



Media Release 6 July 2009

AWARE will not try to recover cost of EGM from previous Exco

At the 2 May EGM several members queried Josie Lau and her Exco about the cost of the EGM. Calls were made, both at the EGM and in media forums subsequently, for the money to be recovered from the members of that Exco.

After taking office, the current Exco formed an internal review team to look into the expenses incurred by the previous Exco and determine whether their decisions and actions adhered to the AWARE Constitution and other established practices.

The EGM cost a total of \$99,291.28. This was not quite covered by the \$98,765.70 in membership fees paid by the 2,748 people who joined AWARE or who renewed their membership between 29 March and 2 May.

The current Exco wrote to all the companies that provided services at the EGM, explained the financial situation and asked them to consider making a donation to AWARE. Rajah & Tann have donated \$5,000 and Deloitte & Touche \$3,000, while Boardroom has indicated that it will be making a donation. Suntec and Ape Communications declined on the grounds that they had, in total, given AWARE a 26.5% discount on the facilities and services provided.

Cost of the 2 May 2009 EGM

Vendor	Cost	Discount/Donation
Suntec Singapore	\$30,539.00	} Discount of 26.5%
Ape Communications Pte Ltd	\$23,392.30	
Boardroom Corporate & Advisory Services Pte Ltd	\$17,655.00	Waiver of \$9,000 of fees. Donation to be confirmed.
Rajah & Tann LLP	\$15,000.00	Waiver of \$17,641.50 of fees. Later donated \$5,000
Deloitte & Touche LLP	\$8,560.00	Discount of \$74,355. Later donated \$3,000
Miscellaneous	\$4,144.98	
TOTAL	\$99,291.28	

The review team found that the previous Exco did not adhere fully to the AWARE Constitution and established practices. Also, they could have avoided some of the costs, for instance, by trying to get pro bono legal advice and asking AWARE volunteers to act as scrutineers.

“We will not, however, be taking any action against the previous Exco,” said Ms Lam. “There are several reasons for this. We recognise that they were handicapped by their lack of NGO experience. Secondly, we have been able to recover part of the costs through the generosity of some of the vendors.

“Most importantly, we want to get on with our work – which is to identify and help remove the obstacles that prevent women from realising their full potential. This is, and has always been, AWARE’s agenda.”
