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## **NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2023**

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### **THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CLUB FUNDS**

Every Lions Club appoints a Treasurer who administers the Club's funds. Normally a Lions Club has two accounts namely the Public (Activity\_ Funds and the Administrative Funds.

The “Public (Activity) Funds Account” is commonly known as the Philanthropic Account and any funds therein are used solely for services of a philanthropic nature. According to Lions Clubs International Statute, all funds raised from the public must be returned to public use, including money accumulated from invested public funds. The only deductions that may be made from the activity account are the direct operating expenses of the fundraising activity. Money accumulated from interest must also be returned to public use.

“Administrative Funds” are supported through contributions from members through dues, fines, and other individual contributions.

The individual membership dues go into this account. From the annual dues paid by members, each Club must forward the international dues of each member to Lions Clubs International at Oak Brook.

A Club may have other accounts as for example Lions Club Sliema has the Arts Fund, an account solely used to promote arts among youths. This was setup a few years ago and there is a Sub-Committee whose members propose to the

**Board of Directors any project benefitting an individual or group to further his/her studies in arts.**

**It is important for members to note that the Club which is registered as a Voluntary Organisation has still to submit a yearly balance sheet to the Inland Revenue Department and a balance sheet to the Director of Voluntary Organisations. Notwithstanding that Lions Club is a voluntary philanthropic organisation, each Lions Club must abide by the laws of the country.**

**This shows how important it is to keep accurate accounts. The Club is fortunate that for several years we had capable and hard-working Treasurers and Lion members, who despite relinquishing the office of Club Treasurer continued to give advice and help the member acting as Club Treasurer.**

**“WE SERVE”**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/24**

**The Board of Directors for the year 2023/24 was elected by the members present for the meeting held on Wednesday April 5. The Board is as shown hereunder:**

**President: Karl Grima Bezzina**

**Immediate Past President: Norman Wilson**

**First Vice President: Victor Borg Barthet**

**Second Vice President: Stephane Moyet**

**Secretary: Lorna Farrugia**

**Treasurer: Alexander Arena**

**Directors – Two years: Tom A. Restall, Alfred Micallef Attard, Louise Cutajar Davis**

**Directors – One Year: Marie Therese Cuschieri, Susan Galea Borg, Doreen Davis**

**Lion Tamer: Louis Sciberras**

**Tail Twister: Arlette Grech**

**Membership Director: Vivienne Zammit**

**LCIF Co-Ordinator: Joe Messina**

## CLIMATE CHANGE



One of the major topics discussed during the 25<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Lions Conference held in Tangiers, Morocco, in February 2023, was the social impact of Climate Change in the Mediterranean Littoral and the involvement of Lions.

Hereunder is a summary of the discussions held during the session dedicated to this important matter.

***“CLIMATE” – The dangers that we face because of climate change are very visible and must push us Lions, to an important social commitment and be all involved. Global warming is causing drought, and the Mediterranean is particularly affected as it is a “hot-seat.” In addition to this, there is the problem of the reuse of waste. Since 1992 it is forbidden to throw it into the sea. We must think about sustainable development. Faced with water stress, which is a difficult problem for agriculture, we must think about saving water through social education and investments in new basins, water pipes without losses. We must consider the interaction between climate and food to improve sustainable developments.***

***Lions Clubs as a public authority must improve waste water treatment and make society more responsible. The following are some ideas launched and to be implemented:***

- 1. Lions and schools could be good actors in these projects.***
- 2. “Kit Project” – an accessory to be mounted in taps to save water.***
- 3. A “Lions Day” in the whole Mediterranean on the same day (23<sup>rd</sup> February), to set on decision makers where we would talk about a renewable energy and energy and water efficiency.***
- 4. A variant Lions Clubs launching a family awareness campaign by planting trees, turning off water in the house one hour a day and a photo contest on this theme on March 13.***
- 5. Action in the tourism sector which has too much waste and mobilise Lions to this matter.***
- 6. A “PPA” in preparation to create an information and alert network for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Lions and Leo Clubs for mutual help on any ongoing climate problems.***

## VISIT TO TA' SAURA – HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



Turning sharp left through ninety degrees off Triq Nikola Saura, Rabat, down a steep slope and into a dilapidated car park not even quarter of which is tarmacked, we bumped along and parked our cars on rough gravel. As we struggled to open car doors the high wind threw up sharp dust into our faces as we struggled to open our eyes. We were here at Dar Saura Rest Home to party.

And party we did. After entering through an old wooden doorway and scrambling (Scottish word) steep stairs carrying baskets full of gifts we reached an empty austere hall save for melamine-topped dining tables and chairs.

