



## NEWSLETTER

### JULY 2022

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#### INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2022/23



F *Int. Pres. Brian E. Sheehan*

At the 104<sup>th</sup> Lions Club International Convention held in Montreal, Canada from June 22 through to June 28, 2022 Lion Brian E. Sheehan from the United States was elected President of the Association. The 2022/23 President has been a member of the Bird Island Lions Club since 1991. He has held various offices within the association, including Council Chairperson. He was also chairperson of various committee within the Lions Association such as long range planning, membership, retention, women's initiative and multiple district. resident Sheehan is the founder and chief executive officer of Rural Computer Consultants, a software development company. Outgoing International President Douglas X. Alexander now becomes the LCIF Chairperson. The Canadian Lion Dr. Patti Hill is the the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Lion Fabricio Oliveira of Brazil and Lion A.P. Singh from India are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Presidents. During the Convention new Board Members were elected including the Italian Lion Daniela Appiani.

The newly elected President's wife, Lori, is also a Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. They have two sons and two daughters. In their spare time the Sheehans have enjoyed raising many types of exotic animals.

## EMERGING LIONS' LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

During the Lionistic Year 2021/22 Lions Club International promoted the "Emerging Lions' Leadership Institute" whereby Lions all over the world had an opportunity to learn more about Lions Club International thus enabling them to be better leaders as Lions in their communities.

Due to various factors this course, though also available to the Lions Clubs in Malta, could not be held during the Lionistic Year 2021/22. However, through the perseverance of outgoing Zone Chairperson Lion Judith Debono, the three-day course was held in Malta from July 8 to 10. Due to unavoidable circumstances the course dates had to be changed several times thereby making it impossible for members of three Lions Clubs in Malta to attend, as the dates clashed with planned holidays and other commitments.

The course in Malta was conducted by Dr. Massimo Di Pietro, a member of Lions Club in Sicily. The Director was well acquainted with the course having conducted similar courses in Sicily. He had no difficulty in speaking English.

The main topics discussed during the 3-day meeting, after the Pre-Assignment and the Opening Sessions, were: *Lions - Past, Present & Future, Change Management, Supporting Lions Teams, Topic Preparation, Communication, Conducting Effective Meetings, Diversity, Lions Mentoring Programme, Creative Thinking, LCIF, Ensuring Club Success, Focused Discussion and Evaluation.*



*Presenting club bannerette to Course Director*

The fifteen participants, which included the outgoing Zone Chairperson Judith Debono and Lion Ronnie Cauchi, President of St. Paul's Bay Lions Club, were divided into three groups and each group member was encouraged to participate in discussions and given a chance to speak at the end of each topic. Some of the topics discussed were also complemented with video clips thereby presenting a help tool for discussion. At the end of the final session on Sunday July 10, the Course Director presented each participant with a certificate signed by the outgoing International President Douglas E. Alexander and an ELLI badge. Pity that Club members could attend as there was much to be learned from the topics specifically tailor made for this Course.

## **MEMORY OF A VISIT TO CANE GUIDA TRAINING CENTRE**



This photo appeared on Facebook on July 21 and shows the group of members from our Club being briefed by Prof. Giovanni Fossati. He explained to the group how guide dogs for the blind are trained at the vast training grounds.

### **GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND**

After it took our Club many years to raise enough funds to obtain a guide dog for a blind person in Malta, the Club has finally reached an agreement with the Italian Lions Foundation Guide Dogs for the Blind, to send a Maltese citizen to Limbiate (an area near Milan) to be trained how to handle a guide dog which will eventually be brought to Malta. The Malta Society for the Blind have now identified a person from Gozo to get the guide dog. This person will be shortly proceeding to the Guide Dogs Training Centre to become accustomed with his guide dog. Our Club Treasurer Lion Alex Arena has been responsible for this worthy project. His efforts to get this project fulfilled are about to come true.

### **OUR CLUB'S NEXT PROJECT**

After the successful project to provide a much-needed car to the Hospice Movement, the Club has now taken up another project to help a voluntary organisation, namely the Paralympic Athletes Malta. This project was approved at the last monthly meeting after Lion President explained that the Hospice Movement were no longer in need of a second-hand van since they had obtained one.

Hence the funds earmarked for this project were now being made available to take on a new project which is to purchase a special rowing boat to be used by paralympic athletes. During the meeting members present were shown a video clip of a Maltese competitor taking part in a competition organised by the International Paralympic Organisation. The adaptive rowing boat when

acquired will be given to the Maltese organisation and looked after by the Siggiewi Rowing Club which organise training sessions for the athletes.

