

*Member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) and of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA)*

**Minutes** of the 41<sup>st</sup> MaLIA Annual General Meeting, held on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010**, at 5.30 pm at the UoM library.

**Members present:** Robert Mizzi, Louis Cini, Laurence Zerafa, Victor Vella, Joseph R. Grima, Claudio Laferla, Anita Ragonesi, Martes Paris, William Zammit, Lillian Sciberras, Josephine Spiteri, Anthony Mangion, Cecily Rizzo, Marion Borg and Joe Bonett.

**1. Reading of the 2009 AGM Minutes**

Minutes were read.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**3.0 Chairman's Annual Report**

Laurence Zerafa started by explaining that the contact which the MaLIA Council had with the Education Minister Dolores Cristina has been maintained especially in view of some corridor rumors that she was going to be moved to another ministry, something that has not happened. He explained how the Education Minister appointed Mr Henry Cachia to follow library matters instead of Mr Charles Caruana Carabez after the latter's retirement.

Laurence explained that the Council invited Mr Henry Cachia for a meeting with the Council members and how Mr Cachia immediately started to work on some issues which were discussed in the Council.

Dolores Cristina asked the MaLIA Council for feedback regarding the new legislation on the Public Libraries which we hope to be launched later this year. The Chairman continued to explain how MaLIA assisted a group of 14 professional librarians on their CPD. These librarians were from CILIP and decided to spend a week here in Malta.

Regarding the website hits, RM informed the present members that there was a small technical problem which he will soon fix so that MaLIA members will know how many hits they get on the website.

LZ expressed that the Friends Of the Library had 246 members, the iPetition 462 members and the campaign for the Cultural Centre 914 enrolled. This showed that people were becoming aware of MaLIA.

LZ continued to explain how MaLIA progressed in 2009 on various aspects though in some other aspects more effort still needs to be done. Here LZ highlighted that the following aspects were behind all the work fulfilled by the Council:

- (i) the dedication of the Council members
- (ii) MaLIA as a Registered Voluntary Organization
- (iii) Having a just public cause
- (iv) Using technology more effectively
- (v) We met one-to-one meetings such as:
  - (a) the president
  - (b) the prime minister
  - (c) the minister of education
  - (d) the minister of infrastructure
  - (e) parliamentary secretary Dr Chris Said (in relation to the Local Council)
  - (f) the NBC
  - (g) the MQC Dr James Calleja
  - (h) MEPs and political parties
  - (i) Journalists

Also, LZ met Mr Patrick Decelis who is currently the MSLA chairman. At this stage, LZ asked the question: What is the result now? We do have feedback from the Minister of Education and Mr Henry Cachia.

At this stage, a discussion ensued whether the Library Bill will eventually be published as a White Paper for discussion. RM replied in the negative since the Minister of Education told us that she wants to pass it immediately to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in Parliament. To this statement the general consensus what in disagreement since most felt that different stakeholders have not been approached to give their views. To this end, Dr William Zammit (who is the coordinator of the LIS Dept. at the University of Malta), stated that he was not aware of this draft. Even Mr Anthony Mangion expressed the same feeling. Finally it was suggested that MaLIA would ask the Minister for an ad hoc meeting in order to be able to share about the matter.

The chairman continued to explain how the DOI contacted MaLIA and asked for assistance regarding their publication of a Directory of Libraries. The DOI also assisted MaLIA with the latest publication.

Dr Chris Said accepted MaLIA's idea about giving a Library Course to the civil servants who work in libraries.

LZ continued to outline MaLIA's proposals regarding the Public Library in Valletta. The international aspect was also shared where various members attended international conferences. LZ ended by highlighting the next steps for the new MaLIA Council, which list may be found in the 2009 chairman's Report.

#### 4.0 Other Matters

- 4.1 William Zammit suggested that the new Council would appoint a person who would take up the issue of recruitment. Also, he suggested to the new MaLIA Council to consider the possibility of having a scholarly online Journal whereby, MaLIA would have some published material annually.
- 4.2 Martes Paris suggested that MaLIA does a 'MaLIA Day', in order to recruit more members.
- 4.3 Dr William Zammit has been appointed a Senior Lecturer. Congratulations from all MaLIA members
- 4.4. Another idea from Joe Bonett was to look into the possibility of having a member 'seconded' with the Association.

#### 5.0 Amendments to the Statutes

- 5.1 RM will remove the 2009 Statutes from the website and publish the new one.

#### 6.0 Election Scrutineers

- 6.1 No scrutineers were needed.

#### 7.0 Election for the 2010 Council Members

- 7.1 Seven members were nominated and elected on Council for the year 2010. These are the names of the members:

Nomination	Nominee	Seconded
Robert Mizzi	Laurence Zerafa	Victor Vella
Cecily Rizzo	Robert Mizzi	Anita Ragonesi
Laurence Zerafa	Anthony Mangion	Lilian Sciberras
Joe Grima	Martes Paris	Anthony Mangion
Victor Vella	Joe Grima	Robert Mizzi
Claudio Laferla	William Zammit	Martes Paris
Josephine Spiteri	Anthony Mangion	William Zammit
Joe Bonett*	Laurence Zerafa	Robert Mizzi

\*NB Joe Bonett was coopted. According to the Statutes, a coopted member cannot vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:15pm.

Laurence Zerafa  
Hon. Chairman

Claudio Laferla  
Hon. Secretary