



The logo features the word "AGORA" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Above the "O" is a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans, with a white leaf-like shape overlapping it. Above the globe is the word "Club" in a blue, cursive script. Below "AGORA" is the word "international" in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Dear Ladies of Agora!

What a year, again a terrible attack has shocked our community – and again I only can say we remain diligent and determined to live by our Aims and Objectives “Service and Tolerance”.

Enjoy the impressions of the charter of the first Agora club in Austria, the charter of the second club in Norway and a lot of impressions of the national AGMs.

Yours in friendship

Brigitte

ACI Secretary 2015-2017

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For our French Ladies and for us:



My dear French friends,

Your National motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" is gaining more beauty, more meanings, more values.

I am so proud to have you as friends.

Let's continue to celebrate the Bastille Day, commemorate the victims of this devastating attack, and keep alive the belief that our world needs beauty in order not to sink in despair!

And to my French friends, I can say that you are collaborators in the immense mission to create beauty in the world.

Thank you.

Lots of love

Ly thi Thanh Thao

ACI President 2015-2016

"Hand Head Heart"

Charter of the first Club in Austria – AC 1 Spittal

This morning, I look at the lovely banner of Agora Club Austria, which is beautifully set on my desk. I have this sense of aliveness and joy, and say to myself:

"The Charter was really great! I forever cherish the memorable moments of the Welcome Party and of the Charter Ceremony."



The Charter of Agora Club Austria was held on 3-5 June in Seeboden (Austria).

It saw a numerous participation of friends from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, USA, and of course, Austria.



Our Austrian ladies have brought their spark, their uniqueness, and their vibrant spirit to the Agora world.

“They are a true inspiration to all of us!”, I should say.

The inspiring Austrian Agora ladies!

They are inspiring because they have performed things with passion. The Welcome Party was a colourful “exhibition” of *Dirndl*



Kelly, Thanh Thao, Martine, Brigitte, and Ursula were so gorgeous in the dirndl, weren't they? Everybody said so! 😊 😊

😊



The Godmother country, Agora Club Italy, was ready to participate in the Welcome Party parade with enthusiasm.

We all showed our full excitement and engagement in the Welcome Party

The traditional music of *Trachtenkapelle Seeboden* enlivened more and more the atmosphere.

The children's dancing received a big round of applause

Our Austrian ladies are inspiring because on this occasion, they showed enthusiasm towards the first Service Project of Agora Club International named **Eyes For The World**. They organized the tombola, requested donations, sold the presidential pins. In the end they raised 1500 € for our Service. **Well done, my dear Austrian ladies!** You have shown that only through Service to others can we create positive change and be the force for good in the world.

Christine Wernitznig, President of AC Austria, Veerle de Jonge, Convener of EFTW, and I efficiently presented the Service with PowerPoint.



Our Austrian ladies are inspiring because on this occasion they have deepened and fostered bonds with friends from Ladies' Circle Austria, Round Table Austria, and 41 Club Austria.



It's so heart-warming to see these beautiful Ladies overwhelming Christine Wernitznig and the Agora Ladies with affection and love.

The helping **hands**, the working **heads**, and the loving **hearts** of "Four Clubs One Vision" in Austria. How amazing!



Then the solemn moment arrived: Agora Club Austria was warmly welcomed into the Agora family.



Christine Wernitznig, President of AC Austria, Diana Brioschi, President of the Godmother country Italy, and Ly thi Thanh Thao, ACI President, declared that Agora Club Austria was officially part of Agora Club International.

I wholeheartedly thank Christine and all ladies of Agora Club Austria for the excellent job. I deeply thank the ACI Board and friends all over the world that honored this Charter with their pleasant presence.

Last but not least, the fact that Agora Club Austria was established in the year of the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of Agora Club International has made it ever more special.

May our Austrian Agora ladies continue to be a true inspiration to all of us and to all women who take to heart the values of "Service and Tolerance"!

