



Newsletter issue 6 July 2018



Dear Agora ladies,

I hope that you have so far enjoyed the summer.

The newsletter #6 is here and it contains a lot of great stories shared from our lovely friends all over the world.

Enjoy !!!

María Erla,

ACI Secretary

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ACI President Isabelle - Intro

My dear Agora Ladies,

You all well finished your Agora year with your AC AGM these last 2 months. Congratulations to all of you for the hard work you did to make our Agora Club growing, shining and helping others worldwide. You really did an amazing job... I am proud of you!!!

I loved seeing your pictures on FB or on your reports with your happy faces and beautiful smiles you only could have when you are all together sharing precious moments.

Now, it is time for holidays: travelling, discovering or doing nothing... Whatever you would like, it is summer time!!!



It is time for you to **open your eyes** to appreciate the landscape of your holidays place, to **open your heart** to your loved ones who share these precious moments with you and to **do much more** for your family, friends, Agora Clubs and someone in need, when you will come back home rested and satisfied!

Enjoy your holidays, enjoy summer time and see you very soon in Gent for our ACI Conference in Gent, Belgium.

Isabelle Séguinot

ACI President 2017-18

EFTW Mission Madagascar

EFTW MISSION MADAGASCAR



4 - 9 MAY 2018

REPORT BY CARLA KESSELER AC Venlo, The Netherlands

Dear Agora friends,

As some of you might already know, I had the immense pleasure of joining the Agora Club International EFTW Mission to Madagascar from the 4th to the 9th of May 2018.

When former ACI President Veerle De Jonge asked me –at the end of the Charter of AC Twente if I would be interested to join the mission, I did not have to think long....such a chance does not come along too often!

After all necessary administrative and medical preparations Veerle, Carine Everaert (AC Belgium) and I were ready for the big trip. Sadly enough, due to strikes at railroads and at Air France- our leave was postponed from the 3rd of May to the 5th.

We were welcomed at the airport of Antananarivo by a wonderful delegation of AC Sariaka ladies, and were guided to our home hosting address, the house of Railovy Andrianavalona.

Since we arrived 2 days later than the foreseen date, the already busy programme had to be conducted



in fewer days, which resulted in a 6 O'clock wake-up call every day ☺

The first day we were able to talk about the project to the local press, and yes we even made it to National Television, which gave the EFTW project beautiful and necessary exposure.

Despite the very full programme the Agora ladies managed to squeeze in a visit to an ancient palace and a lunch with local dishes in an impressive location on top of a mountain.



During the course of the next days, no less then 693 children and a few adults were screened and 255 spectacles were handed out.

This was done in a very disciplined way, thanks to the good organisation of the AC Sariaka ladies and the valued help of local Doctor Ophtamologist Dr. Mathieu Andriamahenina and Belgian EFTW optometrist Koen Van Pottelbergh.

Without the Agora Sariaka ladies and Dr. Mathieu, we could not have done it: Most of the children only speak Malagasy so translation was key for the success of the screenings.





Because AC Venlo (Carla's Club) was extremely proud that one of their members joined the EFTW mission, they donated an extra 1000€ for school equipment, which was handed over during the mission.



During our visit to the schools we helped last year (2017), it became clear that follow-up is very important after each mission. To ensure that the children take good care of their spectacles and really use them in the classroom, it is of great importance that teachers are involved and made aware of the importance of these spectacles for the future of the children.

The poverty in the rural areas where we worked was quite shocking, and to know that SEEING can make such a difference in these children's schooling, indeed to their future, is something that can't be stressed enough.

Next to last year's EFTW projects, we visited a lace-project which Railovy set up, to help local women in rural areas to be self-sustained (a bit like the mini-credit projects of Queen Maxima of the Netherlands). It will be interesting for Railovy and Landi to visit the lace museum "De Kantfabriek" near Venlo, and the capital of lace Brugge, when they come to the ACI Conference in Gent in October!



