

ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE
ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION LTD
ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)
2017

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 a 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, and therefore is no liable 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, (till 3/3/2017)
Mr. Andreas Giannakou,
Mr. Panos Koutourousis,
Mr Andreas Chimarides,
Dr. George Pantelas,
Mr. Andreas Skotinos,
Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis, (as from 14/3/2017)

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

Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis, (till 13/3/2017)
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 eight (8) meetings. The main topics dealt with were the:

- furtherance of our request for introducing up-to-date legal frameworks for first aid and for lifesavers,
- pros and cons of having in operation a dual system of Administration,
- drafting and adoption of our paper on "Strategic Planning" for the period 2017-22
- Updating of the syllabi and the hand-outs of the series First Aid at Work, Emergency First Aid at Work and Automated External Defibrillator,
- issue of a revised edition of the booklet "First Aid in an Emergency" and of the need for an up-to-date issue of the Greek version of the First Aid Manual,
- fulfilment of all prerequisites regarding the final approval of our new Offices in Nicosia and the furtherance of the "offices" issue in Limassol,
- establishment of an Independent Brigade with the Department of Forests,
- decease of our Chairman and election of a new one,
- adoption of new Regulations on Members registration,
- election of the new trustees of the Brigade for the period 2018-2022,
- approval of the 2016 Annual Report and the Audited Accounts

In numerical terms our activity remains essentially at the levels of the previous year (1329 people trained compared to 1346 of 2016 and 136 training programmes vis-a-vis 141). Note should be taken on the following however:

- all Districts fell short of training activities with the exemption of Nicosia where the observed increase equalised the deficiencies encountered elsewhere;
- caution should be exercised when comparing the data between districts and the years 2017 and 2016; this is so because during 2016 we cooperated extensively with the Government Departments of Antiquities and Water Development in Paphos which may disturb the "normal" picture;
- once more preference is shown for the programmes of short duration i.e. the Emergency First Aid at Work; however the First Aid course for Babies and Children seems to penetrate the Cypriot society.

Training providers in first aid have lately increased considerably; this fact combined with the policy of the Brigade of adhering to high standards of training may have contributed to the non-increased activity in the relevant field.

The contribution of the Independent Brigades is characterised by:

- considerable decrease in the number of persons trained (2900 for the previous year compared to 1623 in 2017) The most significant decreases were observed with the Brigade of the Police Force and the Civil Defence Department where the concept of the of the Independent Brigade ceased to exist as from 2016.
- the said arrangement seems to enter more dynamically with respect to the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (Cyta), 272 to 92 in 2016, and to a lesser extent with the Independent Brigades of the Forest Department and the Policy Force of the British Bases. Those of the Bank of Cyprus and the G4S Secure Solutions Ltd basically remain at the levels of the previous year.
- no activity was observed with respect to the Central Bank of Cyprus and the private company PHC Franchised Restaurants Public Ltd although the latter has met its requirements (57 employees) with arrangements for the general public organised by ourselves.

What seems to be a rule is that the success of the concept of "Independent Brigade" depends to a great extent to the commitment to first aid the top management of the interested organisation is shown and secondly to the person who has been named to act as the liaison with us.

Our co-operation with the private Secondary Schools has resulted in training 85 students, compared to 70 in 2016.

In the field of "training of trainers" four (4) courses were organised, two for the Cyprus Police Force whilst the other two cater for the needs of ourselves, the Departments of Forests and Water Development and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority.

Finally an upgrading Seminar was organised for the trainers of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus; special emphasis was given on the new provisions of the 10th Revised Edition of the First Aid Manual.

IV. Our Environment

During the year under review concerted efforts were exerted regarding the "charitable" character of St. John; to this end courses of first aid, bearing no costs, were organised for the Cyprus Federation of Gymnastics, for a small rural community outside of Nicosia, for old members of St. John, and finally for the Parents Association of a Primary School in

Limassol; also trainers of ours appear several times on a TV show where demonstrations of first aid were presented.

The District Committee of Larnaca once more organised the "blood donation" event which gradually is becoming a permanent activity; the importance of this activity lies with the fact that blood availability is always at short with the "blood banks" of the public hospitals. A small amount of €200= was collected from the British Bases and was donated to two charitable institutions of the same district.

A folder was issued and is distributed free of charge whilst a novel idea has been initiated under which all people who have been trained with us three years ago are contacted and urged to renew their knowledge.

Our international relations centered around St. John and JOIN. Thus our chairman, Mr Koutourousis participated in the meeting of the European St. John family which was held in Wales whilst Dr. Tanos represented our Association to the Annual General Meeting of JOIN, held in Berlin. At the same time we were in constant contact with the International Office of the Order and the St. John Ambulance whilst we participated actively in the works of the Clinical Working Group. It is hoped that with all these international contacts will pave the way for the "Manual of First Aid" issue to be resolved.