



IMPORTANT NEWS :

AGM OF NATIONAL ST JOHN COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our National St John Council of Singapore (NSJCS) was supposed to be held on 17 June 2020. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, alternative plans had to be made. By virtue of the Temporary Measures Act, passed by Parliament on 07 April 2020, the AGM was postponed to 28 October 2020.

On 28 October 2020, NSJCS held its AGM. Apart from approving the Annual Report and Financial report, elections were held. Dr Sayampanathan S R E, PBM, KStJ, was elected as the new Council Chairman, and Mr Foo Si Kwang, KStJ, was elected as Vice Chairman. Chairman subsequently made appointments to the Council. These appointments were fully endorsed by Council on 12 November 2020, and we are happy to note that all the new Committees have immediately and energetically forged ahead with their tasks.

The full list of Council Members, Advisors and Associate Members is tabulated below.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in St John Singapore,

My Heartiest Greetings to each and every one of you.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for St John Singapore (SJS) was held on 28th October 2020. It was originally scheduled in mid-June 2020 (as per SJS Constitution, it should be held on or before St John Day on 24th June 2020), but because of COVID-19, it was postponed.

At the AGM, I was elected as Chairman SJS for a term of 3 years, or till the AGM in 2023, whichever is earlier. Mr Foo Si Kwang was elected as Vice-Chairman for the same period of time. The new Council consists of 20 Council Members (9 of whom were in the previous Council), 4 Associate Members and 3 Advisers.

COVID-19 has, as all of us are aware, been a very trying time for SJS. We were unable to hold a lot of our activities. But more importantly, we have formulated very robust processes to make us safer, more hygienic and healthier. The act of using a mask, reducing physical contact and increasing hand washing has effectively reduced the spread of germs and made our environment better. We are practicing safe distancing and avoiding confined spaces. Doing activities in open and well-ventilated areas has been encouraged. All this is the new normal for us in SJS.

We have already re-started First Aid Classes for the public, and I am happy to note that they are running well. We will gradually re-start more public duties, and contribute to major local and national events, as Singapore opens up further. But we will always follow the national guidelines prescribed by our Government to remain safe and healthy. And being a responsible Charity, whatever money we raise will go towards helping the public, hence our tagline "Working for the Benefits of the Local Communities".

In the meantime, on behalf of the new National St John Council of Singapore, I wish each and every one of you Season's Greetings, good health and success in all your endeavours.

Pro Fide and Pro Utilitate Hominum.

Dr Sayampanathan S R E, PBM, KStJ
Chairman, National St John Council of Singapore



Chairman

Dr Sayampanathan S R E, PBM, KStJ

Vice Chairmen

Mr Foo Si Kwang, KStJ (deceased)

Dr Nelson Chua, OStJ

Dr Dave Lee, MStJ

Honorary Secretary

Mr Andrew Hodges, CStJ

Honorary Treasurer

Mr William Leong, MStJ

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Dr Ramesh Subramaniam

Members

Dr Alvin Ng, MStJ

Mr Ang Chin Koon, PBM, OStJ

Ms Bella Tan

Mr Benjamin Cheong, MStJ

Ms Jenny Wong, MStJ

Dr Kenny Sim Mong Keng, PBM

Mr Lim Cheng Eng, BBM(L), OStJ

Mr Ma Poh How, PBM, CStJ

Dr Png Heng Hock, PK, PB, MStJ

Prof Sean Rozario

Mr Tan Yak Huang, PB, CStJ

Mr Tian Mong Ching, CStJ

Mr Timothy Ng

Advisors

Mr Bobby Lim Chye Huat, BBM, KStJ

Mr Kun Kay Hong, BBM(L), CStJ

Prof (Dr) Low Cheng Hock, JP, BBM, KStJ

Associate Members

Mr Chia Keng Hian, BBM, PB, PBS, CStJ

Mr Enoch Chan, MStJ

Ms Wendy Neo, OStJ

Mr Matthew Chua, MStJ



Dr Nelson Chua, OStJ
Chief Commissioner
St John Brigade

2020 has been an unusually challenging year for the Brigade, for Singapore, and for the world. In what would have been the first year of our Brigade's Transformation exercise, the COVID-19 pandemic threw us all a curveball. Despite the unforeseen circumstances, I am heartened to see members continuing to learn, serve, and grow. I also applaud the Districts and Corps which turned the crisis into an opportunity.

A Resilient St John

The Covid-19 pandemic threatened us in ways we could never have imagined. Weekly CCA sessions were suspended. Our annual highlights, such as First Aid Competitions, Camps, and Hospital Attachments, had to be cancelled. We were also no longer able to serve at Public Duties, as most national and community events were called off.

I was delighted that St John volunteers have found ways to remain relevant in the midst of this crisis, in spite of the many difficulties. Districts were quick to resume First Aid and Home Nursing training for our cadets through digital means, which have also since been adopted for the conduct of NCO and Officer Training Courses. The Northwest District launched lectures on hygiene habits to combat COVID-19. The East District also collaborated with ItsRainingRaincoats, a migrant workers advocacy initiative, to educate our foreign friends with the platform to learn First Aid online while they were quarantined in their hostels. I commend the officers involved for their commitment towards creating learning opportunities for everyone even in the midst of a crisis.