The Agora ladies of AC Sariaka were absolutely adorable. We worked hard, we laughed a lot, we had nice and cosy lunches and dinners, we sang and we danced.

We came home with a treasure of impressions of a beautiful and intriguing country and its warmhearted people.



I will never forget those smiling and sweet children's faces. I am convinced that Veerle and Sandy conduct a fantastic International Service Project, and I hope that many more EFTW missions will follow. A pair of glasses of 20€ can change a child's life totally. If you would be interested to join such a mission, do not hesitate to contact Veerle!!

Carla Kesseler

AC Venlo – Agora Club The Netherlands



Charter of Agora Club Tangent Germany no.28 in Oldenburg

On June 2nd, my nervousness as a quite newly elected ACTD president reached its peak for the time being. The ACT 28 Oldenburg wanted to be chartered. The goal is, besides full membership, not to bore the ladies and guests too much and still to provide a festive setting. The weather and the location were ideally chosen. The warmth and cordiality of the Oldenburg ladies was stunning. The admission of the 16th (!) Lady Cordula on this occasion was the successful prelude to the festivity - before the official admission at Agora Club Tangent Germany and signing of the charter document. The club president Alexandra Warns led her "crazy and great women" and the guests confidently and charmingly through the official part. Good wishes and gifts from the guests as well as entertaining interludes of LC 28 Oldenburg rounded off the program well before the buffet and the dance floor were opened.



Lind Rodriguez-Sierra,

ACTD President 2018-2019

"Be a voice – not an echo"

Program Agora Club Norway 01 Sandnes 5 years Anniversary

Agora Club Norway 01 Sandnes – 5-year anniversary

1 – 3 June 2018

On behalf of the board and all the members of Agora Club Norway 01 Sandnes, it is our pleasure to invite you to our 5-year anniversary!

The celebration will take place the first weekend of June in Sandnes and nearby locations!



Program

Friday 1/6 Day Time: City walk in Stavanger (Norway's oil and energy capital)



The city centre of Stavanger is quite compact, which makes it easy to reach most attractions on foot. Old Stavanger offers Europe's best preserved wooden house settlement, consisting of more than 170 white wooden houses. On your walk you can easily stop by some of the city's many museums, such as the Norwegian Petroleum Museum, Stavanger Art Museum and the Norwegian Canning museum. **Please note that this tour is not included in the official program.**

Friday 1/6 Evening: Dinner at Jærgarden, located along Norwegian scenic route Jæren



Norwegian Scenic Route Jæren – is often described with words such as high sky, wide horizons and endless sea. Its characteristics are ever-changing weather and light, miles of sandy beaches and sand dunes that are replaced by pebbles and salmon rivers at the other end. The area is Norway's pantry, with an intensive agricultural.

Saturday 2/6 Day Time: Bus tour to the Green Islands to visit Utstein Monastery.



Utstein Monastery is mentioned in historical records going back to the 9th century, when it was cited as King Harald Fairhair's garrison after the battle of Hafsfjord, where Norway was unified under one monarch. Construction of the Monastery started in about 1260, although some parts may be older and may date from an earlier royal farm on the site. The church is unique in Norway, with its tower situated centrally between chancel and nave.

Lunch in a secret place😊

Saturday 2/6 Evening: Anniversary Dinner and festivities at Sagbruket in Julebygda



We are going to take a picture of the new board altogether after the summer.

Here are some pictures of us meanwhile...



We had a great AGM where the new board was set. We had a nice meeting with prosecco and shrimps. Good fun! Happy ladies.

At our anniversary everything went so well! The summer weather was with us and all of the ladies had a fantastic weekend.

Have a good summer!

Regards

Anne Klingsheim

Agora Iceland 5 years anniversary and AGM 27th of May

Agora Club Iceland celebrated its 5 year anniversary on May 11th. We enjoyed eating a birthday cake and made a toast, or as we say in Iceland *skál!*

We received regards from the following from Isabelle Seguinot ACI President 2017-2018 and from IRO of the Agora Club Tangent Germany.



