

NEWSLETTER 12
September 2013

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AGORAclub international

Dearest Agora friends,

This is it ...

The circle has been completed

The Agora year has almost come to an end

The threads of my "Stronger Through Diversity" logo have mingled into a beautiful painting of exciting and vibrant colours : The colours of friendship, commitment and passion for the association we care for and love so much!

This is the 12th newsletter : YOUR newsletter !

12 months of reports and stories,

12 months of telling each other how Agora is doing in your country, in your club, in your life

A year of positivity, fun, laughter, plans and true Agora Sparkle!

Thank you for all your contributions; you have made it easy for our dear secretary Karen to compile a fascinating newsletter each month.

The circle is complete ... or ... nearly!

Let us celebrate the end of this year and the start of the next one, together, on what promises to be an unforgettable ACI Conference, in the beautiful city of Hyères !

Looking forward to see you there!

Xxx Veerle - ACI president



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IMPORTANT DATES

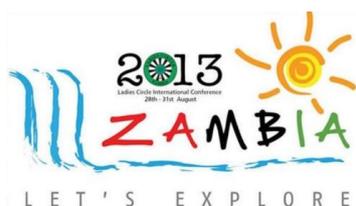
Next 3 months

- 07.-10. October Boardmeeting 5 in Hyères, France
- 11.-13. October ACI AGM in Hyères, France
- 14. October Boardmeeting 1 and 2 in Hyères, France
- 25.-27. October Club 41 International HYM, Örenäs Castle Sweden

Reports ACI



Dear ladies, after two years as ACI Secretary I want to **thank you** for your contributions to the ACI newsletters, as they made them very colourful and special!



LCI CONFERENCE - ZAMBIA 21st - 24th of August 2013

Veerle reports :

Attending the LCI conference in Zambia was a good opportunity for me to visit the 15th and final one of our member countries this year. And what a "grand finale" it was!

What a joy to meet so many of my Zambian friends again: President Charity, IPP and founding President Sylvia, Rose, Florence, Rhoda, and so many others.

AC Zambia is doing a great, with the promise of growth in the near future. The projects Agora Club Zambia supports are valuable and precious and make a huge difference in the local communities.



We managed to organize a meeting together with Kgomo Tshetso, who came all the way from Gabarone, so we could meet and talk about the future of Agora in Botswana. Since that memorable meeting AC Botswana is officially in formation, so Agora Club goes from strength to strength in Southern Africa.

The LCI AGM had the usual mix of solemn and festive, with many highlights such as inducting 3 member countries as Full Member (LC Luxembourg, LC Madagascar and LC Nepal), and welcoming 2 new countries (Switzerland and Tanzania). Choosing the new International Service Project and of course the induction of the new LCI Board always brings an extra "buzz" to the meeting.



The highlight for the Agora Club/Ladies' Circle friendship was of course the handover of a cheque of **11000€** for the International Service Project: A wonderful confirmation of our yearlong cooperation, and proof of the generous Agora-service-mind of our members worldwide. Thank you dear Agora friends for all your contributions!

With many LC/AC friends I lived memorable moments : my Belgian ladies, adorable as "Smurfs" (yes me too!), the nice delegation of Agora Club Norway, my lovely Moroccan, South African, Italian, Luxembourg, French, Cypriote and GB friends and many many more. The good conversations we had, the laughter we shared! Unforgettable!



The rest of the weekend was exotic and interesting, filled with fun and international friendship.

We sure learned how to shake those hips the Zambian way!

Congratulations to AC and LC Zambia, you were terrific, warmhearted and generous hosts. A special thank you to my dear friends Steve and Sylvia Mwansa, for being once more the most lovely hosts one could wish for.

xxx *Veerle*



BOTSWANA COMES ON BOARD!

On Friday 20 September 4 ladies from Amarula Club 1 SA set off on a 7 hour road trip – to BOTSWANA. What an exciting and exhilarating time we had. The laughter started in the first hour – it took us that long to leave our town Louis Trichardt, after collecting everyone and remembering items left at home – you know, AGORA MOMENTS!



We arrived in a hot (41.5°C) Botswana – and the warmth just continued. A very warm welcome by the ladies on Friday night for a dinner at the LC Botswana National President , DUDU’s home , to a rather “warm” to “hot” but delicious curry for dinner. From then on a weekend of fun and laughter and sharing LC and AGORA memories around a HOT camp fire on Saturday’s Bush Braai and Game drive.



