

NEWSLETTER 1  
OCTOBER 2012



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

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Dearest Agora friends,

For the countries above the equator, November is the autumn month, but in our Agora World it feels like **springtime** ☺

After the fabulous ACI Conference in Lübeck -of which you will find a fun report in this newsletter- it is time to look ahead! So many great things await us in November: a very special day will be our very first...

**ACI DAY**

**on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2012**

Do take the opportunity to organize something for the ACI project. We are STRONG THROUGH DIVERSITY and strong enough to make a difference in the lives of people who are in need. Viva con Agua needs our support!

This month will be very festive for AC France as well: on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, our French Agora friends celebrate their **25 years** of existence! What an achievement! Don't forget to send wishes to them: National President Lydie Verdier : [verdierlydie@yahoo.fr](mailto:verdierlydie@yahoo.fr)

And again ACI grows: After AC 14 Arlon Le Sud in Belgium and AC 44 Vitré-Sevigne in France, it will be AC 3 Brasov in Romania which takes its first steps in to the Agora world on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Congratulation wishes to be sent to: Club President Dora Grigori [doragrigori@gmail.com](mailto:doragrigori@gmail.com)

Every National Board will receive the new ACI Directory 2012-2013 shortly now.

This directory will guide you through the course of the year and together with the ACI website will provide you with a mine of information. Please take some time to read through it, it will give you all the info needed to plan your Agora year ahead, but most of all it will enable you to get -or stay- in touch with Agora friends across the world.

*Lots of love and enjoy Agora! Veerle*

# INDEX NEWSLETTER

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Important dates next 3 months              | Page 2      |
| 2. Reports ACI Board                          |             |
| • Sandy and Nikkie met LCI webmaster Bronwenn | Page 2      |
| • ACI conference Lübeck by Elisabeth          | Page 3 - 8  |
| • Veerle's incoming president's speech        | Page 9 - 10 |
| • ACI stock                                   | Page 10     |
| • Charter AC 14 Arlon le sud by Veerle        | Page 11     |

## IMPORTANT DATES

09.-11. November Charter AC 3 Brasov, Romania

10. November half year meeting TC Germany

14. November ACI DAY

17.-19. November 25 years AC France

## NEWS ACI BOARD



Nikkie and Sandy attended a meeting of LC 7 Northridge in South Africa, where they met Bronwenn Odendaal, the LCI webmaster and exchanged the presidential pins of their international organisations.

# ACI Conference 2012 in Germany

By Elisabeth



## We lost our hearts in Lübeck!

The **16<sup>th</sup> International Agora Conference** took place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of October. About 120 participants have been captured by the modern flair of the old Hanseatic Town which is famous for its architecture & marzipan.

AC Tangent Lübeck, and especially the Conference Committee Steffi, Antje N., Antje D., Barbara, Doris and Mariella welcomed all friends and guests with a fresh breeze and *warm hearts!*



For the **Welcome** we met in “Dat Hoogehus”, an old business house with impressive and charming rooms and built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Round about 100 persons laughed, chatted, had fun and enjoyed the atmosphere with the fresh autumn decoration on all tables and for food a sucking pig, many different salads and desserts. We finished not too late because an exciting day expected us on Saturday ...

For the **AGM** we assembled in the well prepared conference room of Atlantic Hotel starting with some words of welcome.

Our very *special guest*, LCI President Gitte Hoeyer from LC Denmark, lightened the candle of friendship, honoured member Danielle from AC Belgium read our aims and objectives.

Representatively for our ill national Tangent Germany President Veronika our IPP Brigitte started with *speeches by guests*, followed by Gitte, Paolo from 41Club Italy and Peter from OT1 Berlin speaking for Old Tablers Germany; LC Germany President Eva spoke at the Gala.

Afterwards all men left for the partner's programme and we quickly and busily went through our Agenda. Thanks to the good secretary's preparations we had a fruitful and successful AGM in tolerance and harmony. Veerle showed us her terrific (!!)

Power Point Presentation on the Board's activities!

