



## 1. GUIDELINES HOW TO BEGIN AGORA CLUB IN A NEW COUNTRY

### HOW AGORA CLUB NORMALLY BEGINS IN A NEW COUNTRY

The information about Agora Club is normally brought to a new country by befriended Agora members or former LC friends, who inform past and befriended non-past Ladies' Circlers about Agora Club. The membership in Agora Club is available to past Circlers above the age of 45 as set down in the Rules of LCI or any age limit as set by the constitutional rules of the LC country and to non past Circlers above the age of 42. So, often members are Ex-Circlers, but all other ladies interested can be invited as member.

Agora Club International Board can not send a representative to all those countries where interest is shown to Agora Club, therefore we have guidelines that can be sent to these ladies and they can be gradually introduced to the ideas and activities of AC (Agora Club).

In the initial phase the personal contacts of Agora Members or Past-Circlers are of extreme importance and the role of the Godmother Country is crucial. The Godmother Country is usually that country that first had contact with this new prospective country.

The ACI Board should be informed immediately, when such contacts are established and the ACI Board officially nominates the Godmother Country.

Steps that lead to forming and chartering a new club:

#### INITIAL STAGE

The Past Circlers and ladies interested, begin to meet each other regularly and look for other prospective members. At this stage they need information about Agora Club, its ideas, aims and objectives, rules etc. How to run the meetings, write the minutes and who should be kept informed are the basic instructions. Sometimes, it can be very useful to find a "Godmother Club" in the Godmother Country to provide the prospective club with meeting practice and club rules. The ACI Board should be kept informed of the progress.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING

When there are at least 5 women interested, a meeting should be held, where a resolution is taken that "An Agora Club should be formed, to be known as ...". A President, Vice - President, Secretary and Treasurer should be elected.

As from this moment the new country is officially "in formation".

Minutes of this Inaugural Meeting should be kept and copies sent to the ACI Board and the President of the Godmother Country. Thereafter all the minutes should be sent to ACI Board and to the President of the Godmother Country.

## **BUSINESS MEETINGS AND CHARTER**

At least 10 business meetings should be held by this new club, before the chartering can be considered. The ACI Board should be informed well in advance of this stage. Before this new Agora Club can be chartered, **their Aims and Objectives must be sent to the ACI Secretary before 30th of June prior to the ACI AGM, at which it will be considered.** It is recommended, that a representative of this new club should be present at that particular ACI AGM. Thereafter, ACI President may charter this new club, which then, automatically, becomes an Associate Member of ACI. (Ask for the "Guidelines for the charter of the N°1 Club in a new Agora Country" (guideline N°2)). The first Club in a new Country is always chartered by the ACI President or her representative.

Send the ACI Board the contact details of the Club Board (the President, Vice-President, Secretary and the Treasurer). Without this information, the ACI Board can not send you the necessary letters, directories and other mailings. Remember to keep these details updated in case of any changes. All communication with Agora Club International and the Godmother Club is done by e-mail and in English.

## **AFTER THE CHARTER**

Thereafter, the N° 1 Club should be provided with the complete ACI rules and Guidelines. The new club should be encouraged to attend ACI Conferences.

The N° 1 Club expands and tries to establish new clubs in the Country. When there are minimal 2 or more clubs in the Country, it is wise to form a National Association and elect a National Board. Again, the National Board of the Godmother Country plays a very important role. The ACI Board has to be informed if the 2 existing Clubs are considering forming a National Association. The ACI President or her representative will be present at the installation of the National board.

The new Country can apply for Full Membership of ACI, when there are at least two clubs and a National Board (ask ACI Secretary for the document N°6: Application form for Full Membership)

You can find all necessary contact-addresses and other information on the web site  
[www.agoraclubinternational.com](http://www.agoraclubinternational.com)