The cost of the boat is approximately Euro 6000, hence with the money saved from the purchase of a second-hand van, this new project can be finalised during the 2022/23 Lionistic Year.

No doubt there will be other demands for help from the Philanthropic Fund. Our Club has various usual philanthropic things to pursue during the year and hence the Club has to organise fund-raising events to be able to help those in need. We can never say we do not need more funds. One never knows what may happen next. From past experiences the Club has always done its utmost to help whenever needs arose. Adhering to the Boy Scouts motto "BE PREPARED" hence we must be prepared for any eventuality.

## CLUB NEWS

**NEXT MEETING:** Since no meetings are held during August, 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 nearer to the first September meeting. Though no meetings are held during this period there is still lots of work to see to by the President and Board of Directors.

**DONATION:** During the last July meeting, Lion Joe Messina stated that a Judo Club which was recently disbanded, donated Euro 3500 to our Club to be used for its philanthropic causes. This sum will surely come handy for another good cause.

**BUFFETT BY THE POOL:** Once again our Club President Lion Norman Wilson and his wife Victoria are organising a "buffet by the pool" at their beautiful house in Mellieha. This fund-raising event is earmarked to raise funds for the new project of the Club. The event is being held on Saturday August 20 at 1930. Further details will be given shortly. In the meantime, keep this date free and come and join the party thus enabling the Club to reach its goal in this Lionistic Year.

**LIONS IS OUR NAME OUR MOTTO IS "TO SERVE"**

**WE HELP THROUGH THICK AND THIN**

**WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANYTHING**



## **“MAJJALATA” FUND RAISER**

A good number of Lions and their friends came to the Marsa Sports Club for the annual fund raiser held at this venue. The main course of the meal was pork which was cooked on a spit in the presence of dinners. Fish was an alternative main dishThe meal was complemented with flowing wine and mineral water.

Most members brought gifts to be raffled during the evening thus enabling the Club to raise funds for the Club’s next project. Besides the good fare on offer,



*1The chef showing off his work.*

there was a happy atmosphere with members and guests enjoying the event. All non-Lions present said that they had missed this annual event as they always look forward to it.

Thanks to the preparatory work put in by our Club member, Zone Chairman George O. Attard, who organised the event, others selling raffle tickets and others who helped in one way or other, the event was a

great success. Thanks to the generosity of members and their guests nearly Euro 1000 was raised from the event.

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## **ORGAN DONATION CAMPAIGN**

One of the past major services organised by our Club was undoubtedly the Organ Donation Campaign. This campaign was launched a few years ago to bring to the attention of the general public how important it is for people to donate their organs when they die. With the cooperation and approval of the Health Promotion Unit at the Ministry of Health, the club printed leaflets explaining the importance of this great humanitarian gesture whereby after death one could give life back to those patients in need of a transplant. The leaflet “Give a New Life to Others” was distributed all over Malta and Gozo.

The leaflet which was prepared with the cooperation of the Promotion Unit was distributed at the entrance of churches on Sundays, at clubs and other places.

Club members together with a doctor used to be at the Trade Fair, then held in Naxxar, encouraging people to join the campaign. Several were sceptic about the process of organ donation and would not accept to sign a form giving their consent. Others were more receptive and readily gave their consent. Persons giving their consent were also told that if they change their mind to inform the competent authorities. The campaign was a great success and several people decided to sign. All prospective donors' names were registered with the Department of Health. We know of people who lived longer after having a heart donation and who thanked the Club for their initiative.

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## **RULES FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**CONSIDER THE TONE OF THE MESSAGE:** *Since online communication is usually in written form, it is easy to misunderstand the tone of the message. Read your message out loud to yourself before sending it, and NEVER USE ALL CAPS WHEN SENDING A MESSAGE. It will appear that you are shouting.*

**MIND YOUR MANNERS:** *Be polite and consider your audience. Never use electronic communication to gossip or spread rumors about others.*

**USE PROPER SPELLING, GRAMMAR AND FORMATTING:** *Always take the time to reread a message after you have written it, and take advantage of spell checks. Poor spelling and grammar and improper formatting can make messages difficult to read and understand.*

**NEVER EMAIL OR POST IN ANGER:** *Practice the 24-hour rule before sending off an angry email or writing a social media post for the world to see, save it and reword it once you have had time to calm down.*

**BE SENSITIVE TO CULTURAL DIFFERENCES:** *Emails can be sent across continents and oceans with the click of a button. Social media posts can be global as well. However, different cultures may misinterpret the meanings of jokes, slang, sarcasm or certain expressions, so use caution.*

***Note: Reproduced from the ELLI Participants manual***

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** **Members are invited to comment on the contents of this newsletter and to forward suggestions.**

