

Club
AGORA
international

PART OF THE ROUND TABLE FAMILY

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

N°07 2019-2020

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Welcome

ACI 2020

Virtual Council Meeting & AGM

INTRODUCTION - BY CHRIS HELSEN : AC ZAMBIA - FOUNTAIN OF HOP (FOH) ORPHANAGE - BY DOROTHY NTENGERENJI : AC GERMANY - FLYING CANDLE OF FRIENDSHIP - BY SANDRA EILERS : AC GERMANY - FIRST ONLINE CHARTER BY KAREN VON KOSCHITZKY : AC ROMANIA - SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE FROM THE FIRST LINE BY MIHAELA CRACANA : ACI - WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD DOING THESE CRAZY COVID-19 TIMES : LCI - LETTER FROM ALEXANDRA BENNETT: INTERESTING TIMES : ISP - NEW " AFTER LOCKDOWN" MISSION : ACI INVITATION FOR CM AND AGM ON ZOOM : [AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL.COM](https://www.agoraclubinternational.com)



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1. Introduction by Chris Helsen, International President

1. Introduction of Chris Helsen, Int. President ACI

Hello ladies all over the world,

How are you all?

In our Newsletter of August we can read all positive news from our clubs in the world.

In Zambia our ladies were active in an orphanage. Looking at the pictures you can sense the warmth and appreciation. Wonderful!! Watch for the DARE TO GROW shirt in the pictures 😊

In Germany the candles of friendship are flying, what a great idea . And the first online charter was being organized. Well done ladies

Looking at the pictures of the Romanian girls, you get hungry instantly. You all have a big heart for Charity.

And I am sure Agora ladies did do some other charities, please sent us pictures or reports for our next newsletter.

We received a message from Alexandra Bennett, President of Ladies Circle International. Her motto is STRONG WOMEN=STRONG WORLD. You can read about her interesting times in Ladies Circle. Thank you Alexandra.

Positive news from our ISP, new "after lockdown" mission in preparation. We are happy to "keepagirlchildinschool".

At the moment we are preparing our Councillors meeting and AGM on Zoom.

Challenging times 😊

Do not forget: We have a new Facebook PAGE instead of our Facebook GROUP:

https://facebook.com/agoraclubinternational/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Keep in touch ladies, with WhatsApp, email, messenger, zoom, house party! I am always available for you!

See you on ZOOM OCTOBER 3RD

Thinking of you all

Yours in friendship & service.

Chris Helsen
President Agora Club International 2019-2020

Plant smiles. Grow laughter. Harvest friendship.



2. Zambia - Fountain of Hope (FoH) Orphanage



COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world economies differently due to the fact that the disease appears to be new and unusual in different parts of the world. Most countries have had to completely lock down all their activities except for extremely essential services. Zambia has not completely locked down.

As at today, May 29th, 2020, Zambia has 1,057 Coronavirus cases with 7 deaths and 779 have recovered.



AGORA ladies admiring what they bought for the Orphans

Around the world, the one piece of personal protective gear we have seen many commercial companies make throughout the COVID-19 is the face mask. Young tailors have been empowered to sew face masks and donated to vulnerable young people, the old in high density communities of Lusaka, who cannot afford to buy masks following Government directive on mandatory use of face masks for all citizens as part of in-country prevention measure.

It is in this regard that AGORA Zambia decided to donate 350 masks to Fountain of Hope (FoH) Orphanage. Fountain of Hope was found in 1996 and it is a home of over 246 vulnerable boys and girls. It provides medical, educational and spiritual support to the children and also offers primary education from children aged 7 – 19 years old. The children were happy to receive the masks.



Children at Fountain of Hope





A



AGORA Ladies demonstrating how to wear a mask and wash hands





AGORA handing over masks and other food stuff to Fountain of Hope Centre Manager

AGORA Ladies with children at Fountain of Hope





AGORA Ladies inspecting the girl's dormitory at Fountain of Hope



COVID-19 is an unprecedented challenge for this world – we will fight it and we will build a better future as we dare to grow.

Greetings from Zambia.

Dorothy NTENGERENJI
AGORA President 2019/2020

3. Germany - Flying candle of friendship

A different handover of offices - the "flying candle of friendship" at Agora Club Tangent 56 Lüneburg

Our first Skype meeting at the beginning of the Corona lockdown was something new, but better than nothing for our club meeting. We tried to discuss our projects and share time, but it was exhausting and did not feel like a real get-together.

