

**NEWSLETTER 8
May 2013**

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ACI BOARD 2012-2013

President

Veerle De Jonge
Eyenmanstraat 23
9160 Lokeren
BELGIUM
Veerle_de_jonge@yahoo.com

Vice President

Sandy Van Niekerk
P.O. Box 4285 Louis Trichardt
Limpopo RSA
SOUTH AFRICA
svn@mweb.co.za

Secretary

Karen von Koschitzky
Sudetenstr. 7
29664 Walsrode
GERMANY
Karenvoko@t-online.de

Treasurer

Nikkie Grewar
N°1 Mykonos – 217 Smit Street
Fairland
2170 Gauteng
SOUTH AFRICA
nicolagrewar@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Elisabeth Hiller
Hamwiede 48
29664 Walsrode
GERMANY
Elisabeth.hiller@gmx.de



**Warm wishes for a wonderful AGM
from the entire ACI Board**



Dearest friends,

This past month of May has been an extremely festive one, with 3 new Agora countries joining us.

But also in your countries this is a special time of the year. A National AGM is the closure of one year and the start of the next one.

My board and I wish to thank and congratulate the outgoing boards for their engagement, their drive, their work and support for local, national and even international service projects, their belief in our association, and their work to make Agora Club grow and prosper!

YOU made it happen!

YOU were those drops that made waves which were felt around the Agora world !

YOU made the difference!

Dearest members of the incoming boards, all eyes are set on you now. Your members have shown their trust in you to lead your AC Country into an even brighter future.

Remember you are never alone. You can count on your team, your members, and on us, the ACI Board. We look forward to meet you in the international Agora corridors: the ACI Conference, an AGM, a Charter or even just on a holiday in an Agora Country ☺

All the best, ENJOY your year on the board...and make waves !

Veerle xxx



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IMPORTANT DATES

Next 3 months

- 01. June AGM AC The Netherlands in Noordwijk
- 05. June AGM AC UK in Southend-on-Sea
- 08. June AGM AC France in Clermond Ferrand
- 08. June AGM AC Italy in Bologna
- 08. June AGM AC Zambia in Lusaka
- 14.-18. June Boardmeeting 3 in Belgium
- 15. June Charter AC 16 Malmédy, Belgium
- 22. June AGM AC Morocco in Casablanca
- 29. June AGM AC Belgium in Melle
- 21.-24. August LCI AGM in Lusaka, Zambia
- 28. August-01. September RTI AGM in Valence, France

Reports ACI

Charter AC 15 Chaudfontaine - Belgium

On the 20th of April AC Belgium chartered a new Club in the beautiful South of Belgium.
AC 15 Chaudfontaine (= "hot springs") chartered with a lovely group of 15 ladies. Their creativity and sparkle is shown in the beautiful logo they designed.



The **4C1V cooperation** is very strong in Belgium: Here with the representatives of 41 CL Belgium President François Vervier and IPP Jan Van Hoe



With Geneviève Burnotte, President AC 15



*All the best and welcome to Agora Club dear ladies!
Veerle xxx*

23rd of April : Meeting with AC Switzerland



End of April I was invited by the 41 Intl Board to attend the AGM of 41 Club International, which took place in Interlaken Switzerland.

I wanted to make the most of my visit to this AGM, so I joined Agora Club Lemman and Agora Club Lausanne for a lovely twin meeting with dinner, before driving through to Interlaken.

It was so nice to meet all our Swiss ladies in person, to be able to discuss their plans for the future and the possibility to form a third club in Switzerland in the very near future. They also hope to form their first National Board and become a full ACI member country soon.



It was so great to meet Nicole Rüeger again too, our past ACI treasurer.

Two weeks later I saw Guljaran, Christiane and IPP AC Lausanne Elise Bryant again at the charter of AC United Kingdom...Once you start traveling in Agora, it is so much fun to see friends back at international events.



With my lovely host Elise

*Well done AC Switzerland! The future looks bright for you 😊
Veerle xxx*



AGM 41 Club International

The 41 Intl board kindly invited me to attend and address the International AGM on the 27th of April in Interlaken Switzerland.

It is always very interesting to join an AGM of our fellow International Service Club friends. Lots of similarities, some interesting differences, always something to learn and to remember...and most of all: such a great opportunity to see many friends back again.



With my dear LCI friend Seetha Venkatesh and husband RP (who honored me with his club scarf) from India, with whom I share many treasured memories.

