

Compte-rendu de la réunion AFA du Conseil d'administration du jeudi 25 juin 2026

*Etaient présents : Philippe et Michèle Lamarche, André et Christine Maggi, Denise Shield. Simone Bonet, Cypel David, Cypel Nicole, Daniel Dawidowicz, Patricia Favier, Liliane Bogdanovic, Sylvie Boutard
Philippe Grosjean : excusée*

1. Financial Summary :

- Bank 5,673.07 euros
- Livret A (Savings Account) 10,414.97 euros
- Cash 41.42 euros
- Total 16,129.46 euros

Regarding the General Meeting and other matters, Philippe noted a few additional expenses (which had been planned and approved by the board) :

- €828 in additional costs (over and above meal payments received)
 - €200 donation made to Father Peillon
 - €345.50 for tips given during the Aosta Valley trip (no complimentary items were provided by Peirani)
- This amounts to an additional expense of €1,373.50 (already included in the financial summary above).

2. General Meeting Summary (Saturday, May 30th) :

- The General Meeting went very well and took place in a positive atmosphere.
- The new board was elected for a two-year term.
- The caterer (recommended by Daniel) provided excellent service: very professional, good food, and good value for money.

3. New Appointments :

- Committee: We welcome our new committee member, Liliane Bogdanovic.
- Board of Directors : We are pleased to retain Simone Bonet on the board following her four-year tenure on the executive committee.

4. Aosta Valley Trip Summary (June 4th-7th) :

Christine discussed the report she sent to Autocars Peirani following the trip:

- Excellent choice of hotel : we were always warmly welcomed with great kindness. Spacious rooms; meals were hearty, varied, and very good.
- The guided outings were perfect, with the exception of the visit to the ham production facility (the smell was unpleasant, and people had to stand in a cramped space); however, the drive to the site was magnificent... the visit itself was of little interest.
- Aside from Douglas's minor injury... the ham tasting took place too late—too close to dinner... a pity.
- Dimitri was an excellent driver: careful, responsible, and very attentive to the passengers' needs.
- Conclusion: a very successful trip with a great atmosphere.

5. Review of the lecture given by André Maggi on Wednesday, June 10th:

- There was a large turnout; the lecture was generally well-received.
- Some felt that more specific details regarding locations and historical background would have been welcome.
- Michèle thanked André for agreeing to give the lecture on such short notice following a mix-up with the room booking date.

6. Review of the local "Train des Merveilles" excursion on Thursday, June 18th: 28 participants.

- The local outing organized by Lili was a success; we were very lucky with the trains running on time and the fares (€12 round-trip from Menton!).
- A guide joined the group in Nice and provided historical commentary in both French and English throughout the journey to Tende.
- After visiting the Prehistoric Museum in Tende, participants had free time for lunch and independent sightseeing in the afternoon.

- André enjoyed this informative outing.
- Patricia suggested coordinating RPM and AFA outings to avoid scheduling conflicts; Michèle noted that the logistics are complex...
- Lily is willing to organize more outings to the Monaco Training High School (*Lycée d'Application*), but only for small groups.
- A minor complaint from David :
 - o Participants should have made their own travel arrangements; the trip could have started from Sospel.
- Philippe's response : The outing was the "Train des Merveilles" (Train of Wonders), not just a "visit to Tende." We started from Nice primarily to have the guide on board from the very beginning—providing historical explanations for each village in French and English—and to ensure everyone had a seat.
- o One of the recommended restaurants, "Le Croisement," was 6 km from the center of Tende; outings should be better planned.
- Michèle's response : It is up to individuals to check Google for locations and reviews... the list was provided merely as a suggestion. Train ticket (the Menton-Nice leg was included)
- Michèle's response : Lily went to the train station three times to get information; on the third visit, she was told that the €12 price included the Menton-Nice-Tende journey with a guide... The delay in receiving this information was due to the SNCF... We notified the registered participants as soon as possible.
- o We are taking note of these comments for future outings.