María Erla, the secretary of the ACI board gave her regards, as well as the flag of the board. She also delivered greetings to Dagný Leifsdóttir, the founder of Agora and gave her a gift. Dagný gave a speech where she talked about the history of ACI and how happy she was how many women had joined, but the club has almost a 100 members after only 5 years of existence.



Herdís Anna Friðfinnsdóttir, the new national president of Agora Club Iceland, introduced her motto: **All for one.**

Two new clubs will be chartered in 2019. One in Reykjavík in January and another in Húsavík in February 2019.

We have start cooperating with Ladies Circle

Iceland and AC Iceland, and have decided to attend the AGM for each club.

We introduced a new brochure: "What is Agora Club?" All the clubs got the brochure to introduce and distribute in their clubs.

Agora Club Iceland has participated in charity, both by giving our time and raising money. 25 members will be going to the ACI conference in Gent, Belgium on 5-7th of October 2018, 17 Agora ladies and 8 of their partners, and look forward to make new friends from all over the world.



Incoming AC board Iceland 2018-2019



Agora Ladies at the Agora AGM Iceland 27th of May

AGM Agora Club Romania

I am very confident that AGORA-year 2018-2019 will be a successful one! My motto is " **WORK. LOVE. SHARE.**"

Here you'll find attached a photo of outgoing NB, a photo of the incoming NB, and some photos depicting an important event in AC2 life club.







Day trip to Transylvania - BRAN Castle



Yours in friendship!

Love,

Gabriela Abagiu

Nat.Pres. AGORA ROMANIA 2018-2019

AGM Agora Club Italy



Dear Friends,

After five years, another experience as National President of Agora Club Italy is over. It was another intense year during which I had the opportunity to meet and discover excellent women and to have with them true and strong friendship.



AGM location in Modena

Thank you to the extraordinary ladies of “my Board” who were always ready to give a hand. One of the hardest job was to produce new Agora Club National Rules according to our National Laws concerning Associations and Privacy: we did it.



Saying “thank you” to the glorious Board 2017-2018

2018-2019 National Board

From the left

IPP : Letizia Iulli;

Secretary: Serena Cioffi

VP: Maria Pungetti

President: Cristina Calgaro

Treasurer: Luisa Maria
Tabacco



Club Agora Modena 7 :

a great team, a great organization!

THANK YOU



Agora Club Italy

2018-2019

President: Cristina Calgaro

During our AGM two new members joined Agora Club Modena 7: Welcome to Claudia and Stefania



Pins are extremely nasty, sometimes...

Thank you to the new Club that joined Agora Club Italy last November in Ascoli Piceno: it was a great moment for us and the Charter Meeting was a memorable one:



11th November 2017, Ascoli Piceno, Charter Meeting

N.P Letizia Iulli, AC Ascoli 9 President Laura Gibellieri, V.P. Mary Baruffato

At the beginning of June Agora Club Rimini 11 celebrated their first anniversary and it was a perfect, joyful and elegant party.



IPP Elena Benigni and new President Rimini 11 Raffaella Pedrazzi. Raffaella, Letizia, Federica and Elena.

Thank you to the International Board, to the wonderful ladies who helped me with very wise suggestions.

Thank you also to “4 Clubs 1 Vision, 4 Clubs 1 Mission” for the efforts in favor of our National Service in Arquata.

Enjoy!



See you in Gent!

Yours in Friendship,

Letizia

AGM of Agora Club Tangent Germany at Lüneburg

Be a voice – not an echo

Any time, when you attend a national AGM, you can feel, how quickly a year passes by.

Any time, when you attend a national AGM, you feel familiar with old friends, as if you have met them yesterday.

