

ST.JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE
ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION LTD
ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)
2014

I. Our Identity

We are in Cyprus since 1926 and operate under the Law on Charitable Institutions, Chapter 41 and on the basis of our new Constitution adopted in 2003. The Association and Brigade of St. John (the Brigade), upon recommendation of The *St.John Order*, proceeded in 2005 in the establishment by guarantee of the company *St.John Association Ltd* (hereafter the Company) which began operation in 2009. It was later recognized by the Ministry of Finance as a Charity. A consequence of this recognition is the exemption from payment of income tax. The inextricable link between the Brigade and the Company should be noted, main proof of which is the fact that only persons proposed by the Brigade may be elected as Directors of the Company.

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."

II. Our Organizational Structure

The authority that defines the objectives, modus operandi, and generally any matter relating to the Order and the Company 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 2013 – 2017 is as follows:

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| Dr. Nicos Spanos, | President |
| Mr. Andreas Giannakou, | Vice President |
| Mr. Achilles Callimachos , | Vice President |
| Mr. Panos Koutourousis, | Secretary |
| Dr. George Pantelas, | Treasurer |
| Mr Andreas Chimarides, | Commissioner General |

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

Mr Andreas Skotinos
Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis
Dr. Andreas Tanos

Directors of the Company for 2013 were the members of the Executive Committee and Secretary Mr Koutourousis .

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.

III. Our Contribution

During the year under review, seven (7) ordinary sessions were held of the Executive Committee of the Association and the Directors of the Company. The issue that pre-occupied these sessions was the construction of our new offices; the Committee members firmly believed that the site effect of the creation even of a very small number of employment opportunities should not be overlooked. Other topics were:

- the scrutiny of our financial resources vis-à-vis the financing of the new premises;
- the persistence of our views as to the need for comprehensive training in first aid for lifeguards and for legislation covering the entire range of first aid;
- the follow-up and evaluation of first aid training activities at district level and consequently the rendering of assistance and guidance needed;
- the renewal of the contract for another 33 years regarding the plot of land on which our premises lie;
- the advisability of signing the Relationship and Logo Agreements with the Order;
- the establishment of Independent Brigades with the Bank of Cyprus and the private company P.H.C. Franchised Restaurants Public Ltd.
- the drafting and approval of the new training course for first aid assessors;
- the approval of the annual report and the financial accounts for 2013.

In numerical terms there has been an increase compared to 2013 in both, the number of people trained by (37,1%) and the programmes implemented (by 43,2%); these figures however should be translated with cautiousness as their absolute numbers are quite low; other features that merit reference are:

- Nicosia District first and Larnaca and Paphos secondly postulated the bigger increase; at the other end of the scale was Limassol;
- Famagusta is on the map as a result of our co-operation with the British Authorities at Agios Nicolaos camp;
- As far as the programmes are concerned, the First Aid at Work had the lead; this may be due to the provisions of Regulation 198/2009.
- the gradual although with low pace appearance on the scene of the programme for infants and babies;
- the programmes implemented increased to 137 from 95 in 2013.

The dissemination of first aid among young people is a key objective of our Association in view of the dynamics that are expected to generate in future for these diffusion to wider sections of society. During 2014 a total 7150 students of the 2nd grade of the Gymnasium attended first aid training of which 6235 passed the assessment and obtain the relevant certificate. The corresponding figures for the students of private secondary schools were 230 and 183

Regarding the Independent Brigades that of the Bank of Cyprus exhibited no activity as all preparatory work has been completed by the end of 2014; on the contrary 222 employees of the private company P.H.C. Franchised Restaurants Public Ltd have been trained through their own arrangements and assessed and certified by the Association.

In numbers, there has been a decrease in those trained from 2464 in 2013 to 1490 in 2014; this is mainly attributed to lower training activities on the part of the Police Force and the Civil Defence; also important is the observation that First Aid Requalification course is quite low (from 1858 down to 851). An interesting observation is that the Independent Brigades of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus and the P.H.C. Franchised Restaurants Public Ltd concentrate their activities to the First Aid at Work and the Emergency First Aid at Work, programmes postulated by Regulation 198/2009 whilst those of the Police Force and the Civil Defence show preference to the Full Programme.

Note should finally be made to the Refresher Seminar organised for the trainers of the Electricity Authority.

Significant activities have not been exhibited till today by the Uniformed Volunteers Body although decisions conducive to this end have been taken; it is high on the agenda of the Executive Committee that this Body must make vivid its presence within the Cyprus Community.

IV. We and the Environment

The first component of this chapter is the Public Relations with our most important activity the petition to the Commissioner for Volunteering and Non Governmental Organisations regarding the need for an all round training in first aid for lifeguards and for the initiation of a piece of legislation concerning «proper» training in first aid. Contacts have been established with the Mitsis Commercial School in Lemithou the aim being to train not only their students but people living in that area in view of its geographic remoteness.

Regarding International Relations hospitality was extended in May to about 30 members of St. John of Australia, who visited Cyprus for 2 days; their stay in Cyprus was part of their trip from Jerusalem to London.

The Chairman represented the Association at the Annual General Meeting of JOIN, held in Budapest.