When it was time to change offices on the one hand we wanted to celebrate, on the other hand there were still contact restrictions in Germany.

A creative idea was needed:

Special times require special celebrations and so we celebrated our annual change of office as the "Flying Candle of Friendship" in six stages on four days.

First Imke gave the "Stint", our mascot fish, to our new president Birgitta - then it went to the long overdue new admission of Janine.

Birgitta gave the candle to our new VP Kirsten, who in turn passed the minutes on to Sandra as the new secretary. Sandra and Cordi met during our service campaign for giving food to the poor, to which we had donated 700 cloth bags, 1,600 Euros and several helping hands hours while driving out food to the poor in the past few weeks.

A small group came together with a lot of fresh air and distance with sushi and cocktails in Sandras garden. Our treasurer Annette, who took the candle to a champagne breakfast with Katrin, remains in office. Gaby was able to receive the candle at the breakfast table and spontaneously brought it to Cordi in the evening, who hopefully can light the candle at the next regular meeting.

It was a great week with everything that makes us special at the ACT 56!

More pictures and reports are available on our Facebook page: Tangent Club 56 Lüneburg

Sandra Eilers

ACT 56 Lüneburg





4. First online charter in Germany

For the first time in 25 years of Agora Club Tangent Germany a new club with 8 ladies was chartered in a zoom meeting due to the restrictions caused by the Corona virus.

The charter of AC Tangent 152 Wesermündung took place on the 5th of May 2020.

Fortunately the meeting restrictions had already been eased a little bit in Germany, so two ladies were allowed to sit together on one sofa during the charter ceremony.

As far as it was visible the ladies had decorated their house and were all dressed in their club blouses, which gave the charter a festive atmosphere. Besides me the whole national board was present in that zoom meeting. As the ladies of AC Tangent 152 Wesermündung are very committed in the Christmas parcel convoy, which is a German side by side service project of the four clubs of the Round Table family, I had sent a parcel with several packets beforehand to each of the ladies. Self-evidently the packets were wrapped in Christmas paper and contained all the utensils being necessary for a charter, such as the candle of friendship, the aims and objectives of AC Tangent Germany, the charter document and a banner with congratulations of the national board. Each lady received a small bottle of sparkling wine, a cool pack for it, a national pin and a small present. The charter candle was lit at one place, the aims and objectives were read out at another. The charter document was signed at three places: In the house of the club president, of the president of the godmother club and of course in my house. After the charter the glasses were raised, presents were opened and congratulations were read out.

Conclusion: An online charter is no substitute for a real charter, but nevertheless we all were excited, we had fun and laughter and a certain bond could be felt.

To use Chris Helsons motto: The ladies of AC Tangent 152 Wesermündung "Dared to grow" with their positive attitude towards the corona situation. In a way like this we as Agora members make a difference. The charter party is postponed to next year and I am already looking forward to it. 🍷

Karen von Koschitzky,
national president 2019/20





5. Romania-Solidarity with those from the first line

Corona virus caused tracks in everybody's life even if we didn't get the illness itself.

In Romania number of cases started to increase in April so hospitals prepared with special equipment were ready for what can be worst. For the medical staff who use to live to far from hospital and to protect their family against contamination were provided accommodation in pensions or rooms but not the food. So RT and C41 Brasov, together with other organizations chose to help with meals for medical stuff of the local Covid Hospital for breakfast and lunch and Agora Club ladies decided to take care of dinner.

Luminita Dolcan, president of AC3 Brasov , collected donations, negotiated with the restaurant and started with plan to provide dinner for one week for 33 persons each day , but until the end of the project donations were enough to cover 3 weeks, including Orthodox Easter period. Agora Club 5 Sacele helped with desert for 2 weeks and donated money , Agora Club 2 Brasov members also donated and find sponsors for the project.

Especially for Easter Saturday evening ladies from AC Sacele cooked in their own kitchen what they new the most delicious – traditional “cozonac “ and “pasca” and red colored eggs decorated with masks .

This project showed again how united people can be when solidarity is needed and how powerful and dedicated Agora ladies can be, I am very proud to be one of them.





Mihaela Cracana
Agora Club 5 Sacele,
Romania



6. ACI - What is the International Board doing these crazy Covid-19 times

What is the International Board doing these crazy Covid-19 times??

