



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA
NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2022



MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY

The Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory was established on March 7, 1998 during a meeting in Tunis. During this meeting it was agreed to form a Solidarity Observatory of all Multiple Districts, Single or Provisional Districts and the Undistricted areas of the Mediterranean as defined, classified and recorded by Lions Clubs International.

The Purpose and objects of the Observatory are the following:

- a. To promote the diffusion of lionism in the Mediterranean area.**
- b. To promote the diffusion and knowledge of different cultures as an expression of a common origin and history.**
- c. To express a common vision of lionism representing it at competent offices of the Association.**
- d. To encourage information flows among the member countries regarding initiatives and activity implemented.**
- e. To stimulate a twinning programme among clubs of the two sea shores of the Mediterranean basin.**
- f. To develop a youth exchange programme among youth of the Mediterranean area.**
- g. To support initiatives for the protection of the environment.**
- h. To create a partnership with Mediterranean universities and university institutes so as to encourage the creation of scholarships and stages for students and recently graduates.**
- i. 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 Convention agenda.**

Malta has been a member of the Observatory for many years. Our Club members have participated in various yearly conferences held by the Observatory. Two conferences were also held in Malta. The first was in 1999 and more recently in 2016. About 360 delegates from all over the Mediterranean littoral came to our island home in 2016. At such conferences the top executives of Lions Club International namely the International President, Vice Presidents and other officials attend the conference.

The theme of the 1999 conference was *“The Mediterranean Basin Environment & Cultural Heritage”*. Various speakers from Mediterranean countries including the then President of the Republic Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici highlighted the importance of preserving the Mediterranean Sea. *“Cultural Diversity in the Mediterranean”* was the theme of the 2016 conference.

Usually, the venue of the Conference alternates annually between northern and southern countries. Due to the COVID pandemic and the absence of requests to hold the 2023 conference in a northern country, having received a request Morocco to hold the conference at Tangier, the MSO Board of Directors agreed to hold the conference there. Though normally the conference is always held in March, the 2023 conference is scheduled for February 23rd to 26th to avoid the Ramadan month. In Tunis it was also agreed that the 2024 conference will be held in Bologna, Italy. The Turkish city of Antalya could be venue for 2025 the conference.

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MALTA ZONE CHAIRMAN

Past President Lion George O. Attard has been appointed Zone Chairman Malta. Since Malta is not a member of any Lions District, the three Lions Clubs in Malta are allowed to form a Zone. The Zone Chairperson has to be a Past President of a Club. Lion George has served in this position in the Lionistic Years 2008/2009 and 2012/2013. He takes over from the current Zone Chairperson Lion Judith Debono at a critical time for the Zone since it is understood that Lions Club St. Paul’s Bay are facing a shortage of members and may close down. It would be a great pity if this happens as then Malta will no longer be eligible to form a Zone. Lions International will only give a Zone status to a country if there is more than two Lions Clubs.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022/23

The Board of Directors for the Lionistic Year July 1, 2022 to July 30, 2023 is as shown hereunder:

PRESIDENT:	WILSON Norman
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT:	FRENDO Margaret
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:	GRIMA BEZZINA Karl
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:	BORG BARTHET Victor
SECRETARY:	FARRUGIA Lorna
TREASURER:	ARENA Alex
DIRECTORS (1 year):	DAVIS Doreen
	GALEA BORG Susan
	SOLIMINI Eliza
DIRECTORS (2 years):	CUSCHIERI Marie Therese
	SCIBERRAS Louis
	WARD Martin
MEMBERSHIP:	ZAMMIT Vivienne
LCIF COORDINATOR:	MESSINA Joe

NOTE: Lion Louis Sciberras will also continue to act as Lion Tamer.

Lion Arlette Grech has been appointed the Tail Twister.

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QUOTES

“Don’t worry if you have tried and failed, but worry about you can still do”. **Pope John XXII**

“Do not allow yourselves to be disheartened by failure as long as you have done your best”. **Mother Teresa**

VISIT OF LIONS FROM CYPRUS

Twelve Lions from Lefkosa Baskent Lions Club from the Turkish part of Cyprus led by their President Lion Berna Yilmazoglu Ozdogu paid a visit to Malta from April 24 to 27. The group came to Malta at the invitation of our Club following various exchange of emails.

A programme of events was prepared for the visitors in consultation with their Club President who wished that they learn more about Malta. This was the first ever visit to Malta by the group and hence a programme was drawn up to ensure that they visited a few places of interest,

During their short stay in Malta the group visited Valletta, Hagar Qim and Mdina. Immediate Past President Lion Margaret Frendo was the tour guide



Figure 1 at the Upper Barakka

for the Valletta visit held on Monday 25. She took them to various places of interest in our capital city amongst which St. John's Cathedral and the Upper Barrakka. All members of the group thanked Lion Margaret for giving up her time to conduct the tour.

The first visit on Tuesday 26 was to the Neolithic Temples of Hagar Qim. Prior to lunch at Wied iz-Zurrieq the party went on a

boat trip to Blue Grotto. In the afternoon the group visited Mdina Cathedral and the Museum. For most of them it was the first time to visit a catholic church. They were impressed with the exhibits at the cathedral museum.