And then, the moment we were eagerly waiting, for the inaugural meeting of AGORA BOTSWANA. The excitement to start AGORA CLUB BOTSWANA was tangible as the ladies present expressed their joy and pleasure that AGORA BOTSWANA was at last a reality. Circlers past and present, as well as ladies keen to join LC but did not qualify due to age barriers, were bubbling with ideas of working together and the way forward. The atmosphere was alive and vibrant as we discussed issues and planned for the future.



A special thank-you to Ruth Hungwe from LC Botswana and Kgomotso Tshkiso for taking the first step and getting the show on the road. Ladies you are stars!! To all the ladies who attended the first meeting on behalf of the ACI BOARD THANK-YOU!!! We cannot wait to meet you all in SA at the ACI AGM 2014



Congratulations to the first board – Chairman Kgomotso, Vice Khurshida, Secretary Gertie and Treasurer Salima.

Sandy van Niekerk

ACI VP 2012-2013



Charter AC Tours 7 Renaissance - France *21st of September 2013*

When Danielle Vaugeois invited me to the charter/restart of AC 7 I did not hesitate : Danielle has been a great friend and a “grande dame” in Agora Club France, with a view directed to the future of Agora in her local club, but also nationally and internationally.

So knowing Danielle, the restart of her Club was sure to be a great event.



The very modern and hip banner



Although we could not spend the whole Charter weekend, Danielle Gardin and I drove to France to join in the official Charter event : a 5 hour drive brought us in the lovely city of Tours, nice in time for the start of the official Charter. No less than 200 guests registered for the weekend, a weekend full of surprises.



The impressive venue for the Charter



12 lovely ladies from AC 7 Tours Renaissance

Dear Danielle, thank you for the warm welcome and the delicate and lovely presents. It is clear that the 12 ladies of AC Tours are dedicated and energetic ladies, bursting with ideas and creativity. Well done Danielle and to all the AC 7 ladies and *Bienvenue en Agora !*

Veerle xxx
ACI President 2012-2013



With Danielle Vaugeois and Dominique Gombert, Ntl President AC France

**ACI-LCI togetherness, Side by Side
Makes minds and hopes and hearts open wide**

**This friendship is like a beautiful song
and creates rich melodies for years to come**

**Its tone is made of respect and sympathy
which results in an exciting and whirling symphony**

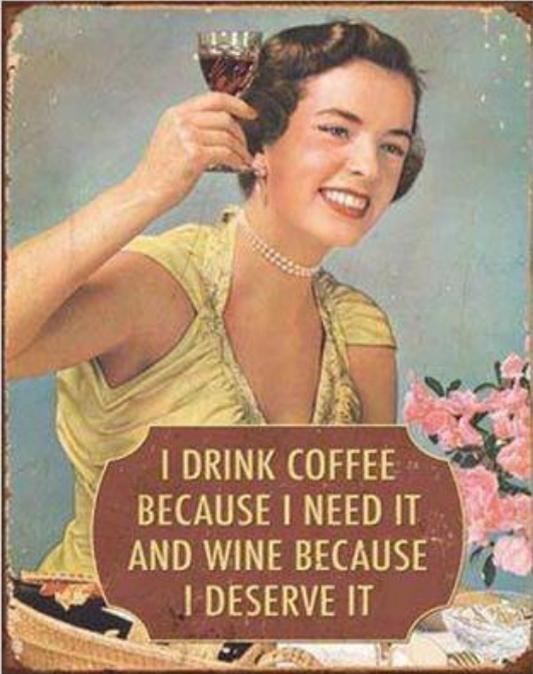
**We are each other's future, each other's past
So may this magical song forever last**

Veerle



ACI President Veerle and LCI President Cindy
both from Belgium

Dear ladies, at the end of the Agora year we found out,
that Agora ladies are like this.....



Reports countries

SOLIDARITY

During a meeting together with Round Table, Ladies' Circle, Agora Club and Club 41 last October 2012, it was decided to devote one day every year to Solidarity and the organization of the event would be taken in turns. The first event was Agora's turn. It was chosen Modena as organizing local Club also because the National project of Solidarity was in favor of the people around that town who suffered so much because of the earthquake of May 2012.



On 19th May 2013 more than 200 friends belonging to *4 clubs one vision, 4 clubs one mission*, gathered together to celebrate this cohesion, sharing of good values and great friendship. We all had a great time, wonderful food, superb music and sunshine. Moreover we were able to collect a good amount of money for the Italian Agora Club Project.



The four National Boards were all present!

The Italian Agora Clubs were all present!

Thank you R.T Italy, L.C. Club 41 and Agora Club Italy and, above all, thank you Club Agora Modena for the wonderful organization which has been so much appreciated that next year, even though organized by Club 41, SOLIDARITY will be held in Modena at the end of National Agora Club Italy AGM on 11th May 2014.

Letizia Iulli
National President