I will not beat around the bush, it is business as usual but only virtually. And no parties!!

Working on zoom ,on Skype, on WhatsApp, by mail is not always easy and funny but anyway we can stay in touch and discuss our many items. Have a chat, a laugh. Making some complaints together, drinking a glass of wine or coffee together.

In our board we are already acquainted by using virtual channels.

Our first big 'try out' virtually was our Zoom meeting with the presidents .The main topic was not a positive one but to announce that our AGM, which was planned in The Hague, The Netherlands in October 2020 cannot go on as scheduled. So inspiring and gratifying to discuss this with you all, Mrs. Presidents!!!

The convenors of AC The Netherlands together with the convenors of AC France and



the Int. Board did bite the bullet and decided together to postpone

our physical AGM in The Hague from October 2020 to October 2021 and our next AGM in France is scheduled in October 2022.



Cancellations of events is the ,new normal. No celebration of the 25th anniversary in Schleswig, Germany. No second Forum of ACI in Verona, Italy. No Charter of AC Cyprus i.f. AGM's in the countries cancelled.

But every cloud has a silver lining. Zoom became very popular. Innovative, original idea's to help people in difficult situations which we could follow on Facebook. See pictures on our previous newsletter, lockdown edition.

The big question of everyone was: what about the International Board, election or no election??

An Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) was organized and discussed on Zoom with president's and Vice president's (yes we are learning 📺)



Thank you ladies 😊



You all know the outcome of the EGM, the International Board will work for an extra year for you. DARE TO GROW 2.0



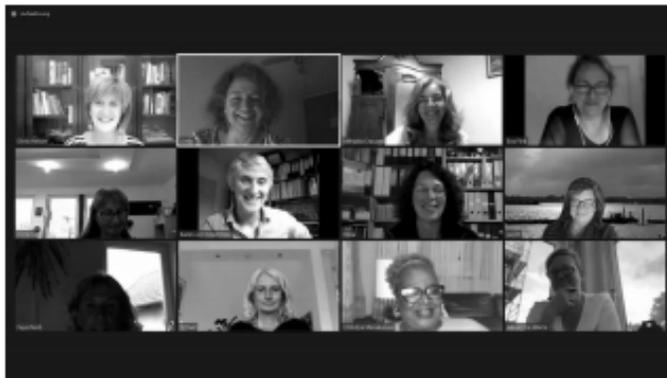
But we will organize an AGM on zoom Saturday October 3th at 16 u CEST. Everybody can join after registration. (you will receive an invitation soon!!)

The Councillor's meeting on zoom is scheduled October 3th at 14 u CEST.

During this Zoom we talked about our digital future, the platform Agora Club.World where AC Germany will be the pilot country. We will sent you shortly extra information and hope you all consider to join!

On zoom I had the opportunity to attend the AGM in Zimbabwe. With original hat!!!

Meet and greet on Zoom with the new board of Agora Club Germany which is an idea I really enjoyed! An idea for every Club?? I am always available for a Zoom 🖥️



A meeting with the president's of the Round Table Family was very productive. We decided to use the logo for the Round Table Family designed by our Webmaster, Tone Skretting. Very proud of you, Tone Congratulations with your beautiful design.



As it is a round logo every club can use the logo with their logo on top.



In between I followed the news very intensively. How is the Covid-19 situation in every country? Lockdowns, strict regulations, closed borders, no more travels, stay at home, flatten the curve, numbers of contaminations etc.....I tried to escape:



by biking with and without mouth mask!



by enjoying





by meeting Carina De Bruyn of AC The Netherlands, as soon as the border was open!



by sending greeting to Round Table Family Members, with the sound of the frogs in the background!!





