



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2024

APRIL NEWSLETTER

AFTERNOON TEA AT DAR TAL-KLERU



On Thursday, March 21st, Lions Club Sliema organized an afternoon tea event for retired clergy residents at Dar tal-Kleru (Home for Elderly Priests) in Birkirkara. Among the attendees were esteemed guests such as His Eminence Bishop Joseph Mercieca, along with Dun Anton Portelli, the home's Director.

The delightful assortment of food was generously contributed by Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina, while Mrs. Victoria Wilson, spouse of Immediate Past President Norman, graciously baked several delectable cakes for the occasion.

Lion Vivienne Zammit, the event coordinator, arranged gifts for all residents, including toiletries provided by Lion Victoria Muscat, who consistently supports this initiative each year. Additional toiletry gifts were generously contributed by Michele Peresso and mugs by JB Stores.

The presence of numerous Lions, dedicated to the ethos of WE SERVE, underscored the spirit of community support as they assisted in serving the residents during this event.

CLUB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024/25

During the Club's meeting held on Wednesday April 3 members present elected the Board of Directors for the Lionistic Year 2024/25. The Board is as shown hereunder:

PRESIDENT: Lion Victor Borg Barthet. **1st VICE PRESIDENT:** Lion Stephane Moyet. **2nd VICE PRESIDENT** Lion George O. Attard. **IMM. PAST PRESIDENT:** Lion Karl Grima Bezzina. **SECRETARY** Lion Lorna Farrugia. **TREASURER** Lion Alexaner Arena. **MEMBRSHIP DIRECTOR:** Lion Vivienne Zammit. **DIRECTORS 2 YEARS:** Lions Norman Wilson, Victoria Muscat, Frank Galea. **DIRECTORS 1 YEAR:** Lions Tom Restall, Alfred Micallef Attard, Louise Cutajar Davis. **LION TAMER** Lion Louis Sciberras. **TAIL TWISTER:** Lion Arlette Grech. The above-mentioned Board will take office as from July 1, 2024.



RAISING FUNDS FOR SICK CHILDREN

Our twinned Club Sfax Thyna organised a fund-raising event to help children suffering from leukaemia. During the period April 2 to 7, the Club put up a stand at "Salle Carthage" where there was a "Nour Expo Fair" selling various soft toys to raise funds for their project. Club members were at the fair from 1000 to 1500 hours and from 2100 to midnight to sell the toys. They put up a sign stating "A BOUGHT TOY = HELPS A CHILD IN NEED. According to information on the Club's website this was a successful fund raiser which helps the Club to continue their project to help children who are in need of medical help. Our twinned Club in Sfax has been very active these last few years undertaking various projects beneficial to their community.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CLUB

The Lions Club is the most important single Lions organisation. It is the clubs, after all, which carry out the programmes and activities that have made our Association which is today – the world’s premier humanitarian service organisation.

Membership is by invitation only, and is open to persons of legal majority which have demonstrated a commitment to community betterment.



Your Club has been chartered by the international association, and has agreed to abide by the International Constitution and By-Laws. It has the same rights as any Lions Club, proportionate to membership.

A typical Lions Club is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a president as chief executive officer, three vice presidents, the immediate past president, a secretary, a treasurer, the Lion Tamer (custodian of club property), the Tail Twister (who adds fun to the meeting), and four or more directors. Most Boards meet on a monthly basis. The make-up of the Board of Directors may vary, depending upon the size of the club (i.e. some clubs may only have one Vice President).

Assisting the Board are various administrative and activity committees appointed by the President. Administrative committees include Attendance, Constitution and By-Laws. Convention, Finance, Lions Information, Membership, Programmes. Public Relations, Bulletin Editor and Leadership Development. Activity committees generally conform to the major Lion activities. In many Clubs, every member is assigned to a committee.

Each Club sets its own entrance fee and annual dues. In addition, the Club collects both the district and international dues, the latter \$55 per year, is the lowest of the major service clubs’ organisations.

Dues are used to pay the club’s administrative costs. Money raised from the public for activities must never be used to defray administrative expenses, but only for legitimate community of public needs.

Editor’s note: Reproduced Lions Clubs International publication.

