



LIONS CLUB GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR MAY NEWSLETTER

THE INTERNATIONAL LION

Realises that Lions rise above differences in culture, race, religion and political persuasion to bring needed services to humanity. Takes the time to gain a working knowledge of the structure and operation of his Association at the Club, District and International levels.

Invites qualified and committed persons to share the privilege of community and international levels.

Recognises the unique identity given to all Lions and their work by the Association's name and emblem, and respects the policies controlling their use.

Recognises the unlimited potential inherent in major service initiatives adopted by his/her chosen representatives on the International Board of Directors.

Recognises his/her Club must serve the needs of his/her community. But also cooperates meaningfully with all other Lions Clubs to enable his/her Association to serve needs worldwide in scope.

Recognises the unlimited potential inherent in major service initiatives adopted by his/her chosen representatives on the Internal Board of Directors.

DO THINGS for people not because of who they are or what they do in return but because of who you are.

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GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

One of the major projects undertaken by Lions worldwide is to provide guide dogs for the blind. In various countries Lions support this great project by donating funds to the various centres which train dogs.

One such centre is in Limbiate near Milan in Italy run on a professional basis training dogs not only for those in need in Italy but also for other countries. The Centre Director is Lion Profs. Giovanni Fossati, member of Lions Club Rho. Lion Giovanni has a staff of fifteen to train the dogs.

The idea of having such a centre in Italy was mooted by a military pilot who served in the Second World War and who lost his sight in an accident. From humble beginnings the centre is now fully established. It moved to Limbiate in the province of Milano occupying an area of 25000 square metres. Besides the Director the centre employs 15 persons who train dogs from the time they are brought to the centre as puppies. The training of a guide dog takes about six months and costs approximately Euro 25000 by the time the dog can be handed over to the person in need of a guide dog. The cost also includes the stay of the person individual who would be receiving the guide dog while he is at the Centre for training.

In March 1966 the then President of the Italian Republic decreed the centre as "Ente Morale". As a result, the centre was able to obtain public funds for its day-to-day operations. However, these funds are not enough, hence the centre obtains other funds through donations made by various entities. 47% of these donations come from Lions Clubs in Multiple District 108 ITALY. Most of the Italian Lions Clubs make an annual donation thereby making it possible for the Centre to continue its noble work.

Three years ago a number of Lions Sliema had the opportunity to visit the Centre and were taken around the Centre by Profs. Fossati who explained in detail how a dog is trained.

Lions Club Sliema has made an agreement with the Centre to obtain a dog for a blind person in Malta. This person has already been to Limbiate for training. It is hoped that the guide dog will be in Malta by this summer. Lion Treasurer Alex Arena is coordinator of this project and has stated that the dog should be in Malta early in the summer months.

**LEADERSHIP is not wielding authority – it is empowering
PEOPLE**

WHY ARE WE LIONS?

The simple question is one that a Lion may find difficulty in answering. Have we become Lions to have a good time at social functions? Have we become Lions because there is an element of personal prestige? Or was it the possibility of helping others through the collective effort? I think it was that it is a combination of the first three that led us to the fourth.

Our official manuals issued by International Headquarters tell us to Orientate, Induct and Involve. But do we want to be involved? Do we shy away when approached? Are we always too busy, are we like the fellow at a football match who is always telling everybody what to do without waiting to kick the ball himself.

Many of us are not like this fellow at heart but in today's world side stepping seems to have become part of our life. To those who come forward, I can guarantee one thing, namely the personal satisfaction of a job well done. Can we find words to describe that smile of gratitude that comes from those to whom our effort has been addressed.

Many people who only know Lionism from the outside tell us that we are an Organisation of Badges and Awards. What they do not say is that when a member is entitled to receive one of the Lionism's Awards it is because s/he has earned it. The Award itself is really only a symbol of his/her achievement, what is far more important is the meaning of the Award. This represents a special effort by the member, it recognises that s/he has helped to "Bring Quality to Life".

Ed. Note – reproduced from an article in the 15th Anniversary commemorative publication written by President (1986/87) Lion Albert P. Mamo.

REFLECTION

Sometime when you are feeling important, when your ego is in bloom, when you take it for granted you are the best qualified in the room. Sometime when you feel that you're going, would leave an unfillable hole, just follow this simple instruction and see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water, put your hand in it, up to the wrist, pull it out, and the hole that's remaining is a measure of how you will be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter, you can stir up the water galore, but stop and you'll find in a minute, that it looks just the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example is to do just the best that you can. Be proud of yourself – but remember: There is no indispensable person.

Ed, note: The above is reproduced from "THE SLIEMA ROAR" of January 1990. The booklet was printed by Repro House whose chairman was Past President Lion Frank Galea.



Lion President thanking Ms. Cefai for the donation.

WINE TASTING AT MERIDIANA WINERY

A group of Club members had an enjoyable evening at the Meridian Winery at Ta' Qali. After a tour of the vineyards, Ms. Sandra Cefai, Manageress of the Winery gave an interesting talk about how different types of wine are produced from particular vines. All those present partook had the opportunity to taste some wine and partook of finger

food. At the end of the evening, after Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina presented Ms. Cefai with club's bannerette. Ms. Cefai in turn donated the evening' takings to Lion Treasurer Alex Arena for our Club's Philanthropic Account. Present at this fund-raiser was Lion James Mathers Governor 105 SW England for the year 2023-24 together with his wife who were on holiday in Malta. *Editor's note: Lion James Mathers was impressed with the work undertaken by Lions Club Sliema. He augured the Club further success and hopes that he will visit Malta another time.*

CLUB NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This important event will be held on Wednesday June 6 at the Grand Suites Hotel & Spa at Gzira commencing at 1830. Members are urged to attend.

PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER & AWARDS DINNER: This yearly event is being held on Friday June 28 at the Grand Suites Hotel & Spa. At this event Lion President Lion Karl Grima Bezzina will hand the chain of office to incoming President Lion Victor Borg Barthet and will also give awards to members.

MESSAGE FROM PDG CARLA CIFOLA: *"Thank you for your great commitment in internal communication and thank you for the updates. I know the heart of the Maltese Lions and I wish you all the best in the future".*

