



CLUB NEWS



CLUB MEETINGS: Until further notice the Club meetings on the first and third Wednesday of the month will be held via zoom thanks to Lion Elisa Solimini who is co-ordinating the event. The March 2021 meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 3 and Wednesday 17. Virtual meeting starts at 1830.

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DONATIONS: When making any donation to the Club for our philanthropic acivities or the annual membership dues, it would be appreciated if members make payment through internet banking. Payment by cheque may incur extra expense. Our Club's account is:

Bank of Valletta, Sliema branch
Bank BIC: VALLMTMT
IBAN: MT65VALL22013000000040021819379

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CROATIA EARTHQUAKE: In response to a request made by the Lions Clubs of Croatia for financial aid to help the victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Croatia, our Club made a donation of Euro 250 in aid of a worthy cause made by the Croatian Lions.

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NEW FRONT COVER: A few members commented favourably about the new front cover of the Newsletter. Henceforth we will continue to have this cover. Thanks for the comments.

FACE MASKS: The face masks specially manufactured with the Lions Club Sliema logo have become popular also in Salerno and nearby towns in the Campania region of Italy. Thanks to the initiative taken by our Associate member Lion Danilo Gattola, now President of our twinned club Salerno Archi, a number of masks were bought by the other Salerno Clubs, namely Duomo and Hippocratica.

"WE SERVE"



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA
NEWSLETTER

FFfe FEBRUARY 2021



THE EXTENSION OF LIONISM

When in 1917 Melvin Jones, the Founder of Lions Clubs International, formed the first Lions Club in Chicago, Illinois, little did he envisage that 104 years later Lions, as members of this great organisation are known, would exceed 1.45 million members spread in 226 countries and geographical area. However, in 1920 the first overseas Lions Club was chartered in Calgary, Canada.

By 1924, there were Lions Clubs all over the United States from Alabama to Wyoming. Eventually more clubs were chartered in Central and South American countries. In 1947 Lismore in New South Wales, Australia, became the first Lions Club in that country.

A year later (1948), Lions Club Stockholm Host in Sweden, became the first club to be chartered in Europe. In the same year clubs were chartered in Switzerland (Geneve), France (Paris Doyen), Norway (Oslo) and England (London Host). Since then, Lions Clubs have mushroomed all over the European Continent. In 1989 and 1990 after the dismantlement of the Soviet Union, Clubs were chartered in Hungary (Budapest), Poland (Poznan), Estonia (Tallinn), Czechoslovakia (Prague Eagle), Romania (Bucharest and Craiova), Yugoslavia (Ljubljana, now the capital of Slovenia), Russia (Moscow Host and Moscow Centrum) and Lithuania (Vilnius).

The first Lions Club in the Middle East was Beirut Host in Lebanon, chartered in 1952, while Casablanca in Morocco and Algiers in Algeria became the first African clubs to be chartered in 1953. Since then, several other clubs were chartered in the African Continent so much so that with the increase in members Africa is now considered a Region and eligible to have an African Lion on the International Board.

>>>> p.3

Lion President Margaret Frendo reports

MONTHLY TALK

After a long break, Lions Club Sliema, decided to resume the monthly guest speaker evenings, held as is with club meetings, on Zoom. The February guest speaker, Prof. Stella Borg Barthet, gave us a talk accompanied by illustrations, titled "Women in Literature: famous portrayals across the centuries.

Prof. Borg Barthet gave an overview of almost two thousand years, of how authors and society perceives women throughout the ages. She stated by quoting from "The Ancients Homer ad Vergil", moving on to the Middle Ages: Amour Courtois - Courtly Love in 12th century AD. The rise of the Troubadour in courts, the Virgin Mary Mariam Cult and Lancelot. Also quoting from Geoffrey Chaucer and Dante, moving on to Shakespeare. Next came what Prof. Stella described as the Puritan Revolution (1642-1652) quoting from John Milton and Samuel Highmore.

Through these authors we could see how the role of women changed and evolved from one of submission and being a possession, to being more autonomous and in control of oneself.

Due to the constraints Prof. Borg Barthet could not continue her talk to include more modern and contemporary authors. However she was asked and she gratefully accepted to do so in another presentation. Her talk was greatly appreciated by the audience.

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Editor's note:

Stella Borg Barthet (wife of Lion Victor) is a Professor in English Literature at the University of Malta. She has been teaching Postcolonial Literature and Theory, as well as 18th and 19th Century English fiction, since 1992. Prof. Borg Barthet has edited 3 books, and authored more than 20 articles and book chapters on Postcolonial Literature, all published in Malta in other parts of Europe, and in various Commonwealth countries. She has also formed part of the Adjudication Committee of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Lion Chris Borg Cardona is entrusted with inviting guest speakers at the Club meeting on the third Wednesday of each month.

ZOOM MEETING WITH CATANIA NORD



Arrangements are being made with our twinned club CATANIA NORD to hold a meeting on Friday March 12 to renew contact between the two Clubs. Lion President Giuseppe Laferlita, who took the initiative, has suggested the following programme commencing at 2100 hours:

- ◆ Messages from Presidents of Catania Nord and Sliema (10 minutes each)
- ◆ Broadcast of song by LC Catania Nord choir
- ◆ Messages from Club members who had promoted the twinning between the two clubs.
- ◆ Broadcast of another song by the choir
- ◆ Participation of Lions from both Clubs who wish to speak.