Yours always in friendship and love

Ly thi Thanh Thao

ACI President 2015-2016

"Hand Head Heart"

Impressions from AC Romania

Over our expectation, the ladies from Agora Club Spittal proved in their authentic Austrian style that the values of Agora - donner et tolérer - are in charge there. Christine Wernitznig and her team welcomed us into their home, introduced us into their daily schedule so natural that made us feel not just guests than friends. Who in the world ever would have thought that the welcome party

started normally in the Steiner restaurant will continue with a parade of 2 km walk through the town with fanfare in front and police car in the end where the whole community took part . The real party happened in fact in the Kulturhaus - which is actually the local theater building, where local food, music, dance and surprises were held chain. All the international boardies wore dirndl and everybody wore national costumes.

If you think that next day we get breakfast we boarded and took a



bored you are wrong - after boat ride on Millstättersee.

In Millstatt Gabi Golger-Oberwinkler, our funny (most photographed) blonde guide, lead us to walk through the park abbey telling us stories about emperor Domitian and ancient events and let us rest only on a beautiful terrace on the lake. In the evening, into an elegant ambiance each with fresh hair styling, dressed and the most beautiful dresses and high heels we had in our luggage we met on the terrace of the Steiner hotel for the Gala Dinner.



Not to forget why we came there - the ceremony of the Charter of Agora Club Spittal where in an atmosphere full of emotions the banner and gift exchange took place. The good food, live music, drinks and cakes made by our Austrian friends in home created a good feeling for everybody. The ladies from Lady Circle Austria and gentlemen from Round Table and Club 41 are among the guests and honored with their presence the event. Everything let us dear memories about kind peoples, beautiful places and great experiences.

Mihaela Cracana AC 2 Brasov

Impressions of the Austrian Ladies

What a great moment!
Our Charter on June 04th/05th 2016!
AGORA 1 SPITTAL AUSTRIA

A wonderful weekend filled with
people from 8 nations:
All Austrian Lady Circles, Round Table & Clubs 41, Italy,
Belgium, Romania, Norway, Germany, France and USA



Invitation from our Spittaler major Gerhard Pirih
we came with the international and national board.



Friday, our welcome evening,
all Ladies and guests came in traditional clothes
and sang our song: „Her eis to us in this moment!”

Saturday, wonderful elegant gala evening!

Great moments:

LC Spittal founding president Ulli Steiner
light our Agora candle



Honour pin for Christine from
LC Austria for long membership
and foundation LC and
AC Spittal



Our guests with their presents,
besides sunglasses

Special moment:
international president Than Thao hand over
the document to our president
Christine Wernitznig: AGORA 1 AUSTRIA/SPITTAL



Board International & National
Ursula Lejeune, Kelly Geisler, Christine Wernitznig,
Ly thi Than Thao, Martine Monzo Brigitte Colberg
Gabi Golger-Oberwinkler, Anni Thurner &
Christiane Forstner-Beck

Christine Wernitznig, Anni Thurner AC 1 Spittal/Austria

The Chartering of AC Norway Club 2 Egersund

4th June 2016

Happy news, happy times and we are so proud to have these fantastic ladies from Egersund in our family.



Tone Wølstad-Knudsen, IPP TC 1



AGM AC UK

Agora Club UK held their National AGM in mid-June, a small affair in a lovely restaurant in Leigh-on-sea, just along the coast from Southend. We had the pleasure of Kelly's company, who was stopping over in the UK fresh from the Austrian charter, and also had two members of our in-formation Club join us. Unfortunately Nikkie Grewar, now a near neighbour to us, couldn't make it but we will catch up with her again soon.

With my husband as taxi driver for the evening Kelly and I set off to collect a couple of ladies on the way and enjoy what was left of the evening sun on our trip along the seafront to Leigh, Arriving just at the same moment as the other ladies, so ever the photographer Kelly got a few pictures out on the pavement!



on our way in

With much chatter, wine consumed and photos taken, we eventually sat down to place our orders and start the AGM proceedings.



the old board & with Kelly



the wine was flowing!

