



## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023



### TWINNING PROGRAMME

The twinning program has been retired by the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors. This includes International Club Twinning, District Governors Elect Twinning and District Twinning. Clubs and districts are encouraged to engage with other clubs and districts around the world, to learn more about each other and allow for cooperation on specific projects.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to use Lions Clubs International resources and programmes to facilitate their international connections, including forums and conventions, the “MyLion” product, Lions Clubs International social media accounts, and the Youth Camps and Exchange program. Clubs can also be contacted using the find a club locator on LCI’s website.

Twinning will no longer be officially recognized by LCI with district letters and club banner patches. However, clubs, districts and multiple districts are encouraged to report meetings and service projects conducted in partnership with Lions around the world, via “MyLion” or their regional reporting system.

*Editor’s Note: Despite stating that the Twinning Programme has been retired, Lions Clubs International are still encouraging Lions Clubs to engage more with other Lions Clubs to learn more about each other. Our Club will continue to engage with our Twinned Clubs as we have done hitherto. Through twinning we have learnt a lot about Lions activities and projects which our twinned clubs undertook. Whatsmore our twinned Clubs have always helped in some projects undertaken by Lions Club Sliema. Our friendship will continue.*

## DONATION TO SOUP KITCHEN



*Lion President donating cheque to Farther Marcelliono.*

On Tuesday 14 May the Sliema Lions Club President Norman Wilson witnessed around 100 of our own hurt, homeless, destitute injured and hungry people at the Soup Kitchen OFM in Valletta many of whom have suffered loss, and feel hopeless. Lion Norman presented Euro 1,000 allowance for the Soup Kitchen to purchase food, and other essential things etc on behalf of our Club. It was only 11.00 o'clock yet the Soup Kitchen was full of wanting sad faces, most of them without any purpose in life, all waiting to have lunch, for many their one meal in the day. Fr Marcellino, who runs the Soup Kitchen, was very grateful and thanked all members of the LC Sliema for their generous contribution and consideration. He said he will remember all of our club members in his prayers. Club members raised the money from various fund-raising activities organised by the Club in the last few months. The Soup Kitchen is providing meals to many people in need irrespective of colour or creed. It is an organisation worth supporting.

Fr. Marellino send a "THANK YOU" card to Lion President stating: *"May the LORD give you, his peace. Thank you for your donation of Euro one thousand meal products for our SOUP KITCHEN OFM VALLETTA"*.

The donation from our Club will surely help all those in need and merits our whole-hearted support. Our Club has helped other worthy organisations in the past in various parts of Malta. Lions Club do not just help those organisations in their town or district but also other needy causes. Our Club have done this for years and hopefully we will continue to be adhere to our motto WE SERVE for years to come.

## CARNIVAL PARTY

Lion President sent the following report about the successful Carnival Party: On Saturday 18 February LC Sliema celebrated Carnival with a party held in their new home at the Victoria Hotel where much fun was had by all.

After a very plentiful and delicious buffet with free-flowing drinks, Lions and their guests danced and sang karaoke until late in the evening. In their exciting, beautiful, surprising and funny costumes some Lions were hardly recognisable as they disguised themselves as Indians, Arabs, South Americans, Chinese, pirates, a good witch, a punk rocket, a pig, a princess, a workman, a Georgian lady, sports medal winners not to mention Tommy Cooper with his Fez and tricks and many others.



*A singalong by some of the Lions and guests*

Well done to the organisers of the event especially Past President Lion Joe Messina who successfully negotiated with the management of the Victoria Hotel to allow our Club to have its meetings at this venue. It is fitting that Club members also recommend the Victoria Hotel to friends coming over to Malta. Club members should also recommend the hotel to any visiting foreign Lions.

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**CLUB NEWS:** The next Club meetings are scheduled for Wednesday March 1 and Wednesday March 15 at the Victoria Hotel. Meetings commence at 1830. On March 15 there will be a guest speaker after the business meeting. Members are encouraged to attend.



You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

### **THINGS TO KNOW AS LIONS**

**FISCAL YEAR:** The Lions Clubs fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

**PARTISAN POLITICS/RELIGION:** The Club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor shall partisan politics or sectarian religion be debated by members in any Club meeting.

**PERSONAL BENEFIT:** Except to progress his/her progress in Lionism, no officer or member of the Club shall use his/her membership as a means of furthering any personal, political, or other aspiration, nor shall the Club, as a whole, take part in any movement not in keeping with its purposes and objectives.

**COMPENSATION:** No officer shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to the Club in his/her official capacity with the exception of the Secretary, whose compensation, if any, shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**SOLICITATIONS OF FUNDS:** No funds shall be solicited from the Club during meetings by any individual or individuals who are not members of the Club. Any suggestion or proposition made at any meeting of this Club calling for the expenditure of money for other than the regular obligations shall be referred to the appropriate committee or to the Board of Directors for further review.

**CLUB TREASURER:** Each Lions Club appoints a Treasurer who administers the club's funds. Normally a Club has two (2) accounts namely the Public (Activity) funds and the Administrative Funds.

**THE PUBLIC FUNDS ACCOUNT,** known as the Philanthropic Account. Any funds therein are used solely for services of a philanthropic nature. According to the Lions International Statute all funds raised from the public must be returned 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 has to forward the international dues of each member to Lions Clubs International.

A Club may have other accounts as for example our Club's "Arts Fund". This was set up originally to promote arts among youths. However the Sub-Committee can also propose to the Board of Directors, for their approval, other projects connected with "Arts", for example an art exhibition.

