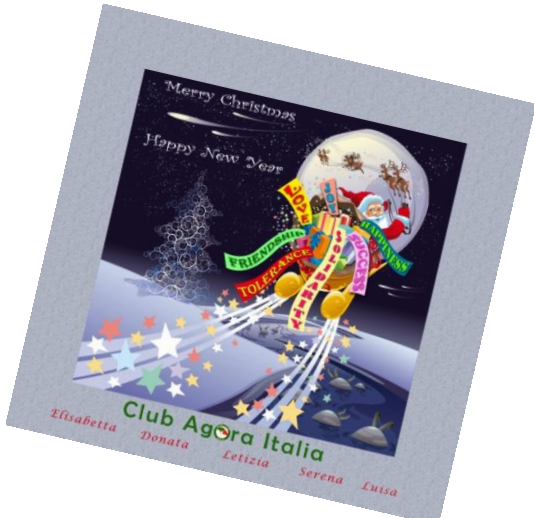
**Holiday Greetings**

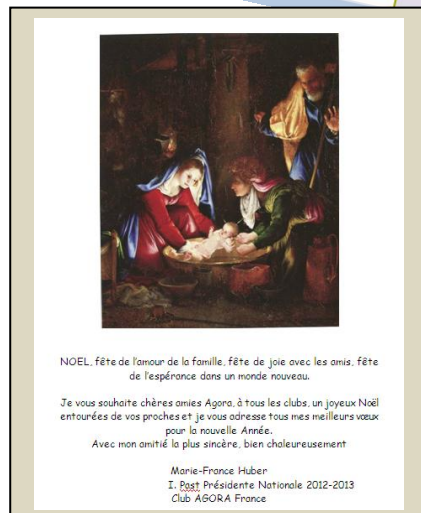
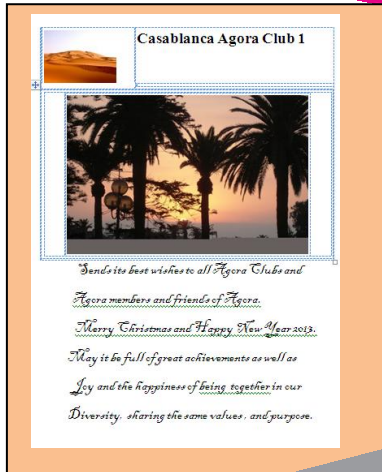
To all our Agora freinds !

We send you all a very warm Holiday greetings from Iceland on the top of the world. We look forward to see you in may 2013 for our chartet.



Agora Iceland





## Reports on how the ACI Board members experienced their time on the ACI Board

Dearest Agora ladies, dear friends,

3 months have gone by since the start of our Agora year, so time for the 5 ACI board members to give you a report on how we experienced the first quarter of our (your!) Agora year.

For myself it has been a super experience for 4 consecutive years now, first as secretary then as VP. And as for this 5<sup>th</sup> year 2012-2013 : the cooperation in the board is fun, friendly and efficient. With chats on skype and facebook, phonecalls and emailing we keep each other up to date with Agora, but also with our personal lives. Yes cooperation is sometimes very intensive and so it is normal that we share our lives too: I am sure everyone who has ever been part of a board will recognize that ☺

My focus for this Agora year is communication, and I do believe the intensive communication on ACI Day proved that the communication lines work: the ACI website is being updated constantly, lovely newsletters are sent around, the ACI facebook page is very active and emailing very effective.

Beginning October 2012 I installed an internal and informal email communication line between the 19 presidents and although not intensive, it proves to be an important line for chatting, exchanging ideas etc. It ensures quick response when needed. Moreover it will be nice that on the 2013 ACI conference the 19 presidents will not be strangers to each other. We will all know each other a bit better thanks to this emailing group.

Not only communication with and between our members has our focus, also LCI, RTI and Tangent receive the attention they deserve as our sister and brother clubs. We wrote some articles in each other's newsletters, thus strengthening the very long and valuable friendship between our Clubs. Only with 41 Club International the communication is sadly enough very slow, but we hope that the future will bring positive change.

Another important focus for this year is extension. We need to provide our past circlers with a "safe haven" once they leave LC, and keep on welcoming friends from outside LC to bring their thoughts and energy to our association too.

Our focus on and openness for diversity is our strength and our code to a successful, young and dynamic association!

