



CLUB NEWS



NEXT MEETINGS are scheduled for Wednesday April 3 and Wednesday April 17 commencing at 6.30 p.m., at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Sliema. The meeting on April 17 will be followed by a talk by a guest speaker. Members can invite guests for the talk which usually starts at 7.30 p.m. After the talk, members and guests can stay on for a meal at the hotel.

FOR YOUR DIARY: Though it is still perhaps too early kindly note that Charter Night will be held on Saturday November 9, 2019. Venue will be announced in due course.

SPONSORED GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Lion Alex Mangion Memorial Golf Tournament was held in collaboration with the Royal Malta Golf Club on March 19.

52 golfers took part in the tournament which was held in glorious spring weather. A sum of €520 was raised from the event, with the President of the RMGC also donating another €50. Though this year it was the turn of the Golf Club to nominate a charity of their wish, it was agreed that the sum donated by the golfers will go towards our Club's project to train a guide dog for the blind.

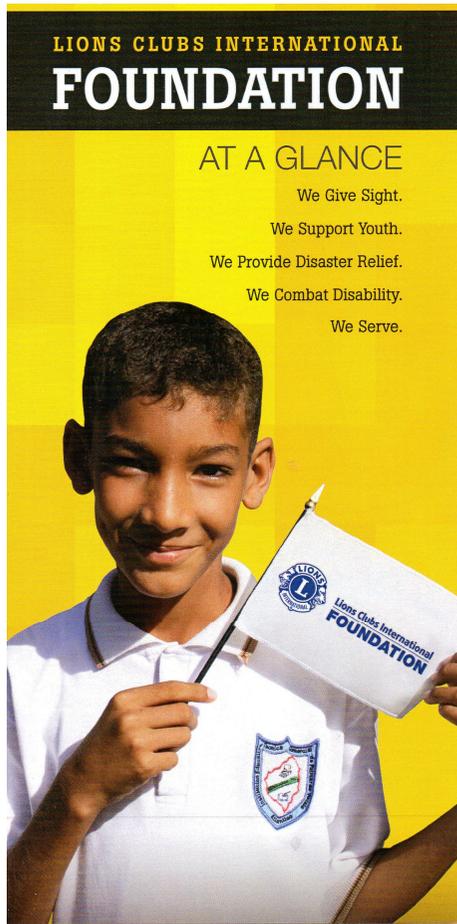


<< Lion President Alex Arena presenting the shield to the winner in the presence of the RMGC Captain on left and Bengi Mangion son of the late Alex on the right.

"WE SERVE"



MARCH 2019



One of the most important ways that Lions make a difference in their communities and the world is through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) the official charitable organisation of Lions Clubs International. With funding from LCIF, Lions carry out large scale humanitarian projects in their communities.

Lions' support of the Foundation provide the majority of LCIF's revenue. LCIF continues to ensure that all donated funds are used to fund grants and programme expenses. Based on targeted investment returns, LCIF anticipates investment income to be sufficient to cover projected administrative and development expenses.

In 50 years, since LCIF began in 1958, the foundation reached a US\$1 billion milestone. More than 13000 grants have been awarded totalling more than

US\$1 billion. Together Lions and LCIF are making a difference for millions of people. **"WE SERVE"** better together.

SIGHT: Lions are known worldwide for blindness prevention. Since the SightFirst Programme began in 1990, over 9 million people had their sight restored through cataract surgeries, 30 million have had vision loss prevented and several millions of people have received improved eye care services. Lions and LCIF are establishing and expanding sustainable eye health care systems in underserved areas.

>>>p.3

CARNIVAL BALL



Past President Lion Chris Borg Cardona organised a Carnival party at Capua Palace on March 1 as a fund-raising event. A good number and their friends all wearing a variety of customs with a carnival theme.

All those present entered into the carnival spirit wearing a variety of customs from pirates to surgeons.

Besides enjoying the evening, those present helped raise the sum of €110 towards the Club's philanthropic account.

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Lion Susan Galea Borg in her pirate custom together with Ms. Stella Borg Barthe'

MEDITERRANEAN LIONS CONFERENCE

During the 2019 Conference held in Beirut from March 21 to 24, it was decided that the 2020 Conference will be held in Genoa, Italy. It is envisaged that this conference will be somewhat different from others as the organisers are thinking of having the conference on a cruise ship departing from Genoa for a three day cruise in the Adriatic. So far this is just an idea, being pursued by PID Gabriele Sabatosanti.

The conference is usually held in the third week of March. However as yet the dates have not yet been fixed.

During the Beirut conference the Mediterranean Solidarity Officials for 2019-2021 were appointed. These are PDG Ali Habour (Algeria) as Coordinator, PDG Selva Ulgen (Turkey), PDG Sami Berberi (Lebanon), PDG Jalil Bouroui (Tunisia). PDG Massimo Fabio continues as Secretary and Archivist.