Lion Victor Borg Barthet was our Club President when the twinning ceremony was held on November 19, 1999, while Lion Giancarlo Genovese was Catania Nord President. Since then several of our Club members have met their Sicilian counterparts and hence this meeting will be an opportunity to renew friendships. Details will be given as soon as the final programme is confirmed.

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DONATION TO TA' SAWRA HOME

Our Club recently made a donation of a tumble dryer to Ta' Sawra Home for the Elderly at Rabat, instead of the annual tea party for the residents of the home which could not be held due to the current pandemic restrictions of visiting the home. This was made possible from the profits made from selling masks to Lions Clubs in Salerno and a donation by Past President Lion Victor Borg Barthet who kindly offset some of the cost of the much needed equipment for the home. The annual tea party for the Ta' Sawra residents has been organised by the Club for many years. This event was often attended by the Archbishop of the time. It is hoped that once the pandemic restrictions are lifted, it would be possible to hold the tea party next year, as the residents of the home look forward to this yearly event.

WHERE THERE IS A NEED YOU WILL FIND THE LIONS

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As recently reported by Lions Clubs International, India where the first Club was chartered in 1956 (Bombay Host), has now exceeded the United States in the number of Lions.

In Malta the first Lions Club was chartered in 1958. Valletta is cited as the first Lions Club in Malta in a book published in the United States. As far as it is known, the Club was called Malta George Cross by its first members. In recent years when more Clubs were chartered in Malta, its name was changed to Malta Host, thus showing that it was the first ever Lions Club chartered in Malta. Besides Malta Host and Sliema there are two other clubs in Malta namely St. Paul's Bay and Mdina. The latter club (Mdina) was formed after female members who were then known as Lionesses were allowed to become members of the then all male Clubs. The ladies then decided to call their new club Mdina.

Two other clubs were formed in the 1990's namely Kavaieri and Valletta but both were later disbanded. Similarly a Lions Club in Gozo which was jointly sponsored by Lions Club Malta Host and Sliema was disbanded, after a few years. It is a pity that this happened as in Gozo there are other service clubs.

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WHY I AM A LION

Past International Director Salim Moussan (Lebanon) states

Making a difference for others is the reason why I became a Lion. But with time, being part of a World Class non-profit Association that embraces Service, Diversity and Solidarity among other qualities, I realised that I am also making a difference for myself. The personal satisfaction of doing good, serving others and making life better for millions in a unique atmosphere of friendship and fellowship is incomparable.

PID Salim Moussan was a candidate for 3rd International Vice President for the election in the past two years.

"SERVICE WITH A SMILE"

IN HOUSE RAFFLE

The recent fund-raising In-house Raffle raised Euro five hundred (500) for the Club's Philanthropic funds. Unfortunately not all tickets were taken for this raffle, nonetheless thanks to all those members who took tickets and also those members who donated gifts we managed this sum. The raffle was drawn in the presence of the President, Secretary, Lion Tamer and other members.

First Vice President Lion Norman Wilson won two prizes - 2 prints which were donated by Lion Susan Galea Borg and 2 bottles of wine donated by Past President Lion Alex Arena. However Lion Norman gave back the two bottles of wine, with Lion Edward Zammit winning them after the President drew another ticket. Lion Nadette Vella Briffa won the model aircraft which was donated to the Club by the widow of our departed member Lion Brian Darmanin. Lion Ian Restall won the toiletries donated by Lion Victoria Muscat, while Lion Joe Messina won the decanter set donated by Home Trend. The book on the old Maltese postcards donated by Lion President was won by our Club Secretary Lion Lorna Farrugia.

During the pandemic, the Club cannot organise any fund raising activities which attract not only members but also guests. Hence the two in-house raffles held recently which raised Euro 1500 were worth organising. We may have another such fund-raiser for a Russian icon which is going to be donated by our associate member Lion Danilo Gattolo. We will organise this when the icon is brought over from Salerno.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Over the Christmas period our Club donated a Kindle as a prize for a competition organised by Lifetime Malta, an NGO to help deprived children. Ms. Natalia Lupu Founder & Creative Organizer Lifetime Malta, while thanking the Club for donating the Kindle, sent the following message to our Club President Lion Margaret Frendo.



We are delighted to inform you that the Christmas Challenge has finalized with success! We collected 76 toys beautifully crafted by children, which were donated to children from families in distress as Christmas gifts through the Millennium Chapel.

We were literally astonished by the participants' originality and sensitivity towards children they didn't know. A

good example is an 11 year old boy, Mimmo Gallo who won the Kindle, generously donated by the Lions Club Sliema. Mimmo created a soft toy and wrote the following story:

"There was once a little bunny who got lost in the forest. He was hopping around when snowflakes started floating down from the sky. The cold started striking and he snuggled in a glove he found. He slept all night long and when he woke up he was wrapped up cozily. He started wondering around until he finally found himself in your lovely arms."

Photo: Mimmo showing his prize . Ms. Natalia Lupu is on the right.

Ed. Note: This is another way how our Club can encourage youngsters to become conscious how to help and care for those in need.