

ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)

I. Our Identity

We are in Cyprus since 1926 and operate under the Law on Charitable Institutions 104(I) 2017 and on the basis of our new Constitution of 2003. As a movement we aim at the encouragement of every humanitarian and charity project for the mitigation of human suffering and the promotion of the overall health of the public without any discrimination, social, racial or other. This is why our logo is "In the Service of Humanity".

The Cyprus St. John Association and Brigade (hereinafter the Brigade) is affiliated with the Order of St. John which along with Pories and Associations, presents itself in 42 countries all over the world; also it is a member of the european organisation Johanniter International (JOIN) based in Brussels. Members of JOIN are 16 national voluntary organisations from an equal number of european countries as well as the Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

II. Our Organizational Structure

The authority that defines the objectives, modus operandi, and generally any matter relating to the Order is the Executive Committee, which is composed of six (6) Commissioners with the right to appoint up to four (4) additional non-voting members. The Executive Committee for the period 2018-2022 is as follow:

Mr. Panos Koutourousis	
Mr. Andreas Chimarides	
Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis	till 18 April, 2019
Dr. George Pantelas	
Mr. Andreas Skotinos	
Dr. Andreas Tanos	
Dr. Panos Constantinides	as from 18 April, 2019

The following were appointed as Members of the Committee for the same period:

Dr. Anna Nouska,	
Dr. Panos Constantinides	till 18 April, 2019
Mr. George Florides	
Dr. Petros Matsas	as from April, 2019

Along with the Executive Committee there are two collective bodies: *The Advisory Body*, which addresses broader policy issues and which performs an essential role in the selection process of the members of the Steering Committee, and *the Education Committee*, which addresses issues affecting the educational activities of the Order. It is noted that the Advisory Committee

met on 23/5/2019 and dealt with issues related to the Associations' activities and those affecting the environment within which the Brigade operates.

Ladies Christiana Nicodemou Gregoriou and Skevi Thoukididou were the Administrative Staff.

III. Our Contribution

During the year under review the Executive Committee had seven (7) meetings. The main topics dealt with were:

- the need for a legal framework regarding training in first aid; to this end appeals were put forward to the interested Government Departments,
- appropriate training for lifesavers was also pursued;
- the propotion of first aid within the primary education,
- the need for greater adherence to the Regulations concerning first aid in the places of work,
- the possibility of extending our co-operation with the Private Secondary Schools,
- the urgent need for new offices in Limassol,
- the hosting of the JOIN AGM in Cyprus,
- the organization of first aid courses to be financed by the HRDA of Cyprus,
- the revaluation of the existing situation of data of personal character,
- the reactivation of voluntarism; in this regard specific actions were taken mainly by the District Committees of Nicosia and Limassol,
- the participation in programmes financed by the European Commission,
- the introduction e-banking with regard to our financial transactions and the opening of accounts with a second financial institution, the Hellenic Bank.
- the approval of the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for 2018.

In numerical terms the people trained directly by the Brigade virtually remained at the same level as those of the previous year; 1592 trained in 2019 compared 1623 in 2018; consequently the number of courses organised were also at the same level, 170 vis-à-vis 177 in 2018. Once more preference was shown for the courses of shorter duration, up to 9 contact - hours. This is so because all courses organised by the Brigade, aspire to the private sector where the tendency to meet legal provisions is greater than that of transplanting knowledge; thus from out of total of 1592 persons, 1211 or 76,1% followed courses of shorter duration.

On a district level, Nicosia participated to a rather high degree (63%), followed by Limassol (21,1%), Larnaca (11%) and Paphos (4.9%). Unfortunately Famagusta had no activity.

The Independent Brigades saw their activities encreased by the significant rate of 55.2%. 2511 people compared to 1639 in 2018. To some an extent this considerable increase is a

fallacy in the sense that the Independent Brigades operating within the Police Force and the Electricity Authority of Cyprus exhibited intense activity with the Requalification Course; regarding the Police Force, 1414 Certificates were renewed compared to 405 of the previous year.

Another observation carrying weight is the fact that here, preference is shown for the courses of longer duration; it is a fact that organisations of the public and the semi-public sectors are interested in courses of longer duration, whilst companies of the private sector prefer the shorter ones.

Our cooperation with the Private Secondary Schools resulted to train 174 students compared to 68 in 2018. Once more it was proved that it is of critical importance the work that is carried out by the person who is assigned the duties of liaison-officer; the same holds true with the Independent Brigades.

Regarding trainers, one ab-initio course for new trainers was organised in Limassol, whilst two upgrading seminars took place; the first one for the trainers of the Brigade and the second for those of the Police Force; the first one had an attendance of 65 people and the second of 128.

IV. We and the Environment

Regarding **Public Relations** our concerted effort continued throughout the year for the promotion of the "charitable" nature of the Brigade; lectures to the general public were organised in the three main districts, i.e. Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca; it seems that great interest is shown for first aid for babies and children.

It is noted with pleasure the reactivation by the Limassol District Committee of their Annual Dinner Dance during the Carnival Festivities whilst Larnaca organised for the sixth consecutive year their blood-donation activity; Nicosia is considering the adoption of a similar activity.

During 2019 all people, who were trained three years ago in first aid were made aware that their Certificates were about to expire and therefore were encouraged to undertake action to renew them; it is with regret to note that this activity did not produce the expected results.

A new activity was adopted by Nicosia; during Christmas, stand-by services of first aid were offered to festivities organised by two Municipalities of the Nicosia Greater Area whilst its Members visited the Makarion Hospital where they offered presents to inpatient children; some of these children are hospitalized in the paedagogic ward.

In the field of **International Relations** Messers Mr Koutourousis and Chimarides attended the London meeting of the St. John European Establishments; note should be taken of the fact that all expenses involved were covered by the Order a gesture that is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Tanos participated in the AGM of JOIN which has taken place in Zurich and also participated in the deliberations of the Clinical Working Group.

Taking part in the above mentioned activities is of great benefit to the Brigade as we are kept update as to what is happening in the areas of our interest and also we are given the possibility to participate in European projects that are funded by the Commission.

Annual Report 2019

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