



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

One of Lions Club International major programmes is LCIF. The foundation was chartered in 1968 to support the efforts of Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian services, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programmes.

The SightFirst programme, the aggressive global service initiative that mobilises Lions resources at all levels, responds to worldwide needs for the prevention of blindness. LCIF SightFirst grants are supporting projects that need critical needs in both developing and developed countries. The SightFirst programme has already provided over one and a half million cataract surgeries, initiated eye health awareness programmes, supported eye disease treatment plans, constructed hospitals and funded training for ophthalmic personnel.

LCIF grant programme, Core 4, provides grants of up to US\$200,000 for high impact Lions service projects. This programme addresses the larger humanitarian needs in the communities where Lions serve. LCIF Core 4 grants are limited to a list of specific types of projects consistent with the top four humanitarian concerns of Lions preserving eyesight, combating disability, promoting health and helping youth.

Donations to LCIF support grants in these categories: LCIF SightFirst, Core 4, Standard International Assistance Grants (IAG), Emergency, Major Catastrophe and Major International Service Programme.

LCIF honours donors with a variety of awards and forms of recognition. The highest form of recognition is the Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF). Other recognitions include Honour Roll and Contribution Membership.

Whenever a Club donates US1000 to LCIF, the Club becomes entitled to nominate one of its members for the Melvin Jones Award. If an individual Lion makes a similar donation, he/she is automatically given the award. If the Club becomes entitled for an award the President usually nominates a member for the Award. Several of our Club members had the honour to receive this award.

Through a grant from LCIF the Lions in Malta were able to install Glaucoma Screening equipment in six clinics in Malta and Gozo. This project was undertaken several years ago. Another screening equipment was also given to St. Vincent de Paule Home for the Elderly. It is not known whether the equipment donated to the Health Department is still in use. Nonetheless it was a great achievement by the then four Lions Clubs in Malta to be able to procure the equipment for the hundreds of Maltese people who benefitted from it.

LCIF is of great service to all countries around the world and is always involved in helping out whenever natural disasters occur around irrespective of any political divergence. Just recently LCIF provided funds for natural tragedies that occurred around the world like the TSUNAMI tragedy that hit Tonga. LCIF merits the support of all Lions Clubs worldwide.

“WE SERVE”

MONTHLY TALK



Following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions at the meeting held at THE IMPERIAL on Wednesday February 16, we had a guest speaker namely Mr. Andre P. DeBattista, a political scientist and occasional columnist to deliver a talk on "*The Beginning of the End of the British Empire 1919-1921*". Mr. DeBattista gave an account of the rise and fall of the British Empire highlighting the spread of the empire and the consequent decline of the empire. The speaker then devoted his talk on two critical events that took place in Malta in the last quarter of the 20th century namely the 1913 "Sette Giugno" riots and the granting of the 1921 Self-government Constitution. Mr. DeBattista stated that these events did not take place in isolation as the Maltese population were anxious to see a change in the dealings with the British. The Maltese were adamant to have a say in the running of their own country. **Photo: Lion Chris Borg Cardona presenting bannerette,**

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OVERSEAS VISITOR

Lion Bill Russell, President of Lions Club Abingdon. England, who was on holiday in Malta was a guest at our Club's meeting on February 16. Lion Bill was invited to speak about his Club's activities. One of the projects that his Club has been pursuing lately was "The Message in a Bottle" which has been an ongoing project in the United Kingdom for some time. Through this project elderly or infirm people, especially those lively alone, are given a green plastic bottle wherein there are details of the individual regarding which treatment they are presently having and which medicines they are prescribed. The bottle is kept in the refrigerator so that in an emergency the first aiders or the police would be aware of the individual's needs. Stickers with "Green Cross" are fixed to the outside door and on the refrigerator. This service has saved the lives of many people in the United Kingdom. **Lion President Norman Wilson exchanging banners with Lion President Bill Russell of LC Abingdon (England)**



(NOTE: This project was also started in Malta years ago by Lions Club St. Paul's Bay and the late Club President Lion Lino Debono. Unfortunately, the project was not supported enough and after a few weeks it was abandoned.)

