



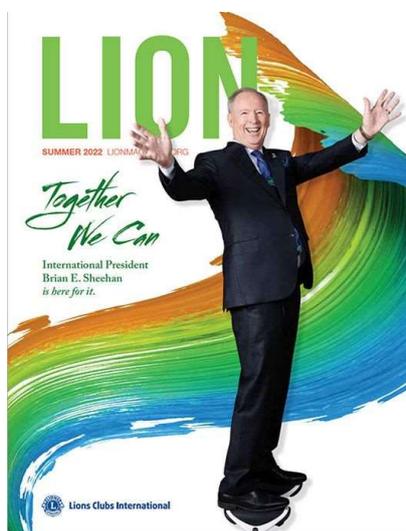
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Hello lions! Boy, am I excited to be addressing you for the first time as your new International President? If you know me, you know I like making everything just a *little* bit fun. And if you don't know me, well, I hope you will come to know and love my approach to service—which is to do everything with a whole lot of energy and a smile.

People say I have a lot of energy, and they are right. And you know what, I intend on using every bit of it to lift you up and cheer you on this year. I know Lions have a lot of energy and I know that together we can make big changes. One person may look at all that need to be done in this world and feel overwhelmed. But when you are a Lion, you are never just one person. You have a whole team of Lions behind you. I want you to know that throughout my year as your President and beyond, I will always be on your team. I will always be here to cheer you on. So, I say, let's be each other's biggest fans. Let's make it clear that when Lions put their energy into a project, they do it with a world of support behind them. We are one team – "TEAM LIONS". You want to make big changes, you say? So, do I. Together we can. Yours in Service.



Brian E. Sheehan

TEAM LIONS IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE

REFRESHING ONE'S MEMORY ON WHO ARE THE LIONS

THINGS TO KNOW AND REMEMBER

“ORIGIN OF NAME – LIONS” On June 17, 1917 at the invitation of Melvin Jones, delegates met in Chicago. The only point of contention was the selection of a name for the new organisation. Melvin Jones researched the idea of calling the new organisation Lions. The name Lions was chosen on a secret ballot over several others because the lion stood for strength, courage, fidelity and vital actions. The official name of the association is “The International Association of Lions Clubs”.



LOGO – The Lions emblem (or logo) is a recognised and respected symbol around the world. Although it has been modified and modernised, the basic design dates back to 1919. It consists of a gold “L” on a blue field surrounded by a gold circle. On either side of the circle is the profile of a Lion’s head, one looking back upon a proud past and the other looking optimistically toward the future.

WHO ARE LIONS – Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need. In our own community and around the world. The 1.4 million members in more than 46000 clubs in over 210 countries are different in many ways, but share a core belief – community is what we make it. In addition to humanitarian service, Lions enjoy fellowship and develop leadership skills.

VISION STATEMENT: To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

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

SLOGAN: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety.

MOTTO: ***WE SERVE***

CLUB NEWS

NEXT MEETING: The next Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 7 followed by a meeting on Wednesday September 21. Details of time and venue will be communicated later by our Club Secretary. Thereafter meetings will be held twice monthly on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE

In the Lionistic Year 1984/85 our Club was celebrating its tenth anniversary from its foundation. In the summer of 1984, the then Club President Lion Joe G.P. Bonello paid a visit to the Lions Clubs International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Illinois U.S.A. On his return to Malta, Lion Joe wrote an interesting article about Lions in the commemorative booklet issued for the occasion. This article merits to be reproduced in our newsletter as it gives an insight of Lions Clubs International in the 1980s and beyond.

People do not cooperate and give of their best unless they understand the importance of what they do. Nothing furthers understanding more than personal more than personal visits to the offices of companies or professional associations one does business with or is a member of, locally or overseas. Last



1Melvin Jones

June in Oakbrook, Illinois. I was received at Lions International Headquarters through the veins of our local clubs, the arteries of our European ones – now I was at the heart! A large area to the left of the main lobby houses the Flag Room where visiting Lions are photographed next to the international banner. Miniature flags of every member nation line the top of the curved walnut portioning on which hang the portraits of all International Past Presidents.

