

ST.JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE
ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION LTD
ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)
2015

1. 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. A Kallimachos (till 24/02/2015),
Mr Andreas Chimarides,
Dr. George Pantelas,
Mr. Andreas Skotinos (as from 16/06/2015),

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

Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis
Dr. Andreas Tanos

Dr. Anna Nouska (as from 16/06/2015),
Dr. Panos Constantinides (as from 16/06/2015).

Directors of the Company for 2015 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

2015 witnessed the completion of the construction of our new offices; we moved in on 20/2/2015. During the year, six (6) ordinary sessions were held of the Executive Committee of the Association and the Directors of the Company. The main issues discussed were:

- the refund of the V.AT. paid as a result of the construction of our new offices,
- the pursuing of our views as to the need for a legal framework of first aid training and of training of lifeguards,
- the concerted effort for people of a remote mountainous area to be trained in first aid,
- the indepth study of the advisability of having two legal entities in operation,
- the adoption of standards and of good practices in running our entities acting on guidance and advice from St. John Order,
- the establishment of an independent brigade with the private company G4S Secure Solution (Cyprus) Ltd,
- the implications of the decision of the Ministry of Education to have the training of first aid been transferred from Grade B of Gymnasia to Grade B of Lyceum,

- the implementation on a pilot basis of a new programme for Assessors,
- the updating of our administrative and organisational structure,
- the enhancement of our public relations.

In numerical terms there has been observed an increase in both the number of people trained in first aid (by 20.7%) and of the training programmes implemented (25.9%).

Silent features of the increases are:

- the main increases are attributed to the activities of the independent brigades,
- Emergency First Aid at Work primarily and then First Aid at Work are the preferred courses; this may be due to the existing legal provisions; slowly but steadily the Infants and Babies course comes up;
- Among independent brigades, those of the public and semi-public sector show preference to the courses of longer duration, whilst those of the private sector go for the short one, the EFAW
- a consequence of the previous statement is that the Requalification Course presents itself only with the activities of the independent brigades of the Cyprus Police and the Electricity Authority of Cyprus.

The dissemination of first aid among young people constitutes a key objective of our Association in view of the dynamics that are expected to generate in future with their diffusion to wider social strata; this is the reason why we look upon the decision of the Ministry of Education to transfer first aid training from Gymnasia to Lyceum as an advisable one. We believe that the 17s' year old are in a better position to appreciate first aid than the 14s'.

During 2015 three one-day up-grading seminars for first aid Instructors were organised as follows:

- for the instructors of the Brigade on 18/4/2015, on the completion of which lunch was offered to all participants
- for the instructors of the independent brigade of the Civil Defence Department, on 22/7/2015
- for the instructors of the First Service of the British Bases on 28/11/2015

The reactivation of our uniformed volunteers presents problems, despite the concerted actions that have been instigated with two Municipalities and the British Bases; among the basic problems we are faced with is the identification of people willing to commit themselves on activities of voluntary nature on a rather long period.

IV. We and the Environment

In Public Relations we had (a) re-issued the booklet "First Aid in an Emergency" which we distribute to all people who follow our courses and (b) started gradually using information technology in making more profound our activities to the wider public; this line of action will continue as we foresee only positive results.

Regarding International Relations we followed the two-day deliberations of St. John Associations that was held in Edinburg and was hosted by the Priory of Scotland; at the same time we were in close contact with Johanniter International exchanging views and information, with particular reference to possible new fields of activity and cooperation.