



President's Newsletter Vol 17, Nr 1, March 2020

Antique Classic & Historic Automobile Fellowship of Rotarians

30 years old and unabated energetic!!

Dear Members,

The virus continues to cause worldwide havoc: in human terms as well as in economic, financial and social aspects. The dramatic developments will surely have far-reaching repercussions within National Chapters and our Fellowship, but these are of lesser importance in view of the numerous victims and casualties, which we have to deplore. Our thoughts and empathy are with our friends in Italy, the country most heavily shaken by the pandemic.

Against the background of agony and lock down of regions it has been necessary and logic to abolish this year's ARACI/ACHAFR Europe Tour 2020, which was to take place in June. The tour was due to bring us from the east coast to the west coast of Central Italy along a magnificent course during 7 days. No less than 60 teams from all over Europe have been looking forward to meet together while travelling to beautiful places and making them join a very special Rotarian service of many Rotary Clubs, which felt honored to host all of us and to show the historic, cultural, geographical and of course the gastronomical assets of their towns and regions.

With enormous disappointment, but full understanding we supported the decision of our Italian friends to postpone this challenging tour until further notice, when the country will be ready to welcome us in a safe and happy way. The Board of ACHAFR sincerely thanks Vincent Mazzone and his entire team for all the hard work they put in for some twelve plus months to make it a very memorable tour. We wish all of you well and your esteemed country a speedy and successful recovery. We really hope that all the work (reservations of hotels, lunches and dinners, guided tours and boat cruise) has not been done in vain and may be utilized at a later date, for instance in spring 2021.

The Europe Tours have been combined with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ACHAFR. Now that this year's tour has been postponed, we cannot hold the AGM 2020 and will instead forward the respective documents to the Boards of National Chapters and life time members of ACHAFR.

Also tours and general meetings of National Chapters needed to be cancelled and postponed in the wake of the virus infection. We can only hope that tours in Germany, like the Muensterlaender Castle and Palace Tour, in Italy, like the Gran Sasso Tour in September or the Autumn tour of RRAF-NL in the Netherlands as well as many, many tours elsewhere may take place later on this year (for information see also [www.achafr.eu](http://www.achafr.eu)). If so, we will then resume the main characteristic of those tours: to be 'family festivals' of petrol heads.

At those joint events and adjacent social gatherings, the close-knit car-family attitudes prevail over nationalities and languages and that adds to Rotary's philosophy of close cooperation and communication at home and across borders, which is extremely important and valuable in nowadays changing environments and tendencies.

The Board of ACHAFR wish all of you good health and trust that this extremely difficult period may be surpassed in the near future: then we can continue to

KEEP ROTARY ROLLING.

With finest personal regards

Matthijs van den Adel