7. Donation to the Sacré-Cœur parish in Menton :

- €200 was given to Father Peillon (in the AFA accounts, these costs are allocated to the "operating expenses" category).
- Regarding the Conversation Groups : the 2027 contract is ready for the renewal of the Presbytery room rental—a quiet, welcoming, and affordable venue.

8. Renewal of Agora and Ste Claire rooms : completed.

9. Picnic on Thursday, July 2nd, at the Parc des Oliviers in Roquebrune :

- Information has been on the website since early June.
- The request has been submitted to the Town Hall.

10. Trip projects for 2027 :

- Choice of destinations: Cévennes, Tyrol, and England (following in the footsteps of the Beatles).
- The trips will be evaluated in Sept/Oct 2027 and planned (if approved) in 2027.
- o Tyrol : Christine has 10 members expressing interest in a 6-day trip to Tyrol (April 2027 or other).
- o Cévennes : little interest in this trip.
- o England : a trip to England (custom-made, including Liverpool (visit to 2 museums), Manchester (city tour), York (city tour), the Lake District, etc.) is being planned by Michèle. Phoceens will then draft a 5- or 6-day itinerary. Several members have requested this trip.

11. Local visit projects for the new season :

- A visit to the Eileen Gray Villa in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (RCM) is scheduled for October 2nd 2026. Registration (limited to 30 people) will open in early September.
- A visit to the Automobile Museum in Monaco is being considered for November 2026.

12. Project to host the Brest-based choir "Cantoria" in May 2027 :

- Michèle's brother is a member of a Breton vocal ensemble with an eclectic repertoire (classical works, jazz, negro spirituals, *tango nuevo*, etc.).
- Cantoria's Board of Directors unanimously chose Menton to celebrate its 30th anniversary and—with AFA's assistance—perform a concert featuring an Anglo-Saxon influence. They are proposing "The Irish Mass," a work performed in Gaelic and accompanied by traditional instruments.
- They will cover their own costs for accommodation, ticketing, publicity, and transport.
- Michèle contacted Mr. Hervé Féraud, the music coordinator for the Notre Dame des Rencontres parish, who is very interested in the project. He has proposed a concert at the Basilica of Saint-Michel on May 7th (this concert could take place under the auspices of, or in partnership with, the AFA; terms regarding the posters need to be defined jointly).

- The choir also proposes giving a short concert for AFA members on May 8th (booking the Louvre Hall needs to be done quickly). Michèle suggests following this with a social gathering featuring a buffet organized by the AFA.
- Patricia suggests mentioning this to Mr. Likerman, a music lover who might offer to host them, though the potential number of participants (100) is a deterrent.
- External musicians (4 or 5) are recruited on an ad-hoc basis for these concerts; accommodation will need to be found for them.
- Philippe proposes using the grant from the City of Menton for this project (specifically for the Saturday evening buffet); this has been approved.

13. Menton twinning project with an English town (in partnership with Mr. Daniele Mineo) :

- Approached by an elected official to set up a twinning project with the UK, Michèle contacted an English friend to find a suitable town; it is not a simple task—to be followed.

14. Associations Fair: organization :

- Saturday, September 5th: the stand is booked and we have the acknowledgment of receipt; we are awaiting details on the specific location.
 - o 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM : Michèle, Christine, and Philippe
 - o 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM : David and Nicole Cypel on duty
 - o 2:00 PM : Denise and Simone on duty
 - o Other board members will come to help during the day.
 - o Rule : no waiting-list registrations for classes will be accepted without AFA membership.

15. AFA registered office address :

- The association's registered office has been moved to Liliana Bigdanovic's address, as the commercial lease for "La Mandibule" did not allow them to let us use that address. The necessary steps were taken online with the Prefecture: the request—effective as of the May 30th General Meeting—was validated by the Prefecture on June 26th.

16. Miscellaneous items :

- Date of the next Board of Directors meeting: Monday, September 28th 2026, at 5:15 PM at the "Le Dauphin" restaurant.
- Christine is booking the room and the pizzas.

Michèle Dorel-Lamarche, President