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It is interesting to note that according to the Statute of the Observatory, the Coordinating Committee which remains in office for two (2) years is composed of an Observatory Coordinator; two members representing European countries and two members representing African and Middle Eastern Countries. The Board of Directors shall also appoint an Observatory Secretary/Archivist who shall remain in office for three (30) years.

The Statute of the Solidarity Observatory were last amended during the Mediterranean Lions Conference held on March 22, 2012, at Athens.

For the record Lion Tom A. Restall, current Zone Chairman Malta, has represented the Maltese Lions at the Solidarity Observatory since for the last ten years. He attended most of the Mediterranean Lions Conferences held in the last few years, the only exception being in 2011 when the conference was held in Bodrum (Turkey) when the venue was changed at the eleventh hour due to the uncertain situation in Lebanon.

While on this subject it is worth reminding Lions that in 2016 Malta will be hosting the Mediterranean Lions Conference. This will be held from March 17 to 19. It is anticipated that quite a good number of Lions from the Mediterranean Littoral will attend.

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FOR YOUR DIARY:

Members are kindly requested to note that Club meetings are held every first and third Wednesday of the month at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema. As from October 1st (first Wednesday of the month) meetings will commence at 6.30 p.m. (winter schedule).

Members are also reminded that on September 17 a group photo to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Charter will be taken at the Victoria Hotel at 6.30 p.m. The scheduled meeting will commence soon after. It is hoped that a good number of members would be able to attend. It is recommended to wear jackets.



1974/2014

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Ruby Anniversary
Of
Charter*

SEPTEMBER 2014

Club President's Message

As September draws in, I hope that you are all having a good and restful summer break. I think we will all be relieved to feel some cooler weather.

Preparations for our 40th Anniversary of Charter are progressing. We just had confirmation that Past International President Barry J. Palmer will be coming from Australia purposely to join us for our Charter.. This shows the international popularity of our Club. It is remarkable that out of the 46,000 clubs world-wide we were the ones to get the attention of IPIP Barry J. Palmer, who promised us last year when he was still International President, that he would attend our charter and is now to keep that promise. Our international renown is due to the hard work of past and present members who keep contact and involve themselves in the international activities of our organisation.

We are also expecting a very good number of other Lions to attend our Charter. These visiting Lions will give our charter an exciting multinational aura. The intense effort put in by the members of the Gathering and Charter Committee is giving us very good results. Closer to the date, we will also be asking all members to help with making our guests as welcome as possible.

I would also like to remind all members to attend some of the Pipe Organ Concerts during the First Organ Festival of Malta, which was partly sponsored by our Club and which will run up to September 12.



Lion Victor Borg Barthet - President

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY

At the 1998 Mediterranean Lions Conference held in Tunis it was agreed to establish ***The Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory***. The members of the Observatory are all the Multiple Districts, Single or Provisional Districts and the undistricted areas of the Mediterranean, as defined, classified and recorded by Lions Clubs International. Membership of the Observatory is open to Mediterranean countries.

The objects of the Observatory are:

- To promote the diffusion of Lionism in the Mediterranean area.
- To promote the diffusion and knowledge of different cultures as an expression of a common origin and history.
- To express a common vision of Lionism representing it at competent offices of the Association.
- To encourage information flows among the member Countries regarding initiatives and activities implemented.
- To stimulate a twinning programme among clubs of the Mediterranean littoral.
- To develop a youth exchange programme among youth of the Mediterranean area.
- To support initiatives for the protection of the environment.
- To create a partnership with Mediterranean universities and university institutes so as to encourage the creation of scholarships and stages for students and recently graduated students.
- To support the Organising Committee of the Mediterranean Conference through consultation, and by proposing themes for discussion and provide any other topic to be included in the Conference agenda.

The Observatory is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- One delegate from each member country who shall retain the post for two (2) years.
- The Council Chairperson of a Multiple District
- The District Governor of Single or Provisional District.

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IMMEDIATE PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT TO VISIT MALTA

IPP Lion Barry J. Palmer of Berowra, New South Wales, Australia will be visiting Malta from November 7 to 10 on the occasion of our Club's Fortieth Anniversary of Charter.

Lion Barry who is now the Chairman of the Lions Clubs International Foundation had intended to visit Malta during his tenure of

International President but was unable to do so due to his busy schedule.

