



SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from the summer break. I do hope that you've all had some restful days to recharge and destress ourselves to look forward to another Lionistic winter.

Destressing hard is as much as important as working hard. Taking a physical and mental break helps us see ourselves and our societies we live in from an outside view. It helps us to reconnect with our work and remind us to why and what we are really doing here today and every other day.

We should ask ourselves questions and look for answers in us to see what is the outcome we would like to see. We may not agree with everyone, we may not see eye to eye with a few, but we should make sure that our presence, our simple membership within this wonderful Club is well respected to ourselves. A Club which brings pride to what we do and what we represent not just between these four walls but beyond.

As any other organisation our Club is made up of members, people who have common goals. Some of us work hard, others a bit less, but the important thing is that the contribution that each individual gives, moves the Club forward in the right direction.

If you cannot fly, run, if you cannot run, walk, if you cannot walk crawl, but no matter what keep on moving forward.

Ed. Note: The above message was delivered by Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina on September 6 at the first meeting after the Summer recess.

Hereafter meetings are scheduled for the first and third Wednesday of the month. Although attendance at meetings is good, however it could be much better, if more members would attend at least once every month.

LIONS VISION PROGRAMME

The Lions Clubs Vision Programme mobilises Lions and Eye Care Professionals to provide comprehensive eye health services. The objective is to prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Vision has been at the forefront of Lions service for more than a century. Lions Clubs International Foundation's (LCIF) mission is to strengthen eye care systems, enabling them to fight blindness and vision loss and assist those who are blind or visually impaired.

Since 1990 SightFirst funds have enabled Lions, health care providers, and partner organisations around the world to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness and also assist those who are blind or visually impaired. More than 500 million people have been impacted over the last 50 years. Millions more still need our help.



LCIF is known throughout the world for its work to improve the lives of people affected by visual impairments. Together with many Lions Clubs, LCIF has provided significant grants funding to “Leader Dogs for the Blind”. LCIF proudly serves their continued efforts by offering unique and impactful initiatives, programmes and grants.

SIGHT FIRST IN MALTA – About 35 years ago the Malta Lions Zone decided to get assistance from LCIF in funds to purchase twelve Glaucoma units to be installed in various Government Clinics to provide free check-ups of glaucoma. Another portable unit was donated to St. Vincent de Paule Home for the Elderly.

As a result of this initiative thousands of persons had their eye sight saved and thus also embettered their lives. Funds were provided by about 50% from LCIF and the balance by the then five Lions Clubs in Malta.

The Malta Zone printed leaflets and throughout the years the Zone used to have a report of the number of people who made use of this service.

EYE BANK – After being contacted by an Optical Specialist to set up an “Eye Bank”, the Zone once more contacted LCIF and funds were advanced for this project. In those days, corneas used to be imported mostly from Italy. Unfortunately, however, most times these corneas were not fully suitable since

the cornea has a number of cells which die by time and the patient, after being operated, was again back to square one as the operation used to be a failure.

Eventually the Malta Zone obtained adequate equipment together with containers to store the corneas.

In order to get trained professionals an Ophthalmic Specialist and a nurse were sent to the UK for specialised training. Corneas were no longer being imported. With the aid of the Organ Donation Card, introduced by Lions Club Sliema, a number of persons were donating corneas. It involved a quick procedure with a nurse going to the deceased person to elevate the cornea from the donor. Corneas were then preserved in containers for future use. As a matter of fact, although these were for local people, corneas were also donated to other nearby countries.

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PARALYMPIC ROWING BOAT

Club members would be pleased to know that the Paralympic Rowing Boat which our Club sponsored has now been ordered. Hereunder is precis of a circular received by our Club's Immediate Past President Lion Norman Wilson, who had made the sponsorship of this boat a priority during his Presidency. The precis of the circular is of interest to all members.

“The Paralympic rowing boats financed through the Julian Bajada Challenge were ordered from the supplier in July 2023, comprising six boats, two each of Quad, Double and Single adaptive Paralympic rowing boats, an ancillary equipment rowing seats (appropriate for wheelchair users and other athletes with mobility impairments), oars of various lengths, trolleys, adjustable riggings, and rowing shoes. MP has already paid the deposit of circa Euro 18000, with final payment of the balance due to be made on completion of the order, CIF (customs, freight and insurance) is expected to be paid soon, whilst VAT and import duty will be paid when the boats arrive in Malta. The suppliers (China based Hangzhou LLangjin Boat Co. Ltd and Hangzhou Rowing Oars Co. Ltd.) have indicated that the estimated completion time for the order is circa 45 days. We thus expect the boats to be ready by the end of the Third Quarter 2023, with estimated arrival of the boats in Malta (customs clearance/registrations) expected in the Fourth Quarter 2023. We are pleased to confirm that manufacture on these boats has started.

