

ST.JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE
ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION LTD
ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)
2016

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 (hereafter 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:

Dr. Nicos Spanos,
Mr. Andreas Giannakou,
Mr. Panos Koutourousis,
Mr Andreas Chimarides,
Dr. George Pantelas,
Mr. Andreas Skotinos,

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

Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis
Dr. Andreas Tanos
Dr. Anna Nouska,
Dr. Panos Constantinides

Directors of the Company for 2016 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 the Executive Committee of the Brigade and the Directors of the Company had six (6) meetings. The topics dealt with were:

- the refund of the VAT paid in relation to the costs of our new offices,
- the introduction of a legal framework regarding first aid and the lifesavers,
- the relocation of our offices in Limassol,
- the re-assessment of the duality of our administrative set-up,
- the adoption of standards and good practices regarding the functioning of St. John and its relationship with the public,
- the establishment of Independent Brigades with the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) and the Police Force of the British Bases
- the decision of the Ministry of Education and Culture to have the first aid training transferred to the B' Class of Lyceum from the same class of Gymnasia,
- the smooth functioning of our District Committees with particular reference to that of Limassol,
- the co-operation with the Civil Defence Department in view of its decision to ask for tenders in connection with first aid training,
- the promotion of our public relations,
- the adoption of the 2015 annual report and audited accounts.

In numerical terms the year under review exhibited an increase of 18,78% of persons trained in first aid and of 16,24% of training programmes. The most significant increases were observed in Limassol and Paphos Districts although these increases can be attributed to our cooperation with the Government Departments for Water Development and Antiquities.

Once more the short course of Emergency First Aid at Work is the preferred one (68,1%); as pointed out previously this is due to the prevailing legal provisions; also preference is shown by the private sector for the courses that embodied defibrillation since with the implementation of one training course the legal requirements of two instruments are met.

A novelty that was initiated regarding the EFAW course refers to its accommodation of elements of training for those providing care services to persons at home; this additional service was and is offered at no cost.

The training activities of the Independent Brigades witnessed an increase of 27,23% over the previous year; the greater increase was observed with that of the Police Force, whilst the rest were rather static. Once more the preference of the private sector to the shorter courses of training was observed whilst the training programmes amounted to 259 compared to 210 of 2015.

Comparing those trained by the Independent Brigades with those by ourselves, two interesting remarks can be made. First with reference to the people trained; the Independent Brigades trained more than twice than of ourselves. This serves as a proof that Independent Brigades as an institution is successful. Secondly, the average number of trainees per course in our case is 9,9 compared to 11,2 of the Brigades.

The decision of the Ministry of Education and Culture having first aid training being transferred to the B' Class of Lyseum left no room for continuing our cooperation. This decision unfortunately had unfavourable repercussions on the training activities of the private secondary schools as well.

Two upgrading events were organised. One for the trainers of the Police Force which took the form of 3 identical courses being implemented and the second for our trainers which was attended by about 50 people; as usual lunch was offered.

Finally the training of trainers activity; three courses were organised; two for taking care of the needs of ourselves, the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority and the Cyprus Electricity Authority and the third for the newly established Independent Brigade of the Police Force of the British Bases.

IV. We and the Environment

The most important event in public relations by far was the inauguration of our new offices by H.E. the President of the Cyprus Republic Mr. Nicos Anastasiades on 2nd June, 2016. During his speech the President stressed amongst other the humanitarian work our Brigade has accomplished during its 90 years long presence in Cyprus; short messages were delivered by the Chairman Dr. N. Spanos and Mr. P. Koutourousis, Trustee of the Association.

A leaflet, with the aim of promoting the course of first aid for babies and infants, was prepared and distributed amongst the Government Welfare Child Centers and our District Offices. Also our Larnaca District Committee organised its annual event for blood donation whilst three T.V. stations produced, with our co-operation, promotion campaigns on first aid.

Our international relations centered around St. John Order and St. John Ambulance; from the latter we received information on the 10th Revised Edition of the Manual; also we had acquired the needed training equipment.

Contacts were in place at the same time with Johanniter International, the primary aim being the adoption of such measures so as to enhance the exchanges of volunteers. Dr. Tanos joined the Clinical Working Group of JOIN.