

**NEWSLETTER 2
NOVEMBER 2012**



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ACI BOARD 2012-2013

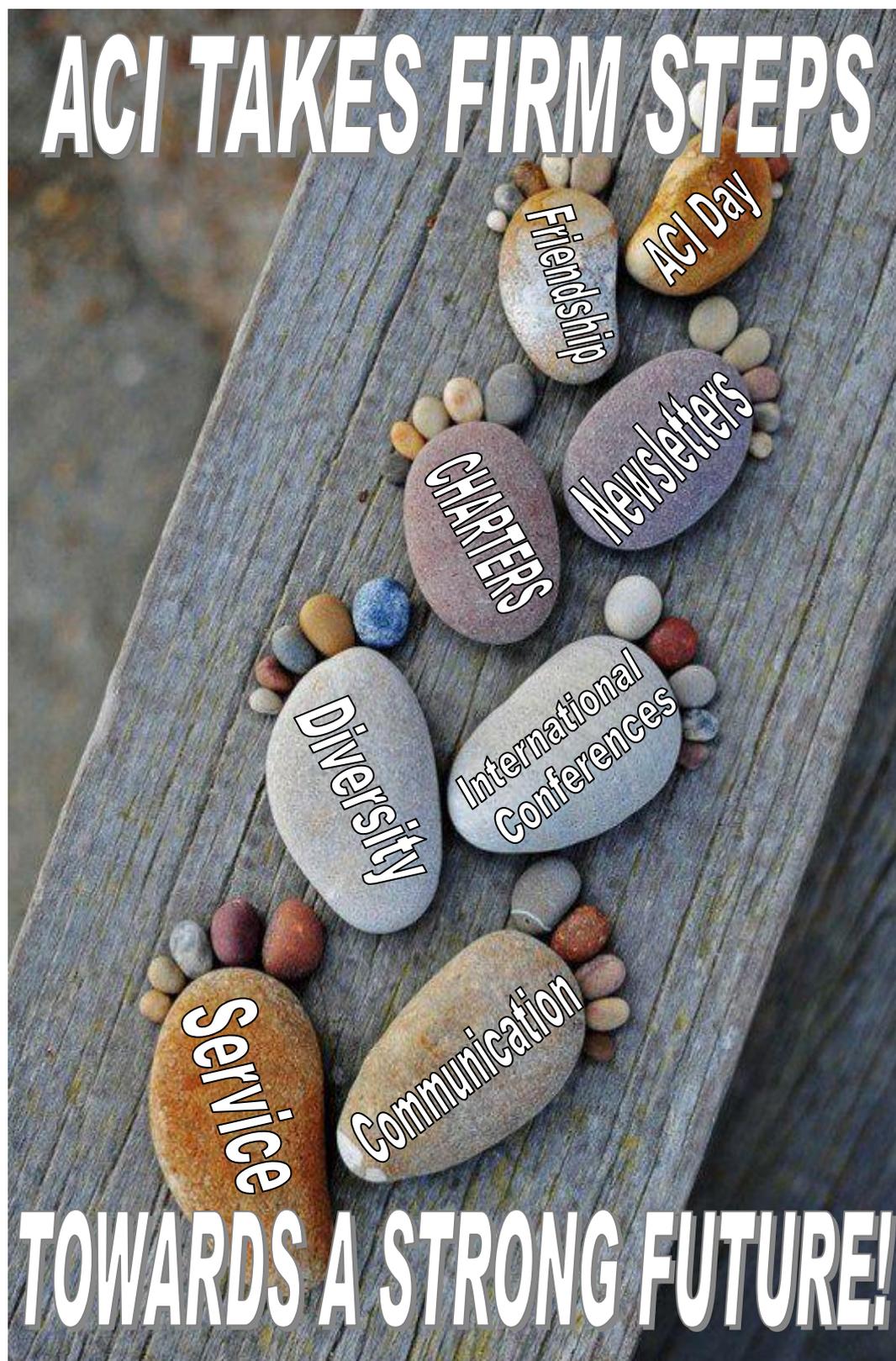
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Dear Agora friends,

The only way to predict the future is to invent it.