PEACE POSTER COMPETITION

The Winner of the 2018/19 Peace Poster Competition was 13 year old Yi-Chin Lin sponsored by Lions Club New Taipei City Yung Ho of Multiple District 300 Taiwan.

The presentation ceremony was made during the World Lions Day with the United Nations held in New York on Friday March 9. The presentation was made by International President Lion Gudrun Yngvadottir. The winner was accompanied with his parents for this event.



"KINDNESS MATTERS" was the theme of the 2018/19 competition.

Lion Louis Sciberras has once again been entrusted to organise this year's event in cooperation with the Youth Section of the Education Department.

Art masters in Government and private schools are being asked to encourage students to take part in this competition.

Since schools in Malta reopen after the summer holidays in late September/early October there is not enough time for

Maltese students to submit a poster. The theme of the competition is made known in mid August when our students are on holiday. Nonetheless we always have a good number of students who submit posters. Neutral judges select the winning poster and runner ups. Prizes consisting of drawing equipment are presented to students.

Above the winning poster submitted by the Taiwanese student.

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YOUTH: Supporting the development of youth is a major initiative of LCIF. Lions are bettering the future of children all over the world through improved education and health.

Lions Quest is a school-based life-skills programme for children from kindergarten to secondary grades. More than 30 million children have taken part in a Lions Quest classroom and more than 600,000 educators have been trained to implement the programme. Lions Quest teaches responsible decision-making, effective communication and drug prevention.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS: Many of LCIF's successful humanitarian programmes range from combating disability to disaster relief efforts. Lions continue to develop projects that address the immediate and long-term needs of their local and global community,

Disaster Relief: LCIF emergency grants enable Lions to meet immediate needs such as food, water, clothing, and medical supplies. LCIF awards nearly US\$2million for disaster relief each year. Lions often offer additional assistance through volunteering or donating supplies. When disasters occur on a large scale, major catastrophe grants are awarded for long term reconstruction projects. LCIF has provided funding for recent catastrophes.

Measles Initiative: Tens of million of children will benefit from the partnership programme fighting measles and childhood blindness. LCIF is working with Measles Initiative, a worldwide effort to protect children from measles and strengthen routine immunization services.

Diabetes Treatment and Prevention: Diabetes prevention and control programmes are funded through LCIF, which can include funding for equipment, education and awareness programmes for underserved populations.

Opening Eyes: This is a partnership programme with Special Olympics to provide vision screenings at select Special Olympics games. Thousands of athletes have been screened several of whom were provided with prescription eyeglasses. More than 20,000 Lions have volunteered their time at the screenings.

CULTURAL VISIT TO PALAZZO PARISIO

Sunday 17th March was a perfect day for the visit to Palazzo Parisio and its gardens in Naxxar.

Several members opted to spend the weekend in Gozo, being the first sunny Spring day of the year. However, sixteen members and their friends turned up for the tour. The visit started with an introduction to the owners of the premises and the artists who worked for seven years to transform the Palace into the jewel that it is today.

The Pariso family, after who the palazzo is called, were the second owners. The life of the Palazzo started as a humble country lodge for the Portugese Grand Master Antonio Manuel de Vilhena, who ruled over Malta and the Order for fourteen years, 1722-1736. As was the practice, after his death, his property passed on to the successive Grand Masters.

Probably because of financial difficulties, towards the end of the 1700s, the country residence was sold to the Parisio family from Reggio Calabria,, married into the noble wealthy Maltese Muscati or Moscati family. Don Domenico Pariso and Donna Anna Muscati married in 1760 and had five children. >>>>p.5



<<<< p,4

The youngest Paolo was the only sibling to be born and to live with his mother in Malta. He inherited the Naxxar Palazzo. Paolo had a very eventful life, during the uprising against the French and later during the British period in Malta. He was much esteemed for his contribution and held important positions in the running of the country. Having no direct heirs, the Naxxar property was left to the many workers who worked within the Palace and its grounds. The thirty-five co-owners rented the estate out to the Jesuits who set up a university until they build the Birkirkara College. It was at that time, in 1898, that the Scicluna family bought the proterty for 1,500 sterling.



The Scicluna family were a wealthy family of merchants and bankers. They were also known for their philanthropic works, for which they received the title of Marquis from the Pope. They were always ready to help all those who came to them for assistance. Giuseppe Scicluna, the new owner of the estate, lost no time in transforming the humble edifice into a state of the art Palazzo. He first appointed his friend architect Annibale Lupi to bult up the palace to the area we find it today. The building phase was followed by the decorating phase. Filippo Venuti came from Rome to paint all the frescoes within the Palazzo, Carlo Sada was responsible for the stucco works and stencilling, and Giuspee Valenti, the marmista, for the marble works. The Palace and its grounds are still the property of the Scicluna family. While it is sad to think that the Palace was never a permanent residence to any of its owners, it is open to the general public for visits. It is also available for hire for wedding receptions and other events *(Script Lion Margaret Frendo. Photo on page 4 taken by Lion George O. Attard and photo on page 5 by Lion Susan Galea Borg)*