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



## PAST PROJECTS BY LIONS CLUB SLIEMA

Since its inception in 1974, Lions Club Sliema, which at the time had 40 members coming from various fields of business and professions, has been in the forefront of various philanthropic activities in Malta. Hereunder we are listing the Club's main projects:

**ORGAN DONATION CAMPAIGN:** Lions Club Sliema originated the campaign and in its first year 15,000 people registered as donors. Organs are generally transplanted on Maltese patients but some of the organs are also donated to other countries. The campaign is ongoing.

**RESTORATION OF FRESCOES AT ST. AGATHA CATACOMBS:** This project which required the sum of Euro 15000 was one of the first such projects to be undertaken in Malta. The frescoes date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and due to their historic importance, leading world experts in the field regularly visit the site.

**INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS:** Funds were donated towards victims of natural disaster overseas. Recently the Club made a contribution to our twinned Lions Club Millbrae in the United States of America towards the relief of the Katrina Disaster.

**LIONS CLUB SLIEMA ARTS FOUNDATION:** With a fund of Euro 50,000 the Foundation supports financially students recipients of bursaries or scholarships in the Arts during their period of studies locally or overseas.

**DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:** For this purpose, the Club raised Euro 14000 which were4 donated to Caritas Malta.

**RESTORATION OF RELIGIOUS NICHEs IN SLIEMA:** The Sliema Local Council entrusted the Club with this major project. A photographic exhibition of the niches was set up and an illustrated booklet on the subject was printed.

**OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES;** Special beds purchased from funds raised at a 24-hour Vintage Motor Cycles were donated to Homes for the Elderly. The Club also supplied Insect Screens to Ta' Sawra Old People's Home with funds raised from a Golf Tournament.

**YOUTH:** The Club encourages youths and schools to participate in the worldwide “Peace Poster Competition” held annually by Lions Clubs International.

**CHILDREN’S HOME:** The Club supported one of the flats namely Sta. Barbara at the Ursuline Sisters Home and also supplied a completely equipped kitchen.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Lions Club Sliema made considerable donations to various deserving organisations such as the Community Chest Fund, Dar tal-Providenza and ir-Razzett tal-Hbiberija (Park of Friendship) which is a large complex which was the brainchild of one of the Club’s Past President namely Paddy Stubbs.

**MALTA EYE BANK AND SIGHT TESTING EQUIPMENT:** The Club has contributed towards the establishment of an Eye Bank at Mater Dei Hospital and Eye Care Equipment at six Health Centres in Malta and Gozo for the early detection of Glaucoma. Thousands of Maltese nationals have been tested and through early detection many people with eye problems have been attended to.

**USED GLASSES:** Thousands of used spectacles were sent to a twinned Club in Harare, Zimbabwe for distribution to people required glasses in that country.

**VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS:** Our Club is a recognised Philanthropic Organisation according to the Voluntary Organisations Act.

**FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES:** The Club holds various activities and our main fundraisers are the Spare Ribs Night, Mnarja Night and a Golf Competition in conjunction with the Royal Malta Golf Club.

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**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT:** To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service. To empower volunteers to serve their communities meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understand through LIONS CLUBS. Lions are ACTIVE and our motto is: “WE SERVE”.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The above notes are taken from a publicity brochure which Lions Club Sliema had published a few years ago highlight its activities and to encourage public spirited ladies and gentlemen to join the Club thereby becoming members of Lions Clubs International. The brochure was prepared by Lion Alfred Micallef Attard.*

**“WE SERVE”**

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Hereunder are some of the President's Remarks made at the Club's meeting of February 15, 2023. Referring to the earthquake that occurred in Turkey and Syria the President stated:

*"You couldn't begin such a meeting of a philanthropic club, the Lions Club Sliema, without reference to the dead, the devastation, the destitute, the hurt, the homeless, the injured, the stomach-churning starving human beings on the Turkey-Syria border who have suffered earthquakes and loss of family and home. Let us, our noble Club, not forget them and do your best to help. I propose that we can manage Euro one thousand as a donation towards relief via LCIF and I would ask for a seconder and a vote.*

*Lion Zone Chairman George Attard asked me yesterday if the Club would like to contribute through the Zone or go it alone. I propose to go it alone for two reasons:*

- a. I do not wish to put constraints or pressure on the other two clubs in Malta. They may not manage Euro 1000 or may wish to give more – that is entirely up to them and has nothing to do with our contribution.*
- b. Secondly, I wish our Euro 1000 to go to Lions Club Sliema contributions at Oak Brook to be used sometime in the future as a Melvin Jones Award. These contributions are noted at Oak Brook and we are allowed a Melvin Jones Award for each Euro 1000 contributed".*

Lion President also mentioned his visit to the Soup Kitchen OFM Valletta and said:

*"Yesterday I witnessed in Malta first hand about 100 of our own hurt, homeless, destitute and injured, the hungry people at the Soup Kitchen OFM Valletta many of whom have suffered loss and feel hopeless. Sadly, I was alone without any Lions company. I presented on behalf all of us Euro 1000 to the Soup Kitchen to purchase food etc. It was only 1100 yet the hall there was full of wanting sad faces most of them without any purpose in life all wanting to have lunch, for many their one meal in the day. Father Marcellino was very grateful and thanks you all. He said he will remember you all in his prayers for our generous donation.*

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**VISIT TO CYPRUS:** A group of Club members will be visiting Cyprus early next month on the occasion of the Charter of Nicosia Pandora Lions Club. Our Club is co-sponsor of this new Lions Club in North Turkish part of Cyprus. Second Vice President Lion Victor Borg Barthet will be leading the delegation.