Warmth was soon to glow as Lions Vivienne, Lorna, Vicky, Susan, Graziella, Louis and Norman and his wife, Victoria were greeted by a smiling and cheery Josiah Grech, the General Manager, soon to be followed by fifty or so residents, many on wheelchairs, as well as an equally jolly Monsignor Charles Cordina.

Soon Frank O'Neill, a fine musician of Irish descent, began to play his guitar developing a sing-song and clapping of hands from our guests who had a wee shoogie or two in their wheelchairs along with Lion Susan who quickly took to the dance floor to show off some nifty moves. Without any hesitation, the good and the not so good joined in the dancing and singing and the candle was lit with a bright flame. More glow!

The music was only broken briefly when Lion President Norman gave a short speech and presented Euro 250 from Lions Club Sliema to Mons, Cordina who oversees the Church Rest Homes.

I could see that the Sliema Lions present were clearly overcome and carried away as each then raked in their handbags and pockets to present Fr Cordina with another handsome sum. Their faces said it all - giving was sheer joy. These are true Lions.

All too quickly it was time to eat some party food provided by Lions Club Sliema and to present each of our guests with a bagful of goodies – a hand towel donated by JB Stores, shower lotion and lip balm donated by Lion Vicky and Sebamed samples donated by Europharma, Birkirkara. This all thanks to the tireless patience and persuasiveness of Lion Vivienne who sourced and packed, with the help of Lion Lorna, each of the 56 parcels in bright presentation wrapping.

Soon we had to say our goodbyes, Lion Vicky telling me that this party several years ago is what led her into Lionism; but before we did, one of the residents asked after our dear Lion Bella. She was remembered from our last party there pre-COVID.

**Editor's Note:** *The above article was forwarded by Lion President Norman Wilson. Top Photo shows a view of the hall with inmates and Club members. The other photo shows our Club Present with Mons. Cordina and Frank O'Neill.*



## OUR CLUB' LOSS

Regretfully we have to record the sad loss of our member Lion Isabelle Micallef who went to meet Our Lord in heaven on Monday April 24. Lion Isabelle who served as Tail Twister for our Club for a few years was a lady who always had a kind word for everyone.

I first came to know Isabelle when she joined our Club. From the moment she joined she was a very active member. Whatsmore she always had a smile on her face even when she was suffering so much because of her sickness.



I am sure that Isabelle will be missed by all Club members as has already been shown by the many messages posted on Face Book describing her as “a lady with a smile”. This was confirmed by the number of Lions present for her funeral mass at St. Julian’s Parish Church and several others who knew Isabelle as “Bella”.

The commemorative picture of Lion Isabelle includes beautiful words written in the picture which reflect to perfection Lion Isabella’s character.

*“Dear Bella. You are gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. We carry with us all the laughter, joy, and happiness you brought to us all. We will forever remember your joyous personality that brightened every room. We will be guided by your courage and the values you have instilled in us. You shall live on and talk to us through the good you have done and the love you gave us all.”*

Rest in peace dear Lion Friend. You will surely be missed at our Club meetings and functions. Despite your illness you were always present with your smile giving a helping hand. Bella will surely be missed but never forgotten.

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NEXT CLUB MEEINGS are scheduled for Wednesday May 3 and Wednesday May 17 at the Victoria Hotel commencing at 1830.

## CLUB NEWS

**AFTEROON TEA & CONCERT:** This fund-raising event is being held at the Hotel Phoenicia Ballroom on Saturday May 20. The draw for the In-House Raffle will be held on this occasion. Tickets for the raffle are still available. Contact Lion Tom A. Restall to get tickets.

**PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER & AWARDS NIGHT:** The final event chaired by our outgoing President Lion Norman Wilson will be held on Saturday June 24 at Roof Top Area of the Victoria Hotel. This is an event which should not miss. More information will be promulgated nearer to the date.

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### REFLECTION

Sometime, when you are feeling important,  
Sometime, when your ego's in bloom,  
Sometime, when you take it for granted,  
You're the best qualified in the room,  
Sometime when you feel that you go,  
Would leave an unfillable hole,  
Just follow this simple instruction,  
And see how it humbles your soul.  
Take a bucket and fill it with water,  
Put your hand in it, up to the wrist,  
Pull it out, and the hole that is remaining,  
Is a measure of how you will be missed.  
You may splash all you please when you enter,  
You can stir the water galore.  
But stop and you will find in a minute,  
That it looks like the same as before.  
The moral in this quaint example,  
Is to do just as best as you can.  
Be proud of yourself – but remember  
There is no indispensable man.

***NOTE: This advice is reproduced from "The Football Referee". It is also relevant for all of us.***

**"WE SERVE"**

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