But what held my attention on entering the Flag Room was a glass encased area in which is exhibited a replica of the office of Lionism's leader, Melvin Jones. His own desk, chair, 1920's telephone, dog-eared diary and other everyday office paraphernalia seemed to stand proud of having been tools used by Melvin Jones to form, from his vision, what was to become a worldwide organisation of more than 1,300,000 united under the slogan "We Serve".

I believe that Melvin Jones was dedicated to excellence. If he were not, he would have preferred the "status quo" he enjoyed, at age 38, of belonging to the Business Circle of Chicago – a prestigious, but mostly self-serving group of men. But he wanted, in my view, to be among the far smaller group of men who do not go through life as "users" only. In 1917, as in 1984, there must have been too many who never got involved in anything unless they could profit from it. In 1984, as in 1917, there may be a desk, a chair, a 1980's telephone and other office paraphernalia, totally unprepossessing in themselves, which will, around 2050 be on display to commemorate the man who, like Melvin

Jones wants to go beyond the selfish narrow backstreets of self service, to the open broad boulevards of altruistic, humanitarian service.

That is excellence. It is a strong word of comparison. To excel means to surpass, to go beyond. Excellence has been part of human history.

On our tenth anniversary, we dedicate ourselves to excellence aware that what we are is not so much determined by what we have been, as it is determined by what we hope to become. Who we are in the present is determined by what we expect to be in the future.

So let us seek to see the eyes of an orphan gleam with gladness when receiving a small gift at Christmas, let us hope for the hug of happiness from an old peoples' home inmate whose loneliness we relieve, let us experience the sheer joy of meeting the glance of quiet thanks of the reformed drug addict, let us thin – at least till our Silver Anniversary in the year 2000 – of the thousands of opportunities ahead to turn tears of sadness to tears of joy.

That – and nothing else but that – is to me the Lionism reflected from the replica of Melvin Jones's office in Oakbrook. That dedication to others is what will attest men of character and culture to our Club, as they were attracted to Melvin Jones's vision. You will stay with us – or join if you are not one of us – as together we will give life to the oriental proverb: "If it is possible, it is already done, if it is impossible, it will be done."

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FUND RAISING

While rummaging through the various Lions publications which are in my possession, I found a booklet published to commemorate Lions Club Sliema tenth anniversary. In this booklet most of the then Club Directors wrote an article highlighting the Club's activities during the years 1974 (year when the Club was chartered) to 1984.

The Board of Directors for the year 1984/85 was as follows: President Joe G.P. Bonello, Immediate Past President Tony Bonello, First Vice President John Scicluna, Second Vice President Albert P. Mamo, Third Vice President Victor Borg Barthet, Secretary John Fletcher.

Hereunder is an article written by Lion Victor Borg Barthet, the third Vice President who was also the Fund-Raising Chairperson during the year 1984/85.

On August 2nd, 1974, the Sliema Lions Club held its Charter Night at the Union Club, Sliema. As a result, we were able to open our philanthropic account with Lm145. (We had no particular project in mind but we had talked of a target of Lm1000 in our first year). In six weeks, we had sufficient funds to answer an appeal from St. Luke's Hospital for a nebulizer. This was imported and presented in a very short time. The next project was a Special Speech Therapy Unit which we believed would cost us Lm1000. Having agreed to the project, which was for use at the Gonzi Homes, we discovered that the cost would in fact be Lm3200! We were now faced with a challenge – we had only Lm162 in the bank. We all reacted better to the challenge and raised the money in less than a year! All club members were involved and kept in the picture about the amount raised and the amount still outstanding. The challenge was there and we worked hard to meet it. In the early days we had no major raffles, so the funds were raised from “fun” parties with appropriate names such as Afro Night, Maverick Night, Shipwreck Night and the Black and White Ball. A considerable contribution came from functions held in private premises – Wine and Cheese Parties, Barbecues, Film Shows and Mexican Lunches.

By July 1976 the Club had 65 members and in order to achieve maximum involvement it was decided that there would be one function each month and a different team would run each. This involved more members and kept the challenge going.

