

An ACI year with an African twist !



ACI Board 2010-2011

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Nicole

Dear Ladies,

The new International board of ACI for 2010 – 2011 is very excited to be able to serve our wonderful organization and its members...and indeed, this Agora year will have an African accent, since I am living in South Africa, and will bring you the heartbeat of that lovely and exciting continent!

In a fun and crazy moment during our first Board Meeting in Tallinn, we already gave each of our ACI Board members an African totem animal! (read which animals in the minutes of Board meeting 2 on the website soon)

Our 2010-2011 Board is made up of:

ACI PRESIDENT -Nikkie Grewar



I am a Past Circler, living in Johannesburg South Africa and a member of Agora Club from 2009.

I was the first National President of Agora Club South Africa and was LCI President in 1999-2000.

This year my motto is "A Circle of Friends Forever".

I want to emphasize the friendship side of our association, making sure that we all realise the strength in friends and the friendships that we have made and will make. We can achieve so much nationally and internationally for those less fortunate than our selves, being joined under the umbrella of Agora Club International, within the Circle of Friends Forever.

We are all likeminded women and already have a great avenue of communication within the email and internet structure which we can use for exchanging ideas, projects and thoughts.

As Danielle said last year that she would like to see Agora Club International become the platform for all Past Circlers – Agora and Tangent members alike to be one together – I feel the same way we can achieve so much as a united organization. Let's be passionate about this and grow our association with these goals in mind.

ACI VICE PRESIDENT - Elisabeth Hiller

Elisabeth is a Past Circler and member of Tangent Germany and this is history in the making as Tangent Germany joined Agora Club International last year.

She lives in the north of Germany and has been a member of Tangent since 2004.

Together with six other ladies she founded TC 31 Walsrode in 2004.

She was president of Tangent Germany 2008/2009 and has been Web lady since 2004, working on the German directory (pages of introduction) for ladies' Circle and Tangent since 2000.

She likes the cheerful and lively "togetherness" amongst Past Circlers Ladies and friends of our associations and above all the friendship amongst all of us.

She enjoys travelling and meeting all the ladies of the associations and has learnt that being more tolerant and the readiness to help is natural.

As a Tangent member of ACI she will help to build bridges between ALL Past Circlers because

"Together we are ONE"





ACI SECRETARY – Veerle De Jonge

Veerle is also a Past Circler and lives in Belgium. She has been a member of Agora Club from 2008. She is the founding president of her Agora Club 7 Lokeren-Waasland, and was Agora Belgium's National secretary in 2008.

Veerle served on the ACI as Secretary last year and did a splendid job, we are very fortunate to have her again on this year's board.

She is the designer of our great newsletters and she is very passionate about Agora Club International. She loves being in direct contact with all our Agora Member Clubs, and makes sure to inform all the countries of upcoming events and festivities.

She is the "beating heart" of our administration and is always ready to help us all.

ACI TREASURER – Nicole Rueger

Nicole -like the rest of us- is also a Past Circler, lives in Switzerland and has been a member of Agora Club from 2006.

Like Veerle, Nicole is serving a second year on the international board. She has the best interest of our association at heart and has proven to be quite the excellent treasurer, ensuring that our money is accounted for correctly. She is our "Miss Money penny" and takes all matters of the financial kind seriously with wonderful Swiss proficiency.



ACI IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Danielle Gardin



Danielle, Past Circler and living in Belgium and has been a member of Agora Club from 2003.

Danielle is very well known to you all and has had an exceptional year as ACI president. Under her motto "Together we are One" – we have seen the growth of ACI with the induction of Tangent Germany as well as the charters of two new countries Zambia and Israel.

Danielle is also the drive behind the "4 Clubs 1 Vision" initiative. She is promoting the idea of our 4 International associations worldwide side by side. An idea that had a lot of potential for the future of RTI, LCI, 41er Club International and the platform for all Past Circlers called Agora Club International.

Danielle is passionate about Agora Club international and has served our organisation so very well.

A big thank you Danielle for all your dedication and hard work!

