



## LIONS PRAYER



GOD, Our Father, may we who vouch to serve others through Lionism, bring the spirit of Christ to all our efforts and work in establishing true love and understanding among those we serve through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

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## CLUB MEETINGS

Until the completion of refurbishment at the Victoria Hotel expected to be completed by end of January, Club meetings will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Sliema, on the usual days, namely the first and third Wednesday of the month.

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party held at the Imperial Hotel, Sliema, was well attended with members stating that they were satisfied. Unfortunately it seems that no photographs were taken and hence I am unable to include any in this newsletter.

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## CULTURAL VISIT

The first Cultural Tour for 2016 is being held on Sunday January 24 with a visit to Palazzo Falzon at Mdina. The resident guide will be conducting the tour.

Meeting place at the Cathedral Square, Mdina, at 1015. Entrance fee for Palazzo Falzon is Euro 5 for over 60 and Euro 8.50 for others.

Lunch is at the Castelletti Restaurant and Bar, Main Street, Rabat.

Bookings Lion Isabelle Micallef (Tel.79378821) or Lion Margaret Frendo (Tel.79288882).



JANUARY 2016



## 19th MEDITERRANEAN LIONS CONFERENCE 17-19 MARCH 2016

Preparations for this important conference which is being held in Malta for the second time are in an advance stage. International Headquarters at Oak Brook have confirmed that the International President Dr. Jitsihuro YAMADA together with PIP Joe Preston and First Vice President Bob Corley will be attending the 3 day Conference.

Though the final programme of events have still to be finalised, it is worth noting that the official opening ceremony will be on Thursday March 17. This will be followed by a "Get Together" party. Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19 will be devoted to discussions on various topics amongst which (at the request of the Mediterranean Solidarity Group - MSO) on Migration and the Mediterranean.

One of the sessions will be a meeting with the International President. Most probably this will be held on Saturday morning. This is a session not to be missed.

As soon as the programme of events will be finalised after the meeting of the MSO scheduled for February 5th, this will be made available to all Club members.

Club members will be required to perform various duties during the conference. An important duty is to greet overseas members and help at registration. Since several Lions would be arriving a day earlier (Wednesday March 16), we have to man the Registration counter on that day. Hence I hope that we will have enough members to help out on this day.

Members will also be required to accompany our overseas visitors to social events namely the "Maltese Evening" at Montecristo on Friday March 18 and the Gala Dinner the following day.

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*Perhaps more importantly, **We Serve** explains what it means to be a Lion. The LION magazine noted in 1931 "Our name was not selected at random, neither was it a coined name. From time immemorial the lion has been the symbol of all that was good and because of the symbolism that name was chosen.*

*Four outstanding qualities - **Courage, Strength, Activity and Fidelity** - had largely to do with the adoption of the name. The last mentioned of these qualities, **Fidelity**, has a deep and peculiar significance for all Lions. The lion symbol has been a symbol of **Fidelity** through the ages and among all nations, ancient and modern. It stands for **loyalty to a friend, loyalty to a principle, loyalty to a duty, loyalty to a trust.***

***We Serve** shows how the Lions have maintained and expanded on that loyalty.*

## **WE SERVE**

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

*To be the global leader in community and humanitarian services.*

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

*To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.*



## A HISTORY OF THE LIONS CLUBS

In June 2017 Lions Clubs International will celebrate its centenary. Various activities are being planned for the year with the theme being the motto WE SERVE.

Recently i picked up a book "A History of the Lions Clubs" which was published to commemorate the 75th anniversary from the foundation of our Association. I am sharing what is written on the fly-leaf of the book which though written nearly 25 years ago is still relevant today.

*"We Serve - A History of the Lions Clubs is an international success story. It tells the tale of how practical-minded visionaries banded together 75 years ago in Chicago to create an organisation that now operates nearly 40,000 clubs in more than 170 countries. One and a half million men and women proudly claim the title of "Lion".*

*But We Serve is not only the story of how Lions International organisation developed; it is the story of its actual work with the blind, the deaf, and the people in need - stories that warm the heart and inspire action.*

*Helen Keller once said she was "happy and proud to be a Lion." Her words have been echoed by the many beneficiaries of Lions services who are happy and proud to know a Lion, and of course by the Lions themselves who have learned the joy of service.*

*With clubs practicing philanthropy from famine-ridden Ethiopia, to war torn Lebanon, to France, to down home USA, with programmes ranging from drug-awareness to organising recreational activities for the disabled, the Lions clubs show what men and women of goodwill can do for humanity.*

*They also prove - in deeds that help others - what men and women can do with the fruits of advanced technology to assist those battling diabetes and other serious illnesses, and how that medical research can be forwarded.*

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As I write ( 5 January) there are over 200 persons registered to attend. This number will surely increase as we are still awaiting the registration of Lions from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

Several Italian Lions, amongst whom members of our twinned Club LC Bosco Morengo, have already registered as did others from France, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt.

As Chairman of the Organising I must thank Lions Victor Borg Barthet, Alfred Micallef Attard and Joe Messina who have been working hard to make this Conference a success. They have been a great source of encouragement to me when I was feeling down due to my health problems. Special thanks to Lion Jan Pantzar who is responsible of the website and to Lion Alex Arena (Club Secretary) who keeps me informed of Lions depositing conference dues.

I must also thank all those members who wished me well. Though not yet fully fit, I am getting better day by day. Thank you all.

*Tom A. Restall*





MEDITERRANEAN LIONS CONVENTION

UNDER THE  
DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF  
H.E. DR UGO MIFSUD BONNICI  
PRESIDENT OF MALTA



*"The Mediterranean basin -  
Environment & Cultural heritage"*

CORINTHIA SAN GORG HOTEL  
ST JULIANS, MALTA

MARCH 18 -21 1999

## FLASHBACK

17 years ago Malta hosted the Mediterranean Lions Convention, at the same venue where the 2016 Conference is being held. Lions Club Sliema members were involved in the organisation of the convention. Club members helped by various means to make the event a success.

Various overseas Lions attended the event and were impressed with Maltese Lions hospitality.

Over 150 Lions from the Mediterranean littoral attended the conference, which was organised by the then Provisional Zone Malta whose Chairman at that time was Lion J.W. Micallef, a member of Lions Club Malta (Host).



## SAINT AGATHA CRYPT & CATACOMBS

Lions Club Sliema have been active to preserve the Maltese Heritage for a long time. One major project was the restoration of the St. Agatha's Catacombs in Rabat. The project was started in 1983 and took five years to complete. Thirty frescoes dating from mediaeval times were restored. The Club managed to raise funds to complete the project which was officially inaugurated by the late Dr. Vincent Tabone, President of Malta when Lion Victor Borg Barthet was Club President.

The crypt is an underground chapel, hewn in the live rock. Originally it was a small chamber which was enlarged to the present state in the early Middle Ages.

The main altar of the crypt was built over another rock altar in 1666 AD. It was made to accommodate the alabaster statue of St. Agatha which is presently exhibited at the St. Agatha's Museum adjacent to the church and convent which is the mother house of the priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

A visit to the crypt, catacombs and the museum is worthwhile.

Lions Club Sliema is proud to have been involved in the restoration of the frescoes.