After reports from our Clubs and National Treasurer, I followed with my report of our efforts to expand Agora Club UK this past year, summarising our international travels & visitors and recognised our excellent efforts in raising €750 for EFTW. Finishing my year with some topical and unusual gifts for my boardies!

Then it was time to hand over the presidency to the very capable Tracey, who introduced the new board members.



handing over to Tracey



Tracey and new Vice president



The new UK National board L to R Sandra Smith (IPP), Emma Aldridge (VP), Debbie Sayer (T), Tracey Metcalf (P), Nicky Husselbee (S)

To finish off the evening Louise then gave a summary of our very exciting fundraising project for December this year in aid of EFTW – an Agora Club Fashion Show for all countries to get involved in! – watch out for more info soon!

Throughout the evening Kelly had been passing round a pair of the new EFTW glasses which we all took turn to try on.....not a bad look really!!



Sandra Smith
Agora Club UK IPP

AGM of the Netherlands

We were happy to welcome in June the Agora friends from our own country as well as from Belgium. The IPP of LC, and formation!



We held our AGM in an industrial Philips factory. In 1916 the factory started on this production. During the years Philips created a complete self-supporting plant. So there was also founded a science laboratory to develop several novelties. And in that science lab, where even Dr Einstein visited, we held our AGM!

It was a vivid meeting in a relaxed atmosphere.

We introduced the tradition of lighting a candle. The clubs in formation (3!) presented themselves and those ladies are eager to charter!



We expressed a good-hearted thank you to Karin Wollaert, our treasurer and Carla Kessler, our past-president.

And welcomed vice-president and treasurer. Fransje Kemper will stay as our this, is the president This year I want to ACI. Therefore no



heartily Marlies Withagen as Sieka Oldenziel as our new

stay as IPP and Cobi Loeffen will secretary. And Els Clevis, writing for this year. emphasize the motto of ACN and personal motto on top of that!

We had a rather difficult year and therefore my boardies and I strive to make things good and better.



In my speech I used the metaphor of a tiny coachman (the national board) on a coach with big and strong horses (the clubs) to manage. And that tiny coachman wants to steer the horses and the coach TOGETHER into the right direction with the mutual goal to do things well and to do things better! Following the meeting we had an informal lunch and a tour on the site.

Thank you AC Eindhoven for organising this AGM.
Els Clevis-van Duin, President of CAN

AGM in Zambia

AGORA Club Zambia (ACZ), was founded in 2009 and Chartered on 22nd May, 2010, with Sylvia Mwansa as founding President. ACZ had its 7th Annual General Meeting on 18th June, 2016 in Lusaka. With a total of 22 members, ACZ has joined hands with ACI in promoting the Eyes of the World Project. ACZ partnered with Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital Agarwarls and we were able to screen eyes for over 2000 school children.



Dorothy Ntengerenji Secretary AC Zambia

AGM in Romania



We have had a wonderful AGM 2016 at Dubova, on the Danube shore, in a special landscape, as you can see in the photos. We've felt excellent being together all of us - all the three clubs in Romania, as you could see us at ACI in Poiana Brasov.

The event organizer, Club - Agora 4 Craiova was impeccably prepared.



The AGORA ATMOSPHERE WAS AMAZING!!!



The traditional evening

In friendship
Corina Ducaru
National Secretary
2016/2017

AGM Italy

Ascoli Piceno, a wonderful middle-east of Italy, hosted on Club of Italy. The most 2016 was held in fact in the number 9 in Italy – will be



medieval white-stoned town in the May, 27th to 29th, the AGM of Agora important national event of the year town where a new Agora Club – the chartered next September, the 17th.

At the same time, also Club 41 of Italy was holding its Annual General Meeting in Ascoli Piceno, so, thanks to an extraordinary organization committee, we could share some events together.

On Friday evening, at sunset, a spectacular Welcome Party for all members of Agora Club and Club 41 and their friends was set in Grottammare seaside-resort, on the roof-garden by the seaside of a beautiful beach restaurant.