"WE SERVE"

A GLIMPSE OF PAST EVENTS

When in 2014 our Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary of its Foundation we issued a commemorative booklet where, amongst other items, we included some items regarding "International Cooperation". This short article is being reproduced hereunder to remind past members of this and also to make the various new members that have joined our Club since then aware of some of the things done during the 48 years,

"INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" *Notwithstanding its limited resources and the demands made to help local deserving cause, the Club has found the means to help internationally when the need arose. Suffice to mention the financial and material aid give to the earthquake victims in Algeria, Sicily, Turkey and Haiti, to the Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka, the donation of an "Encyclopedia Britannica" to a secondary school in Sfax (Tunisia), a donation towards the erection of a statue of "Our Lady of the Seas" at the entrance to the harbour in Sciacca (Sicily), sent hundreds of used spectacles to Harare (Zimbabwe) and to Lions Used Glasses Collecting Centres in France and Italy. More recently a considerable amount of stationery items, which wee collected from Maltese school children on the initiative of the Club, to Burkina Faso. French textbooks and various stationery items were also sent to the school children of Thane a remote village in Tunisia. In 1987 when illegal emigration in the Central Mediterranean was not such a worrying problem as it is at present, the Club participated in an inter-club meeting held in Sicily jointly with the Lions Clubs Sciacca Host and Sfax Thyna held at Mazara del Valle to discuss emigration.*

"YOUTH EXCHANGE" *Lions Club Sliema has always encouraged youth exchange and participated in several international youth programmes. It financed the participation in several international youth programmes. It financed the participation of Maltese youths in international youth camps organised by Lions in England, Italy and Cyprus. Participants wee chosen amongst secondary school students who had to submit an essay on a topical subject like the environment and its preservation. In 1986 the Club organised an International Youth Camp in Malta. Youths from several countries were hosted in Malta for a fortnight during which they visited various historical and cultural sites, discussed theme relating to youth and had an opportunity to learn more about the Maltese way of living. In 2012 a group of Maltese youth were given an opportunity to visit Trapani (Sicily) for a few days to meet youth from that city who later visited Malta. In July 2014 a Maltese youth participated in the Campo Vesuvius in Naples. The Club also made several donations to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide Movements in Malta.*

"ARTS FUND" *A flourishing project which has been established in the last few years is the Arts Fund. This project was suggested by Past President Ian Lochhead. The objective of the fund which is separate from the Philanthropic Fund is to encourage and provide funds to youths to participate in the arts. To date the Club through this Fund has sponsored recitals by promising Maltese singers, organised both vocal and musical master classes and also provided prizes for children who participated in the Lions Club International Peace Poster Competition. Incidentally for two consecutive years a young Gozitan lad was one of twenty-four finalists selected from among thousands of entries for sixty-five countries.*

CLUB NEWS

CLUB MEETINGS: The meetings for March are scheduled for Wednesday March 3 and Wednesday March 16. Unless otherwise informed by email, the meetings are scheduled to be held at THE IMPERIAL starting at 1830 on March 3 and at 1800 on March 16 if there will be a guest speaker.

IN HOUSE RAFFLE: As already advised the Club is having an IN-HOUSE raffle for various prizes to raise funds for the Philanthropic Fund. Tickets are at Euro 5 each and members can book their own ticket number. However, if the ticket number has already been taken by another member, in that case the member will be given a choice of a number not already taken up. We trust that the whole 150 tickets will be sold. Payment can be made either by Bank transfer (details included in circular already) sent or by cheque (remembering cheques must be over Euro 20) or by cash.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: CULTURAL OUTINGS are planned for the following Sundays – March 27 and May 22. The outings will be in the morning and perhaps followed by lunch. The venues will be communicated nearer to the date. A QUIZ NIGHT is programmed for Saturday March 19. A BAZAAR is scheduled for Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10. Hopefully we will also be able to organize a Party for the Elderly inmates at Ta' Sawra on Wednesday April 27. Confirmation of these events will be given nearer to the date.

IN HOUSE RAFFLE: As already announced we are organising another In House Raffle for various prizes. Tickets can be obtained from Lion Tom A. Restall who is coordinating the raffle. 150 tickets have been prepared and are being sold at Euro 5 each. A few tickets have already been ordered by members but our aim is to sell all tickets. The draw for the raffle will be made as soon as the 150 tickets are sold but hopefully before Easter. We trust that members will buy tickets so that our Philanthropic Fund will be augmented and thus we will be able to help those in need.

EYE GLASSES: Once again our Club has collected several eye glasses which will be sent to the “*Centro Italiano Lions per la Raccolta Occhiali Usati*” in Italy where these are graded and eventually sent to African countries and then given to people in need of them. The consignment of these eye glasses packed in 26 boxes is being sent to Italy courtesy of Express Trailers who were contacted by our fellow members Lion Dr Valhmor Zammit and his wife Lion Vivienne. Lions Victor Borg Barhet and Louis Sciberras are coordinating the transfer of the boxes to the freighters. This the fourth time that our Club will be sending eye glasses to Italy. Years ago, our Club had sent eye glasses to our then twinned Club Harare in Zimbabwe. These used to be sent via Balkan Air which then used to make a stopover in Malta on their weekly flights to Harare. . .