I also wish to thank Laetizia Lulli and Paolo Pisani (AC and 41 CI Italy), Randolph Riedlinger (41 CI Italy), Pieter Carbon, François and Françoise Vervier (41CI and AC Belgium) and the Belgian delegation for their support during the AGM. YOU ARE WONDERFUL FRIENDS ! xxx



41 Intl President Christoph Haensler (left) and his team.

Have a wonderful year in 41 dear gentlemen, and we will be happy to work in a constructive and positive manner again in the future

Veerle

My first Austrian AGM (24.-26. May)

Since I had been national President of LC Germany I wanted to attend an Austrian LC AGM. After 6 years I finally made it!!

NP Margot had organized the transfer from the airport of Graz to Leoben for me. This was my chance to get to know two wonderful new ladies, Hermine and Jasmin, who are mother and daughter in the same circle. During the welcome a fantastic band in leather shorts rose the vibes on Friday night.



NP Margot and Karen

This may also have caused some of the delays at the AGM on Saturday morning due to a short night. The meeting ran smoothly with some interesting discussions.



Karen with the new board of LC Austria



Queen Heike and her circle

Before the President's cocktail Heike, the new president of LC Austria was crowned by the ladies of her circle LC 3 Ried and supplied with the necessary equipment a queen needs. During the gala the band "Mundwerk" impressed me enormously. Except for the band leader all 10 members are handicapped. Only their concert would have been worth the journey from the North of Germany to Leoben!



The band
Mundwerk



Austrian and German ladies at the gala

I travelled home with a feeling of warmth and friendship. Thank you very much LC Austria!!

Karen

Reports countries

News from France

Last March a new club was chartered: Amiens.

Eleven dynamic ladies and their president Frederique Billon organised for us a very nice ceremony in front a large assembly. The club of Angers was the godmother.

At the end of this ceremony, the club of Vitre, the last club chartered in October offered them the lantern during a merry walk around. They brought them a lot of Breton symbols: an umbrella, a lacework hairdress, and special cookies.....

During the gala dinner the atmosphere was pretty lively. The night before we had a dinner and ate along the river in very nice small groups.

Amiens is the main city of Picardie where runs the river, "la Somme".

The city is a World Heritage of UNESCO; it is situated on the road of St Jacques of Compostelle.

The cathedral is one of the most important gothic churches built in the XIII th Century.

My best regards

Marie-France Huber, Past President 2012-2013



Charter AC 1 Southend-on-Sea United Kingdom

A report by Marlies and Sieka from AC Groningen - The Netherlands

During the weekend of May 4th and 5th, a delegation of Dutch ladies traveled to Southend-on-Sea to attend the Charter of the first Agora Club in the United Kingdom 2 members of AC Venlo Ad Mosam (Els Clevis and Berdien Joosten) and 2 AC Groningen's ladies (Sieka Oldenziel and Marlies Withagen)

Since our Southend friends visited so many international Agora events in the months leading to their Charter, and had left their positive "business cards" on these occasions, it was not surprising that they could welcome such a lot of international guests (17!) from Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and France. It was indeed so lovely to meet each other again. The more one visits this kind of events, the more fun they become.



Friday evening Sandra opened her house for a "fish and chips" evening for the guests who arrived earlier,



and on Saturday afternoon we were warmly welcomed in Louise Worsfold's B&B, took a stroll along the cliff and enjoyed tea in a typical English teahouse, with view on a lawn where active seniors played some sort of ball game. Typically English!

After that we had an aperitif at Nikki Husslebee's house before going to an Indian restaurant, were we had a very animated evening.

The ladies brought us back to our hotels to be ready the next morning for a drive in the country side, to Ingastone Hall, about 50km from Southend. We admired the gorgeous country house in Tudor style, enjoyed a real "afternoon tea" and strolled through the beautiful garden.





Sunday evening was D-Day : The Charter of Agora Club 1 Southend-on-Sea in the Roslin Hotel. A beautiful location at the sea side boulevard, where big round tables and glasses of Pim's were waiting for us. All guests were festively dressed and with 66 persons inclusive the Mayor we were a colorful party.



The proof!

Sandra, President of AC Southend-on-Sea welcomed us, Lesley was terrific in her duty as master of protocol and Veerle, President Agora Club International opened the Charter ceremony. Officially AC South Africa was the Godmother country, but due to the fact that they could not be present the AC Belgium delegation acted as "ad interim Godmothers".



