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**NOVEMBER 2023**

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### **CHARTER NIGHT CELEBRATION**

Saturday November 18 was a red-letter day for our Club as during the Gala Dinner held at the Ballroom of the Phoenicia Hotel we had the pleasure to welcome Lion Carla Cifola the Area Director for Lions Clubs in Malta, San Marino, Israel, Cyprus and Greece.

During the evening the Area Director had occasion to meet the Presidents of the other two Lions Clubs in Malta, namely Lion Ronnie Cauchi of St. Paul's Bay and Lion Sandra Genovese of Mdina Malta Host and presented her personal banner to the three Club Presidents and to the Malta Zone Chairman Lion George O. Attard.



*Lion Carla Cifola and Lions Club  
Sliema President Karl Grima Bezzina*

A good number of Members from our twinned Clubs Sciacca Host, Licata and Bosco Marengo were present for this yearly celebration of Charter. Also present was PDG Lion Paolo Gattola and his brother Lion Danilo who are Honorary Members of our Club, and Lion Piero Nasuilli Secretary of Lions Citta Murata Group.

During the evening Dr Trevor Spiteri was inducted as a new member. He was sponsored by our Club President Lion Karl Grima Bezzina. The Club now looks forward towards the Golden Anniversary Charter in 2024.

## **PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT CHARTER NIGHT**

Good evening, everyone. It is an honour to host all these wonderful people tonight. I must add that you are all looking fabulous in this great ballroom. So let us give a round of applause to each and every one of us for just looking great!

In life nothing is worthwhile unless we are ready to take risk, ready to take on projects which might seem unreachable, projects which might seem too big.

Nelson Mandela once said, "There is no passion to be found in living small and settling for something less than we are capable of living. But in these circumstances, there is no losing, only learning, there is no failure, only opportunities.

You see, life has a way of presenting us with different situations having the same template. Relationships being one of these. Like relationships, with all our projects, it is easy to fall in love with, it happens and it's natural. The initial excitement of each relationship, the plans for the future and imagining ourselves out of a movie script living our lives together, and the same happens for our services as Lions.

We fall in love with our service because there is no greater satisfaction than to elevate our communities into leading better lives. But like our relationships, at times, the initial love and energy by which we lead these projects might lose its lustre and this loses its power to attract support in fulfilling our service. Our clubs and our projects might not be what we intended to be.

I invite you to pick up a glass of water in front of you and hold it out holding it for a few seconds is okay, holding it up for a couple of minutes might be fine, but after that your hand starts aching, ready to give up.

Here is where the real work starts. It is here where we must push our clubs to continue working with the same momentum and dedication towards what we do, so as to harvest the best possible outcome for all. It is a reality that with as many Lions as we can imagine, we still can never cross the finishing line of us serving our community. It is impossible since the needs of this world are never ending.

Love in our relationship is what keeps us strong, helping each other forward. Loving what we do is what keeps Lions Clubs all over the world united in our goals.

Let's be jealous of each other, but not a lot, just the amount to encourage us to work together instead of against each other.

Let us as Lions, not shy away from new ideas. Through innovative discussions we move forward in creating an environment in which the communities which need us most thrive. Through this, the glass that we hold out in front of us gets lighter.

I'd like to quote a short saying from the poet Giuseppe Ungaretti: *"After so much fog, one by one, the stars are revealed. I breathe the freshness that the colour of the sky leaves me. recognize myself as a passing image taken in an immoral circle."*

As I have mentioned numerous times, I've adopted the theme of hope. When there is nothing left, hope remains. Never deprive anyone of hope! It can be all that they have left!



*Lions Sliema and Sciacca Host Presidents exchanging bannerettes*

## WORLD DIABETES DAY



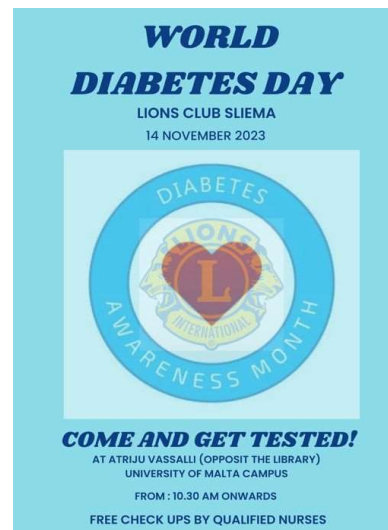
*Students lining up for diabetes testing*

November 14 has been designated as "World Diabetes Day" since it is the birth anniversary of Fredrick Banting, who along with Charles Best discovered insulin. In 1991, the day marked his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary and hence the



World Health Organisation announced November 14 as the day to raise awareness towards diabetes across the world.

As in previous years our Club commemorated this day by offering glucose testing at the fore court of the University of Malta. Testing was made by nurses while students from MMSA conducted health screening. All the necessary equipment was provided by MMSA and the Faculty of Health, while all glucose supplies were sponsored by Euro Pharma. Lions Prof. Alex Felice and Martin Ward made all the arrangements for the tests to be held at the University.



### DIKMEN PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT

When members of our Club led by First Vice President Lion Victor Borg Barthet visited Cyprus earlier this year, together with Lions Club Cyprus Lefkosa we co-sponsored Lions Club Nicosia Pandora Cyprus. At this event we learnt about a project which the new Club had in mind, namely to provide container classes to primary schoolchildren in areas where there are no schools.