The step stones on the first page are the ways YOU as Agora members, Clubs and National Boards can invent and shape Agora's future.

Take those steps!

Make plans, communicate, commit to service and be strong in diversity.

The success of ACI day showed that Agora is very much alive!

Thank you for making this our very own special ACI day

...may there be many many more to follow!

Veerle – ACI President

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IMPORTANT DATES

13.-19. February ACI Boardmeeting 3

NEWS ACI

JUBILEE IN AGORA ! 25 YEARS AC FRANCE



When the founding country of Agora Club celebrates its 25 years of existence, that is SOMETHING SPECIAL! And our French Agora ladies decided quite rightly that this could not pass unnoticed.

So a grand party was organized in the town where the first Agora Club of France was chartered in 1987 in the northern town of Lille. The response on their invitation was a success: The beautiful venue filled up with guests from all over France, with many representatives of "Quatalagor", this is the cooperation of LC, RT, Agora and 41Club, which is very strong and active in France.

President Lydie Verdier and her lovely team made it a happening to remember: many of the former National Presidents were present and were recognized and applauded for their commitment and dedication. There was good food and good wine (as one expects in France!), speeches, a hilarious intervention by LC France, a very generous tombola for AC Lille's service projects and of course a lot of dancing !



Many of the former national presidents united for the picture!



Toasting on AC France with president Lydie

Congratulations dear friends of AC France! You have made the first steps in Agora 25 years ago. I am sure you must all be very proud of the huge steps Agora Club International has taken since then!

Veerle

Reports countries

AGORA ROMANIA

Romania is a country located in the South – East Europe, on the Lower Danube. It has a varied landscape, including the Carpathian Mountains, the Black Sea and the Danube Delta, the best preserved delta of Europe. Romanian villages generally maintain traditional lifestyles. The main attractions are some medieval towns from Transylvania and castles like Bran Castle (“the Dracula Castle”) , the Peles Castle or painted monasteries in Northern Moldavia.



The Transfagarasan in the Southern Carpathians. Built in the early 1970s, it is one of the highest and most dramatic roads in Romania.



Bran Castle near Brasov, sometimes advertised as "Dracula's castle"



Vornet Monastery



Peles Castle



Balea Lake



The Sphinx, natural rock from the Bucegi Mountains



The Danube Delta



The Cave of the Bears



Downtown Brasov

In 1997 the first Romanian Agora Club was chartered with Belgian international president Marie-Therese Montens. Under the motto "Friendship and Harmony" this club developed important projects like that with the Agora Club from Aarschot Belgium, concerning the help of the Arts and Music high-school.

In 2004 the club was dissolved for objective reasons.

In 2006 a group of ladies started to meet again under the motto "Donner et Tolerer", and the charter was organized in 2008 with the name Agora Club Nr.2 – Brasov. Some of its members were ex Ladies Circle and we had so many nice activities together. Last December we split in order to form the new club .

This has been possible due to the initiative of three ladies of our club, who wanted to increase the Agora Club force in Romania. So they created the nucleus of Agora Club Nr. 3- Brasov.

We tried to be as close to our friends and give them all the support in organizing this important event.

The charter meeting took place on Saturday afternoon, on the 10th of November , in a beautiful location in the center of Brasov city. We had many important guests from Belgium.

The meeting was honored by Veerle De Jonge, president of AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL, Karin Van Der Cruyssen, President of Agora Club Belgium, and Louise, Julia, Carol and Mercedes, the ladies from Agora Club UK in formation. .

Guests of the family Quatalagor from Romania (LC, RT, 41 Clubs) were also present and congratulated the members of Agora Club. Our national anthem was really sung life by all our Romanian guests.