The result of this year's focus on extension is fantastic: As you all know 3 new countries chose to join Agora this year 2012-2013! The month of May 2013 will be an extremely festive one with the charter of Agora Club United Kingdom, Agora Club Iceland and Agora Club Norway! Moreover, you will see on the ACI year Calendar (on the website and under this link: <http://www.agoraclubinternational.com/news/agenda/Monthly-Calendar-ACI-2012-2013.xls>) that worldwide our countries keep on chartering new clubs too.

One thing is certain: Agora Club International is healthy and is growing!

Also YOU dearest Agora members I want to thank. Although far in distance...you are there! I can feel your energy through our communication, your positivity in your messages, your drive in your charity work. You do Agora proud!

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 we will have our 3<sup>rd</sup> ACI Boardmeeting. If you have any questions, suggestions or proposals do let us know, so we can discuss them. We value your input very much!

Looking forward to the next 9 months with you all!

Lots of love *Veerle*



Dearest Ladies!

**Exciting, Exhilarating, emails, emails, emails, a little overwhelming, . . . an experience of a lifetime!** That's how I can describe my first three months on the International Board.

As the INT. VP, what have I been doing? Well, I have been reading all the emails back and forth between board members, from the AGORA clubs and countries, the correspondence between other service organisations such as RT Int., LCI, Tangent, 41'er Club Int. and trying to take it all in. **WOW!!!** We belong to an amazing organisation, **AGORA**, and with VEERLE at the helm we have gained such respect from fellow organisations for what we stand for and for how we live or motto, **TOLERANCE** and **SERVICE**, but above all **TOLERANCE!**

Reading and understanding the constitution and the guidelines have made me realise what a huge responsibility it is to accept National and International Board positions, to live AGORA with passion and commitment, to ensure that the members we have inducted and enticed into our club, get what they were promised, that we live up to the expectations we have set as National Boards and the International Board.

The past three months have been like a whirlwind, with the South African Summer holidays, Year End functions, Christmas holidays and New Year celebrations etc. etc. – all the while trying to stay up to speed with AGORA on an INT. Board Level. **I am LOVING it!!!** These past few months have been a learning curve for me as I have watched, read and listened to the experience of AGORA and other organisations Board members, I have taken it all in and hopefully am ready to add my touch and input into an already dynamic organisation.

Being on the International Board has been a real eye opener for me as I have come to appreciate just how closely we are connected to RT, LCI, Tangent and 41'er Club Int. Reading the emails of support, congratulations and encouragement from these Brother and Sister Clubs has shown me that there is a HUGE world out there, but a very COZY world, that no matter we go in the world we will always have friends and be connected through likeminded beliefs of Friendship, Tolerance and Service. What a privilege to be a part of this!

Yours in Friendship

Sandy



Dear ladies and friends,

I have been a member of the ACI Board now for 4 years and what an incredible journey it has been.

Starting off when Danielle Garden asked me to put my nomination forward for the position of ACI Vice President... this was history repeating itself as I was her Vice President on the LCI Board a decade before!

This was I feel when ACI took a turn for the better and became stronger and more dedicated and more professional in its structure. A time of "rebirth: and togetherness and great friendships....and we are becoming more positive and solid with tremendous growth in existing countries and well as new countries wanting to join..

The presidential theme and pins have proved to be a great success and this has now continued throughout the past years and I hope for many years to come, providing a source of income from the sale of the pins for the International charity project.

I am passionate about our organization and take great pride in the fact that I am a Board Member of such a superb, vibrant and diverse group of ladies.

I have done things and been to places I never dreamed of, making me grow so much during these past 4 years and can only say that ACI is ASTOUNDING!

My thanks to my fellow Board Members, for making my time on the Board so - out of the ordinary, entertaining and enlightening.

With an accounting background in my professional career feel that I am able to bring a constructive, effective and professional input to our organisation so I go forward as the ACI Treasurer for this year and next.

I can only encourage other ladies to become part of the Board it is really worthwhile and unbelievable.

***"Together we are One" and in "A Circle of Friends Forever", whilst "Building Bridges" making us "Stronger through Diversity" - we can conquer all!!!!***

In Friendship and love - Nikkie



Dear ladies and friends!

When I heard, that Elisabeth Hiller was elected as ACI Vicepresident in 2010, I thought about an application as ACI Secretary for the first time.

As Elisabeth and I had been members in the same Ladies' Circle for many years and then were members in the same Tangent Club, I thought it would be a gesture of friendship to offer her support for her work as ACI President.

Furthermore I felt a certain curiosity for international work, after I had been National President of LC Germany. During that year I enjoyed so many international contacts with the LCI Board and national board members from other countries, that I felt it must be a great experience to be a board member of a growing organization like Agora Club International.

