



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MEETS POPE FRANCIS



F Lions International President shaking hands with His Holiness Pope Francis

During his official visit to Multiple District 108 ITALY in October 2022, Lions International President Brian J. Sheehan met His Holiness Pope Francis during the Pope's meeting with people at the Vatican. It is normal that the International President meets His Holiness the Pope, whenever in Rome. On several earlier occasions Popes gave a private audience to the President and discussed matters dealing with the work done by Lions all over the world.

There were also occasions when the Pope was made an Honorary Member of Lions Clubs International.

All over the world the Catholic Church and Lions keep close contact since the Church recognises the good work done by Lions Clubs worldwide to help those in need irrespective of the different religions that Lions profess.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LIONS

FISCAL YEAR: The Lions Clubs Fiscal Year starts on July 1 and runs through to June 30.



PARTISAN POLITICS/RELIGION: A Lions Club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor shall partisan politics or sectarian religion be debated.

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 objects.

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.

SOLICITATION 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 the 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.

Reproduced from the May 2015 edition of SLIEMA ROAR our Club magazine

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LIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE THERE “TO SERVE”

HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DO ALL THE GOOD IN THE WORLD

BUT THE WORLD NEEDS ALL THE GOOD THAT LIONS CAN DO

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INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



Hello LIONS! Well, I don't know about you, but there's nothing like a new year to fill me with a renewed sense of purpose, and I feel more eager than ever to do the important work that Lions do.

Every year I like to take this time to pause and assess how we're doing as a club. What have we done well so far and where have we stumbled? How can we build on our successes and learn from our mistakes? And, if your club is anything like mine, how can I prank the heck out of my Lion brothers and sisters?

After all, would it be Lions without a little fun? Of course not! Folks, let's remember that people want to be a part of something that makes them feel good. Laughter is a big part of that. Having fun is a great way to make members feel connected and more dedicated to the work you do as a club.

Every club is unique, and your idea of fun may be different than mine (*roller skates, anyone?*). But whatever makes your members laugh, do it. Whatever Lgets Lions excited to show up to the next meeting, include that in the agenda.

Service is important work. But that doesn't mean it has to feel like work. Make service fun. People like fun. People want to be a part of fun. And we want people to be a part of Lions. Make a great day,

Brian E. Sheehan

MELVIN JONES BIRTHDAY

January 13, 1879 was the date when Melvin Jones, the Founder of Lions Clubs International was born. 38 years later, precisely on June 7, 1917 Melvin Jones asked fellow citizens: "*What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities*"? Thus, at his invitation delegates from men's club met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organisation. Melvin Jones with his colleagues launched LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL which has since spread all over the world.

"What if these men," Melvin Jones asked, "who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Thus, at his invitation, delegates from men's clubs met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organization and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY
OF THE FOUNDING FATHER OF
LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL



NEW MEMBERS PROFILES

LIONS CLUB SLIEMA is pleased to welcome six new members. In order to get to know the new members they were asked to send their profile and also state why they decided to join our Club.

LION LOUISE CUTAJAR DAVIS is married to Mario and has two children. She worked in the field of Education for over thirty years, as a teacher of English, Head of the English Department, Teacher Trainer and Education Officer for



F *Louise Cutajar Davis*

International Relations. Her work as an Education Officer for International Relations took her to several countries and enriched her with intercultural skills and a host of other skills which she hopes, she can put to good use in her service to the Community through Lions Club Sliema. In the past she was an active member in a running club, taking part in a good number of long-distance races throughout the

Maltese Islands. Today she is an active member of a long distance walking and trekking club. She was encouraged to become a Lion by her sister Lion Doreen and also by some very good Lion friends she has made through attending Lions events.

LION MIRIAM CAMILLERI is an ardent lover of books, art, music and theatre and a keen follower of international tennis. Her professional passion is transport, particularly maritime transport. Her first brush with the maritime industry was a young child at the shipyard run by her father. Notwithstanding her early years were with the national airline to become the first female load officer. After more than ten years the sea called her back. Following a few years stint familiarising herself with the international and national aspects of the Maritime Organisation, she set up her own company providing

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Organisation, she set up her own company providing services in the main to the ever-increasing number of shipowners and financiers attracted to the Malta Flag. Thirty years later, she is still actively involved in what had long become the focus of her professional life. MCConsult is today run by her daughter, a maritime lawyer in her own right. Yet, the allure of the maritime industry is not easy to resist. Moreover, it is very difficult to abandon a long list of international clientele, where in the fashion of the maritime industry, had developed into a relationship more akin to associates rather than clients. Of course transport is still deeply ingrained in her and Miriam remains an active member of a number of organisations such as the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise & Industry, the Chamber of SME's and is a board member of the Malta Maritime Forum. Ms. Camilleri has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, C.I.L.T. (U.K.) for over 20 years and in 2014, she was elected to form part of the committee of the local branch of the Institute. Two years later, in 2016, Miriam was appointed as Chairperson and now chairs the Malta Branch of the C.I.L.T. Until recently she was also the Vice President of the Malta Maritime Law. As a Lion member, Miriam aims to be in a favourable position to assist others true to the motto she herself set for her company "Proud to be of Service". Miriam is also the Honorary Consul of Georgia.



F *Miriam Camilleri*

LION ARLETTE GRECH is honoured to have been asked to join the Sliema lions Club by Mr. George Attard. George has known me for many many years and was in the school PTA with me. Our children attended the same school. I too was chairperson of the Lady's circle besides being in the PTA. We did an enormous amount of charity work there since we were an excellent team and had absolute cooperation by the headmaster. Later when my son changed schools I joined the lady's circle there too, from year 1 to form 5 it was nonstop. A new school that needed lots of back-ups, which they got from us whole heartedly. So, when I was invited to join Lions Club Sliema I accepted immediately because the Lions do so much good work for charity. I am able to offer my experience and be useful in Lions Club Sliema whenever needed. Socially its wonderful we meet new people who have their hearts towards helping people. It's a win-win situation.