With a good Belgian beer



By meeting my boardies on zoom



By all the meetings on Zoom





By hope

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all." - Emily Dickinson, Poet

My dear ladies, love you all, keep safe 😊



7. LCI - Letter from Alexandra Bennett: Interesting times.

In August each year we start on the journey of our new LCI year , with excitement and for those of you who joined us in Rotterdam an incredible amount of energy following our 60th Anniversary Celebrations . Our mission to celebrate the strong women of our association and help women around the world , locally , nationally and internationally , through friendship and through our international service project , Project Crimson setting up sanitary towel production units in India enabling marginalised women to help themselves as well as others who have no access to any sanitary hygiene products . I'm proud to say to date we have raised enough for 9 ! On the 1st January we looked forward to our MTM's (Mid term meetings) in Iceland and Austria , little did we know they would be one of the last

physical meetings of the year . Our board meetings in March and June have been virtual as will our AGM in August be . I'm incredibly proud of my board and all our members who have embraced change and found a way to connect with each other and still find a way of positively impacting their local community . Have you been 'Zoomed Out' ? We have a board meeting of 22 hours online over 3 days really did challenge even the most vibrant and tech savvy of us , yet we have adapted , we spaced meetings over more weekends and we took the time to just sit , glass in hand having a chat and a laugh which really is the thing we have all missed. The work still gets done but it really is harder to get to know someone when you are distracted by the wifi cutting out or you really do not like looking at yourself on the screen !

This year the 2019-20 board will not actually have all been together since Rotterdam which is incredibly sad , so the biggest hug goes to them the moment we reunite, but in my eyes at least we will have delivered on the promises we made to our members , to be a legally recognised not for profit association (based in The Hague) , reviewed our finances , continued the implementation of Circler.World, embedded the regional chair role and empowered and inspired women across the world and even attended over 25 associations AGM's. This year will certainly be a reminder to us all of not taking anything we gain from our association for granted. Never would I have known that my motto for the year would be so relevant Strong Women = Strong World . Thank you ladies for being Side by Side with us through good times and those more challenging if you'd like to join us for our virtual AGM you can register here <https://forms.gle/nYY9CzdWu34aD6HN6>

Alexandra Bennet





As our lives take on a digital dimension

Ladies' Circle International

Would like to invite you to the first online

Councillors Meeting (CM) on Sunday 23rd August
&
Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 29th August



LADIES' CIRCLE ALL OVER THE WORLD



Austria
Belgium
Botswana
Burundi
Cameroon*
Cyprus
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
GB&I
Germany
Hong Kong
Iceland
India
Israel
Italy
Kenya*
Latvia
Lithuania*
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta*
Mauritius*
Morocco

Nepal
The Netherlands
Norway
Portugal*
Romania
Seychelles*
Singapore*
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain*
Sri Lanka*
Sweden
Switzerland*
Tunisia*
United Arab Emirates*
United States of America*
Zambia
Zimbabwe

* associate member = Country with less than 3 Circles

Ladies' Circle International

43 countries, over 12.500 members

8. ISP New “ After Lockdown” mission



Laura van Zyl :

“The ACI Board and ISP Conveners had a fruitful meeting today! The good news is South Africa are able to travel locally again and we will soon continue with # Keep A Girl Child In School ISP Missions. Watch this space for details on a new “MINI PROJECT” which will happen in South Africa very soon! In the meantime, here are some images from the Botswana Mission held on 29th February 2020 – just before the world went into lockdown! We look forward to being able to help more girls empower themselves. Any donations towards our ISP would be greatly appreciated and should go through the ACI Treasurer.”

For the continuation of our beautiful project, we need your support 😊



One-mission=-5000-€=-300-GIRLS-

#KeepAGirlChildInSchool

We-need-your-help-to-make-this-ISP-a-success.

DONATIONS:

Account-number:-AGORA-CLUB-INTERNATIONAL

IBAN-BE-25-001-6811249-82

BIC/SWIFT:-GEBABEBB

Please-mention:-DONATION-PALESA-PADS-AND-YOUR-NAME-

OR-NAME-CLUB-NAME

Every girl should have the opportunity to attend school every day!

Many girls in Africa miss 3 –5 days of school each month because they cannot afford sanitary pads.