This year the national AGM of Agora Club Tangent Germany took place in Northern Germany in the medieval town of Lüneburg. Lüneburg is famous for its red Brick Gothic-style buildings. The salt mining was the source of the city's medieval wealth.

Traditionally the AGM was held at the end of April together with Ladies' Circle Germany, who had representatives from Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg and Switzerland among their guests.



The welcome on Friday was a good opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of LC 56 Lüneburg, which was chartered by me, when I was national president of Ladies' Circle Germany 😊.

The ladies of Lüneburg had gathered 250 presents for a raffle in order to support the national service project "Flugkraft".

On Saturday the official meeting went quickly and in harmony, as it was very well prepared by Claudia and her board. At the beginning, Herbert Kaiser, the only male honorary member of AC Tangent Germany held a charming speech. It was a pleasure to have Old Table Germany Vice President Georg Pfaff and Old Table Germany Secretary Manfred Willms with us during the whole meeting.



On the meeting the delegates were informed, that AC Tangent Germany is growing continuously, as it has more than 500 members for the first time in 40 clubs. Since last year the national directory was available as an App, which is well accepted by the members.



Karen Mohrdieck as Devo-Shopkeeper worked very successful. So 2000 € of the profit could be donated as a sign of side by side to the service projects of Ladies' Circle Germany and Ladies' Circle International.

Another side by side project is still growing. It is the Christmas parcel convoy of the four service clubs Ladies' Circle, Round Table, Old Table and Tangent Club Germany. In December last year 237 volunteers spent one week of their holidays to deliver 132 000 Parcels to children in the Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria. The transport was organized with 28 lorries, 6 buses and 5 cars.

After the meeting there was enough time to discover Lüneburg, to relax and to get ready for the gala.

The next morning the first meeting of the national board and the advisory board took place, although some of us still looked a little bit wrinkled. Now the new president Linda will lead her team under the motto **"Be a voice – not an echo."**

Karen von Koschitzky

National Vicepresident 2018-19

AC Tangent Germany



Agora Club France

Friendship, Action & Grow up



The end of the AC year 2017-2018 was in Normandie in Bagnoles de l'Orne during our AGM on 8-9th June. The theme of the year was **"Act and Communicate to make Agora Club France grow up"** with friendship, courtesy and tolerance.

Agora Club France is formed with 46 clubs including 3 clubs in formation and about 600 members. To work closer and with a good understanding with Areas and Clubs' Presidents had enable Agora Club France to continue its development, to be more visible, to strength the link between the clubs of Round Table Family in France and to **give a very good reason** to nice Ladies to join us, get involved, participate, share good moments of friendship and conviviality.



Isabelle	Maryse	Nadine
ACI President	AC France President	ACFrance PP

The recipe is the good one:

- Every clubs did local charity projects
- The first National communication week, through press and social media, has strengthened the fame of Agora Club in France and in the French Department Overseas
- 28 000€ were given to our National Charity Project "Women Solidarity" which help women and children who were victims of violence and defends women's cause
- 6 new clubs were charted this year and 9 others were in formation which is very positive for the average age of AC France
- Every years, more members attend the National Comity and AGM. We are thinking that it is because they are proud of their clubs.



Show dance from National Board 17-18 and 18-19 during the Gala dinner in Normandie for the AGM



The National Presidents 2017-2018 of french Agora, 41 club, Ladies' Circle, Round Table

Putting forward the values, showing that Agora club **has a big heart** and attempting to give meaning to the **word Solidarity**, Agora Club France is building a new area of growing up after its 30th anniversary in 2017.

This envy to act and make the Agora Club shining is given by the commitment of AC France to International level. The nomination in Malta of **Isabelle SEGUINOT**, as International President is the perfect example.



Isabelle SEGUINOT, ACI President 17-18



Dynamic, open on the world through our wonderful humanitarian International service Project “**Eyes for the World**”, AC France has with Isabelle an exceptional ambassadress.