F *Arlette Grech*

LION MARIO GATT: I am 69 years old, married to Lilian (Who is also a Lion). We have one son who is a musician. Presently I am semi-retired and also operate a picture frame shop. I have for some years worked as Sales and Marketing Director in various different countries. The main reason for joining the Lions Club is the sense of belonging to a group of people whose intention is to do good whilst having fun and making friends.

(Editor's note – Lion Mario also wrote: "I would like to thank you for welcoming us to the Club and for all the work you do. Very much appreciated. Thanks for your remarks. Being a Lion is "TO SERVE" hence I try to do my utmost to be of service.)

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Lions Clubs International Foundation known as LCIF is the charitable fundraising and grant-making arm of our global organisation. LCIF mission is to support the efforts of Lions Clubs and partners in serving communities local and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants.

Thanks to the Lions membership LCIF has been able to grant more than US\$ one billion to Lions service projects and partnerships around the world, supporting Youth, providing Disaster relief, and addressing Humanitarian Needs. Lions Club International is the world's largest and most effective service organisation and Lions themselves are respected worldwide for the service they provide. LCIF allows us (Lions) to extend and magnify the impact on a global scale. LCIF is your foundation. It belongs to every Lion, and empowers the service and impact of Lions everywhere. The success of LCIF reflects the success of our global community of Lions.

Lions Club Sliema together with the other Lions Clubs in Malta obtained funds from LCIF to instal glaucoma screening equipment in various health centres around Malta. Our Club has also often donated funds whenever Lions Clubs International appealed for funds for disaster relief and other humanitarian needs.

When donating one thousand dollars to LCIF the Club is also entitled to nominate one of its members, or an individual who is not a Lion, for the Melvin Jones Award. Several of our Club members have received this award after the Club made donations to the Foundation or made personal donations.

An individual Lion can also make a personal donation to LCIF and becomes entitled for a Melvin Jones Award.

In recent years every Lions Club was encouraged to nominate one of its members to be an LCIF Co-ordinator. Lion Joe Messina is currently the Lion in this office.

TALK BY LION MARTIN WARD

At the meeting of January 18 Lion Martin Ward delivered a talk on the History of Madness. This was the second part of another talk which Lion Martin delivered earlier.

During his talk Lion Martin spoke about “Life reflecting art and art reflecting life. Hereunder is a brief account of the talk submitted by Lion Martin’s.

“Life reflects art, and art reflects life. The presentation explored how this notion relates to the problems associated with mental illness. Everything from paintings, literature, poetry, and sculpture including plays, computer generated images and comics have all played their part in depicting the social understanding of various forms of mental distress for their particular period of history. The talk was limited to the Middle Ages onwards, with specific attention paid to the Victorian and more recent times. The irony is that many of these works are internationally recognized as masterpieces, whilst portraying humankind at its most vulnerable” ...

SIXTIES NIGHT

“SIXTIES NIGHT” First Vice President Lion Karl Grima Bezzina and the members of the Club’s Fund Raising Sub Committee organised a most successful event at the Marsa Sports Club on March 21 attracting a good number of members and guests to the event. Besides savouring a good meal, those present had an enjoyable evening dancing and singing to “oldies” from the sixties.

During the evening a raffle for various prizes was held raising Euro 539 towards the Club’s Philanthropic Fund thus enabling the club to augment its funds to be in a better position to fulfil its project to obtain a special boat for the Paralympics. The club hopes to be able to obtain the boat in the coming weeks.

WHAT IS LIFE? Life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect. It’s about being real, humble and kind.

CLUB NEWS

CLUB MEETINGS: The February Club meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 1 and Wednesday 15. The March meetings are also scheduled for the first and third Wednesday of the month. Details will be promulgated nearer to the date.

IN HOUSE RAFFLE: It is intended to hold an IN-HOUSE RAFFLE to be drawn in time for Easter which falls on Sunday April 9. Various prizes will be drawn. Tickets will be on sale shortly costing 5 euro for one (1) ticket or three (3) tickets for 10 euro. Further details of prizes to be drawn will be given in due course. Any member who wishes to donate a suitable prize for the raffle is kindly requested to contact Lion President Norman Wilson. Tickets for the In-House Raffle organised to raise funds are only available for Lion members. The Raffle is a good source to raise funds thus enabling the Club to help those in need. Hence members are asked to participate in this fund-raiser.

RETURN TWINNING: The return Twinning Ceremony with Lions Club Martina Franca is scheduled for May 18. Further details about flights (by Ryanair to Bari), hotel accommodation and functions will be forwarded in due course.

SOUP KITCHEN: The Club will be making a donation of Euro 1000 to the Soup Kitchen run by the Franciscan Friars in Valletta. The kitchen offers meals to a good number of people daily. This is a great project which is helping hundreds. A report of this event will be published in the March edition of this newsletter.

VISIT TO NORTH CYPRUS: On the occasion of the Charter of the new Lions Club in Northern Cyprus, which was jointly sponsored by our Club, it is proposed to visit Cyprus for this special occasion. The proposed dates by the Cypriot club are either Sunday March 12 or Saturday March 18. The exact date will be announced early in February. Once the date is fixed will be able to give exact details of air tickets (via Emirates to Larnaka and vice versa), and other expense for hotel accommodation and Charter Night. The Cypriot Club will be providing this information shortly.

**BE PROUD TO BE A LION WEAR YOUR BADGE
“WE SERVE”**

