



CLUB NEWS



CLUB MEETINGS: Until further notice the Club meetings on the first and third Wednesday of the month will continue to be held via zoom thanks to Lion Elisa Solimini who is co-ordinating the event. The JULY 2021 meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 7 and Wednesday 21. Virtual meetings start at 1830. Meetings will not be held during August. However on Saturday August 7 a fund raising barbeque will be held at the home of incoming President Lion Norman Wilson at his home in Mellieha. There is space for 60 persons and hopefully these will all be taken up. Further details will be sent in the due course.

CASH VOUCHERS:

As already advised by Lion Doreen Davis, any member who wishes to donate the cash vouchers issued by the Government in order to be donated to YMCA or any other voluntary organisation is requested to contact Immediate Past President Lion Margaret Frendo.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Members who have not yet paid their membership fee are kindly requested to do so at their earliest convenience. The fee can be preferably paid by bank transfer in the account below or by cheque payable to: Lions Club Sliema sent to the incoming Treasurer Lion Alex Arena. His address is "The Podium" Block "E" Apt. 9, St. Mark Street, St. Julian's STJ 1010

BIC: VALLMTMT

IBAN: MT35VALL22013000000040021819337

PROFILE: A profile of incoming President Lion Norman Peter Wilson will be carried in the July newsletter.

"WE SERVE"



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA
NEWSLETTER

A JUNE 2021

UNIQUE HAND OVER

Saturday June 26, 2021 was a red letter day for our Club as never in our club's 47 years existence did we have a President's Handover ceremony between three members. This came about since in 2020 we could not hold the annual ceremony due to the pandemic restrictions in force at the time.

This year the ceremony was held at the Palace Hotel, around the roof swimming pool area, where various members and their guests were present for the event. 2019/20 President Lion Alex Arena handed over the chain of office to Lion Margaret Frendo, 2020/21 President, who in turn passed on the chain to incoming President Lion Norman Peter Wilson.

During the event Past President Lion Alex Arena presented the Melvin Jones Award to our Club Secretary Lion Lorna Farrugia. Other recipients of awards were: 25 years service to Lion Carmelo Azzopardi, Silver and Gold Centennial award to Lion Vivienne Zammit, Membership Key award to Lions Jean Claude Mir and George Attard. Lion George also received the President's Appreciation Award. The Appreciation award was also presented to Lions Joe Messina and Alfred Micallef Attard. A Posthumous Medal of Merit to Lion Brian Darmanin was presented to Roseanne wife of Lion Brian.

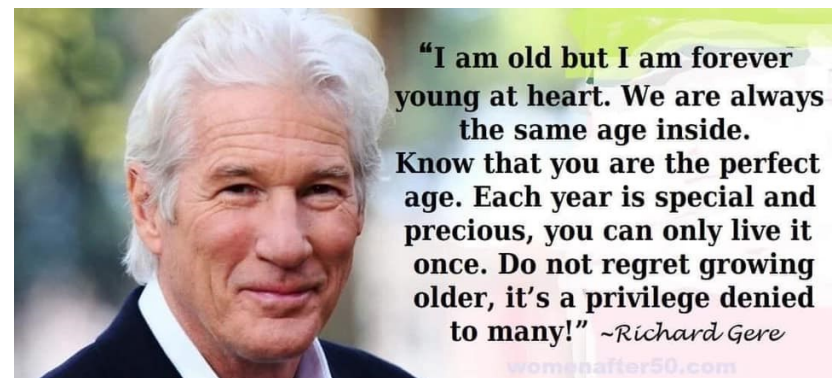
2020/21 President Lion Margaret Frendo presented the Melvin Jones Award to Lions Doreen Davis and Edward Zammit. Lion Vivienne Zammit was presented with the Diamond Centennial Award while the President's Appreciation award was given to Lions Elisa Solimini, Carmel Azzopardi, Louis Sciberras, Lorna Farrugia and Alex Arena and in absentia to Lion Albert Mamo, Mr. Albert Sant and the Spiro Mizzi Foundation.

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But how is it possible to focus attention on ourselves, on our mission and on the social impact of our activities, when the pandemic has been eroding the economic reserves of the associations, making the social fabric even more fragile? The answer is unambiguous: both a social and an economic balance must be found. The accounts, of course, but not only them. Because, on the one hand, it is necessary to ensure that our organization continues to provide services in a short term, thanks to actions to preserve liquidity, cut expenses, defer payment of dues or through access to emergency funds from presenting service programmes worthy of the attention of LCIF or the various district foundations operating in some of the 17 districts of Multiple District Italy.

On the other hand, however, Lions Clubs International must be subjected to a complete x-ray, undergoing through a healthy dose of self-criticism: from rethinking one's identity to relocating one's mission, from exploring innovative collaboration strategies to identifying yesterday's priorities, today no longer in step with the post-Covid times. In short, we need to have the courage to change a few deep-rooted convictions, as for example the one that it is more convenient to do small services rather than concentrating all our resources on global services resulting from well-organized teamwork! Aiming at a single far-reaching goal that involves an entire District, an area or a constituency in the participation where the protagonism of the individual leaves room to a collective interpretation of the concrete we serve, we must always remember that the policy of "WE" is the true strength of an Association like ours that operates on an international scale.