We are now glad to know that Nicosia Pandora Cyprus Lions implemented the Dikmen Primary School improvement project with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the Mayor of Dikmen and the Dikmen Elementary School Family Association.



*Children being served lunch*



*1C Pandora President with Lion Robert Retty*

Within the scope the main sponsorship of the Baker Family, the contributions from Turk Cell and with the help of many volunteer citizens, Lions Club Nicosia Pandora has made the opening of container classes a reality. Past International Director Country Co-ordinator Lion Robert Retty and General Director Fikret Kendi were present for the official inauguration.

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## WHO ARE THE LIONS?

This simple question is one that a lot of us may find difficulty in answering.



Have we become Lions because our friends were Lions? Have we become Lions because there is an element of personal prestige? Or was it the possibility of helping others through the collective effort of Club members? I think that it is a combination of the first three that lead us to the fourth.

The Official Manuals issued by the International Headquarters tell us to: Orientate – Induct – Involve. However, do we want to be involved? Do we shy away when approached? Are we always too busy or are like the fellow at a football match who is always telling everybody what to do without wanting to kick the ball himself?

Many of us are not like this fellow at heart but in today's world side-stepping seems to have become part of our life. To those who come forward, I can guarantee one thing: the personal satisfaction of a job well done. Can we find words to describe that smile of gratitude that comes from those to whom our effort has been addressed?

Many people who only know Lionism from the outside tell us that we are an Organisation of "Badges" and "Awards". What they do not say is that when a member is entitled to receive one of the Lions Awards it is because he/she has earned it. The Award itself is really only a symbol of his/her achievement, what is far more important is the meaning of the Award. This represents a special effort by the member, it recognises that he/she has fulfilled a special responsibility and through his/her efforts he/she has helped to "BRING QUALITY TO LIFE".

*The above article was written by Past President Lion Albert P. Mamo and appeared in the Club's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charter publication. Lion Albert still a member of our Club and one of our main supporters. His article is still relevant though penned 35 years ago.*

## VISIT TO “DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

The three Lions Clubs in Malta, namely Sliema, St. Paul's Bay and Mdina Malta Host paid a visit to Dar Tal-Providenza, the Church Home for persons with special needs. After Sunday mass said by the Director of the Home, Rev. Father Martin Micallef, the Presidents of the three clubs presented a cheque to the Director. The visit to this residence is a yearly event in the calendar of the three Maltese Lions Clubs. “Dar Tal-Providenza” (Providence Home) was founded by Mons. Michael Azzopardi in 1965 with the aim of offering a home with a warm and family environment for persons with disabilities who for some reason or other stay living with their family.

Since its inception the home has provided residential services to persons with disabilities. The services provided include permanent or temporary residence and various other services aimed to improve their wellbeing.

Home Mission which takes its name and charism from the Gospel is primarily a residential organisation committed to empowering persons with disabilities in a family-like environment which enhances and maximises their **abilities**.



*Lion President Karl Grima Bezzina presenting cheque to Fr. Martin in the presence of Zone Chairman Lion Goerge O. Attard and at left Lion Sandra Genovese President of Lions Club Mdina Malta Host.*

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**LIONS stand for Peace and understanding in our communities and around the world. LIONS believe in uniting people, building bridges for the world and working together for the greater good of all people. To be a Lion is to understand that intelligence, power and knowledge will mean nothing if they are not directed towards a common good.**



## LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL MISSION 1.5



Lion Carla Cifola the Area Director for Lions Clubs in Malta, San Marino, Israel, Cyprus and Greece gave an interesting talk about Mission 1.5 during her visit to Malta. A good number of members of the three Lions Clubs in Malta were present at the meeting asking questions about the project.

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## SPEECH BY NEWLY INDUCTED MEMBER

### LION TREVOR SPITERI

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Lions:

It is with gratitude and a sense of profound responsibility that I stand before you as a new member of Lions Club Sliema. I owe this opportunity to Karl, a dear friend who introduced me to the Lions Club and their dedication to community service. Karl and I first met at a training club, where exhausting ourselves for fun became a regular pastime.

Last year Karl suggested we participate in a “Swim and Run” event in Comino. If you are imagining a leisurely dip in the idyllic Blue Lagoon and a casual jog, let me correct you. After months of rigorous training, the race tested our limits, but the immense satisfaction at the finish line gave meaning to all those early mornings and countless hours of preparation.



*Lion Trevor receiving the Lions Pin*

It is the same with our Club. We must push past fatigue and hurdles to touch lives, bring smiles, give hope, and make a tangible difference in the community we serve. Joining Lions Club Sliema is an honour I do not take lightly. It represents a commitment to serve, to assist where needed, and to contribute to a legacy that has brightened many lives. The satisfaction of crossing a finish line pales in comparison to the joy and fulfilment derived from serving our community.

Thank you, Karl, for guiding me towards this path of service and for the enduring friendship that has brought me here. To my fellow Lions, I am excited to embark on this journey with you, confident that together we will achieve great things.

### ART EXHIBITION

On Thursday 14 December, Lion Susan Galea Borg will be hosting an Art Exhibition at her studio 42 “Rocheux”, Triq Patri Indri Vella, Pembroke. All club members and their families are invited to attend. Lion Susan will be donating 50% from the sale of paintings to the Ursuline Creche.