There, we could finally meet again all

together, gathering from different cities and European countries: we were very pleased that Agora Club International

President, Ly Thi Than Thao, coming from Milan and fully required by Agora Club world commitments, joined us to celebrate the opening of our 2016 national AGM. Also Club 41 International President, Engelbert Friedsam, came from Germany to wish all his best to our Clubs. A special buffet dinner of local delicatessen and fresh fish, followed by amusing 80's disco music



and really charming fire-works, floating on a mirrored sea-shore during a very mild night, enchanted all of us!

On Saturday morning we were hosted in a historical building in Ascoli Piceno town-center to have our 6th Italian Annual General Meeting Conference: a neoclassical magnificent and intimate room, Sala degli Specchi, by Confindustria headquarters, housed a productive discussion about many very important themes, such as national charter and rules, national VP nomination and Agora national 2017 venue. The strong faith and experience in Agora Club fundamental philosophy, witnessed by international President Ly thi Than Thao, gave a vibrant support in pulling out agreements starting from different points of view.



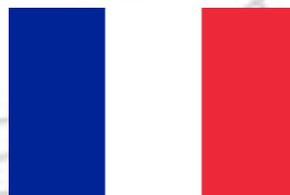
In the evening we could fully enjoy the gorgeous Gala Dinner set in Salone Raffaello of Hotel Casale, lying on the rolling hills in the neighborhood of Ascoli Piceno, where a rich menu and an unforgettable acrobatic-dance show framed the ceremony of Collars Delivery and Assignment.



We could finally and successfully say “bye bye and see you soon in Milan on ACI AGM 2016 Conference!”

Federica Ferrari President AC Italy

AGM in France



The AGM of France took place in Saint Raphaël in the South of France on June 11th.



The Agora Club of Hyères was much involved in the organisation of this event.



After the donation of € 47 000 to “Solidarité Femmes” (the national service project)....

..the election of the new Board.....
in the presence and continued support of our Ladies Circle friends!



Martine Monzo AC Hyère, ACI Treasurer 2014-2016

AGM Morocco

A Memorable Day



The **first** Moroccan national

AGM was a tremendous success. The D day was June 4, 2016 at la Scalla a mythical place near Casablanca harbor.

The AGM was held in a good atmosphere of friendship, joy and laughter as can be attested by the photos. All of us were aware of the significance of this historic moment, a milestone in the history of Agora Moroccan clubs. After lighting the candle of friendship, we launched the meeting with the national president’s speech and then moved to the reading of the national status so that they could be definitely adopted. The discussion that followed enriched our status with some wise amendments. Afterwards the symbols of the national club: pins, banner were submitted to the audience which applauded the high quality of the designs and our



motto “Solidarité et Respect des Differences” which matches perfectly the spirit of Agora International motto: “Donner et Tolerer”. We closed our meeting with the election of the new national board which has been enlarged this year to a new member: the keeper of national Agora shop. We could not depart as were so happy being together so we decided to enjoy a lunch all together at the Scalla to end up this fruitful day. And that was another nice Agora moment.



Narjisse Kaicer IPP AC Morocco

AGM Belgium



What a great AGM, the AGM of AC Belgium!
I thank Chris Helsen and the outgoing Board for the excellent job and I wish Ingrid and the incoming Board a lot of creativity, friendship, and positivity in the year ahead.

Lots of love

Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI President 2015-2016

20 years of History of ACI – Memories of ANNIE FERDINAND, ACI Founder President 1996-1997 and HONORARY MEMBER



Dear all,

It took me 3 years to get International Agora Club settled. 3 very exciting years.

The first year as French councillor travelling to convince.....



Attending the first Belgian and Dutch Agora clubs to be chartered.

Charting the second Agora club in The Netherlands, followed by Czech Republic and Finland.

Working on the future Agora rules and guidelines with Anne-Marie, Nanny, Lucky, Nicole; thanks for their help.