I also applaud the St John volunteers who found themselves at the frontlines of this fight against COVID-19. In addition to the many who are working as healthcare professionals, I also saw St John members stepping forward to assist as swabbers and carers. In addition, our St John Responder Unit worked closely with our counterparts in St John Ambulans Malaysia to transfer pregnant women back to Malaysia and their loved ones. I am proud of all St John members who have, in their own small ways, contributed to this greater, long-term fight against this menacing virus.

A Transforming St John

St John is the oldest Uniformed Group in Singapore, with a history dating back to 1885. No organisation can last more than a century without constantly revitalising and energising itself with fresh ideas. While we continue to remain committed to our core purpose of Service to Humanity through excellence in First Aid and Home Nursing, we are also transforming ourselves to better meet the changing needs of our stakeholders - the community, the schools, and the students.

2020 started with the transformation of our Brigade into five new Districts. I am excited to see the Districts engage and partner community organisations within their respective neighbourhoods. I welcome all community and grassroots organisations to reach out to St John if there are ways through which we can be of service. Our five District Commissioners, and the rest of the Brigade, will continue to work collectively in the design and execution of our programmes.

This Transformation exercise would not have been possible without the steadfast leadership of Professor Christopher Goh, our Chief Commissioner for the past 8 years. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to him for his past leadership, laying the groundwork for this Transformation.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering support of our partners. Our Presidents, for their unwavering financial support to ensure our programmes run. Our school leaders, teachers, parents and volunteer officers in journeying with us to educate our cadets to be active citizens of our nation. We appreciate your partnership in the service of humanity. Thank you for your commitment to our organisation, and towards our motto Pro Utilitate Hominum – For the Service of Humanity.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe.

Dear Friends,

It is with great humility that I accept the Appointment of Director of St John Association. This appointment started on 29 Oct 2020, the day after the SJS AGM.

St John Singapore started providing First Aid Training in Singapore since 1885. We are the first and oldest Training Centre in Singapore. We trained the Singapore Police in 1886 to run the first Ambulance Service, which used a horse and cart. Subsequently, St John also operated the first motorized ambulance service in Singapore.

St John was the first to start formally training First Aid lecturers in 1955. We were the first organisation to provide Occupational First Aid Courses in 1974. We own a very rich heritage which we plan to enhance in the coming years. We continue to maintain a pool of health care professionals and subject matter experts to keep this edge.

As Chairman stated, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed many challenges in our path to continue First Aid Training. We have introduced critical measures to ensure a high level of safety amongst people who attend our courses. This includes providing a free mask which should be worn whilst at our premises; use of an additional face shield for close contact demonstration and live practice; disinfection of the classroom premises and equipment at least three times a day. These measures were endorsed by the Singapore Resuscitation and First Aid Council (SRFAC) before we resumed our training courses.

A key difference between the SJS training centres and other commercial first-aid training centres is that as a Charity Organisation; participants' fees paid to SJS go back to fund charitable initiatives like First Aid Public duties and our Dementia Centre. This makes it more meaningful to attend the First Aid Courses at our Centres than at other commercial training centres. In addition, our heritage ensures that we keep training standards high and the curriculum up to date.

This is in line with the SJS motto "Pro Utilitate Hominum" or "In the Service of Humanity". We strive to continue our Charity work in Singapore - "Working for the Benefits of the Local Communities".

Finally, I would like to thank the hard work of our staff, as well as the sacrifice and contributions of our volunteers. In spite of the near-term challenges ahead, we can look forward to further progress in the horizon.



Dr Dave Lee, MStJ
Director, St John Association

I am delighted to provide my first update on the St John Fellowship.

Recently, we lost our Chairman, Mr. Foo Si Kwang KStJ, who for many years had been the guiding figure for St John Fellowship with a perennial relationship with St John. I have now stepped into "his shoes" as the new Chairman, to continue the good work he had done and extend the support of the Fellowship to the community.

The St John Fellowship is the old comrades association for former members to keep in touch with St John and each other. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic challenge that we all face right now, many of the activities over the last months this year have been on hold. Our successful Lunar New Year Party for 200 Senior Citizens has been the last activity this year before we all responded to the Covid-19 changes for our society.

We are committed to moving forward, though still challenged by the restrictions of running our events, ensuring that we keep our communications and networking initiatives vigorous. Our team has grown with a new management committee and new members, with the unwavering desire to continue our support for this great organisation. There are activities that we are planning for, aimed at providing support for St John and the community, that will be represented by the challenges of the "New Norm".

I look forward to working with you all and continuing to develop the Fellowship's heritage of success.



Mr Andrew Hodges, CStJ
Chairman, St John Fellowship

*Wishing you a
Happy & Prosperous New Year*



The Council held its first meeting for the new term on 12 November 2020

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following members and officers who were admitted to or in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. The Order is an ancient Order of Chivalry. An admission or promotion in the Order in various grades is an act of recognition for their service and contributions in furthering the work of the Order.

Officer Brother/Sister (OStJ)

Chan Kok Hiong
Muhammad Sarizan Bin Ahmad
Sim Hong Suan Nancy

Member (MStJ)

Koh Yong Siang
Nirumalan V Kanapathi Pillay
Oh SiKai
Tang Chee Kai
Tjendri-Liew Anastasia
Wong Mei-Ling, Jenny



SJB Responder Unit on duty at Woodlands Checkpoint, rendering assistance to Malaysians affected by the disruption of transport between Singapore & Malaysia due to COVID



SJ Fellowship members enjoying a fun-filled pool side party at CherryLoft Resort earlier this year.

ST JOHN

newsletter

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