



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA
NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2022

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Lion President Norman Wilson who will be President for the 2022/23 Lionistic Year delivered the following speech during the meeting held on June 1:

Page | 2 *It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for the past year.*

My main aim was to fund a brand-new car for Malta Hospice in an enjoyable way and this has been achieved in the form of a Toyota Aygo which we will be handing over on Friday of this week.



Besides spending Euro 11,700 on the car, we have raised another Euro 4,000 for Hospice with Euro 657 spare. We also supported Ta' Sawra in lieu of the party, which was cancelled because of Covid, gifting Euro 250 worth of food.

That was not all. We raised funds for LCIF of Euro 1,000 for Tonga, Euro 1,000 for India Relief and have in hand Euro 1,450 for Ukraine. This means we have raised over Euro 20,000.

In addition, shortly we will send Euro 2730 x2 to Ukraine, half of that being raised by the Royal Malta Golf Club and Malta Sports Club through our initiative.

But our efforts have not solely been financial. We have provided goods to poor families – carpets, microwaves, a sewing machine, a fridge, heaters, etc. as well as sending thousands of pairs of spectacles to Africa.

All this has not been without luck, effort and sometimes unfortunately strife.

Sometimes we forgot that our mission was to serve and to be good club members, but instead verbally attacked one another, fell out with one another, and formed exclusive cliques which were absolutely non-welcoming to others including newer members. I can recall some bitter exchanges at the start of seated events, even tears, and I find that sad. We must remember that everything we do is as a Lions Club. We must remember that we are not all perfect and that mistakes do and did happen – of course they did – but the intention in doing anything was always noble. It is always unfortunate that those who were most active were those who naturally made most mistakes and were criticized most and I include myself here. It is a fact of life.

On the positive side we all contributed one way or another. I will avoid mentioning names. We each know what we have done in the way of making events happen.

On the social side, we have, I think had great fun with the many fund-raising events and other experiences including a memorable Charter Night and enjoyable Christmas and Carnival parties as well as cultural outings.

We have hosted visits of other clubs to our shores – the French Lions and Lions from Cyprus, organized tours for them and had enjoyable dinners with them. We had an official visit to one of our twinned clubs in Bosco Marengo, Piedmont. We are such an active club that I have no doubt I must have accidentally omitted something and for this I apologise.

Sadly, during the year Lion Victoria Muscat’s husband passed away. Vicky, you have our condolences and we look forward to your active return to the Club.

I asked for your support at the start of my Presidency not for my sake but for that of Lions Club Sliema and indeed Lions Club Sliema can hold its head high. Excellent club officers and directors have assisted.

I have met angels out there and been amazed by their kindness and I have also met Lion angels in this Club – many of them.

YOU, the Lions Club Sliema, send shivers down my spine when I sit back and consider all the good that has been achieved. We have indeed SERVED. Thank you one and all.

CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Due to the increase made by Lions Clubs International to raise the annual fee, at the Club’s meeting held on June 1, 2022 it was decided that the Club’s Membership Fee will now be Euro 120 yearly. This fee is payable at the beginning of July 2022. It will still include free participation for the member at Charter Night. A member will only pay for his wife or companion for this yearly event, as has been the practice hitherto.

Members are kindly requested to pay the fee by cheque or preferably through bank transfer to the account shown hereunder.

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LOOKING BACK TO OUR CLUB'S PROJECTS

Page | 4

Hereunder is an article which was published in our Club's newsletter of December 2005 which describes the "Lions Club Sliema Arts Foundation". New members may not be fully aware of this project and hence it is good for them to know about it.

LIONS CLUB SLIEMA ARTS FOUNDATION

The brainchild of Past President Lion Ian Lochhead, Lions Club Sliema Art Foundation was constituted on the 25th March 2005 by public deed drawn up by Notary Dr Margaret Heywood.

Apart from being a non-profit making organisation the primary aim of the Foundation is to promote the study of the arts by persons requiring financial assistance and deemed appropriate recipients of assistance by the Foundation.

The overall responsibility of the Foundation and its activities are vested in a Committee of Management appointed by the Board of Directors of Lions Club Sliema. Past President Ian Lochhead chairs the present Committee and the members are:

Prof. D. Buhagiar, Dr Stella Borg Barthet, Mr. George Apap and Past President Lion Joseph Caruana.

