

ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE
ST. JOHN ASSOCIATION LTD
ANNUAL REPORT (in brief)
2018

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 Priories 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	Chairman
Mr. Andreas Chimarides	A' Vice Chairman
Dr. Christodoulos Kaisis	B' Vice Chairman
Dr. George Pantelas	Secretary
Mr. Andreas Skotinos	Treasurer
Dr. Andreas Tanos	Commissioner General

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

Dr. Anna Nouska,
Dr. Panos Constantinides
Mr. George Florides

Directors of the Company for 2018 were the members of the Executive Committee.

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.

Ladies Christiana Nicodemou Gregoriou and Andri Christofi were our Administrative Staff.

III. Our Contribution

During the year under review the Executive Committee of the Brigade had seven (7) meetings. During the last, 7th meeting the 6 Commissioners dropped their Directorship of the incorporated body St. John Association Ltd since the said body ceased to have any economic or other activity as from September 1, 2018. The main topics dealt with were the:

- furtherance of the need for an all embracing new legal framework on first aid;
- wind-up of the incorporated body,
- drafting of a European Manual of First Aid withing the JOIN arrangements,
- appointment of the District Committees,
- final approval of our premises in Nicosia,
- urgent need for new offices in Limassol,
- establishment of an Independent Brigade with the Road Transport Department,
- reassessment of the existing arrangements regarding data of personal character as a result of the new directives of the European Union,
- reactivation of Voluntarism,
- participation in two European projects within the Erasmus framework,
- gradual adoption of e-banking for our financial dealings,
- approval of the 2017 Annual Report and Audited Accounts

In numerical terms the people trained increased from 1329 to 1623, i.e. there has been observed an increase of 22.1% whilst the programmes have been increased to the greater percentage of 30.1% (from 136 to 177). The indirect, nevertheless alarming conclusion that the above figures denote to is the ever increasing difficulty of identifying people willing to follow first aid courses; this can be attributed to the increased number of training providers in the field and also to our aim for qualitative training. This observation justifies fully our position for the need of proper legislation.

A second observation is the preference shown for the shorter (less than 12 hrs duration) courses; 1135 person out of the total of 1623; this is something to be expected for since the shorter courses, under specific conditions, adhere fully to the related legal provisions; it is only natural for the interested employers to meet their legal requirements with the lowest possible costs.

The exhibited activity by the District Committees followed once more the prevailing path, i.e. Nicosia exceeded marginally the 50% of all our activity in terms of both people trained and programmes implemented, with Limassol following with about 20% for both the indices and Larnaca being third, slightly below Limassol; then is Paphos and finally Famagusta with limited however action. It is noted that all District Committees exceeded their previous year attainments.

The Independent Brigades had seen their activities remained at the same level. 1639 persons compared to 1623 in 2017. The same holds true for the courses organised.

Note however should be taken of the following:

- the Bank of Cyprus decided to discontinue the arrangement of the Independent Brigade and instead asked for tenders; we were successful in this bid,
- no activity has been shown by the said arrangement of the Central Bank of Cyprus and of the private company PHC Franchised Restaurants Public Ltd, whilst that of the G4S Secure Solutions Ltd was very low,
- the Independent Brigade with the Police Force shows exclusive interest for the Full Course of 30 hrs duration whilst those of the Cyprus Electricity Authority, the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority and the Policy Force of the British Bases are interested for the First Aid at Work with or without Defibrillation.
- during the last years a vivid tendency was observed; organisations of the public and the semi-public sector opted for courses of longer duration, whilst companies of the private sector for shorter ones.

Our cooperation with the Private Schools of Secondary Education continued during the year with a marginally lower number of students.

Finally two series of the course Training of Trainers were organised for the Police Force; the second accepted people from the private sector as well.

IV. We and the Environment

In the field of Public Relations concerted efforts were exerted so as to promote the "charitable" aspect of our operations; thus around 30 public events on island wide basis were organised the aim of which was to enlighten the general public on the importance and the benefits of knowing first aid; also a group of volunteers followed a course on first aid free of charge with the aim being this group to undertake the initiative and become the core of developing voluntarism in the Nicosia district. It is also noted the important annual event of blood donation organised by the Larnaca District Committee.

During the year under review we came in contact with all people who trained themselves in first aid three years ago and urged them to take concrete action so as to renew their certificates which are about to expire.

Regarding International Relations Dr. Tanos, member of the Executive Committee attended the Annual General Meeting of JOIN in Italy whilst regular contacts with St. John Order and St. John Ambulance were in place; of particular importance were the deliberations within the Clinical Working Group aiming at the preparation of a "Handbook of First Aid".

At an operational level the Brigade manage to participate in two European projects the funding of which will be shouldered by the European Committee; the first one centers around the Civil Protection Activities in Rescue Operations and the second around First Aid at Schools.

Finally mention is made of six candidatures being accepted and of one being promoted by the Order. To the rank of Officer Mr. Christos Avraam was promoted whilst accepted to the Order were Aristos Aristidou, Marinos Jordanou, Pavlina Kleanthous (Ms), Katerina Mavri (Ms), Marina Parouti (Ms) and Panayiotis Patatakos.