Friday night we invited our guests to a party with Romanian specific, where all the ladies and gentlemen from the clubs dressed in traditional Romanian costumes.



The Gala Dinner was another beautiful moment of this event, with lots of fun, dancing, elegant ladies and gentlemen.



The delicious cake was decorated with the signs of the flag of Agora Club nr 3.

Fireworks lit up the sky above the citadel and created the perfect charter day.

But this was just the beginning. On the 5th of April we will charter a new Agora Club, Nr. 4, in another Romanian town - Craiova -, and hope to be as successful as the charter of Agora club Nr 3-Brasov.

This is the way the Agora club becomes stronger step by step in Romania.

“Every person is a new door to a different world”

Angela Micu

President Agora Club Nr. 2-Brasov Romania 2012-2013



TC 29 Weinheim hosted

Germany's Half Year Meeting

Down in the South of Germany it is not always “wine and dine” or “beer and bratwurst” together with great fun. No, this time it was also “hard work” for the delegates and the board, who had invited everybody for the half year meeting to a small town called Weinheim.

Many had arrived early that morning before the actual start of the programme and had already browsed the historic centre – bringing bags full with new shoes to the meeting. Warming-up with a hearty Lunch with regional cooking, the meeting started at the old town-hall at 2 o'clock.



Lighting the candle of friendship



Eva, NP LC Germany and Kiki, LC 29 Weinheim



Veronika, NP TC Germany and Raphael, IPP Old Tablers Germany

The most recently chartered club had the honour to light the candle of friendship and to read out the aims and objectives of Agora Club Tangent Germany.

President Veronika greeted everybody and thanked all guests (town-major and representatives from ACI, Old Table and Ladies Circle Germany) for coming. The guests themselves brought loads of best wishes, charming words for Ladies and ... Chocolate.

This merry start was followed by pleasurable and colourful reports from the board about their travels and work.

Most important item on the agenda – and probably anticipated by some ladies with mixed feelings – was the design of our new banner. Frederike, from Stuttgart, presented very distinctly and well articulated a short and effective presentation of the original problem (an outdated banner), the foundations (regulations and designers view-points) and the solution - three possible new designs. These were discussed during the coffee-break, although more attention was probably given to the home-baked cakes prepared by the Weinheim Ladies. Then a quick vote – and “problem solved” – we have a new banner!

This was followed by our treasurer and the Viva-con-Aqua-group showing how effectively we have handled money - and how successfully we have acquired donations for the ACI international service Projekt.

Steffi, from TC Lübeck, gave a great, humorous report of the ACI 2012 Conference with a typical hanseatic dry touch of understatement. It made those, who had attended, feel the joy and fun again and those who had not attended, wishing they had. Afterwards we learned that three more Clubs are in formation in Germany, we noted the national and international dates 2013 in our calendars, and worked through those assorted short items essential to every meeting.

Being in Weinheim it was out of the question not to end the meeting with a little “sparkle” from one of the local vineyards (I tell you very delicious and unfortunately not for sale).

Whoever wanted to stretch their legs, was able to get a torch-lit guided tour through the picturesque town before getting back to the lovely restaurant right at the market place. There – after a hot Caipirinha-punch taken outside – around 50 Ladies settled down for a great dinner and lots of chatting with old and new friends.

It was a lovely day and – as always – the community of Ladies is inspiring, joyful and a great pleasure to experience.

Claudia Wollkopf, TC 27 Hannover



The national board and the advisory board of Tangent Germany

Here are only a few of the many messages that went across the globe on ACI DAY !



LA DIVERSITÀ, LA NOSTRA RICCHEZZA E LA NOSTRA FORZA

BUON "ACI DAY" DAL CLUB AGORA VICENZA 2 ITALIA

14 NOVEMBRE 2012



On occasion of our ACI DAY on the 14th of November 2012 I hereby wish to congratulate all the members of the AGORA clubs.

