



JANUARY 2015

President's Message

Although we start the new year on January 1st, we are half way through our Lionistic Year 2014/2015. The general air of fresh resolutions and new beginnings makes this a good time to take stock and see how we can improve our Club.

We shall be looking for suggestions from all members as to how we can make our meetings more attractive and more meaningful. We would wish to have more members participating in our discussions and more members involved in our projects. We would like to find out ways of increasing attendance at our meeting. We will be asking why some members attend irregularly or infrequently in the hope that these members will see how we value their participation.

Where would you like to involve yourself - Fund raising, fund spending, restoration projects, speakers, international relations, membership, social activities, general awareness campaigns, arts fund, club visits abroad, bi-annual gatherings or club organization? There is need and space for all these fields and more.

You will find that participating in any of the above or in any new initiative that you might have will bring the satisfaction of furthering a project which is close to your heart. Moreover you will get all the help that you need from the rest of the club members to see the project through.

We count on every member to participate in Club activities and come forward with initiatives.

Lion Victor Borg Barthet

**LIONS is our name; all bonded in one team.
We are not looking for fame, WE SERVE is our theme.**

**All together hand in hand we are a chain all over the world.
In the snow or in the sand serving is our password.**

**Summer heat may be vanishing, autumn leaves are falling,
wheels of time will be turning but LIONS' sun will always shine.**

CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS NIGHT



This year's Christmas Party held at the De Carmens Restaurant in Luqa was also an occasion to award various Club members with an award.

Lion President Victor Borg Barthet presented the following awards:

President's Appreciation Award:

Lions John Rusher, John Towell (photo at left) and Jan Panatzar

Chairperson: Lions Vivienne Zammit and Louis Sciberras

Star Award: Lions Carmel Azzopardi, Hans Wijnber, Alex Bogner and Matteo Lamanna.

30 years Chevron: Lions Victor Borg Barthet and Victor Scerri

25 years Chevron: Lion Joe Messina

10 years Chevron: Lions Joe Camilleri, Chris Borg Cardona, Pio Gatt and Matteo Lamanna.

Congratulations to all Lions who received an award. Though the award may be a simple pin, it shows the Club's appreciation for the service given by individual members to the Club and the community.

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A major ongoing project undertaken by Multiple District 108 Italy is training dogs for the blind. Lion Paolo Gattola who is our Club and also of Lions Club Salerno Arechi has produced a calendar with photos of dogs to raise funds for this noble cause. Lion Paolo is responsible to raise awareness of this project in MD108YA (Campania, Calabria and Basilicata).

BURKINA FASO PROJECT

After various attempts to send the collected stationery items to Burkina Faso at long last we have found an Italian NGO which together with Lions has ongoing projects in Burkina Faso and Express Trailers who have generously offered to dispatch the stationery to Mantova (Italy) where the NGO has its headquarters.

Though at one time I was losing heart that we would be able to send the goods to Burkina Faso, I persisted with my motto: ***"Where there is a will there's away"*** and finally we will be sending the goods. An Italian Lion whom I met casually in Malta and with whom I mentioned the Burkina



Faso project, put me in touch with the Italian NGO whose Directors were willing to help us once we could send the goods to Mantova. The next problem was to find some benefactor in Malta. Express Trailers came into the picture and through contacts made by Lion President and IPP Lion Alfred Micallef Attard, the leading transporters in Malta agreed to transport the goods free of charge to Mantova from where these will be sent to Burkina Faso.

In the photo above Lion President Victor Borg Barthet is seen presenting a plaque to Mr Franco Azzopardi CEO of Express Trailers. Others in photo: left Mr David Fleri Soler of Express Trailers, IPP Lion Alfred Micallef Attard and right Lions Louis Sciberras who together with Lion Chris Borg Cardona packed and stored the goods and Lion John Rusher who chaired the Burkina Faso Project.



The **2015 Mediterranean Lions Conference** is being held in Pescara from March 20 to 22.

Since Malta will be holding the 2016 Conference, Lions Clubs Zone Malta will be taking over the Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Solidarity Organisation at the closure of the 18th Conference. It is therefore important that Malta will be represented at the 2015 Conference by a delegation. To date

there has been only requests for information about the Conference but no confirmed bookings.

