



## CLUB NEWS



**CLUB MEETINGS:** The next club meetings will be on Thursday January 3 and Wednesday January 16 starting at 1830 at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema. Members are asked to attend.

**2018/19 DIRECTORY:** The directory has finally been printed and will be delivered to club members shortly. The Directory has been late in being published due to the recent amendments to the Laws regarding personal details. The information therein has been compiled after members were asked to check their personal data. A few members did not reply so it was taken for granted that their personal details were correct.

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION:** As already stated in previous newsletters the 2019 Lions International Convention is being held in Milan from July 4 to 9. This is an opportunity to attend this prestigious occasion being held so near to us. A few members have already signified their intention to attend. Any others wishing to attend are requested to inform Lion Victor Borg Barthet as soon as possible since the affiliation fee will rise to \$200 after January 11.

**VISIT TO SAINT CYPRIEN (FRANCE):** The visit to this French town will now be made from May 29 to June 5. Saint Cyprien is close to Girona in Spain and flights will be booked on Ryanair since the airline flies to Girona. Saint Cyprien is famous for the "Fauvist" artists Picasso, Matisse and Derain Chagali, the Royal Palace and vineyards. It is also close to the regional capital of Perpignan, a city of 120,000 inhabitants, where one can visit the "Castillet" the seat of the King of Majorica in the XIII centenary, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the abbey of St. Mchel de Cuxa and other interesting locations. Further details about accommodation and flights will be promulgated soon.



DECEMBER 2018

## LCIF'S CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Immediate Past International President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal as Chairman of the Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairman has recently sent a letter which reads as follows:

“As I meet more and more Lions who are dedicated to making a positive change. I always find myself awestruck at what Lions accomplish. Your compassion and desire to do good deserves and endless round of applause.

Thank you to the Lions who serve by contributing their time and talent. The many hours you dedicate to serve your community and your world is an extraordinary effort that is greatly appreciated by me, Lions of the world and those whose lives are changing because of you. Thank you to the Lions who are able to make donations to the Foundation. Thank you to the Lions who believe in the motto “We Serve”,

Wherever I travel Lions are raising their hands to join the LCIF movement. While every Chairman is given the target to raise more funds, I have given myself a different target - to significantly raise the number of Lions who contribute to LCIF . So please encourage Lions round you and keep in mind the “Power of Each” - small donations make a big difference.



Without you we would not be able to make such great strides. We are extending a helping hand to vulnerable populations. We are putting a stop to avoidable blindness, We are educating our children. We are supporting all those who lost everything in a natural disaster. We are fighting diabetes. We are feeding the hungry. We are protecting our environment and we combatting childhood cancer. If you have not done so, visit [LCIF.org/BE100](http://LCIF.org/BE100) to find out more about our plans for the future, including Campaign 100.

The world faces challenges, but Lions are here to give hope. Our Foundation is here to help Lions. Again, thank you for your service from the bottom of my heart. Namaste.

Dr. Naresh Aggarwal  
Chairman  
Lions Clubs International Foundation

**NOTE:** *Lions Club Sliema have in the past made several donations to LCIF and in turn together with the other Lions Clubs in Malta we managed to obtain funds to install glaucoma screening equipment in several health centres. Whenever a donation is made to LCIF, the Club can nominate a deserving member for the Melvin Jones Award.*

## LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Since its formation in 1968 the Lions Clubs International Foundation has used most of its funds for blindness prevention.



Lions are known worldwide for blindness prevention. Since the SightFirst programme began in 1990 over 8.5 million people have had their sight restored through cataract surgeries, 30 million people have had vision loss prevented and hundreds of millions of people have received improved eye care services. Lions and LCIF are establishing and expanding sustainable eye health care systems in under-served areas.

**Childhood Blindness:** Since 2001 LCIF and the World Health Organization have been collaborating to address childhood blindness throughout the world. 45 need-based Lions eye centres have been established in countries all over the globe, delivering preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative eye care services for 100 million children.

**Sight for Kids:** LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies collaborated to develop Sight for Kids, a programme that has provided vision screenings, follow up treatment and eye health education to more than 20 million children in Asia.

**River Blindness:** SightFirst has supported more than 153 million treatments for river blindness in Africa and Latin America in partnership with The Carter Centre.

**WE SERVE**

## LIONS INFORMATION



### WHY ARE THE MALTESE LIONS CLUBS NOT CONSIDERED A DISTRICT?

Recently I was asked by a new member the above question. The simple reason is that there are not many Lions Clubs in Malta to form a district.

The statute of Lions Clubs International (LCI) clearly state that:

*"On formation, a District will consist of thirty-five (35) clubs in good standing and a total membership of at least one thousand two hundred and fifty (1250) Lions Clubs members in good standing unless otherwise approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote by the International Board of Directors".*

Each Lions District has its own Governor, First Vice Governor and Second Vice Governor.