We are very proud to be able to celebrate an AGORA anniversary the same way as they do in the Ladies Circle club. I feel that introducing this day by the Agora Club International board was a wonderful idea.

On this special day we send warm greetings to our lovely president Veerle de Jonge and to her wonderful team and our entire support for becoming "STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY".

Wishing you every happiness this special day brings. Have a great party!

Angela Micu

President of Agora Club No 2 –Brasov Romania



Dear Veerle ❤️,

Dear Ladies of the ACI Board ❤️,

and dear Ladies all over the Agora - World 🍷, The Board of Agora Club International Germany wish you (us) a wonderful first AGORA DAY!!!

As this day is my husband`s birthday as well, I will never ever forget it!!!

Tonight we`ll celebrate this special day with a lot of friends in the Agora feeling!

Enjoy many Agora moments, lots of love from Berlin!!!

Barbara, VP-ACT- Germany, IRO / TCD

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

During the past 17 years, we experienced so many splendid moments with such warm feelings of friendship, here in our club of "Oostende 2" in Belgium.

But now, we greatly appreciate our club being a member of a much larger entity.

For that reason, we plan to celebrate this special day by organizing a small board meeting on Wednesday afternoon, to feel the passion of friendship and service, and to share our ideas of Agora, together with our friends from all over the world.

Also, we'd like to send our best wishes to 'our' Veerle De Jonge, president of Agora Club International.

With all her enthusiasm, and together with her sympathetic ACI board, we are sure that she will accomplish a fantastic ACI year.

After 25 years, Agora has become an open, international club for a diversity of women, all being glad and proud to be a part of it!

Warm Agora regards from all our members,

Mimi Hamerlinck-Derycke

President of Agora Club 2 Oostende Belgium



Dear Friends,
we wish you all the best in this important day, that joins Agora Ladies all over the world.
Have a wonderful Agora day!!!!!!!
Love and Kisses
Elisabetta Ferin - National President Agora Club Italy



Sharing your passion, stronger through diversity



The National board of Agora Club Belgium wish you all the biggest motivation, the widest tolerance, the greatest understanding, the endless affection and the ever lasting friendship in your Agora club life!
We wish you all a wonderful ACI - DAY !!!!
MIMI - MARISE - KARINE - KAREN - YVONNE



Dear ACI members and Agora ladies all over the world!

CACI wishes you all the best on this happy day and hope that all days are happy days.

Warm wishes from Casablanca
Kaoutar Guessous, Iro CACI



My dearest Sandy, Nikkie, Elisabeth and Karen

very specially to you all : HAPPY ACI DAY !!

- May this day give us some time to reflect
- on our association,
 - on the good vibes between us five,
 - on our responsibility in ACI and in the 4C1V idea,
 - on positivity towards each other
 - on generosity in trust
 - on belief of our good will to each other and others

In one word thank you for your friendship that makes all the above possible !

love,
Veerle xxxx



Dear friends of Agora Clubs in the world, dear ACI Board,
 We wish a very beautiful day in Friendship and Tolerance.
 Best regards
 Agora Club Lemna 1 in Switzerland

HAPPY ACI DAY



Dear all,
 May the 14th of November 2012 be
 the first in a long tradition of ACI DAYS.....
 Maybe we should stand still for a moment and think
 about the meaning of our motto's words
FRIENDSHIP & TOLERANCE and how we can use our
 membership of a wonderful organisation like AGORA
 to put the meaning of those words into practice regionally,
 nationally and world wide!
 The Boardmembers of AC the Netherlands
 wish you a wonderful and inspiring ACI DAY!
 Conchita Wormer
 President AC the Netherlands



AGORA club STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY

AGORA CLUB BELGIUM WETTEREN 12

SAVE YOUR PASSION AGA 2012-2013

AGORA CLUB BELGIUM

Agoraclub 12 Wetteren Belgium wishes
 you a very
Happy Agora-ACI Day
 14 november 2012

Elke druppel water telt...
 Every drop of water counts...