“INVOLMENT + LEADERSHIP = SERVICE”

DEMISE OF A PAST PRESIDENT

The news of the demise of Lions Chris Borg Cardona, who was the 2006/07 Club President, took fellow Lions by surprise. Lion Chris was a joyful person and always ready to help. The number of fellow Lions present at his funeral on Wednesday April 10 show how much he was respected by his fellow Lions. Condolences his wife Vicky, his children and grandchildren.

His memory will go on whenever the Club uses the lottery gadget, he made out of scrap metal will be used to extract winning tickets for prizes in the in-house raffles organised by the Club.

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FOOD COLLECTION

On Saturday April 6 several Club members were at “Greens Supermarket” asking shoppers to donate food items which were being collected to help the several Ukranian citizens in Malta. The response from the people asked to donate food items was real good as several items of groceries were donated. Club members



encouraged shoppers to make donations. Club President Lion Karl Grima Bezzina and his wife Daniella were also present, with the President conveying trollies to the garage and unloading goods to the cars to be taken to Lion Tom Restall’s garage where the goods were stored before being delivered to the Ukranian citizens presently in Malta. At 2 p.m. when the number of shoppers dwindled, the Lions present stayed on for lunch at the “Greens Cafeteria”.

The collected goods were later transferred to Tom’s garage for storage before being presented to the Maltese/Ukranian charity.



All the grocery items collected which were passed over to the Ukrainian Charity on Tuesday April 16. The lady who collected the goods was full of praise for the generosity of the Maltese people who provided the goods and to Sliema Lions who organised the fund raiser. Lion Treasurer Alex Arena, who was one of the Lions responsible to organise this fund raiser, stated that later this year he plans to organise a similar event to help another organisation.

Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina thanked all those involved in this event and stated that this showed the involvement of our Club members and the generosity of the Maltese.

Photo from left: Lions Louis Sciberras, Louise :Cutajar Davis, Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina, Lion Treasurer Alex Arena. The Ukranian lady and Lion Tom A. Restall.

LIONS CLUBS IN MALTA

MALTA and its people are known world-wide for their hospitality and generosity. Since time immemorial the Maltese were renowned for the helping hand, they proffer to people in need irrespective of colour or creed of the brethren needing help. It was thus logical that with the advent and spread of the Lions Movement in Europe immediately after the Second World War that sooner or later Lionism will also sow its seeds in Malta.

Hence in 1958 Lions Club Malta G.C. became the first Lions Club to be chartered in Malta. The Club attracted a good number of public-spirited Maltese who believed in the noble ethics and objectives of Lions in its ranks. A few years later, the G.C. was dropped from the Club's name and the Club was commonly known as Lions Club Malta. In 1998 the Club was appropriately named Lions Club Malta Host.

In 1974 Lions Club Sliema became the second Lions Club to be chartered in Malta. In 1982 a third club was jointly sponsored by the two first clubs, namely Lions Club Gozo. Unfortunately, this club did not continue to function despite efforts are still ongoing to reconstitute this club since Gozo is considered to be a fertile place for a Lions Club.

In 1984 a fourth Club was chartered. This being Lions Club St. Paul's Bay which was sponsored by Lions Club Sliema In 1994. The latter Club also sponsored a fifth Club namely Lions Club La Vallette. The Charter Presidents of these two Clubs were Past Presidents of Lions Club Sliema.

In 1994 also saw the charter of the all-female Club, namely Lions Club Mdina. The majority of the members were ex-members of the Lioness Club Malta.

For a few years both Lions Club Malta Host and Lions Club Sliema had a Leo Club but unfortunately due to lack of members both Leo Clubs did not continue to function.

The five existing Clubs in Malta were always conscious of the importance of working together so before the change in the International Association of Lions Clubs constitution they had formed an Association of Maltee Lions with the scope of working in harmony together for the good of the Maltese community, In 1998 it was possible for the Provisional Zone to be formed and consequently the Provisional Zone Malta was formed. Perhaps this is the only such Zone in the world. As a result of the Provisional Zone, the five Lions Clubs in Malta are working together in a true spirit of understanding and cooperation.

