



CLUB NEWS



CLUB MEETINGS: Our next Club meetings are schedule for Wednesday October 2 and Wednesday October 16 starting at 1830 at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema.

After the business meeting of the October 16 meeting there will be a talk by a guest speaker. After the talk members can stay on for dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: At the meeting held on September 19, the Board approved a draft programme of events earmarked for the rest of the current year. Since some of these events are still to be finalised, details will be promulgated in due course. However members are kindly requested to note two events due to be held in November, namely, a talk on "The Environment" on Wednesday November 20 at the end of the monthly meeting and a "Bazaar" to raise funds on Saturday November 23 and Sunday November 24 at the Stella Maris Parish Church hall.

It is also planned to organise a "Christmas Get Together" similar to the successful one held last December. Details will be forwarded later.

VISIT TO DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA: To commemorate "World Lions Day" our Club together with the other Maltese Lions Clubs will be visiting the Home on Sunday October 13. Mass will be said at 1030. The Clubs will be making the usual donation to the Home. After mass, those attending can have lunch at a restaurant at Ghar Lapsi. This event has been held for over ten years. The Maltese Lions Clubs have always helped this home which renders invaluable service to the Maltese community. Besides this event, the Maltese Lions Clubs have planted around 150 olive trees in the orchard next to the Home. The section in the orchard wherein the olive trees are planted has been named "The Lions Olive Grove". Lions Club Sliema has always helped the Home and hopefully we will continue to do so.

KINDLY NOTE: Lion Antonio Varriale' email is: av@blu5labs.eu

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SEPTEMBER 2019

LIONS CLUB SLIEMA NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM LCIF PRESIDENT PIP GUNDRUN YNGADOTTIR

Dear Lions,

I'm pleased to share that U.S.-based non-profit evaluator Charity Navigator has awarded Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) — *our* foundation — its eighth consecutive 4-star rating based on financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only four percent of U.S. charities have earned this distinction. I'm proud of our achievement and grateful we can continue assuring donors that 100 percent of their financial gifts fund LCIF programs that enable *you* to serve our world in need.

In sharing our stories, we connect, learn, and multiply our capacity for change. As we move through year two of *Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service*, let's proudly tell stories of the people we're able to serve thanks to our foundation. Every story we tell, every dollar we give to LCIF, spurs life-altering change as we increase our service impact, fight diabetes, and expand our global causes to include childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment. Congratulations to LCIF and to you, fellow Lions. Together, we're changing the world.



Our newsletter was first issued in the 1980s in a different layout from the present one. However for unknown reasons this was discontinued.

The newsletter made a comeback in its present format in November 2013 in a printed version which was distributed to members. With more members having access to computers it was decided to forego the printed version and have a "pdf" version sent to all members via email. Members seemed to accept this version. What's more this ensures that every member receives the newsletter as previously a copy was distributed at meetings or sent by post.

As I am entrusted to produce this monthly newsletter, I wish to have some feedback from members.

I must confess I enjoy producing this newsletter although at times I have to dig deep to publish articles/news which are of interest to all members. Lately I have had the support of Lions who report on activities organized by the Club like the cultural visits and the monthly talk on various subjects and also by sending photos. I thank them all especially First Vice President Lion Margaret Frendo who reports on the monthly talk and on the cultural visits.

I wish to ask members whether I should continue using "blue" for the newsletter or whether I should use "black" as one member suggested. For me colour does not make any difference. What interests me most is whether the contents are interesting or not. I am open to suggestions and hence I ask members to forward their comments.

Lion Tom A. Restall

VISIT TO LICATA

At the invitation of LC Licata President Angelo Pintacrona, a group of Club members led by Lion President Alex Arena will be visiting our twinned Club Licata from October 18 to 20 on the occasion of the visit of Governor of District MD108b to our twinned Club. During the visit of the District Governor MD108YB, our twinned club will outline their programme for the current Lionistic Year. Although the Club may have already started their programme of activities for this year, it is normal practice to outline the programme during the visit made by the District Governor, whose one of his principal duties is to visit all the clubs in his District.

A report on this visit will be made in the October newsletter.

DIABETES AWARENESS DAY

November 14 has been designated "Diabetes Awareness Day". Lions Clubs International have been working hard to educate people worldwide to learn more about this epidemic.

Diabetes is a global epidemic, affecting an increasing number of men, women, and children all over the world. Lions International stated that:

"As Lions and Leos, we see and feel the effects of diabetes in our communities and are doing something about it together."

Diabetes can lead to serious diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves and teeth. In most high-income countries, diabetes is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputation. It is expected to affect 629 million adults by 2045.

Serving in diverse communities all over the world, Lions Clubs International see and feel the effects of diabetes and are doing something about it together.

The Strategic Objective is to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve the quality of life of those diagnosed. In this respect our Association has a programme to help Lions worldwide to educate people on the seriousness of this epidemic.