By serving ACI I would have a chance to give my contribution to such a wonderful international service club and to help to bring it forward. I knew that I would work together with a small group of enthusiastic ladies from different countries and cultures.

Looking back on the time I have spent as an ACI Board member, I can say the following:

Due to our different backgrounds and personalities it is always interesting to see, how different our ways and ideas to bring the organization further and to solve problems are. The variety of thoughts and opinions is amazing. Despite you feel secured in a circle of like-minded women.

During the board meetings, which are held in the countries of the board members, I had the chance to give hospitality as well as to experience different cultures.

Like in our local clubs we get the chance of learning by doing, if we serve in an international board. For instance I improved my English and even more my computer knowledge during this time. The responsibility of being an ACI officer forms and develops the personality of each board member and gives us the chance to live and experience tolerance and understanding.

If there was a lack of time, another board member always offered help.

Even though I do not typewrite with ten fingers, it was possible to fulfill the Secretaries' jobs and duties.

I can only motivate everybody to take the chance and experience a life time on the ACI Board.

Yours in continued friendship

Karen, ACI Secretary 2012-13







## My experiences on “Captain” Veerle’s Board

Co-Captain: Sandy, Secretary: Karen, Treasurer: Nikkie, Old-Captain: Me

Being with 5 “Marines” on Veerle’s Board means a mixture of having fun and laughing, hard and effective work, discussions, strong and straight leadership, a diversity of meanings, being a tolerant team living in friendship & service.

*Come “on Board” and use the chance!*

Get in touch with unforgettable moments. Get acquainted with engaged and powerful ladies. Experience an expanding and lively association in several countries of the world. Feel the spirit of many hearts in unity!

Yours in continued international friendship,

**Elisabeth Hiller, IPP**



Discuss with your Board if you have proposals or amendments for the working of our Agora organisation.

You have a voice!

Maybe your (Full member) country would like to organise the ACI conference in 2015 or 2016? Something to think about! It is so special to welcome many Agora friends from around the world in your country !

## A story about continued friendship ☺

By Veerle and Isabelle

When Isabelle Seguinot from AC Hyères in the South of France emailed me to say that she and her Agora friend Valerie would come to Belgium for a city trip in Brussels between Christmas and New Year I dropped everything!

Isabelle is a dear friend from Ladies'Circle, we were on the LCI Board together in 2004-2005. Last year when I phoned Isabelle to ask if her Club would want to organize the ACI Conference 2013, her answer came very quickly (after consulting her Club members and the French National board) : they would be happy to organize the conference!

So when Isabelle phoned me to tell me they were coming to Belgium, I was so happy to be able to do something back for her.

We had such a fun time, and I felt proud I could show them around our country's capital. Despite the rain they were the perfect guests: very interested, enthusiastic and very energetic!



We climbed the Atomium, saw the royal palaces, visited a beautiful music museum in the Art nouveau style so typical for Brussels and

walked the streets of Belgium's capital, at their best with all the Christmas decorations. We had so much more planned but time was too short!



Inside the "tubes" of the Atomium

*When we decided with my friend Valérie to go to Brussels for few days, it was obligatory for me to contact Veerle and to try to see her during this short time. I was really happy when she announced to me that she will come one day with her husband Dirk. We had very good time all together with a private car, private guides... As we call her during our LCI board time, Mama Chocolate recommended us special chocolate (we taste some...)... but we did choose the one with insects on it !*

*Now we had so good memories that, don't worry Veerle, we will come back again one day! Thanks for all !*

**Isabelle**

Continued friendships like these are so important, and remind me again and again about the value of our past Circle organization.

It was great to host you dear Isabelle and Valerie! May we do it again in the future – I promise will order sunshine then! Xx *Veerle*



# Reports countries

Dear Friends Agora,

first I would like to wish you an exceptional 2013 year, full of every day joys and beautiful friendships and many interclub meetings.

The last quarter of the year the Club Agora was very busy marked by the birth of a new club and a great birthday.

In October we met in VITRE for the National Committee. During the meeting the exchanges were interesting. Many Quatalagor members were present: Nathalie SCHOLLER, National President of the LADIES' Club, Serge POPOV, National President of the Club 41, Jerome CAMPAGNAC, National President of French ROUND TABLE, Jean Luc THIROLLE, Secretary of "AMITIE ASSISTANCE". During this meeting a new club was charted: VITRE SEVIGNE N°44. The ceremony, chaired by our National President, Lydie VERDIER, was held in the reception hall of the castle.