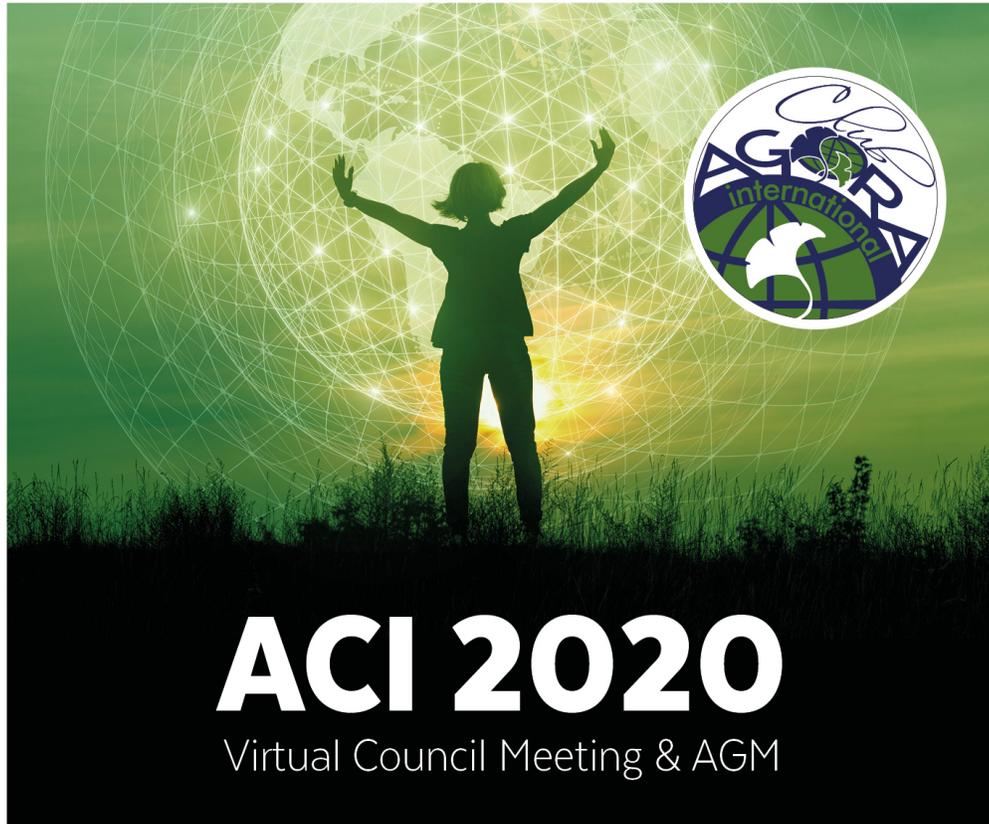
Most girls eventually end up dropping out of school altogether

With our project, Palesa Reusable Sanitary pads , we can provide a sustainable solution for up to 5 years, which is a girl's school career.

9. ACI

Invitation for CM and AGM on ZOOM

INVITATION TO THE ACI 2020 VIRTUAL MEETINGS



ACI 2020

Virtual Council Meeting & AGM

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

COUNCIL MEETING

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

TIME CM: 2pm (CEST)

DURATION: 1.5 h

AGM

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

TIME AGM: 4pm (CEST)

DURATION: 1.5 h

WWW.AGORACLUBINTERNATIONAL.COM

Pictures AC France







Pictures AC Germany



Pictures AC Madagascar



Pictures AC Malta



Pictures AC Morocco



Pictures AC Romania





Pictures AC Switzerland



Pictures AC The Netherlands





AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

OUR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The image displays three mobile devices showcasing digital platforms for Agora Club International:

- Website:** A smartphone screen shows the homepage of www.agoraclubinternational.com. The header reads "Welcome to Agora Club International" and features a banner for "ACI 2020 Virtual Council Meeting & AGM" on Saturday, 3 October 2020.
- Instagram:** A smartphone screen shows the Instagram profile for @agoraclubinternational. The profile has 34 posts, 276 followers, and 244 following. The bio identifies it as a "Frivillig organisasjon" (voluntary organization) for women, with the motto "Donner et Tolérer" (Service and... more) and the website www.agoraclubinternational.com.
- Facebook:** A smartphone screen shows the Facebook page for Agora Club International (@agoraclubinternational). The page features a post for "ACI 2020 Virtual Council Meeting & AGM" on Saturday, 3 October 2020. A callout bubble indicates that the old "GROUP" is not in use.

Three circular callouts highlight the platforms:

- WEBSITE:** www.agoraclubinternational.com
- INSTAGRAM:** @agoraclubinternational
- FACEBOOK:** @agoraclubinternational

INVITATION TO THE ACI 2020 VIRTUAL MEETINGS



ACI 2020

Virtual Council Meeting & AGM

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

COUNCIL MEETING

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

TIME CM: 2pm (CEST)

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AGM

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

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**REGISTER
NOW!**

Registration Form
on our website
or facebook

WWW.AGORACLUBINTERNATIONAL.COM