

Lion Zone Presidents, Lion Presidents, Lions, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome!

Benvenuti!

On behalf of Lions Club Sliema may I offer you a warm welcome this evening, filled with the desires, hopes and dreams we all share. Many of you have made a huge effort to join us today. On behalf of us all, we are deeply appreciative and offer you our most grateful thanks.

I'm particularly grateful to those Lions who have travelled from overseas to be with us on our 48 th Charter and our twinning with Lions Club Martina Franca Valle d'Itria – the Zone Chairs and President and members of

Lions Club Martina Franca Valle d'Itria from Puglia

Lions Club Licata from Sicily

and

Lions Club Bosco Marengo from Piedmont

Together with guests from Sicily, Italy, Franceand we have one person from Scotland....where is he?

Before coming here tonight I was taking advice from a few Lions who know me well and they said to me, 'Don't try to be charming, witty or intellectual, just be yourself!'

What a pleasure it is to savour this wonderful atmosphere. The reason we haven't held our Charter Celebration on the moon is that it, unlike the Phoenicia, has no atmosphere!

I am sure angels have been with Lions Club Sliema since its Charter 48 years ago and we have had the privilege of helping many, many people.

I would now like to call upon the Immediate Past President Alex Arena to explain his wonderful achievement. ...Alex

Over the past year alone

On Health

We raised enough to buy a brand new car for Hospice Malta to help them with patients.

We also purchased two trollies full of specialized medical equipment for Hospice Malta.

Diabetes Day

The club have just held diabetes day testing approximately 150 people with the help of nurses and doctors from our Hospitals.

On Sports

We are hoping to purchase a specialized rowing boat for the disabled so that Malta can participate in the Paralympic Games in rowing.

On Culture

Many cultural talks and outings were held.

The Club has an Arts Foundation to support Arts students financially during their period of study locally and/or overseas and just recently we gifted an amount to a Maltese student studying musical theatre in London.

The Club also organizes a painting competition for primary and secondary school students.

Locally

Since the club is named after the town of Sliema, it is logical that it also helps locally.

We have recently made a donation for the restoration of the bell tower of the Sliema Anglican church.

Poor People

The Club has also donated food stuff, carpets, microwaves, a sewing machine, a fridge, heaters, and other household goods to needy families in Malta.

Every year we send thousands of pairs of spectacles to Africa to help those who don't see well.

Home for the Elderly and Home for Disabled

The club has helped an old-folks home Ta Sawra and a home for the disabled Dar tal Providenza by gifting food and money.

On Environment

Trees were purchased and planted in built up areas and at a school nature area.

On National Disasters

Euro 6,000 have been sent to Ukraine in conjunction with the Royal Malta Golf Club and Marsa Sports Club

Thousands of Euros were given to Tonga and India last year.

....and we have done all this enjoyably and given with all our hearts.

Not only that, socially we have had many an enjoyable evening as well as overseas visits including hosting 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 visits to our twinned clubs of Bosco Marengo, Piedmont and Licata, Sicily

But that's only Lions Club Sliema. Imagine if we were to combine all the help given by Lions Club Martina Franca Velle d-Itria, Licata and Bosco Marengo what that would mean?

It all gives me goose bumps and makes my hair (what little there is) stand on end.

So you may ask, what is Lionism? It is the ability and willingness to help others without seeking any glory, or pride or thanks – “We serve”!