



## CLUB NEWS



### RESTORATION OF FRESCOS



ST. AGATHA'S HISTORICAL COMPLEX RABAT MALTA

At the Board meeting on April 5 it was decided that the Club will continue to restore the frescoes in the Catacombs of St. Agatha in Rabat.

The Board approved to set aside €546 (equivalent to the sum raised from the Stableford Golf Tournament) as part of the expenses envisaged for the cost of restoration of the frescoes. The Board believes that this project is worth perusing. It is estimated that over €3800 is needed for the project. The project will take some time to be completed.

Lion Alfred Micallef Attard will be liaising with the restorer who will start restoration shortly.

*Photo : The main altar in the catacombs which was restored some years ago when the Club embarked on the restoration project.*



APRIL 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Recently I have attended two Charter nights for our fellow Maltese Lions Clubs. For a small nation we certainly punch above our weight in terms of activity and awareness of Lions with other Lions Clubs. At the Malta (Host) Charter we celebrated the 59th anniversary. A major achievement in itself. The club was joined by about 40 Italian lions of all ages and efforts were made to accommodate them all. Although there were big differences in age and attitude we were all bound by Lionism and a shared understanding of our philanthropic goals.

Seeing such a young club made me realise that our fears about younger people not being interested in Lionism is perhaps born out of past experience. Certainly as all the Malta Clubs members get older we need to be innovative in our approach to recruitment and welcoming to potential new members. At our last meeting it was heartening to have a new potential member as a result of increased Facebook activity and TV comment. We must all strive to come up with ideas to raise funds and increase membership.

As I depart to Bosco Marengo for our renewal meeting of Lions fellowship this strengthens the feeling of togetherness that we must realise can only bring increased success and service.

*John Rusher  
Club President*

\*\*\*\*\*

**WE SERVE  
Where there is a need  
There is always  
A LION**

## LC SLIEMA MELVIN JONES FELLOWS

Lions Club Sliema has 11 Melvin Jones Fellows in its ranks. These are Lions George O. Attard, Carmel Azzopardi, Victor Borg Barthet, Chris Borg Cardona, Frank Galea, Ian Lochhead, Alphonse Macdonald, Albert Mamo, Joe Messina, Alfred Micallef Attard and Tom A. Restall.

The eleven recipients of the MJF were nominated by the Club's Board of Directors in recognition for their leadership during their term of office as Club President.

The first recipient of the MJF award in Malta was the late Mons. Michael Azzopardi, the founder of Dar tal-Providenza at Siggiewi. The monsignor was nominated for the award for his work to set up the home for the handicapped.



Lion George O. Attard who will be the Club's President in the Lionistic Year 2017/2018 was the last recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

It is hoped that the Club will nominate other deserving members for the Melvin Jones award. Though helping local philanthropic projects is a priority, it does not mean that we do not also contribute to other worldwide ones.

*Photo: Lion Tom A. Restall then Zone Chairman with Lion George after presenting the award.*

## MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP



The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) recognizes donations of US\$1000.

It is the backbone of LCIF, providing 75 percent of the foundations revenue. As recognition of humanitarian work, an MJF is an honour presented to those who donate US\$1000 to LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation) or to people for whom a donation was made by others.

Contributions can be made by individuals (including non Lions), clubs or districts. Donations may be in one sum, or in instalments of a minimum of US\$100 over a five-year period. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

It is possible to make a donation and choose the MJF recipient later.

### MJF FACTS:

- The Fellowship was established in 1973 and the Progressive programme in 1986 in response to Lions' request for away to extend their commitment to LCIF.
- Donations through MJFs provide 75 percent of the Foundation's annual revenue.
- There are 54 levels in the PMJF programme.
- As of January 2016 there are 386804 recipients and 75067 PMJF recipients worldwide.
- All MJFs are invited to the annual luncheon held at the convention. The MJF luncheon began in 1984 and has been held at each convention since then.
- The names of MJFs are displayed on a computer in the LCIF Room at the International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Chicago, Illinois.

Through the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) our Association is able to provide financial assistance whenever there is any natural calamity (earthquakes etc.). During the years of its existence LCIF has also been instrumental to provide funds for specific projects undertaken by Lions worldwide. In Malta we received donations to provide the Glaucoma Screening equipment.

## MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY



On April 1 during the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory held in Alexandria (Egypt) during the 2107 MSO Convention Past District Governor Lion Dorijan Maršič of Slovenia was elected as Coordinator, while PDG Ugo Lupatelli of Italy, PCC Harris Zachariadou of Greece, PDG Jalil Biouraoni of Tunisia and PDC Mourad Charif d'Ouazzane of Morocco were appointed to serve as members for the next two years(2017/2019).

PDG Massimo Fabio of Italy continues to serve as MSO Secretary and Archivist, a post he has held for the last decade.

Nineteen delegates representing ten member Mediterranean littoral countries were present at the meeting during which it was agreed that the 2019 Mediterranean Conference will be held in Beirut (Lebanon), while Antalya (Turkey) was confirmed as the venue for the 2018 Conference.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MEMBERS DIRECTORY

A new Members Directory will be printed in due course. To enable us to have an updated directory, club members are kindly requested to inform Lion Tom A. Restall ([email -trestall@go.net.mt](mailto:trestall@go.net.mt)) of any changes against their names in the current directory.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

*To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.*

## MONTHLY TALK

Club member Lion Joe Cassar was the guest speaker at the monthly talk held on April 19. Lion Joe who had a chequered career in the diplomatic service spoke of his experiences as an ambassador.



During his career Lion Joe was Malta's permanent representative at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

He also was Malta's ambassador in Russia, Libya and China.

During the many years that Lion Joe spent in the diplomatic service he met various Heads of States.

His talk on "Diplomacy" - Different Facets of Presentation was interesting. He recounted how diplomatic representation involves engagements in a number of different sectors. His talk was illustrated by a selection of photos and personal experiences.

The diplomats role of transmitting their own Government's views and policies is coupled with that of nurturing greater understanding of the societies, customs and mores in the countries to which they are accredited.

*Photo: Club President Lion John Rusher congratulating Lion Joe at the end of his presentation.*

*The next monthly talk is scheduled for Wednesday May 17. The guest speaker will be announced through a circular later.*

## CROATIAN VISITOR



Lion Goran Zecevic, President of Lions Club Agram, one of the several clubs in Zagreb, Croatia, from District 126(Croatia) was a welcomed guest on April 5.

On his return home, Lion Goran who was in Malta on a business trip sent an email to our Club President. He was pleased to have attended our Club's meeting stating that it was a very interesting and informative experience.

Lion Goran's club has 18 members most of whom are very active in the club. He stated that the club has a good mix in terms of vocation, from interior decorators to a doctor who is a FRCP.

Lion Goran wrote that since he got back from Malta he spoke to some members about the idea of chartering a plane later this year (October or November) and inviting other Lions from Croatia to participate in a humanitarian visit to Malta whereby each participant would be charged an extra €100 for the trip towards a charitable donation. If we were to fill an Airbus we would thus have around €12000 for a donation which we could organise jointly by our two Clubs.

Certainly this is not a bad idea and it is hoped that the visit would materialise.

Lions in Croatia have been chartered during the last decade of the 20th century and have since grown in numbers with clubs following the motto WE SERVE to help the less fortunate people in their country. Lions Clubs in Croatia are quite active in their philanthropic activities.

*Photo Lion Goran with our Club President Lion John Rusher*