After the official Charter, Veerle held a fun speech, after which some more speeches followed. All Agora and other Clubs exchanged banners, presents were offered and warm greetings from around the world were read out.



The 2 driving forces behind AC Southend-on-Sea's success : Louise and Sandra

And then : lovely dinner while listening to a Michael Bubl  impersonator and naturally : a lot of dancing! Well they certainly know how to let their hair down in Southend! It was as if all tension that had been building up in the time that lead up to the charter was let loose  



We can look back to another very successful Agora event with a very enthusiastic and extremely hospitable English Club, who went beyond their ways to make us feel welcome and who already have plans to start several other clubs, since they actually are already quite a big group with 28 members!

What an achievement! An Agora Club to be proud of!



Article in local newspaper

By Marlies Withagen and Sieka Oldenziel

5. anniversary of AC 2 Brasov and AGM in Romania

Dear ladies,

on 18. May we had the AGM and we celebrated five years since the AC2 Brasov club was chartered.

We spent wonderful moments with our friends from AC3 Brasov, AC4 Craiova and we enjoyed the presence of friends from Ladies Circle and Clubs 41 Brasov on occasion of this important event in our lives.

It was a great atmosphere with champagne, good music, dancing and good food.

The "sweetest " moment was the serving of a delicious cake that was decorated with the Agora logo Romania.

What a beautiful day (and great night)!!!

But better let the images speak for themselves.

Yours in continued friendship

Angela Micu, AGORA 2 Brasov, Romania



Why Agora is so healthy for women.....

Dear Friends

When you read this you will realise just how much good we did ourselves this last weekend!
... and how much good we do ourselves every time we get together. Here's another good reason for being a member of Agora!

In friendship

Elise



In an evening class at Stanford University the last lecture was on the mind-body connection - the relationship between stress and disease. The speaker (head of psychiatry at Stanford) said, among other things, that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends. At first everyone laughed, but he was serious. Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences. Physically this quality "girlfriend time" helps us to create more serotonin - a neurotransmitter that helps combat depression and can create a general feeling of wellbeing. Women share feelings whereas men often form relationships around activities. We share from our souls with our sisters/mothers, and evidently that is very GOOD for our health. He said that spending time with a friend is just as important to our general health as jogging or working out at a gym. There's a tendency to think that when we are "exercising" we are doing something good for our bodies, but when we are hanging out with friends, we are wasting our time and should be more productively engaged? Not true. In fact, he said that failure to create and maintain quality personal relationships with other humans is as dangerous to our physical health as smoking!
So every time you hang out to schmooze with a gal pal, just pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for doing something good for your health! We are indeed very, very lucky. Sooooo let's toast to our friendship with our girlfriends. Evidently it's very good for our health. Forward this to all your girlfriends to stay in touch, just like I just did! Thanks to all the girls in my life who have helped me stay healthy, happy, and feeling very loved.



Impressions of a journey with the Viva Con Agua team to Ethiopia
Antje Meyn, member of TC 3 Kiel in Germany, travelled to Ethiopia.
Here are some of her impressions:



Itinerary from Addis Ababa to Afar and Amhara

1. Day: Addis Ababa
2. Day: Addis Ababa (A) – Adama – Awash – Mile – Logiya – Semera (B) → 570km
3. Day: Field visits
4. Day: Field visits & from Semera (B) to Alamata (C) → 290 km
5. Day: Field visit to Kobo (D) and back to Alamata → 100 km
6. Day: Alamata – Kobo – Woldiya – Dessie – Debre Birhan – Addis Ababa → 550km

Antje and the Viva con Agua team



On the way to the place, where drill RIGG is working.
An arid landscape populated by nomads.

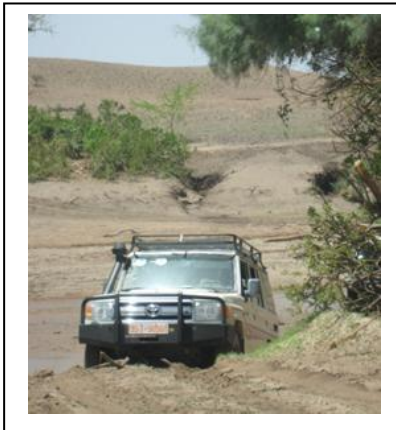


RIGG at work



Antje and RIGG

On the road again



The visitors are expected





Wells



A water kiosk



The way home.....?

Please remember: The deadline for your donations is the 15. of June!!

by Karen