VIVA CON AGUA
 SANKT PAULI

Dear Agora Ladies, all over the world!
 Best Wishes for a wonderful ACI Day!!



Lots of Love and Friendship from
 all in Agora Club SA,
 Beverley Patterson
 President of Agora Club South Africa

On behalf of AC Zambia- LUSAKA
**HERE IS TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY
 HAPPY ACI DAY . MAY OUR ACI DREAMS
 AND ASPIRATIONS BE REFLECTED IN ALL
 THAT WE DO TODAY.HAPPY ACI DAY,
 MUCH LOVE FROM ALL OF US.**
 Florence M Kaunda



ACI international day 14th. November 2012

Agora Iceland sends you warm
 greetings and wish you all the
 best for the ACI day. We are
 so proud to be a member of
 the diversified Agora family
 tree.



Agora club-1 Akureyri
 Agora Club-2 Reykjavik/Keflavik



ACI DAY 14th November 2012

'Our Veerle' had the brilliant idea to organize an evening at the movies with mothers-daughters/sisters-friends on our first ACI-day.

Since quite a few members of our club had other commitments that evening, we were with a relatively small delegation at the Siniscoop in St-Niklaas.

Veerle, Tine and I had brought our wildly enthusiastic daughters and Chris and Mimi used witchcraft to join us on time after a busy day at work.

The planned film was cancelled so our choice fell on the last film with Ben Affleck: 'ARGO' ; exciting from the beginning till the end!

Afterwards we did some (a whole lot ;-)) of catching up with a good glass of wine.

The Agora-ladies and their daughters wholeheartedly agreed:"this we must do again most definitely"

TXS Veerle for the great initiative.

Karin Chaffart AC7 Lokeren-Waasland Belgium



My first ACI Day

... passed by with death and liveliness in one.
A very good and old friend was buried on that
14th of November 2012.

On the other hand I got your amazing, very
differing, colourful and warm heating Emails with
best wishes from all over the world!

Joy and grief are sometimes close together.
Thank you, dear members worldwide, for all your
touching messages and friendship.

Elisabeth, IPP ACI

Dear ladies,
my personal experience to the first ever ACI day:

My week started with a real shock on Friday 9th November when my dearest Mother-in-law passed away suddenly while sitting in her chair watching TV. She passed away as she lived, with serenity and dignity. And then it started - the phone calls, sms's, visitors etc. The Louis Trichardt community was amazing to both our family and Vaughan's sisters family, as they made a roster and ensured our tables were ladled with food. On 14th November amidst the chaos of family arriving, organizing a memorial service and in between trying to get some work done, the wonderful ACI Day messages of friendship and love arrived from all over the world. Who would have guessed that these messages about AGORA and the women who make it work, would be just the positive energy I required to pull myself together, and provide the rest of the family the support they needed as they arrived from all over SA, tearful and sad at the passing of their beloved, Sister, Aunt and Granny. Whenever I felt I was at the edge of not coping, I just sat at my laptop and re read the AGORA ACI messages! Ladies you are all truly an inspiration, wherever you are in the world! Your messages and wishes regarding AGORA, although having nothing to do with my situation – pulled me through. My own AGORA club and AGORA SA were so supportive and caring, which makes me realize its ACI day everyday!

Regards Sandy,
Vicepresident ACI



Dear ACI ladies,

Our Agora Day has been the occasion to consolidate our links of friendship. We met in the evening and enjoyed dinner at Donata's home. The smart and elegant members of Agora Vicenza had the opportunity to taste "fabolous gnocchi", a typical recipe of Venetian cooking (little dumplings made of potatoes, flour and Parmisan cheese).



We also talked about the possible ways of strengthening our club by enlarging the number of members with new entries.....A toast to all of you Agora ladies!

In friendship
Stefania Cinefra
President AC Vicenza