

AWAK Annual General Meeting held at the Professional Centre

2 April 2011

Chairperson's Report

ABOUT AWAK

The Association of Women Accountants of Kenya (AWAK) is a non-political and non-profit making professional women's organization established in 1995. Membership is made up of lady accountants that have obtained full CPA qualifications. Since inception, over 200 members have registered.

Vision

AWAK's vision is to be a leading non-political and non-profit making professional women organization that is committed to uplifting the world using members' professional knowledge and experience in accountancy and financial management.

Mission

AWAK mission is: *"Empowering Women in Financial Management and Effective Wealth Creation to Enhance Self Reliance."*

Objectives

1. To consider and promote all matters affecting the interest of the Accounting profession;
2. To enhance participation of women in the affairs of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK);
3. Facilitate knowledge transfer, especially financial literacy, to women;
4. Encouraging women to enter the Accountancy Profession;
5. To organize seminars with a view to raising women's awareness;
6. To organize social functions with a view to enabling members of the Association, fellow members of ICPAK and other professionals to interact;
7. To liaise with other local and international organizations on matters of mutual interest.

Core Values

AWAK's operations are guided by the following Core Values

1. Passion: being enthusiastic about the purpose for which AWAK exists
2. Integrity: always doing the right things rightly and upholding high moral principles

3. Professionalism: doing our work in a dignified manner and upholding the highest professional standards
4. Accountability: taking responsibility for all our actions
5. Commitment/dedication: working diligently/hard in order to offer the highest standards of service
6. Impartiality: promoting fairness, equality and fairness in pursuit of our mission
7. Innovation/entrepreneurial spirit: continuously devising new ways and methods of delivering AWAK services
8. Value addition: doing what we can to make a positive contribution to our country and society at large
9. Teamwork: working together and supporting one another in our efforts for achieving our goals and objectives.

We encourage all members to update themselves with AWAK's constitution and Strategic plan to enable them understand the association's mandate and provide better support to AWAK activities. These will be uploaded to the website early next week for members to be able to download.

Activities

Pursuant to the objectives listed above, the association is involved in the following activities:

1. Organizing seminars, high teas and dinners to bring members together for training and networking;
2. Partnership with KASNEB to present awards to the best performing CPA female graduates. KASNEB has also consistently supported our activities such as dinners and seminars. We hope to strengthen our working relationship further.
3. Continuously encouraging members to enroll with ICPAK in order to increase women representation in leadership positions requiring financial background;

Highlight

ICPAK provides varied opportunities for networking, leadership and capacity building opportunities to its members. AWAK members are encouraged to sign up with ICPAK to take advantage of these benefits. AWAK members are also encouraged to take up leadership positions in ICPAK. We have already asked members intending to vie this year to send their profiles to AWAK for circulation to other AWAK members.

4. Partnership with like-minded institutions in delivery of financial literacy to women;

Highlights

In July 2010 we approached the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) for partnership in women empowerment programmes.

In January 2011, 4 AWAK members underwent a six day intensive workshop organized by WEF and facilitated by Decentralized Financial Services (DFS) on Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCA) group tools and methodology.

The members thereafter formed an Economic Empowerment Team to offer training services on the ASCAs methodology to women groups. The team has committed to train 5 women groups by the end of the year. We have also asked WEF to offer more opportunities to more AWAK members.

In addition, we are in the process of exploring a partnership with WEF where AWAK will provide financial management training services to beneficiaries of the fund. AWAK will also provide other services such as facilitating linkages, mentorship, strategic direction and incubation services.

We are glad that about 40 AWAK members have expressed interest in supporting this partnership. WEF is in the process of preparing the training schedule and members will be called upon from time to time, to provide these services.

5. As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, AWAK runs a needy-child fund that supports needy children through high school; We are currently sponsoring the following girls:

	NAME	SCHOOL	Form
1	Fenny Nyarega	Karima Girls	Four
2	Margaret Nyambura	Mugoiri Girls	Three
3	Lilian Adhiambo	Nyabisawa Girls	Two
4	Alice Waititu	Karatina Secondary	Three

In order to give this function the necessary attention, we established a sub-committee led by Susan Oyatsi to deal with issues of recruitment, mentorship, monitoring of performance and fundraising. We hope that this initiative will grow to accommodate more needy children.

6. Participation in the implementation of the new Constitution by collecting and collating members views on various aspects of implementation, and sharing with the relevant offices.

Highlights

AWAK is seeking to play an active role in the implementation of the new Constitution. The theme of the dinner in December 2010 was the “**Role of Professionals in the Implementation of the New Constitution**”. The forum provided important insights on how AWAK can engage in the process. For this reason we have been requesting members to submit their proposals on various bills. We forwarded our first

memorandum to the Taskforce on Devolved Government, and hope to do a lot more in future.

AWAK members are encouraged to keep tab of the happenings in implementation process and identify ways in which they can participate. The 2/3 gender policy also provides opportunities for AWAK members to join various leadership positions both in the private and public sector.

Governance

Management of the association is entrusted to a committee of twelve elected members. The executive committee comprises of 6 members. While the committee is charged with the responsibility of overseeing routine operations of the Association, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the supreme decision-making authority.

I wish to acknowledge the following committee members for their support and commitment:

	Name	Details
1	Mercy Kiogora, Chairperson	Integrity Management Advisory Centre, Management Consultant
2	Purity Wainaina, Secretary	National AIDS Control Council, Internal Auditor
3	Galdys Kamau, Treasurer	Equitorial Investment Bank, Financial Accountant
4	Susan Mukiri, Vice Chair	National Social Security Fund, Accountant
5	Jeniffer Kamande, Assistant Secretary	UNEP, DGEF, Fund Management Unit
6	Rosemary Njogu, Assistant Treasurer	Consultant, Auditor and Company Secretarial practice
7	Muthoni Wangai	County Images/The Kenyan Spectator – CEO
8	Winnie Nyamute	University of Nairobi, Lecturer
9	Susan Oyatsi	Energy Regulatory Commission, Chief Accountant
10	Hilda Mawanda	Cordaid, Field office Finance Officer
11	Nancy Wagacha	Beacon of Hope Finance and Admin Team Leader
12	Fredah Nyaga	MESP Trust, Finance Officer

We also recognize the immense support of our coordinator, Hellen Rutere for actively undertaking the routine activities of the Association. Today she went to visit Phenny at Karima Girls representing AWAK at the parent's meeting.

I sincerely thank you for overwhelming support and trust that we will continue to work together to achieve our vision of uplifting our world. I also look forward to meaningful discussions today to help us move the Association to the next level.

Thank you,

Mercy