

## Handover and Awards Ceremony

Lion Zone President, Lions, Guests

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.

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.

To those members who have rendered deserving service to Lions Club Sliema and communities I award the **President's Award:**

In alphabetical order –

For his unstinting support, this Lion is always there ready to help no matter where he is – even in Poland - **George Attard**

My next award goes to a thinker, doer and reconciler, and a helper with transport. He also organised cultural visits, and was always on hand to help and advise - **Victor Borg Barthet**

In appreciation of her administrative skills and keeping everyone informed – **Doreen Davis**

This next Lion gave me great support and advice in procuring the Hospice Car and spent many hours with me in garages even though he'd sometimes just flown back from South America - **Frank Galea**

My next award goes to someone who, on her own initiative, bought ingredients, baked, packed lots of goodies to raise funds at our club meetings. – **Susan Galea Borg**

For his monthly Newsletter and for keeping in touch with foreign clubs - **Tom Restall**

This next Lion 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, and search. Good job the others had good eyesight! - **Louis Sciberras**

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In my next Lion 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 SECRETARY. I award the **Secretary Award - Lorna Farrugia**

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the next Lion 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 - **The Lion of the Year Award goes to - Vivienne Zammit**

## **Presentation of Melvin Jones Fellowship Award**

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. This 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 an 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 2 hard years as President and for your unstinting support in Financial Matters as Treasurer.

This year with the help of Royal Malta Golf Club and Malta Sports Club we have sent Euro 5,460 to Ukraine.

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

Area President Handover

Area President Judith Debono will now hand over her chain of office to the New Area President George O Attard.

(Judith is going to give a short speech before hand-over)