Lion Paolo Gattola Past District Governor 108YA and Associate member of our Club writes on:

LIONS ACTIVITIES AFTER COVID-19

In these days when the Coronavirus has been hitting the world, our Association was on the front line to give answers to the new, pressing needs imposed by the contagion. From the door-to-door delivery of food and medicines to vulnerable people, to the rapid online conversion of services, to the networking of cultural initiatives in streaming: the spurt of solidarity has kept pace with a galloping contagion from north to south of the peninsula. Yet, if the reaction phase to the pandemic emergency can be considered "mission accomplished", new challenges are on the horizon for volunteering.

In order to survive and re-emerge in a radically transformed world, the non-profit organizations will have to undertake a decision-making marathon that will accompany them, as a first stage, to a full recovery from the effects of the pandemic and, as a second one, to enter the new post-coronavirus reality. In this steep path, paved with obstacles but also with opportunities to be seized, the compass that will guide the association needs to be its ability to look itself in the mirror, to take stock of its activities by re-evaluating the mission, the objectives, the strategies and the social impact, e.g. recalibrating its own models of economic sustainability.

That's a pretty tall order" or it is going to be difficult, people say, since it requires a constant medium and long term look almost impossible to conceive when volunteering is assailed by daily unforeseen events, urgent request to be met, financial needs to cope immediately with. Without forgetting the uncertainty of the future. However, this undertaking is not only possible but vital to the survival of our Lions Clubs. Thus, if rolling up one's sleeves was the first commandment of solidarity during the peak of the pandemic, re-inventing oneself is going to be the watchword of post-isolation. This combination, a balanced blend of "doing" and "thinking" a new architecture of local realities, will be the necessary key for the non-profit world to get access to the future.

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Present at the event was the Lions Malta Zone Chairperson Lion Judith Debono, Lion Rosalba Marengo from LC Bosco Marengo Sta Croce, Lion Agostino Balsamo from LC Licata and other guests.

The event was a fitting occasion to show the appreciation of club members to Lion Alex Arena and Lion Margaret Frendo who during their presidency managed to steer our club to various achievements notwithstanding the pandemic restrictions. Both Presidents deserve a BIG "THANK YOU" for their work.

Lion Margaret was also the first female as Club President.



Lion Margaret together with Lion Alex and our Club Secretary Lion Lorna Farrugia who were both presented with a certificate of appreciation. A well deserved merit.

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Regarding presentation of awards Lion President Margaret Frendo writes:

"I would like to express my sentiment that I acknowledge the hard work of many club members who are not included in the list of award receiving members, but have greatly contributed to the success of the club by donating their time or/and were generous in donating funds.

I am afraid that often one fish escapes the net and in the awards case, this year was Lion Susan Galea Borg, who has been generous with ideas, time and donation of funds. Susan thank you for being so helpful to the

MONTHLY TALK

Lion Susan Galea Borg writes:

On Wednesday 16th June following the Sliema Lions Club zoom meeting, we were very privileged and grateful to be given a talk by Historian, Academic, and Author Professor Henry Joseph Frendo. The talk was on his "Diaspora, Maltese Overseas Settlement" published by Midsea books. Prof. Henry explores the migratory experience of the Maltese from the 1920s to the 1940s focusing mainly on culture and politics.

Recurring themes of concern are the retention and also loss of cultural identity in the countries where they settled. Maltese and Gozitans have migrated to practically all the countries in the world in search of a new life. The engaging and photographed personal experiences of Henry and his family were shared with us. His investigation of records of Maltese settlers in his life journey travelling and living abroad is fascinating. We are very fortunate to have had this stunning overview of the Maltese presence in the world and for being granted the opportunity to record the talk for future reference.

PRESENTATION TO YMCA

Lion President Margaret Frendo accompanied by Lion Louis Sciberras recently donated a number of cash vouchers issued by the Government to YMCA Mr. Vince Abela. The vouchers were given to the Club by members, amongst whom Lion Albert Mamo who though not an active member is always there when the need arises. YMCA provides lodging for homeless persons and helps families in need by providing food and other necessities. Our Club has helped the organisation on other occasions by presenting food items donated from school children, as in the case of San Anton School, after our Club's appeals. Thanks to the generosity of Club members and others we can help those less fortunate than us.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Food items consisting of long live milk, sugar, pasta, tea and sauces were distributed to the Millennium Chapel Food Bank, The "Food Bank" and to the Soup Kitchen at Valletta, fun by Rev. Fr. M. Ghirlando Con.V. The food was delivered one Saturday morning by Lions Past President Alex Arena, who provided transport, Louis Sciberras and Tom A. Restall. Recipients of the food items thanked Lion Club Sliema for generosity. Thanks too to Lion Anna Fenech who provided items at a reduced price.

Photo left; Lions Tom and Alex delivering food to the Soup Kitchen.



COLLECTED EYE GLASSES TO ITALY.

Thanks to the good offices of Club member Lion Dr. Valhmar Zammit, the eye glasses collected by our Club were sent to "Centro Raccolta Occhiali" in Turin Italy by Express Trailers.

PDG Lion Enrico Baitone, sent an email stating: "We have received all your glasses and thank you. Your Club's name will be posted both on our website and in the year-end report that will be delivered to all Italian Lions and sent to Oak Brook. "Grazie" for participating in this important service that characterizes the work of Lions for those in need".