The *membership trophy for full member countries* was a nice surprise because we had a pat situation:

The Netherlands who took the trophy home and Italy who won for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

The *membership trophy for associated member countries* went to AC Zambia! Congratulations!

Isabelle from AC France presented us the venues and many details for the *ACI AGM 2013* taking place in a winery near Hyères!



Sandy from AC South Africa told and showed us first impressions of her country hosting the *ACI Conference in 2014!*

Both really well done! Thank you Isabelle and Sandy!



Another PPT on the ISP "*Viva con Agua*" was shown by Sabine Zange, head of the German Tangent ISP Team. Together with some more ladies of this team she sold items, for ex. postcards and an amazing self painted calendar, which you can order for 15€ by IPP Elisabeth.



*At the end of the conference* we all have been surprised by a very warm heating presentation, presented mainly by her Club friend Carine and 10 other Belgian friends! Only fantastic!  
Name: VEERLE. We all have been very impressed, especially Veerle herself!



Thank you dear Carine!

The *last act* was the *count down* for Veerle.  
Our brand new international president came forward to give us her first presidential speech!

#### STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY

***“Diversity is not how about we differ. Diversity is how we embrace and respect each other’s uniqueness”.***

With this motto Veerle goes back to the roots of Agora and the philosophy how Agora Club International has always stood for since the start in 1987 in France: openness to circlers and to non-past circlers and also to Tangent countries who wish to experience continued friendship on international level.

Congratulations Veerle and all our best wishes for your presidential year together with your Board 2012-2013: VP Sandy, Secretary Karen, Treasurer Nikkie and IPP Elisabeth and all ACI members worldwide!



At the **Gala Evening**...and as last act of my presidential year we changed our jewels.  
We celebrated this finalizing event in an old, noble decorated and very festive hall.  
The food was really delicious and the dessert buffet consists of tempting “creations”.  
The conference committee sold 400 *tombola tickets* for 100 prices! What a success!  
After all official procedures we started dancing, mainly we ladies ... with a power and joy what the two DJ’s experienced for the first time!!  
Never before they saw so many *dancing and laughing* women with so much energy!



Finalizing this wonderful ACI weekend we had a **Champagne Farewell** on a sightseeing boat with clear blue sky after two days of rain and we enjoyed last Lübeck impressions and a last chat with old and new friends.



**Good Bye, dear Ladies and Friends!**

**SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR IN HYERES**



## PICTURES & IMPRESSIONS

### PRE ... PRE ... PRE



**Board 2011-2012**  
**BM5 in Hamburg:**  
 Short walk along the  
 outer lake "Alster"  
**Sightseeing amongst**  
**old Store Houses**  
*from left:* Veerle, Brigitte,  
 Elisabeth, Nicole, Karen,  
 Nikkie, Sandy



### WELCOME

The Conference Committee, other Lübeck Ladies and the cook are welcoming us.



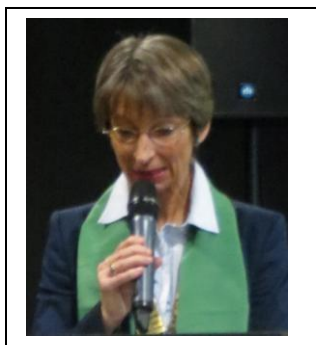
The  
 lovely  
 Welcome  
 Bags

Our two  
 Chefs:  
  
 Steffi  
 &  
 Antje



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

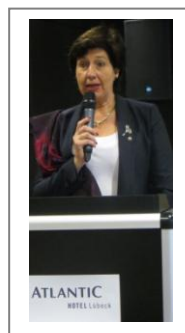
Conference Hotel Atlantic



Welcome Dear Friends Worldwide!