Impression of an Agora International AGM

ACI AGM TALLINN ESTONIA

1 – 3 October 2010

From the moment we were collected from the airport by Lana and her husband – we were made so very welcome.

A wonderful supper was given to the ACI Board on the Tuesday evening – my very first sampling of caviar!! Thank you so much Guillaume.



The next morning we held our 5th and final Board meeting of the ACI Board 2009 – 2010. Very productive and successful. The meeting continued on Thursday morning as well.

The ACI board had a quick tour of all the venues for the AGM and we then met up with some ladies from South Africa, Israel and Germany for a drink.

Friday dawned and it was all systems go for the build up to the opening of the AGM weekend.

Before that some of us went on a tour that took us out of town into the Lahemaa National Park. Very informative – our guide told us a lot about the history of Estonia.

Then it was registration time, back at the Nordic Hotel and meeting with ladies from all over the world.

A lovely aperitif followed with the official opening by Danielle Gardin and then the welcome party.

Lots of talking and catching up. A lovely evening.



Saturday the ACI Board members were up early and at "La Maison des Professeurs" (House of the Teachers) where the AGM was to take place.

An excellent meeting, very well run and very constructive. Well done to all concerned.

The boutique was busy and at the coffee break everyone seemed pleased with the way the meeting was progressing.

The Belgium ladies thanked Danielle for all her hard work with their own rendition and words to the song "That's Amore"

My South African ladies read out greetings to me from the Agora ladies at home in South Africa.

Both these moments were very emotional!!

After the AGM, we had lunch at the same venue.

Some time then for shopping, before getting ready for the Gala dinner.

This was held at the Gloria restaurant- a most beautiful venue.



For the first time there was a presidential drink and banner exchange. This took place before the main event.

The food was outstanding and the entertainment very good.

A wonderful evening and lots of dancing!!!



The AC Estonia Shop



Protocol Master Marijke, Tellers Karin and Jutta and minutes Secretary Agnès.



Belgian girls singing for Daniëlle



Presidents 2009-2010



Agora Club International Board 2010-2011

Sunday was sadly the farewell to all new and old friends, promising that we would meet again in Italy next year.

I then had my first two Board meetings with the new International Board for 2010 – 2011, over the following two days.

Again meetings were industrious and creative and fun!

A very special time for me and I thank you all for making it an unforgettable AGM.

Nikkie

Agora International Service Project 2010-2011



ECPAT International

END CHILD PROSTITUTION CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

During the international AGM held in Tallinn- Estonia all Councillors voted in favour of a new international service project called ECPAT.

The aim of the project is to educate and help young survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as that they can help others.

The project will run awareness raising campaigns for groups at risk of CSE and develop advocacy activities that bring the voice of children to decision makers in their communities and countries.

This Project is run by "ECPAT International" a part of the global Youth Partnership (YPP).

Please read more about this project :

ECPAT International : www.ecpat.net

Global Youth Partnership Project : www.ecpat.net/ypp_global

The financial support will be derived from the sale of the pins of the international president and of course it would be great if our Agora you countries could organize something to support this project too.

Some ideas :- national presidents : you could make a yearly national pin and sell it.
- Organize an afternoon tea
- Organise an evening with an interesting speaker and invite friends and family.
- Etc etc...

Let us know what you organise, and we will report on your projects in the monthly newsletter.

Proceeds for this wonderful and valuable project can be transferred to our Agora account, and we will make a complete transfer at the end of this Agora year 2010-2012 to the project.

*Agora Club International Bank CREDIT SUISSE
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*IBAN CH45 0483 5112 0198 5200 1
SWIFT : CRESCHZZ80A*

Thank you in advance!

The ECPAT power point shown during the ACI AGM in Tallinn can be found on the website under "International Service Project" (as from the 30th of October 2010)

Daniëlle

More International News :
Agora International keeps swinging!

During the ACI AGM no less than **2 new countries** were welcomed in Agora Club International :

AC POLAND Charter AC 1 Gdansk on the 11th of June 2011



AC USA : Double Charter AC 1 Seattle and AC 2 Detroit on the 26th of March 2011



Welcome to Agora International girls!!