VITRE is a beautiful medieval town which has a prestigious past. Its narrow streets are lined with half-timbered houses. The castle is built on a rocky spur and dominates the city. Many stone manors stand nearby. In the surroundings there is a castle called "LES ROCHERS SEVIGNE" where Madame De SEVIGNE stayed during her holidays and wrote part of "Les LETTRES De Madame De SEVIGNE". During the festivities we had the privilege to participate to a dinner in this castle, still inhabited.



The club of VITRE counts 10 dynamic and enthusiastic members. The president is Christine RENOULT. The theme of the gala dinner was the Roaring Twenties.



November was the month of our great birthday. We celebrated the creation of the first French Agora Club in LILLE.

25 years ago, November 14<sup>th</sup> 1987 the first club AGORA was chartered in MARCQ en BAROEUL, suburb of LILLE.

We were many, from the 4 corners of France to meet and celebrate the event through a gala dinner. Many of the National Past Presidents were present. We had the pleasure to have with us the 3 first founder presidents

Lydie VERDIER welcomed the Past Presidents and offered them a beautiful souvenir scarf on behalf of the AGORA Club.

Veerle De JONGE honoured us with her presence, which filled us with joy.

The atmosphere was friendly, we happy to see each other. At the end of the evening we blew out the candles on a huge birthday cake.



The Past Presidents with Lydie VERDIER, NationalPresident



The 3 founder Presidents



Birthday Cake

Dear Friends,

Spring will be sunny. 2 new Clubs join us: AMIENS and MAUBEUGE.

We are happy to see that the AGORA Family grows up.

In next autumn we expect you, we hope that many of you would come to HYERES where the sun shines during 365 days.



With my warmest regards  
Yours in friendship  
Marie-France Huber  
I. National Past President,  
Club AGORA France

Hello, Gill Young from Tangent GB and Individual Member of ACI

Whilst National Secretary of Tangent GB, I got to know Danielle Gardin. We spoke of her "mission" for one International Association of ex-Ladies Circler's, encompassing both Agora and Tangent. It was a great step forward when Tangent Germany embraced this idea. Unfortunately Tangent GB was not able to do this.

I really enjoyed participating in LCI, but you have to let go eventually! So, I joined ACI as the first Individual Member. I believe there are 8 Individual Members now - **perhaps it is time we got together girls?** Make contact if you are interested.



# CHARTER AGORA CLUB N.1 in the UNITED KINGDOM!

We are delighted to invite you to join us in Southend-on-Sea for the charter of the first Agora Club in the UK on:

**Sunday May 5, 2013**

Activities for Saturday and Sunday include:

Saturday - Trip to Southend Mayors Residence and Afternoon Tea @ £7 pp at 14:00. Curry Evening @£30 pp.

Sunday - Trip to Ingatestone Hall plus lunch @£28 pp at 11:00. Charter Dinner (incl. Michael Buble tribute singer) @£55pp at 18:00.



For registration form and power point with info : go to our ACI homepage  
[www.agoraclubinternational.com](http://www.agoraclubinternational.com)



Bonjour,

Un nouveau Club **AGORA** va naître à **CHAUDFONTAINE**.

Et si nous célébrions ensemble notre **remise de charte** ?

Alors, bloquez immédiatement le **20 avril 2013** dans votre agenda...

*À 17 h pour la partie officielle à la maison communale à Embourg,*

*Dès 19h30 pour la réception à Source-O-rama.*

Un programme complet suivra sous peu ! Au plaisir de vous y rencontrer ?

Geneviève BURNOTTE-WARTIQUE  
Christine WITTORSKI-VOOS  
Véronique CRUTZEN-MABILLE  
Muriel HALLER-BOELEN  
Monique BOVY-GRODENT  
Arlette ROUFFIANGE  
Joëlle JONGEN-PIEDBOEUF



Véronique REMOUCHAMPS-MARTINELLI  
Juliette CRIELLAARD-DAIROMONT  
Françoise VERVIER-DEWART  
Anne BOURGEOIS-JAMAR  
Vinciane ROBERT-PAQUAY  
Françoise BISCHOPS-STEGEN

Hello,

Wij starten een nieuwe Club « **AGORA** » in **CHAUDFONTAINE**.

Zullen we onze Chartermeeting samen vieren ?

Schrijf dan nu de datum in van **20 april 2013** in uw agenda.

*17 u : academische zitting in het Stadhuis van Embourg.*

*Vanaf 19 u 30 receptie in Source-O-Rama in Chaudfontaine.*

Een volledig programma zal binnenkort volgen.

Mogen we op uw aanwezigheid rekenen ?