And finally the great day in Strasburg the Agora international was born and I was named Founder President. I must admit I was very proud.



Dealing with some difficulties as collecting the international fees when euro didn't yet exist.

Then followed Italia, Romania, Australia..... Fortunately the ball kept on rolling and growing.

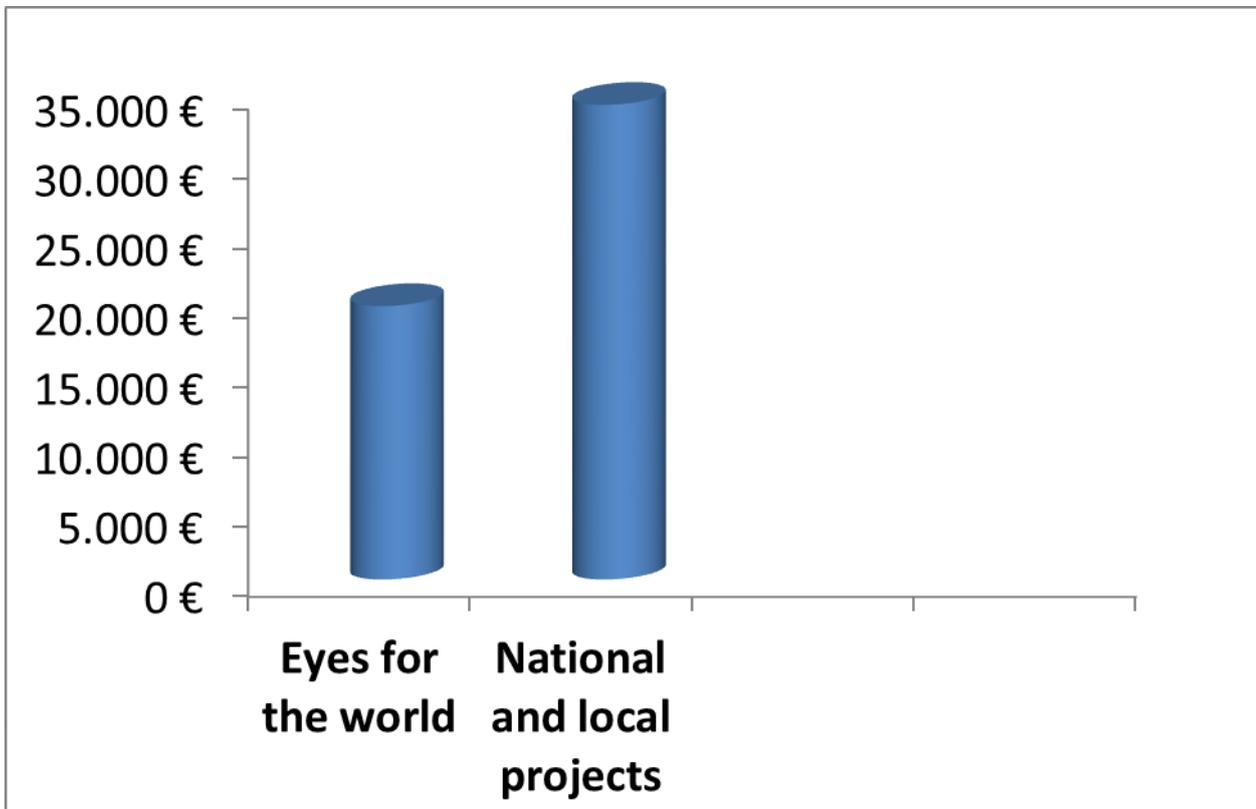
I sincerely thank all the Presidents who succeeded me. A lovely bunch of friendship.

Another big emotion when the Agora clubs decided at their 5th Anniversary to make me Member of Honour.

Viva Agora

Annie Ferdinand

Our barometer



Calendar

ACIC Milan 6-9 October 2016

<http://aciconference2016.weebly.com>

Registration closes by 31st August!!!