In Malta the incidence of diabetes amongst the population is considerably high, Lions have been involved to educate people about the seriousness of diabetes. Over thirty years ago our Club had published a booklet in Maltese to inform people about the dangers to the health of people. The booklet was compiled by a medical expert and was well received. Since then the Health Authorities in Malta have informed the population about the adverse effects of this disease.

Some time ago, Club member Dr Valmor Zammit gave an interesting talk about this subject and gave professional advice how to deal with this disease.

On Thursday, November 14 our Club will hopefully be involved in the activities planned for the "Diabetes Awareness Day".

Details of our Club's involvement will be given in due course.

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Lion Susan Borg Galea reports on the

VISIT TO AVIATION MUSEUM

A visit was made to the Aviation Museum on 15th September 2019 which is especially interesting if you have a family member or friend who served in the Royal Air Force.

The museum shows the role of aviation in the Second World War and explains their contribution to protect Malta.

Some of our members watched a video of Malta being bombed in World War 2.



There is an interesting range of exhibits that we could get up close to.

We saw wartime aircraft and also post-war jets, a Spitfire, Hawker Hurricane, de Havilland Tiger Moth, Piper L4, Douglas Dakota IV, Fairey Swordfish and others.

Some jets seen are de Havilland Vampire 11, Hawker Sea Hawk and Gloster Meteors. We also

saw land-based vehicles. Uniforms and memorabilia also form part of the collection.

The museum also remembers individual men like Sgt. Pilot Tony Boyd who died in a Spitfire airplane to save Malta. Many men now lie at rest at Kalkara War Cemetery having died as heroes during 1940-1943.

The museum visit was a great success. Many thanks to our guide Mr. Ray Polidano who gave us an excellent tour full of information and history of Malta's role in aviation history.

Grateful thanks to the family Polidano who take care of and run the museum.

NEWEST CONSTITUTIONAL AREA

At this year's International Convention in Milan, Italy, Lions from around the world voted to amend the Constitution & By Laws to include Africa as Lions International newest constitutional area. Welcome Africa to the international family.

The first African Club was chartered in Algiers in 1953. Presently almost 70 years later, more than 30,000 Lions throughout the continent are passionately in service activities like hunger relief, preserving sight and environmental programmes that help communities access natural resources such as fresh water.

Africa plays a critical role in the Lions global mission of service, and this recognition as the new CA VIII highlights the significant contributions African Lions have made to Lions Clubs Institution.

MAKING HISTORY: *"This is truly a historic day for our organization"* President Jung-Yul Choi told the audience in the final plenary session of the Lions Convention in Milan. *"A day in which we celebrate the establishment of our new constitutional area. To commemorate this day, the Lions Humanitarian Award winner, Nobel Laureate Dr Denis Mukwege, has accepted to become an honorary Lion - the first Honorary Lion in our new constitutional area. Dr Mukwege thanked Lions, and said he was excited to work together with them to serve Africa. "Our continent needs your support, "Africa is counting on you" he said.*

EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR: *The excitement about Africa becoming its own constitutional area is everywhere, said Past International Director Hasting Eli Chiti of Zambia. "This is a dream come true for Lions here. Africa is a continent of diverse cultures and economies, and this will make it easier for us to plan our course forward, since no one understands our unique situations better than we. This new standing within Lions International gives us a new sense of responsibility" he added. "Service has no boundaries but as a constitutional area, we now enjoy the privilege of collaborating with Lions of the world and LCIF to include service activities that will significantly benefit our continent and advance the organisation.*

As a Constitutional Area, Africa will now have representation on the International Board of Directors beginning in 2020. From Morocco to Ethiopia to South Africa are building stronger, kinder and more vibrant communities that will define the future of Africa. *Reproduced from article which was on the Lions website.*

Lion Margaret Frendo reports on the Monthly talk delivered by our new Lion member - Norman Wilson

SNUFF BOTTLES

On Wednesday 18th September, Norman Wilson delivered the promised second part of the talk, given a couple of months ago, about Snuff Bottles. Norman prepared a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate his talk which was based on the good number of snuff bottles brought over for those present to admire.

Norman started the talk by explaining that snuff is dried ground tobacco which is inhaled into the nasal cavity. The tobacco was brought over to Europe from the Americas by the Spanish, in the late 1500s. Hailed as having medicinal properties by Jean Nicol, the French Ambassador in Lisbon, its use spread rapidly among the European Monarchy and quickly became a status symbol.

It was the Dutch who named the tobacco 'snuff' and the Portuguese who soon started exporting it to China during the Qing Dynasty. In China, snuff began to be packed into small narrow-necked bottles, Chinese snuff bottles are made from different materials including, porcelain, glass, mother-of-pearl and silver. The decoration on the bottles is inspired by Chinese culture and traditions, featuring deities, fish, frogs, banana leaves. Women featured very rarely on these bottles and one such bottle manufactured by the Jesuits in China fetched 2,00,000 dollars at an auction. Snuff boxes and bottles, which come in many colours, are much sought after by collectors.

It seems that although Norman gave us the lecture, it is his wife Victoria who is the collector. Thank you both for an interesting evening as well for the nibbles provided.

Photo: Audience listening to Lion Norma's presentation.