



President's Winter Letter

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Antique Classic & Historic Automobile world

Fellowship of Rotarians

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Italian Chapter ARACI -mr. Tenchini-,this year's Europe Tour took place from June 9-12,2016 in the magnificent Brescia area. The tour was – of course- dedicated to the 1000 MIGLIA, the world's most famous race and its museum. In addition we were honoured to visit the well-known RIVA Shipyards and in addition or in between we enjoyed the cultural and gastronomic delights that the province of Brescia and Franciacorta offers.

With a record number of 48 cars we mastered (or tried so) the challenges of the road book, being prepared by Cristiano Luzzago and his organization team.

Cristiano put this year's tour under the heading 'A Tour you will never forget' and so it happened.

The participants from the Netherlands (16 cars) , United Kingdom (14 cars),Germany (9 cars), Italy (6 cars), France (2 cars) and Sweden spent unforgettable days in impressive surroundings- be it the splendid hotel, the region and its landscape, the wine yards and cellars – and in grown companionableness.

The participants and the Board express sincere thanks to ARACI for the hospitality and to Cristiano and his team for the splendid work in preparing and organizing this year's Tour !!

The pictures of this Tour on our website www.achafr.eu provide memories of what we have seen, enjoyed and experienced.

On the occasion of the Europe Tour we held the Annual General Meeting 2016, which has been attended by 33 representatives .

Following a pleasant open discussion of various agenda items it was concluded to

- . continue with present name of our Fellowship: ACHAFR
- . update the website www.achafr.eu
- . be present with a booth at the Rotary International World Convention in Atlanta in 2017
- .support present and new national chapters with returnable loans
- .install an unified fee-structure of € 10,- per member per rata
- .only allow life-membership, if there is no national chapter in the country of the applicant
- .final approval to the financial statement 2015 and budget for 2016

- .henceforth have the Board approve the budgeting, planning and controlling of Europe Tours
- .have the Europe Tour 2017 taking place from June 6-8 in Yorkshire, England
- .have the Europe Tour 2018 taking place in the Netherlands
- .order PR and marketing tools, like redesigned caps, shawls, flyers and flags

In the meantime the Board has reserved booth space in the House of Friendship at the Rotary International World Convention in Atlanta and is preparing for the outfit of the booth, which will gratefully be organized and 'manned' by Bob Reynolds, President of the our North American Chapter, and his team. Probably, Bob may organize an evening event in Atlanta on that occasion, also in order to present our Fellowship in a specific convenient surrounding. This World Convention will be in the limelight of the 100th Anniversary of Rotary Foundation and thus be a fine occasion to awake additional interest in the activities of our Fellowship with the thousands of Rotarian attendees.

Also, the website has been completely renewed and provides a lively impression of a modern and dynamic Fellowship. Moreover, redesigned caps, newly designed shawls as well as newly developed/printed flyers and ACHAFR flags are available to members of the national chapters and ACHAFR and can be seen on our website www.achafr.eu.

Our new caps have first been presented (and sold) at Rotary Coast-to-Coast Tour from Orbetello to Ancona from September 7-11, 2016, to which my wife and I have kindly been invited. The Wine Edition of this yearly Tour has been extremely well organized by Vincent Mazzone and Luigi Cafasi and been attended by 44 cars/teams from all over Italy and Peter Griffiths (UK) with his Morgan. Peter and we refreshed our Italian language with the challenging road books, which brought us to 8 Rotary Clubs and superb wines in an amazing nice landscape. While crossing the Apennines we closely passed by the area of the devastating earthquake, which took place in August. In good Rotarian tradition the participants and we, as ACHAFR, devoted our sympathy and financial support to the victims of this disaster.

At year-end we have to report our activities to Rotary International, thus I asked national chapters for information about their activities, including AGM reports and memberships. With this letter I repeat the request, since there has been an extremely 'mild' reaction yet.

Also, I call for your attention (and orders) for our caps, shawls, flyers and flags, which at your joint request have been made and are now available and can be seen on our website! Orders can be routed via president@achafr.eu.

On December 10, 2016 the Board held its meeting in Moenchengladbach – Germany.

Particular interest has been devoted to the national chapters in Italy and Germany. With satisfaction it noticed, that ARACI finally has found its way towards restructuring, also by establishing a new board and the forthcoming election of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. In Germany a re-start of the chapter may become opportune. Against the background of the success of so many local Rotary Clubs organizing classic car-tours, being attended by hundreds of fellow-Rotarians, it should be possible to harmonize the interests in joining vintage car events at a national level.

Also the Board again notified the necessity of (i) a more regular information by national chapters about the number of their members, (ii) up-to-date information of life-time members, (iii) more intensive use of PR and marketing products of ACHAFR, such as caps, shawls, flyers and flags, which have been produced at the request of national chapters and should not rest in stock with the president !!

The Board confirms that the annual contribution of national chapters to ACHAFR is (the equivalent of) € 5,- per member with a maximum (of the equivalent) of € 500,- for the entire chapter.

The Board has hired a booth at the RI World Convention 2017 in Atlanta and expresses its thankfulness to Bob Reynolds-President of the North American Chapter for his preparatory efforts to furnish and (wo)man the booth and possibly to organize a social gathering.

The Board notifies that Europe Tours will be held in

June 6-8, 2017 in the UK : the Flat Cap, Whippet & Ferret Tour

June 8-10,2018 in the Netherlands- with a special attention to the 30-years' Anniversary of ACHAFR

2019 in Germany on the occasion of the RI World Convention and/or in Italy in conjunction with ARACI's Coast-to-Coast Tour

The 2017 Europe Tour:

Gratefully, the 2017 ACHAFR/RRAF-UK (Europe) Flat Cap, Whippet & Ferret Tour in North Yorkshire (June 6-8) encounters great enthusiasm. By now,50 cars/teams from various national chapters have made reservations and will turn the idyllic 4 Star Aldwark Manor Golf & Spa Hotel into a private "Rotary Hotel" for those days. From this base the three- day programme will bring us to the Yorkshire Dales, Moors & Coast as well as the Harewood House & Gardens- if we successfully master the- for sure challenging- road books.

Before joining our friends in the UK for the Europe Tour, I will again participate at the ARACI-Rotary Coast-to-Coast which will take place from April 26-30,2017. As a consequence of the devastating earth quakes in August and October/November , which heavily affected roads and towns , the usual/traditional route between Ascoli and Orbetello cannot be followed . Thus, the organization of the Rotary Coast-to-Coast Tour has designed a completely different itinerary for the 2017 Tour- starting on April 26 on the Isle of Elba and following a more northern route ending in Urbino- more details will be presented on www.achafr.eu. I am sure, that also in 2017 our joint sympathy and financial support will be devoted to the victims of the destructive earth quakes.

On the brink of New Year I wish all of you a most Happy, Healthy and Successful 2017 and thank you for the fine cooperation in the ending year

With finest personal regards

Yours

Matthijs van den Adel