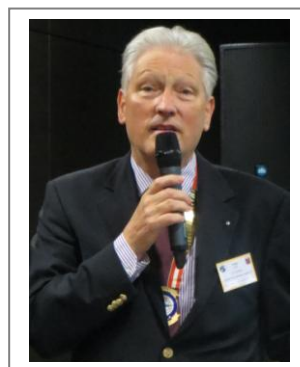
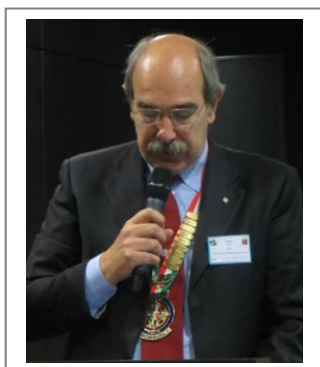
Gitte lightens  
the Candle of Friendship



Danielle reads  
the Aims & Objectives

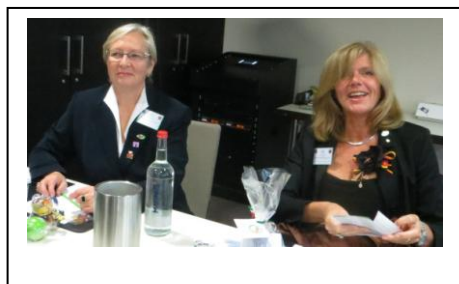
## The Men's Speakers

IPP Paolo from 41 Club Italy and Peter from OT1 Berlin representing Old Tablers Germany



## The two Tellers / "Enjoy" la France 2013

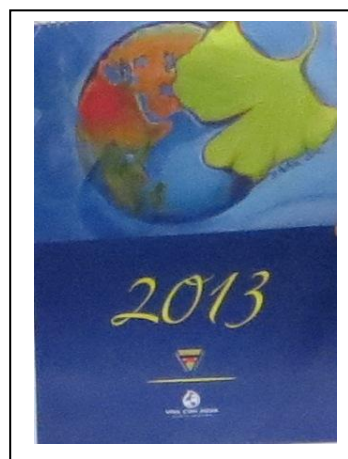
Petra and Karin / Motto ACI AGM 2013 / Mireille & Isabelle





## The “Viva con Agua“ Team / The hand painted Calendar

*From left: Sabine, Ursula, Antje, Brigitte, Ilse*

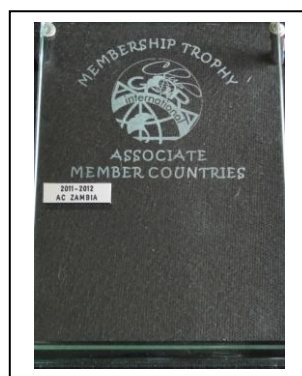


## The Membership Trophy

Congratulation to  
The Netherlands & Italy



Congratulation to  
Zambia



## Veerle's presidential speech & her new Board 2012-13



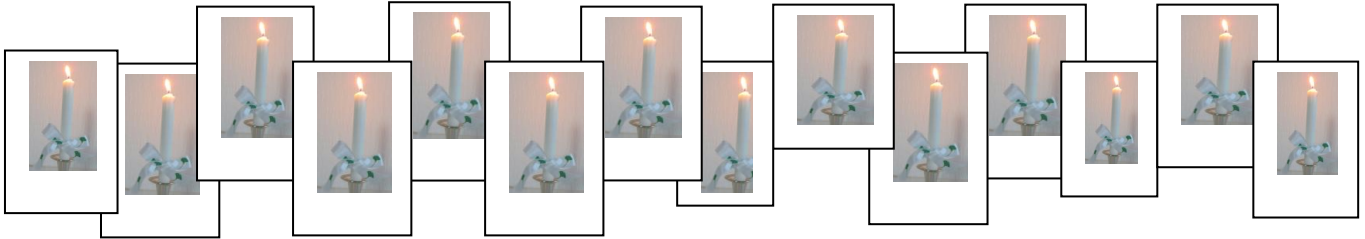
**Goody Bye**  
dear “Treasi” Nicole



## GALA EVENING

### Candles of Friendship for the Presidents 2011-2012

Mimi, Marie-France, Brigitte, Yifat, Donata, Pam, Martje, Kelly, Adina, Sonia,  
Elise, Charity, Fatima, Louise



**Oh happy Day...** (Sister Act)  
Presidents & Boardies 2011-12



**I will follow him/HER...** (Sister Act)  
Veerle and her Board 2012-2013



**GOOD BYE LÜBECK 2012**  
**Thank you, LADIES, for ALL**



**Dear ladies,**  
**for those of you, who did not have the chance to listen to Veerle's speech**  
**as incoming ACI president at the ACI conference, here it is:**

Dearest friends,

In the year 2000, I was in the same position as many of you here : I attended my first international AGM, which was at that time the Ladies' Circle International conference in South Africa.