Presently the Foundation is in possession of about Lm20,000. This considerable amount was mainly sponsored through the goodwill of the Foundation's Chairman Lion Ian, and various fund-raising activities mostly held at Ian's residence at Xwieki. It is hoped that this year the Foundation shall start sponsoring youths to pursue their studies, this after having received the anticipated amount.

Editor's Note: *Since this article was written 17 years ago, the Foundation had helped various Maltese youth to pursue their studies abroad. Some of the youths have now established themselves as opera singers or pianists. The Foundation is now attempting to organise an Arts Exhibition to give promising artists a chance to show their talents. The Club has an Arts Sub Committee responsible to administer the funds in consultation with the Board of Directors. The present Chairperson is Lion Victoria Muscat.*

PRESENTATION OF CAR TO HOSPICE MOVEMENT

Page | 5

Lion President Norman Wilson presented the car keys of the vehicle purchased by our Club for the needs of the Hospice Movement to the Chief Relations Officer Mr. Andrew Zammit. The Toyota Aygo which was purchased from funds raised by our Club specifically for the Hospice.

The car which has the Lions and our Club logos displayed will enable the Hospice to provide transport to patients needing treatment at the centre in Attard. The car was presented to the Hospice in the presence of several Club members, including Lion Secretary Lorna Farrugia, Lion Treasurer Alex Arena



and other members. This is another project successfully undertaken by the Club thanks to the dedication of all members who contributed to the success of this service which benefits the Maltese community who require the help of the Hospice Movement.

Lion President handing the car keys to Mr Andrew Zammit

CLUB'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Club's Facebook Page is being updated by Lion Lorna Farrugia to include information about our Club thus enabling us to have more exposure. Through the good offices of one of our most senior members Lion Albert P. Mamo we have now also obtained a sponsorship as GasanMamo Insurance have donated Euro 500. Members are encouraged to view our website at <https://www.lionsliema.com>. This will enable members to comment on the contents of our page and also keep abreast of our Club's commitments "TO SERVE".

Moreover, members can ask their friends to view our Facebook page so that they too would know about the services undertaken by our Club to continue to help the Maltese community and also our contributions to the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

"WE SERVE"

POPE FRANCIS RECEIVES LCIF AWARD

Page | 6

On Wednesday June 14, 2022 the Lions of MD108YB Sicily made history when His Holiness Pope Francis was presented with the Melvin Jones Award for his never-ending work to help all those in need worldwide. The presentation was



Pope Francis receiving Melvin Jones Award

made at Piazza San Pietro during the weekly audience of the Holy Father.

The presentation was made by District Governor Lion Francesco Cirillo and by the President of the Council of Governors Mariella Sciammetta, who had nominated His Holiness for the award. She was accompanied by Past Council Chairman Salvatore Giacona, the Governor-elect Maurizio Gibilaro and the First vice Governor Paolo Valenti. Pope Francis was surprised and pleased to receive the highest Lions Clubs International Foundation award.

AWARDS NIGHT

The swimming pool area at Lion President Norman Wilson Mellieha home was the venue of the Club's Award Night on Saturday June 25. A good number of members were present for the occasion enjoying the hospitality of Lion President and his charming wife Victoria.

In his speech before the presentation of awards Lion President stated:

“Thank you all for attending for this Awards Ceremony. It is my great pleasure to say that Lions Club Sliema is proud of its achievements this year and, more importantly, to recognise those who played a major role in those achievements. It is this recognition that this ceremony is all about.

Each and every member contributed in one way or another and we are grateful for that. Also, we had well over 20 non-Lions who sponsored us and, on behalf

of the Club, I thank each and every one of them. We are grateful. We had many supporters, some of whom were very loyal, and to them too we are thankful. They too serve.

Regrettably, there were just too many sponsors to invite them all this evening. Each and every member contributed in one way or another and we are grateful for that. Also, we had well over 20 non-Lions who sponsored us and, on behalf of the Club, I thank each and every one of them. We are grateful. We had many supporters, some of whom were very loyal, and to them too we are thankful. They too serve.

Together, the Club, guests and others have contributed over Euro 20,000 as well as white goods and carpets to families in need.

The Club cannot award everyone, though in truth we each have our own personal sense of satisfaction. This is the kind of satisfaction that is the true meaning of happiness and joy.

Lion President then presented the President's award to:

Past President and Zone Chairman elect Lion George O. Attard, for his unstinting support. This Lion is always there ready to help no matter where he is – even in Poland.

Past President Lion Victor Borg Barthet, a thinker, doer and reconciler, and a helper with transport. He also organised cultural visits, and was always on hand to help and advice.