Since the first Lions Club was chartered, all the Maltese Lions have strived to work within the objects and the ethics of Lions and have accomplished several projects which helped individuals and institutions. Suffice to mention the Eye Donor Scheme, the Organ Donation Awareness Campaign, the Friends of St. Luke's Hospital Foundation and the Child Abuse Awareness Project. Besides each club was involved in cultural, social and philanthropic projects which are too numerous to mention in the short space available.

The Lions of Malta also help internationally when the occasion arises. In recent years financial and material help was given to earthquake victims both in Algeria and Sicily.

A minor project undertaken by the Maltese Clubs together with “The Glaucoma Awareness” project which was partly financed by the SightFirst programme. With the grant from Lions Headquarters and the money collected locally, it was possible to provide ophthalmic equipment to six government health centres and a residence for senior citizens. This equipment is widely used by the Maltese community for glaucoma detection and other related maladies. The SightFirst Project has been of great benefit to the community and it is also an ongoing project.

At present all Maltese Lions Clubs are trying to attract new members to their ranks, an arduous task considering the number of similar organisations among the small population of Malta. Nonetheless the Lions of Malta are determined to increase their ranks and to continue in the efforts to help the Maltese community and internationally abiding by the motto “WE SERVE”.

Editor’s note: The above is a reproduction of the main article in the commemorative booklet issued by the then Lions Clubs for the “Mediterranean Lions Convention” which was held in Malta from March 18 to 21, 1999 with the theme – “THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE” which was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici.

A TIMELY MESSAGE FROM MALTA

Every month I receive a bulletin from Lion Secretary Tom A. Restall of the Lions Club Sliema in Malta. It is an excellent bulletin and one of which I very much enjoy reading. In case you are not aware we are twinned with this Club.

On Saturday November 17, 1990 (as reported in their December Bulletin) they were having their 16th Charter Anniversary Dinner at the Grandmasters Ballroom of the Malta Hilton Hotel and Lion President Frank Galea is speaking. The following is part of his speech: *“We, Lions have various aims. We must help people in need, we must take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community. We must promote the principles of good citizenship. But above all we must create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world. This is working towards the peoples of the world. This is working towards peace. We Lions of Lions Club Sliema are striving hard towards this aim and our continuous contacts with various overseas clubs*

and in particular with those with which we are twinned in Sicily, Hatfield in Zimbabwe, Millbrae in the USA, Roma Pantheon In Italy, Sfax Thyna in Tunisia and Istanbul Osmanbey in Turkey prove our commitment towards fostering the spirit of understanding towards fostering the spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world. We shall continue working towards these aims. Through our motto “WE SERVE” we want to serve our country better, through understanding we want to give our contribution to make this world a better place to live. We want to make this world a world of peace”.

(To me this just about says it all- Bulletin Editor Millbrae Lions Club)

The above article is reproduced from the Millbrae Lions Club of California USA Bulletin of January 17, 1991. It is being reproduced to show the value of having a monthly newsletter thus our Club is known around the world. Our newsletter is sent to all of our twinned clubs.

THE AGING POPULATION

FROM “SLIEMA ROAR” of June 1990. “THE AGING POPULATION” The majority of the world’s population aged 60 and over live in developing countries. The proportion will increase from 58% in 1990 to 62% in 2000 and to 71% in 2025. The global population of the elderly will increase from 487 million in 1990 to 612 million in 2000 and to 1.2 billion in 2025. As our populations age, most countries experience far-reaching technological changes and severe economic constraints. Every month a million people celebrate their 60th birthdays. Populations globally are aging. Increased urbanization stretches the capacity of families to care for their older members. These trends raise questions about the quality of live of the aged. In such a climate, it is not possible for every society of Lions Clubs to deal with every facet of aging. However, proprieties should be identified. Have we a thought about the implication of an aging population on the services it will provide in the future?

EDITOR’S NOTE: The above article was first published in our Club’s newsletter “SLIEMA ROAR” of June 1990. It is still food for thought for all of us irrespective of our age. Hence it won’t be amiss if the Club thinks about this phenomenon and it is thus a good thing that our Club organises visits and entertain elderly people at the “Homes for the Aged”.



“WE SERVE”