The international part of service club life was all new to me then, and during those meetings I was fascinated by the women around me: so many ladies of all race and color, united around the common idea of friendship and service.

12 years later I stand before you all, and I see the same drive, the same emotions, the same colorful group of women, coming from all parts of the world – and believing in what we are here for today : exchanging ideas, making plans, setting goals for the future, all this with great respect for our diversity.

Many years ago, in 1987, the founding members of Agora Club in France started with the specific idea to have open membership. Agora Club also welcomed members who were not past-Circlers, and I thank our French founding boards for this wise decision, because it is exactly this diversity that has become Agora Club's strength today.

Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about how we embrace each other's uniqueness.

Once we apply this philosophy, we become stronger as a person, as a group, even as a worldwide association.

And we can become **STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY!**



But it all starts at the base, with your personal little thread you weave into this cable. Each one of you is important; you add your own special color to your local club, to make it unique, to make the club's cable stronger.

I ask you to look around you just as I did so many years ago : do you see all these wonderful women, from different backgrounds and beliefs, who stand for the same values as you do?

Can you see their diversity, and can you also see that this diversity makes us stronger, brings us new angles, new points of view which enrich our club life?

I also ask you to look beyond the borders of your club. Keep on growing as a Club, keep on weaving those colorful threads of different members, different beliefs, different hopes, different dreams and different plans, it will only enrich our beautiful Agora tapestry.

It should also be stressed that once you are member of Agora, it does not matter whether you are a past circler, a non-past circler, or part of a ACI Tangent member country: you are a fully-fledged member, who will be allowed to commit herself on local level, who can represent her country at national level, and when you are part of a full member country you can even join the ACI Board.

This acceptance of diversity avoids exclusivity and elitism – which are ideas of past generations.

Agora Club International has proven that this modern and progressive attitude of tolerance for diversity works and enriches club life.

We have had Friendship and Tolerance in our motto from the beginning, and we can be proud that we will carry this into the future!

Let us commit to keep on growing **STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY**

This commitment is our gift to the Agora generations to come.

Thank you.

## Stock items of ACI like



ACI pins and stickers



Presidential pins



ACI pens



Maglites

are kept in Belgium and  
can be ordered from Veerle !!!

## Charter AC 14 Arlon le Sud in AC Belgium



On the 13th of October 2012, we were very privileged to witness the first steps of 12 lovely ladies into our Agora world. AC 14 Arlon Le Sud is situated in the most Southern tip of Belgium, a beautiful area in the Ardennes, very near to the Luxembourg border.

Most of the Belgian Clubs were represented at the charter ceremony, which gave the ceremony an extra special and festive feel. And despite the pouring rain outside the atmosphere in the beautiful town hall was warm and cozy.

The Arlon ladies proved to be very creative: their president Annick designed their logo, of which the ladies made very pretty banners. They even offered self-made wine "Maitrank" to the guests! A much appreciated gesture by all!



Karine, AC Belgium's President went to the Gala evening, and this is her report :

*The evening party was in the Abbey of Clairefontaine with delicious treats from the Italian cuisine. There were lots of beautiful prizes to win like ballooning, scarfs of Hermès... It was a lovely, great party with too much "Maitrank".*

*The overnight stay at a nice hotel in Arlon, in the center of the Belgian Ardennes was the base for an exhausting but super nice day full of friendship.*

It is clear that AC Belgium and Agora International welcomed a strong new Club into their midst with vibrant and enthusiastic ladies!

**Welcome to the world of Agora dear friends!**

*Veerle De Jonge*

President Agora Club International

*Karine Van der Cruyssen*

President Agora Club Belgium



President Annick, and the ladies of Agora Club Arlon le Sud.