Lion President Victor Borg Barthet and myself have already booked. For anyone interested to join, we are flying to Rome by Airmalta KM612 on March 19 and returning the following Monday March 23 from Rome on flight KM613. Transport is available on luxury tourist coach from Fiumicino Airport to Pescara and return. Since the conference ends on Sunday 22 March, we have to spend an extra night in Rome. Otherwise to return on Sunday we would have to leave Pescara very early in the morning to be in time at Fiumicino for the return flight.

There are various hotels available in Pescara, but the organizers have listed four hotels which can be found on the Conference website. Details about the conference, hotels and events can be found on medconf2015.org

Bookings can be made on line. There is also a discount on the registration fee and the gala dinner if bookings are made before January 31st.

I hope that there will be other Club members who will join Victor and I at this Conference and who will also help to publicize the 2016 Conference in Malta.

Tom A. Restall - Zone Chairman



ZONE CHAIRMAN VISITS TO ITALIAN CLUBS

In the week before Christmas I had the opportunity to visit Salerno where I was invited to attend the "*Festa degli Auguri*" of our twinned Club Salerno Arechi. While at Salerno I was invited to attend a similar event in Naples which brought together 4 clubs from the city. On both occasions I was given prominence by sitting at the head table and for the dinner which followed together with the MD108YA District Governor and the Vice Governors.

Following my visit to Salerno and Naples I flew to Catania where once more I was guest at the "*Festa degli Auguri*" of our twinned club Catania Nord. This was a good occasion to meet several of our friends. At this event a choir formed by members of the club entertained the guests at the Sheraton Hotel. The choir repertoire was a medley of sacred and profane music. They ended the programme with the popular Michael Jacksons' *Heal the World* an appropriate song to bring to the attention of Lions the importance of helping those in need.

The visit to the three cities also served to publicize the 2016 Mediterranean Lions Conference being held in Malta.

Tom A. Restall (Zone Chairman)

Photo above the Governor's table at Naples meeting.



DECEMBER OUTING— VISIT TO “BETHLEHEM IN GOZO”

In the series of educational and social outings organized by the Club, the December outing was a visit to Gozo to view the picturesque “Bethlehem” at Ghajnsielem.

A large area of Ghajnsielem is turned into Bethlehem with live episodes depicting life in Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Jesus. This annual event has been organized for the last 6 years and attracts thousands of people.

The organizers of this tourist attraction spend a lot of time erecting the village to resemble Bethlehem as it was over two centuries ago. Several people are also dressed in period custom to make the event even more authentic.

Well done to the organizers of the outing. Other outings are planned and Club members will receive prior information about such outings.

PEACE POSTER COMPETITION

As already announced in the December 2014 newsletter, the winner of the Peace Poster Competition is Mikas Briffa a student at St. Ignatius College BSS, Handaq. His poster has since been sent to International Headquarters to participate in the worldwide competition. The winner of this competition receives a cash award of \$5000 plus an engraved plaque and is invited to receive the award at New York together with 2 members of his family. There are also 23 international merit award with a cash prize of \$500 plus a certificate of achievement up for grabs.

For the first time this year the second placed student, namely Etienne Sciberras of St. Elias College, Sta. Venera, will have his poster competing in the Mediterranean Lions Peace Poster competition. This new competition has been instituted by the Mediterranean Solidarity Organisation of Lions Clubs and will be adjudged by a special panel at Pescara, Italy, where the 18th Mediterranean Lions Conference will be held from March 20 to 22, 2015.

For the record in this year's competition we had 125 entries. Several government and private schools and colleges took part in the competition which is gaining in popularity thanks to the help given by the Ministry of Education which publicise the competition amongst students in Malta and Gozo.

Agenda Bookshops has once again sponsored the prizes. The winner will be receiving a Euro 75 voucher from Agenda Bookshops and Euro 75 worth of Staedtler products. The second and third placed students will receive a Euro 40 voucher and Euro 40 worth of products, while 15 merit winners will receive a Euro 15 voucher and Euro 15 worth of products.

The official prize giving ceremony will be held later this month. The date will be notified to members by means of a circular.

Special thanks go to Lions Louis Sciberras and Chris Borg Cardona who did sterling work to organise this competition. The Club also thanks Agenda Bookshops for their sponsorship.

<WE SERVE>