



Lions Club of Tortola Press release on

May 3, 2012

CONTACT: Carvin Malone

Re: Lions 40th Anniversary Celebrations: A Roaring Success.

Premier of the Virgin Islands together with the Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Health & Welfare and District #1 Representative joined over 100 Lions, Leos, Sponsor Partners and residents at the Moorings Mariner Restaurant on Saturday, 28th April 2012 in celebration of the Lions Club of Tortola 40th Anniversary and its public/private partnership with the BVI Health Services Authority.

Following the address by Lion President Jeremy Hodge, the highlights of the program included congratulatory remarks given by Premier, Hon. Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal OBE who both encouraged members to continue their humanitarian works and further pledged their continued support in the activities of the Lions. Minister of Health and Welfare, Hon. Ronnie Skelton presented recognition certificates to the 20 Charter Members and to the 37 Presidents (or family members in attendance) who have served the club in its 40 years history from 1972 to 2012. Special acknowledgement and engraved plaques were presented to Charter Members, Lions Alexander O. Shirley OBE, PMJF, LM and Leando Nibbs MJF, LM for their 40 years of continuous membership and service to the Tortola Lions Club. Life Member certificate and pin from Lions International were read and presented to Lion Louis Walters during the proceedings.

Lion Carvin Malone, MJF detailed the public/private partnership with LIONS and the Government of the Virgin Islands and expressed the club's gratitude to contributors, donors and its Sponsor Partners, NAGICO, Road Town Wholesale/Heineken, BVI Ports Authority, Newton Construction, 3DeArchitecture and Caribbean Basin Enterprises for their roles in the construction and hand-over of the Noel Lloyd's Positive Action Movement Park Restroom facility in August of 2010.

In honor of its 40th Anniversary a public/private partnership was established with LIONS and the BVI Health Services Authority for the purchase of Vascular Access Instruments and a Site Rite6 Ultrasound machine for donations to Peebles Hospital operation room. Lion Carvin Malone again detailed the specifics of the partnership and expressed the club's gratitude to contributors, donors and its Sponsor Partners, Ocean Conversion,

Colonial Insurance, Caribbean Insurers, James Todman Construction and R&R Malone Complex.

In presentation of the Lions Club of Tortola's 40th Anniversary, Lion Heskith Newton PMJF offered a historic perspective, not only of the 20 charter members but also of its sponsorships of the Lioness Club in 1989, Tortola Lions II in 1992, Tortola Leos in 1975 and of the Virgin Gorda and Montserrat Lions Clubs. A comprehensive report was also given of the signature projects of the Tortola Lions during the 40 years history including but not limited to the Lions and BVI Christian Council Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Program; Construction of the BVI's 1st public basketball court at the A. O. Shirley's Recreation Grounds in 1976; Christmas Food Basket Delivery to the elderly on Tortola; LIONS/Eselyn Henley Richez Annual Games for the Special Needs; LIONS/Dr. H. O'Neal's annual Primary School Eyes screening Program; LIONS/Rotary Clubs' Fundraising fund raising Telethon for Medical Assistance; QE II restroom facilities at the QE II park; LIONS/BVI Government public/private partnership for construction of the NLPAMP facilities, to name a few.

After introduction by Lion Vanessa Simon, BVI born kidney transplant and vascular access specialist, Dr. Joel Stevens MD, FACS presented a most informative and captivating feature address on dialysis; its root causes; its economic effects and preventative measures required to turn the growing trend around. In outlining the 5 progressive stages Dr. Stevens beckoned residents to monitor and avoid the lowering of their Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) from its preferred rate of 90 and further advised of the need to prepare for dialysis upon the patient's deterioration to stage 3 of the process.

Gross income and contributions of USD\$34,740.00 was realized and after deduction for direct expenses, (Moorings; booklet publication and printing costs; promotion and advertising costs; entertainment and other miscellaneous costs), net proceeds of approximately \$15,000.00 would be disbursed for the purchase of the vascular access instruments and the ultrasound equipment aforementioned. Upon arrival to the BVI these items would be presented to Peebles Hospital for immediate deployment. In addition to our sponsor partners (enlisted above), Tortola Lions and the BVI Health Services Authority recognize that this public/private partnership would not be possible without the generous contributions and participation of our **PLATINUM SPONSORS**: TMF Group, Harney Westwood & Riegels, Skelton Group of Companies, Wickhams Cay Service Station and 5 Girls Value Center; **GOLD SPONSORS**: Arias Fabrega & Fabrega; Village Cay Marina/Hotel, Newton Construction, Nibbs Auto Sales, QWOMAR Trading and Hon. Andrew A. Fahie; **SILVER SPONSORS**: National Bank of the Virgin Islands, Modern Upholstery, Alphonso Warner Insurance; Eureka Medical, Medicare Limited, Coverdale Trust & Hon. Myron Walwyn and **PATRONS**: Hudsun Trust, Jones Woodwork, TICO, Hezekiah Maddox Photography & Sandra Herbert Decorations.

Lions and event attendees were gratified of the donations made by Rev. Edris O'Neal on behalf of her late sister, Lion Bernice Farrington and her late brother-in-law Lion

Waldo O'Neal. Both Lions were exemplary in their service and dedicated to the cause of LIONISM.

Lion Maria Vieira MJF in closing out the program gave heart filled THANKS to all Lions, Leos, Sponsor Partners, Donors, Contributors and the General Public for making the 40th Anniversary Recognition and Fund raising Gala a ROARING SUCCESS.