Since in Malta there are only four Lions Clubs with approximately one hundred members, Malta cannot become a District. There are other countries like Malta where clubs are undistricted. In Europe Lions Clubs in Gibraltar, Monaco and San Marino are also undistricted.

Interesting to mention that several years ago the Lions Clubs in Malta had considerable pressure to join MD108YB (Sicily) which was being formed. After Sicily reached the minimum of 35 Clubs it became a District with its own Governor. Previously Sicily formed part of MD108Y together with clubs from Basilicata, Campania and Calabria. Once Sicily became a district, the other three provinces in Italy became MD108YA. The present Governor is Lion Paolo Gattola, a member of LC Salerno Arechi with whom our Club is twinned.

In Malta it is unlikely that we will ever have 35 clubs so there is no hope that Malta will ever become a District. The four Lions Clubs in Malta are known as a Zone and hence we have a Zone Chairman instead of a Governor. The present Zone Chairman (Malta) is our Past President Lion Joe Messina who assumed office in July 2018. Lion Joe also served as our Club Secretary for several years.

## DONATION OF SHOES

On Tuesday December 18 Lion President Alex Arena together with Lions Vivienne Zammit, Margaret Frendo, Louis Sciberras and Tom A. Restall paid a visit to the Ghana High Commission in Sliema to meet Mr S. Jojo Effah-Broni, Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Commission to donate several brand new shoes.

The shoes which were donated to the Club by GAUDA Shoe Store will be given to needy Ghanian people. This is the second consignment of shoes which the Club has sent to Accra through the High Commission.

During the visit Mr Effah-Broni mentioned the good relations between the two Commonwealth nations stating that these relations are continuing to be strengthened through the setting up of the Malta High Commission in Accra. The Minister also mentioned the excellent service being given to the Ghanians and the Malta Hospital in Kudasi.



The shoes were stored at Lion Louis Sciberras garage and then transported to the High Commission.

Members will recall that the Club has already similar donations to African countries when we sent several stationery items to schools in Burkina Faso and about two years ago and used eye glasses to Zimbabwe a few years back.



Lion President Alex Arena making a token presentation of a shoe in the presence of (from left) Lions Vivienne Zammit, Margaret Frendo and Louis Sciberras.



## CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Once again the Club organised a Christmas Get Together. This year's event was held at the Capua Palace on Wednesday December 19. A good number of members attended the event .

A buffet dinner was served by the catering staff of the Victoria Hotel. Musical entertainment was provided by Frank O'Neil with members joining in singing the traditional carols and other songs and also dancing.

Those attending were given a raffle ticket to win a surprise prize. The lucky winner was Lion Louis Sciberras who won a painting donated by Frank O'Neil. A short quiz session was also held. Those who failed to answer correctly had to pay a fine. However even those who answered correctly put money in the kitty.

During the evening two new members namely Lions Alex Felice and Carmelina Borg, who were unable to attend the Charter Dinner in November, were inducted as members by Lion President Alex Arena.

Lions Chris Borg Cardona and Louis Sciberras organised the enjoyable evening.

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## QUOTE

Leadership is not about being the best.  
It is about making everyone else better.

*The above is a quote by Past International President Barry Palmer seen here with Club Past President Victor Borg Barthelet when in Malta for our Club's 40th Charter Anniversary in November 2014.*

## A message from International President Gudrun Yngvadottir THE HEART OF LIONS

You are all aware of how important my family is to me. You might have seen me on stage with me at conventions, or heard me talking about my granddaughter at an event.

I believe that the world of Lions is a great place for family. What better way to teach your kids-through action-how to care for those in need around them? I have come across many families who have made serve a family tradition, with three or four generations serving the same club.

But we are not all born into families who are service minded. Yet each of us are Lions because we found something in our hearts that called us to serve. This thing in our hearts, it's not from the DNA our parents gave us. But it is a part of us just the same.



It is the "gene" that unites us. We are bonded by the common values we hold, our beliefs that the world could be better if everyday people like us take action. We don't wait for others to do the work. We do it ourselves. We organise, we serve,

and we work together for a brighter future for all. This what makes a Lion family.

I encourage you all to remember the fellowship that is essential to being a Lion, and to welcome new members not into a club, but into a family. After all, it's this family, that we have created for ourselves with people who share the love of service in their hearts, that can be the ties that sustain us throughout our lives.

*PHOTO: International President Gudrun Yngvadottir being presented with a book on Malta by then Zone Chairman Lion Tom A. Restall when she visited Malta in March 2016 for the Mediterranean Lions Conference.*