*And also nationally
Nothing but good news!*

A new Agora Year and again a Charter in AC Belgium : AC Wetteren – Belgium

The new statutory year just started on the 1st of September in Belgium and the Belgian ladies continue on their élan. A new club is born : AC 12 WETTEREN.

On the 25th of September a young group of dynamic ladies chartered the 12th Belgian Agora Club. They were seniors of Ladies' Circle for few years already and they felt it was necessary to continue the friendship they've experienced within this association. They wanted to continue the friendship they had with Past Circlers all over Belgium and flavour the same atmosphere. Therefore they were warmly welcomed by their Godmother club AC 7 Lokeren and the different delegations of all Belgian AC. Clubs.



A glimpse of the official part held at "De Poort"

The official part was held in a warm sphere of friendship in presence of the mayor of the city and delegations of the national and local "4Clubs-1 Vision" associations.

It was great to see that the other Service Clubs of Wetteren like, Soroptimists, Lions, 51 and Rotary were also represented to welcome this new Baby.

This official event was followed by a wonderful reception where there was no end to the toasts and drinks.

At 20h we were expected in a wonderful location to have a stylish evening diner. I can assure you that the ladies from AC Wetteren do know how to party !! I am sure that with their enthusiasm they will expand the warmth and the friendship of our association!

Daniëlle

And also AC France is doing fantastic: Charter AC Dijon on 9-10-2010

I met Annick Lambert (President AC Dijon) at my first LCI Conference in 1996 in Göteborg. Since then LC Dijon and LC Lausanne met many times and we decided to « Twin » our two clubs in 2003.

And now once again thanks to this continued friendship, I was very happy to go to Dijon to welcome Agora Club Dijon as a new club in Agora Club International.

There I noticed that this first weekend of October was very busy for the French national board: Micheline Vuillaume, President of Agora club France, managed to have a national meeting with all the Presidents of the regions and also with a maximum of French Clubs in the morning and in the afternoon the Chartermeeting was held.

The national meeting went quick, very efficient and in the spirit of friendship.

The event of the afternoon was the highlight of this week end, as Agora Club 42 Dijon was welcomed as a new Agora Club in France.

Between the tree ladies, one from their godmother Agora Club Dole, Annick Lambert, President Agora Club Dijon 42 and of course Florence, « chief of protocol », were able to manage the full ceremony in a very efficient way. 18 new Agora members what a performance!



The Ladies, 41 Club and Tablers joined with a lot of Friendship, Happiness and Humour. As we were more than 200, I can tell you that Agora Club Dijon received enough wine for enjoying their future Club meetings.

Françoise, member of Dijon, created the new banner, with the cassis colour (she hasn't changed as she had been a busy bee as well during her Ladies Circle years).



The gala Dinner took place in a beautiful cellar with a delightful meal. Ladies Circle Dijon created a wonderful song and the new Agora members organised a catwalk to find the first « Miss Agora ». Who won ?... Danielle Vuillaume ! ...

Conclusion : A wonderful weekend filled with special moments and tons for friendship...

Nicole Rieger

More National Charters to come !

06-11-2010 : AC Tangent Hamburg (G)
20-11-2010 : AC Milano (It)
19-03-2011 : AC Avesnes-Fourmies (FR)
02-04-2011 : AC Namur Val de Meuse (B)
25-06-2011 : AC Tangent Main Metropolen

Good luck with the preparations !

**WE STILL
AGORA
FOR IT!**

Agora International website

The website 2010-2011 will be updated as from the 30th of October 2010 ! You will find a lot of information, guidelines, our renewed rules and all sorts of documents to consult and/or download.

www.agoraclubinternational.com

PASSWORD 2010-2011 for Agora members:

I hope you enjoyed our first International Newsletter.

Keep sending me your invitations, reports, events etc : they will be included in the newsletter or on the website!

You will also find **all the pictures of the ACI Conference** in Tallinn Estonia on our website or on this link :
<http://picasaweb.google.be/dejonge.veerle/101002SelectionACIAGMTallinn?feat=email#>

Lots of love, Veerle