However he has kept his promise made to our Zone Chairman, Lion Tom A. Restall who had met him for the first time in Trieste during the Mediterranean Lions Conference and had suggested that he should visit Malta.

IPP Lion Barry Palmer will be attending the Gala Dinner on Saturday November 9 which is being held at THE PALACE in Sliema. During his visit he will also have an opportunity to visit some historical and cultural places in Malta and also meet fellow Lions.

A programme for his visit is being prepared and we will keep members informed.

As the 2013/2014 International President Lion Barry J. Palmer had as his motto: **"Follow Your Dream"**. During his Presidential Year he encouraged Lions worldwide to follow their dream. He led by example and made his dreams come true.

Now as Chairman of LCIF he is challenging Lions to made contributions to LCIF to enable the Foundation to help wherever help is needed. It is our duty to contribute.



GERMAN VISITOR

Quite often visiting Lions to Malta contact the Club to enquire whether they could attend our meetings or to meet officials of the Club to exchange views about Lions. On several occasions the foreign Lions visit coincides with our Club meetings and hence they would be invited to also attend our meeting.

One recent visiting Lion was Peter Volker from Lions Club Schliengen im Markgraeferland, Germany. Lion Peter flew to Malta in his private jet together with his friend a retired Lufthansa pilot.

Lion Peter Volker met Club President Lion Victor Borg Barthet, club Secretary Lion Joe Messina and Immediate Past President Alfred Micallef Attard. As is usual on such occasions club bannerettes were exchanged.

We Serve

FIRST MALTA INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

As stated in the Club President's Remarks in the August newsletter, the Club is sponsoring the First Malta International Festival which is being held until September 12th.

The Festival was inaugurated on Thursday August 28 at St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral in Valletta. Wayne Marshall a world renowned conductor and virtuoso organist and solo pianist had the honour to open the festival in front of an appreciative audience which filled the pews of the cathedral. The programme included compositions from various famous composers and also a composition by the Gozitan Mro. Joe Vella.

It was interesting to learn that the organ at the Cathedral dates back from the late 17th century and was restored by "Father" Bernard Smith. It was originally located at Chester Cathedral and was reputed to have been played by George F. Handel on his way to Dublin for the first performance of his "Messiah".

During 1949, the Pro-Cathedral underwent extensive refurbishment, including the re-orientation of the interior by 180 degrees. A new chancel was constructed, incorporating the altar, the War Memorial, the Bishop's throne, the choir and canon stalls and the case of the Father Smith organ. At this time the whole organ was rebuilt. The rebuild incorporate some of the pre-existing British and Swiss pipework. The organ case survives intact from the previous instruments.

Various foreign organists will be performing during the festival. The festival will be held in other churches including St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta where the final performance will be held on Friday September 12th.

Since the sponsorship money for the festival comes from the Lions Club Sliema Arts Fund, it is appropriate that Maltese youths be given an opportunity to attend master classes which will be given during the festival. In fact on Monday September 1st Mro. Erwin Wiersinga, organist at the Dutch Reform Church in Roden, The Netherlands, will give master classes at St. Paul's while on Friday September 5, Mro. Dione Buhagiar will be at St. Augustine Church in Valletta to conduct master classes. .. /5

The festival's Artistic Director is Maltese baritone Joseph Lia who after graduating from the University of Malta continued his vocal training at the famous St. Petesburg State Conservatoire through support from the Janatha Stubbs Foundation.

Entrance for these recitals is free. However patrons would be asked to make donations which will be passed on to "Fondazzjoni Nazareth", an NGO for persons with special needs by providing shelter at homes in Zejtun.

Immediate Past President Lion George O. Attard was much involved in the publicity of this festival by participating in radio broadcasts about this event also mentioning that our club was the main sponsor of this event and giving information about Lions Club Sliema.

Past President Ian Lochhead has been busy these last few months in the organisation of this festival and was the driving force to see that it would be a success.

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PEACE POSTER CONTEST

The theme for the 27th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest is:

"Peace, Love and Understanding"

As in the last few years Lions Club Sliema will be sponsoring this contest thereby joining clubs worldwide in sharing children's visions of peace with the community. A sub committee is being appointed to organize this contest amongst various schools in Malta. The Ministry of Education & Employment has promised us its support to make this contest known to students aged 11 to 13 on November 2014. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme. It is hoped that once again there will be a good response from students.