A launch event will be organised at the Siggiewi Rowing Club (SRC) boathouse in Marsa, followed by a series of events in 2023/24 which will be open to SRC members, the general public and sponsors, aimed at enrolling more athletes

to join the rowing team plus team building corporate events. Details to follow. Branding of the boats/equipment – In the next few weeks, we will be in touch with you separately to discuss renderings of the logo designs on the boats or equipments, as per sponsorship package selected. Signed Julian Bajada.

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BERNA'S MESSAGE – THE IMPORTANT THING

Is not what you get, but what you give.

Is not what you learn, but what you teach.

Is that you enrich other lives with every step we take with truth, honesty, compassion, sacrifice and courage. It's your character that matters, not your abilities.

Is to be an exemplary person who encourages other people and makes them follow you.

What matters is not how many people you know, but the number of people who will feel eternal deprivation when you are gone.

What matters is not your memories, but the memories that will live ON.

The important thing is not how long you will be remembered, but how you will be remembered and by whom. Living a significant life does not happen by accident. It's your choices that matter, not the circumstances. Choose to live an important life...! ❤️

MEETING A FELLOW LION: On receipt of a message from the President of Lions Club Castellammare Di Stabia MD108YA, our Club Secretary Lion Lorna informed our Club President so that he could meet him. Since the President had other commitments, he asked me to meet him. On Friday September 8, I met Lion President Roberto Rapicano at his hotel. We went over to the Ferries in Sliema where we spent two hours talking about Lions in Malta and in Italy. Lion Roberto, who is a Solicitor, was pleased to learn about our Club and what we do "To Serve". He showed interest in our Club's various projects. He said that he would be pleased to welcome our Club members if ever they are in Naples. Lion Roberto was presented with our Club bannerette and in exchange he gave me a souvenir to pass on to our President. It is always great to meet fellow Lions from abroad. A few days ago, Lion Roberto wrote that he may be coming to Malta in the near future (possibly for our Charter Night) together with other Lions and possibly the President of Lions Club Pompei.

WOMEN AS LIONS



Women can join the Lions Clubs. In fact, women are the fastest growing segment of Lions with more than 425,000 women serving around the world. In 1987 the Constitution of Lions Clubs International was amended to allow women to become members. Hitherto female members were called Lionesses. Since then, the Association had two ladies as International President namely Patti Hill the current President who is from the United States and Gudron Yngvadottir from Iceland who was President in 2018/2019.

In Malta we have Lions Club Mdina Malta Host who is a female Club. In our Club we have had various female members. Currently we have 12 members including our Club Secretary Lion Lorna Farrugia, who does a great job, and our Membership Director Lion Vivienne Zammit who has been in this post for several years and who has encouraged other females to become members. Our Club also has two female Directors, who are sisters, namely Lion Doreen Davis and Lion Louise Cutajar Davis.

WELCOME TO A LION FROM PERU

At our Club meeting on September 6, we were pleased to welcome Lion Libert Turquillo of Lions Club Bicentenaries Libertad Universal of Lima, Peru. Lion Libert who is working in Malta explained briefly what his Club does TO SERVE in their community. The Peruvian Lion intends to attend our Club meetings since he lives in Sliema.

FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH AN ENGLISH LIONS CLUB

A Friendship Agreement has been agreed with Lions Club Abingdon of Multiple District MD105 British Isles and Ireland. Lions Club Abingdon is in District 105SC. Its Club Secretary is Lion Bill Russell who is a frequent visitor to Malta and attends our Club meetings whenever he is in Malta. Lions Club Abingdon is the first Lions Club from the United Kingdom to have a Friendship Agreement with our Club, since most of the other Lions Club with which we have this agreement are from Italy and Northern Cyprus. Through such agreements (previously known as Twinning) Lions get to know much better what other Clubs are doing to follow the motto "WE SERVE" worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHANGING THE WORLD

Dear Lion

When you give someone a drink of water, you can quench their thirst for a day. But by building a clean water system you their lives and their community for good. That is the kind of big, sustainable impact that our greatest partner, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), helps us make every single day.



Our foundation gives us the support we need to expand our service and support our growing membership. Bust just like every great partnership, that support works both ways. We support LCIF and LCIF supports us. So, let's keep serving, and let's keep supporting great service at home and around the world with Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF).

Yours in Service Dr Patti Hill

International President

WHERE THERE IS A NEED THERE IS A LION

We often see and state the above quote whenever there is a need for help. However, a young Moroccan Lion came to the help of his country people when a devastating earthquake hit Marrakesh earlier in September. AFP (an international news agency) reported that: "Groups including Draw A Smile and Lions Clubs International have already stepped in to help victims in the devastated villages. Twenty-year-old Lion Itlias Ghassani, General Secretary of the local section of Lions Club Red City, stated: *"We are trying to do our best, but the needs are enormous"*.

Ed. Note: Well, done young man. You deserve the Melvin Jones Award.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

At the meeting held on September 20 two new members namely Trevor Spiteri and Miguel Musu were introduced. The new members will be formally inducted during the Charter Night Dinner in November. Well done Lion Vivienne Zammit for recruiting the new members.