AC France will attend numerous the ACI AGM 2018 in Gent and after having organized the ACI AGM in Hyères in 2013, is nominee to host the **ACI AGM in 2020**. It will be a great opportunity for all French Agora members to share with the other Agora Ladies worldwide amazing friendship and fun

moments, in a special sweet area of “Puy du fou” close to Nantes and “Château de la Loire”



National Board of AGORA CLUB France 2018-2019

See you very soon,
Yours in Friendship

Maryse DECHAPPE

Past Présidente Nationale 2018/2019



Motto & Logo 2018-2019

AGM ACN 2018 on board of a Partyship



Such a good idea of AC Noordwijk 4 to organize our AGM on a boat.

The Noordwijk members received us very friendly on Partyship Olympia which was lying on the quayside in Leiderdorp in the Western part of the Netherlands.

First we were welcomed and said hello to each other, enjoyed coffee, let the Powerpoint presentations work (always a stress moment), checked the microphone, ordered the paperwork, and then we could start with the AGM ACN 2018.



A very warm welcome for our guests Marleen Kaarsemaker IPP LC and Caroline van Dijk Vice President LC.

Unfortunately, our future President Els Kin could not attend due to a pilote strike in Italy, so we were forced to find a creative way to appoint the new board members.

One of the most important items on the agenda was our potential nomination for the organization of ACI AGM 2020.

Veronique Stern and secretary Corry Zimmer made a lot of preparations for that, and after a very clear and informative presentation of Veronique most of the club members vote: **Green !!**.

So we have work to do! Gent, we will come with more than 45 Agora members included partners.

Of course enough subjects to discuss: our and local club reports, financial matters, expansion, side by side with LC, International Agora day, ACI AGM Gent, etc.

Carla Kessler told us about her visit to Madagascar, a very impressive journey she made together with Veerle de Jonge and Carine Everaert for EFTW.



The new vice president Carmen Visser and Ingrid Beerling as treasurer will complete our board 2018-2019 together with Els Kin president, Corry Zimmer secretary and Marlies Withagen past president.

After the meeting the engine started, cast off and then we enjoyed lunch and the time to speak with each other while we passed the wonderful landscape of Holland.

AC Noordwijk asked us to pay attention to her service project on this day and we did.

They raised over EUR 500!

Congratulations and thank you AC Noordwijk with such a good organized Agora Day!



We want to organize The ACI AGM 2020
In
The Netherlands
Please give us your vote !
Go for royal Dutch!



Agora Club Austria

Benefit Art Exhibition – June, 21st 2018

Ortenburgerkeller, Castle Porcia Spittal/Drau

Project: Eyes for the world! Agora International Project

On an art creative, wonderful day our ladies met to paint pictures at our lady Silvia C's studio – our work was assisted by our mentor Wolfgang Daborer.

With these extraordinarily expunctions we invited to an art exhibition!

We were supported from lovely and wonderful sound of music of children from Prima la Musica – organized by Lady Caterina.

The bowls and painted stones made by the children from the school class for this project were presented and sold that evening!

This event was crowned by our two ladies Sonjas' delicious buffets, many visitors, success in selling our work and in a marvellous atmosphere.





Dearest Ladies,

I am aware that for most of us the holidays still have to start...but allow me to already look ahead at the end of this holiday season : at the month of September, with the official start of school (gosh...do not show this to your children ☺)

September means: the ACI Conference will be very close, but registration will no longer be possible.

So if you have not registered yet: Give yourself some **me-time**, pour yourself a cup of coffee and have a good look at the wonderful programme we have ready for you and **boooooook!!!**

Why? Because we can't wait to welcome you and your partner and offer you a great time in our beautiful city of Gent. We promise you: it will be só VREE WIJS ☺

➔ **Keep in mind: Registration closes on the 31st of July 2018 !**

From my team and I: Lots of love and have a great holiday season!

Veerle De Jonge
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