We were always looking for new ideas. Successful ones include Gypsy Night 1976/77. Concert by a Welsh Choir 1977/78 (the first time we raised Lm1000 at a single function), Film Premieres (Lionesses 1977/78, Lions 1978/79). Fancy Dress Ball 1979/80, Choral Concert 1979/80 (Lm1100), the first Horse Race Night (on films) 1979/80 and a Book Fair (1980/81). More recent successes are now mostly annual events - Coffee/Tombola Morning, Golf Tournaments, Bazaar, El Dorado Night, “In the Mood” (at Jerma Palace), Charity Hill Climb, New Year's Eve Ball and the Trolley Run.

In 1982 we changed our system of selling raffle tickets by involving charities. We have increased the sales considerably and the annual profit is now over Lm8000. The Philanthropic Account pays out about Lm12000 a year.

There is a constant need for members who are prepared to be involved, for new ideas, and more than anything we need the support of the public.

(Note: above article reproduced from 10th Anniversary Booklet)

FUND SPENDING

During its first ten years our Club made various donations to charitable institutions and also started various projects. One of these was the restoration of frescoes at St. Agatha's catacombs in Rabat. This project was started in 1982 on a limited budget. One has to mention however that the project was continued years later through the hard work of Lion Alfred Micallef Attard.

In 1974 a few weeks after its foundation, the Club donated a Nebulizer and Heart Monitor to St. Luke's Hospital, while in 1975 the Club supplied a Speech Therapy Unit to the School for the Young Deaf. In 1976 a Mini Minor car was donated to the Malta Memorial District Nursing Association.

Two years later the Club paid for the construction of a stage and the purchase of equipment at the Paceville Community Centre. A year later the Club sponsored the playing field at San Gwann, while a year later the Club supplied a billiard table and equipment to the St. Gregory's Community Centre in Sliema.

In 1981 the Club paid for the modernisation of bathrooms at Fatima House in Gwardamangia. In 1983 adopted a flatlet at Angela House.

Those are a few of the major projects undertaken by the Club during its first ten years. Various donations and projects were undertaken in the following years for the benefit of all deserving causes.

Fund Spending cannot be made unless the Club organises Fund Raising activities. Hence that is the reason why the Club is always endeavouring to raise much needed funds. Fortunately, during all the years since 1974, every Board of Directors appointed endeavoured to raise funds to be able to meet demands made to the Club by various institutions.

As already reported this year we have presented a brand-new car to the Hospice Movement. This was the major project which our current President had in his first year (2021/22) as President. One project which should be completed this year is to obtain a guide dog for a blind person. Lion Treasurer Alex Arena is looking after this project. A person has been identified and he will be going for training with the guide dog at the "Centro Cane Guida" at Labiate near Milan in the coming days. Once the person completes the training with the dog, the Club would have fulfilled another project which involved raising a big some of money.

SUPPER BY THE POOL

At a balmy evening on Saturday August 20 several members and their guests were treated to a super supper by the pool at the residence of our Club President Lion Norman Wilson and his charming wife Victoria. Around 72 persons were present for this fund raiser, including a large group of non-Lion members who were told of the function by of our new lady members, Yvonne McElhatton.

All the food (and there was plenty of it) was prepared by Mrs. Victoria Wilson. The food was complimented with flowing wine and a dessert.

During the evening a raffle was organised for several prizes donated by Club members.

This event was well organised, credit to Lion President, his wife and other Lions. All those present complimented them for organising this event. The end result was fantastic as the sum of Euro 2565 was raised. This sum is earmarked



a few of the guests at the evening

for the purchase of a boat for the paralympic association, the main project that the Club is focusing on this year. Hopefully with a few more fund raisers we will be able to purchase the boat. This does not mean that the Club will not consider to pursue other projects as there is always the need to help other deserving

causes. Adhering to our motto "WE SERVE", we will be able to help those who are in need.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Though the Club's Golden Anniversary of its Charter is in two years' time, preparations are already being made for this event. Lion Victor Barthet who will be President at the time. Since this is a special occasion the Club is hoping that the International President Lion Fabricio Oliveira will honour us with his presence.

Before saying something that may hurt someone, take a piece of paper and crumple it up. Now try to make it the way it was before... You can't right? People's hearts are like this piece of paper. Once hurt, it's difficult to leave them the way you found them. Before saying something hurtful, think hard about what you're saying. Always be considerate. Always be kind.



Positive Energy Quotes
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