

## **A.L.P.S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2020**

**2020---** This year we cannot say that it was a successful year for our dynamic Association which had to cancel nearly the entire social, cultural and civic events, that were planned for the year 2020. This was due to the pandemic Covid 19 virus which hit the whole world and it also included our island where it has attacked thousands, leaving more than 200 people dead. This pandemic attacked mostly the vulnerable persons in Malta and Gozo. Referring to the optimism, as always the Council of Administration of ALPS had already prepared a full year of activities which were included in the exclusive issue of December 2019 ALPS news. As always the association President Mr George Stagno Navarra who acts also as Editor of the ALPS publication gave a detailed program of the envisaged activities for 2020, but unfortunately most had been cancelled due to the mentioned pandemic situation.

The year had started really well as no one thought of what was in store for all of us during 2020.

The program for the monthly Holy Mass commenced as planned and notified in the December 2019 ALPS news. Holy Masses at the Pales Chapel of St Anne were held on January 18<sup>th</sup> and also February 22<sup>nd</sup> where, during this Holy Mass the ALPS Spiritual Director Rev .Father William Bartolo thanked the President and outgoing council of administration for the good work performed and promised prayers for the good work performed by our association. Prayers were also offered during both Holy masses for those who had passed away during the end of 2019 and the first months of the year. These included H.E Cardinal Prospero Grech and ex council member Joe Fenech, as well as some close relatives of our President.

The annual Valentine special dinner together with the week end stay at the Radisson Golden Sands Resort was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This being the only activity that ALPS had managed to organise for its members and friends during the year 2020. All the other social, cultural and civic events had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic situation in Malta. The Valentine event was a very successful event. A good number of members, and friends of ALPS and their families attended the Valentine special dinner, which also included in the week end stay at the Resort refurbished rooms. Dinner consisted of very appetizing dishes . Ladies attending the event's special dinner were presented with a red carnation by the President Mr George Stagno Navarra on entering the Resort Grand Ball room. The Restaurant was very nicely decorated for this special occasion

The 26<sup>th</sup>. Annual General meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The agenda included the election for the post of the Secretary General and the Treasurer of ALPS and the council members for one year. The Secretary General Alex Borg and the Treasurer Mr David R .Abela were un-contested and re-elected for the next two years. Furthermore, the present council members with the exception of Dr.Nazarene Azzopardi who resigned, were un-contested and re -elected for another year. The President took the opportunity to thank the Headmistress of the Lyceum for her collaboration in offering the board room for the monthly council meeting. He thanked also Mr. Peter Griffiths of Griffiths & Associates who offer their free services as auditors and consultancy to the association.

The Covid 19 situation created a lockdown to nearly all members. This was recommended by the health department. All persons of certain age were asked to avoid making any contacts beyond that of their household. This had left in many ways the association at a standstill. The ALPS news of March 2020 issue was the only means that kept all members and friends of ALPS together which had information about events that unfortunately had to be cancelled. It was on the initiative of the ALPS President Mr. George Stagno Navarra who commenced sending to all on data base, his monthly encouraging e- mail messages of solidarity and urging all members to stay united and look forward to a better future when the Covid 19 virus will subside. As a solidarity of friendship and in support to all members, the President went out of his busy personal and work schedule and prepared another Alps Newsletter in November 2020 giving all ALPS members and friends the much needed

courage to keep safe and abide with the health authorities recommendations. With great sorrow the newsletter included a number of members and friends of ALPS who had passed way during the past months. This included, Mrs. Pauline Buttigieg the wife of our Deputy President and also the Past-Deputy President Mr. Robert Ferrante amongst others. Another means of transmitting messages to ALPS members and friends, was through an ex-council member Mr Oscar Galea who continues to lend a helping hand by looking after the dispatch of messages by E-Mail. It certainly helped on each occasion with the submitted messages to members and friends of ALPS.

ALPS President initiative did not stop here, as during the lock down he commenced contacting members and friends of ALPS to submit write ups with the aim of putting together a Special Edition of the Chanticleer Magazine commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ALPS. Within two months a good number of contributors had submitted very interesting write-ups ranging from personal experiences of their old days at the Lyceum and others included episodes of their career and also some hobbies held by the members. A small number of council members helped with proof reading and by the late autumn the first draft of the magazine was made available and transmitted to Bonavia Offset Printers who were engaged with printing of the magazine. . The President also contacted Graphic Designer Mr Anthony Sultana of In -Media marketing, who “*offered his services for free* “ and provided us with a most attractive and colourful front cover page design for The Chanticleer Magazine – Special Edition to commemorate the 25 years of ALPS - 1994-2019.

Besides going through said intensive venture our President also went through the continuous contact with the Education Dept. to confirm the balance of Euros 1000.00 which remained pending from the agreed EU funds by the Education Dept. payable to ALPS. This amount being as part of the expenses incurred in the printing of the magazine. Being pressed for time and not to forfeit the remaining balance of Euros 1000.00, the President made it possible with some pressure on the printers to produce the first few copies to be printed before the end of 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2020 enabling to present the Chanticleer. This had satisfied the education authorities to confirm the payment of the outstanding balance to be paid to ALPS.

Even the monthly council of administration meetings were affected as these were all cancelled because of the coronavirus situation creating a nearly total lockdown. During the months from March 2020 till October 2020 no council meetings were held. However, on the suggestion and initiative of our President and of a life member of ALPS Mr Carlo Farrugia who accepted to help, council meetings have started to be organized in a virtual manner through Zoom. During 2020 two virtual council meetings were held via Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup>. November and on other on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Mr Carlo Farrugia acted as the host during such meetings and also sent the appropriate links to each council member. He continues to offer his excellent and exclusive service also during year 2021. On behalf of the council of administration we wish to thank Mr, Carlo Farrugia for his generous and sterling services offered.

God willing ,there will again be times when members and friends of ALPS can get together again to celebrate and be happy in each other's company . Let us not forget to recognize the important role of our association in future years, when all the fear of Covid 19 is over and forgotten. The first 25 years of ALPS have brought to us many unforgettable memories and we hope there will be many more in store for all of us in not distant future.

When this time comes, ( *hopefully soon* ), the aim of our association remains for each event to be organized for its members and friends and should always be considered in a special way as a reunion. I wish to thank the President and the members of the council of admiration for their enthusiastic efforts and support throughout the year, for working together as a united team and always creating opportunities to look forward positively in the coming year. Let us gather together and fulfil the aim of the association of meeting, reuniting and reminiscing the good old days of their old school-

IL LICEO.

Signed

THE PRESIDENT.....

THE SECRETARY GENERAL .....