On Tuesday evening the group together with several of our club members had dinner at Ta' Kolina in

Sliema where typical Maltese dishes were served. During the evening Lion Presidents of both clubs exchanged gifts. The Cypriot club President was thrilled to receive a silk shawl manufactured in Malta. The visiting President Lion Berna also presented a gift to our club members present for the evening.



Figure 2 At the entrance of Hagar Qim temples

The Cypriots, who were visiting Malta for the first time were surprised with our island's unique history and our architectural gems.

It was agreed that our Club would organise a visit to Cyprus in the near future and the Cypriots have also agreed to come to Malta for our club's golden anniversary of its charter in July 2024. On Wednesday 27 a group of our Club



Figure 3 The two Club Presidents

members including Lion Secretary Lorna Farrugia, Lion Vivienne Zammit and Lion Louis Sciberras were at the hotel to see them off to the airport. The whole group stated that they hope to revisit Malta in the near future and were also looking forward to welcome a group from our club to their home city in Cyprus.

Thanks go to Second Vice President elect Lion Victor Borg Barthet, Lions Joe Messina, Louis Sciberras and Chris Borg Cardona who greeted the group on arrival at the airport and took them to hotel in Sliema.

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MESSAGE FROM CYPRUS

Lion President Berna Yilmazoglu Ozdoga sent the following message:

"It's been a day since we left Malta and we still have very warm and sincere feelings related to our visit to your beautiful island. The closeness, hospitality and friendship you showed us are still very fresh in our minds. I have full faith that we will add a new stone to the bridge of friendship that we have created with you, strengthen and advance our brotherhood in the near future. We would like to remind you again that we will be very pleased to host you and your club members on our beautiful island Cyprus next year. With the deepest Lions Love and Respect."

Berna Yilmazoglu Ozdoga, 2021-22 Service Year Club President and Members of Lefkosa Baskent Lions Club.

Editor's Note: The visit of the Lions from Cyprus brings to the fore the spirit of friendship and understanding among Lions Clubs all over the world.



CLUB NEWS

MAY MEETINGS: Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday May 4 commencing at 1830. Lion Judith Debono, Zone Chairperson, will be attending this meeting. The meeting on Wednesday May 18 will commence at 1800 since at the end of the business meeting Ms. Joan Barnwell will deliver a talk on “The Greatest World Atlas”.

PARTY AT TA’ SAWRA: Due to COVID 19 cases at Ta’ Sawra Home for the Elderly, the tea party scheduled for April 20 had to be cancelled. This event will be held at a later date.

BAZAAR:

The sum of Euro 870 was raised from the bazaar held on the weekend April 9/10 at the Stella Maris Church community centre. This sum was raised to the efforts put in by several Club members especially Lion Vivienne Zammit who obtained most of the stuff from various outlets, and all other members who spent hours to set up the array of stuff and at the bazaar during the weekend. Well done to all those involved to make this fund raiser a great success.

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JUST THINK

A “SMILE” costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes last forever. No one is so rich or mighty that he/she can get along without it and none is so poor but that he/she can be made rich by it. A “SMILE” creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business and is the countersign of friendship, it brings rest to the weary, sunshine to the sad and it is nature’s best antidote for trouble. Yet it can not be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a “SMILE”. Give them one of yours, as none needs any “SMILE” so much as he/she who has no more to give.

Author Unknown

KEEP ON SMILING AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SMILE AT YOU.

SPRING CELEBRATION AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

“Linlitgow” at Triq il-Merill, Mellieha, the home of Lion President Norman Wilson and his wife Victoria was the venue of a Spring Tea Party held on April 30.

Greetings, and warmth willingly pervaded the fresh spring air as Sliema Lions and their friends hugged each other creating an increasing volume of jollity and laughter. But this was only the start of the party. When the corks popped and glasses chinked it all really began.

Prosecco with canapes were served by ever keen Lions, eyed and enjoyed with laughter getting ever louder and louder. Now, even the flowers outside in the garden were quizzically vibrating.

Green and a few ripe lemons from the tree stared in as Lions and friends enjoyed a leisurely afternoon tea, some with coffee, like a family in animated glee as grandchildren roared the raffle winners’ numbers. The volume turned even higher!



Figure 4 Enjoying tea at the Wilsons

It was all too soon, it was all to end, it was all over too soon. It had started just to end! But the end justified the means with around euro 1400 to add to the Lions Club Sliema Hospice kitty. Even the lemons were grateful!

Ed. Note: Thanks Lion President for the write up of this event. Thanks too for making your home available for this great fund-raising activity.

OFF TO BOSCO MARENGO

A Group of members led by Lion President Norman Wilson will be going to Bosco Marengo for our twinned club’s charter anniversary which is being celebrated on Saturday May 14. Our twinned Club members have prepared a full programme of events visiting places of interest around the region and also including a visit to the “Blind Dogs for the Blind Foundation” in Bergamo. This visit will give us an opportunity to assess the possibility to get a dog thereby fulfilling our project to present this dog to the Malta Society for the Blind.