Board Member Lion Doreen Davis in appreciation of her administrative skills and keeping everyone informed.

Past Zone Chairman and Past President Lion Frank Galea gave the President great support and advice in procuring the Hospice Car and spent many hours with me in garages even though he had sometimes just flown back from South America.

Lion Susan Galea Borg who on her own initiative, bought ingredients, baked, packed lots of goodies to raise funds at our club meetings.

Lion Tom Restall for his monthly newsletter and for keeping in touch with foreign clubs.

Lion Tamer Louis Sciberras who is a collector. He packed and shipped thousands of pairs of spectacles to Africa. He is always on hand when help is

needed. In fact, I heard that this Lion put down his own spectacles whilst packing the thousands of pairs and they disappeared into one of the boxes. They had to open many boxes and search and search. Good job the others had good eyesight.

Page | 8

The President then presented the SECRETARY AWARD to Lion Secretary Lorna Farrugia stating: *“You just couldn’t wish for a better person to be at your side, guiding you and keeping us all on the right track”.*

The LION OF THE YEAR AWARD was presented to Lion Vivienne Zammit with the President stating: *“It would not be an exaggeration to say that she thinks of little else than the good of our Club. She was a great support, not only on fund raising, buying the car and recruiting new members but on many other things too”.*

Presentation of Melvin Jones Fellowship Award

Before presenting this prestigious award Lion President stated:

“This is a very special award and we have only one to present this time around. Who was Melvin Jones? He was a salesman born in 1879 from Chicago, Illinois, USA, with a heart of gold – he was a kind man. His vision was to have others join him in a service movement which has grown today to have over 1.4 million members. This movement is called Lions International of which we are one club amongst thousands of others.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award recognizes outstanding individuals by bestowing on them an award that is named after its founder, Melvin Jones. The Fellowship Award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism.

I see before me many members who, over the years, have earned a Melvin Jones Fellowship and I am very proud to be in their midst. Today we are going to add one name to that list of outstanding recipients.

Some time ago in my Presidency, I had asked you to vote on whom to award and MJF. Overwhelmingly you said the person I am about to award it to. I endorse your vote wholeheartedly.



Today we honour one man who has given so much to the Club by his irrepressible enthusiasm, his determination and an admirable quality, his integrity. He is the man, amongst others, that I turn to when I want sound advice. I will not tell you what he's done for the Club – you'll know immediately when I announce his name.

It gives me great pleasure to present this award to Past President Alex Arena. Thank you, Alex for all you've done, for your two hard years as President and for your unstinting support in financial matters as Treasurer. President presenting the Melvin Jones Award to Club Treasurer Lion Alex Arena in the presence of Lion Secretary Lorna Farrugia



From left Lion President, his wife Victoria. Right – Mr Ray Debono, Zone Chairperson Judith Debono, Tom Restall, Lion Vicky Muscat and Lion Frank Galea.

Present at this event were members of our twinned club Lions Club Licata namely incoming Zone Chairperson Lion Angela Licitra, incoming President Lion Dr. Gloria Incorvaia and incoming Secretary Lion Agostino Balsamo.



At the conclusion of the awards ceremony Lion President presented a plaque with the Lions Emblem as a token of appreciation to the Royal Malta Golf Club and the Malta Sports Club. With the help of the two clubs our Club have sent Euro 5460 to the Lions International Ukraine Appeal Fund.

Lion President stated: *“It is with great pleasure that I wish on behalf of Lions Club Sliema, to present this token of our appreciation, friendship and collaboration to the Royal Malta Golf Club”.*

Photo at left

Lion President presenting a Lions shield to Mr J. Denaro of the Royal Malta Golf Club.

ZONE CHAIRMAN LIONS CLUB MALTA

It was fitting that during this event our Club member Lion George O. Attard was handed the chain of office as Zone Chairman of the Lions Clubs Malta. Lion George who was our Club President in the Lionistic year 2008-2009 succeeds Lion Judith Debono, Past President of Lions Club Mdina Malta Host.

As stated in a previous edition of our newsletter, Lion George takes over the chairmanship at a critical time facing the Zone since presently there are only three Lions Clubs in Malta, namely our Club, St. Paul’s Bay and Mdina Malta Host. It is understood that St. Paul’s Bay are facing a problem with membership. If this club ceases to function then Malta will lose its Zone status.



Zone Chairman Lion George O. Attard addressing members after taking the chain of office.

WE SERVE

