



**Business Meeting Minutes  
Conference 2017  
April 23, 2017  
Albuquerque, NM, USA**

Researching Consumer Economic and Financial Issues

President Irene Leech called the 2017 Annual Business Meeting of ACCI to order at 12:00 pm, welcomed everyone and thanked him or her for attending. The agenda was presented and approved by voice vote (Elizabeth Dolan made a motion, seconded by Katherine Mielitz). The minutes of the 2016 Annual Business Meeting were placed on tables in the room. Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of location from “Washington” to “Arlington, VA.” Jodi Letkiewicz seconded. The motion passed.

Irene Leech reviewed her term to date as President, expressing her thanks for the opportunity to serve. She also made the following announcements:

- The terms of Board Members, Board Officers and the Nominations and Elections Committee are now September 1 through August 31, making them consistent with ACCI’s Fiscal Year.
- Honor-A-Mentor projects have been revived and all past honorees will be added to the website so that donations in their honor may continue.
- Organizational Membership is now an option for universities and organizations. There are a number of benefits, including allowing up to 25 students to become members at no additional charge.
- Ginger Phillips, Executive Director, was recognized for five years of service to ACCI.

Sharon Tennyson, Editor of the *Journal of Consumer Affairs (JCA)* then gave a brief report on the 2016 volume (Volume 50) of the journal. She thanked the Associate Editors who serve as first line reviewers, reviewing multiple submissions each year, as well as Editorial Board members and invited reviewers. In 2016 there were more than 4,000 full text downloads of JCA articles from the Wiley Website. In 2016, there were 150 new submissions, representing fewer new submissions than in 2014 or 2015, yet the flow of new submissions to the journal are strong. She noted the relatively new \$125 submission fee instituted late last year. This fee is waived for ACCI members in good standing as a member benefit. Submitters who are not members may elect to apply their submission fee to one year’s membership in ACCI. A full report was provided to the Board of Directors this week at their meeting in Albuquerque

Overall, JCA handles over 200 manuscripts annually and there is an upturn in the number of *Trends and Applications* type submissions. Of all submissions, more than 75% are rejected with 40% of those rejected without review. The goal of a maximum six-month cycle for turning submissions has been achieved. The journal had a successful 2016 with three print issues and a virtual issue commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, edited by Sharon DeVaney. For more information please see the Annual Publisher’s Report in the *About* section on the ACCI Website.

This year ACCI was pleased to have past Editors in attendance including Gordon Bivens, Monty Friedman, and Carol Makela.

Treasurer Swarn Chatterjee presented the Financial Report, of which there were copies on each table. The report is also posted on the ACCI Website. The last full fiscal year (FY) on which we report at this annual meeting was for FY 2015-16 where current assets were \$334,090. He also reported that the audit of this FY was excellent. Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Brenda Cude. The motion passed.

Ginger Phillips presented the Executive Director's report and thanked her staff, Jennifer Bijaczyk and Lisa Steward, for their help with this year's conference, and working with members. She urged members to use the ACCI Website and visit it often. Ginger stated that it has been a very great pleasure to work with ACCI for five years.

MJ Kabaci, the incoming President for 2017-18, then thanked and recognized the outgoing Board Members: Swarn Chatterjee, Treasurer, Joyce Serido, Past-president, and both Sophia Anong and Gianni Nicolini, Board members. She then welcomed the new Board members: Rui Yao, President-Elect, Stuart Heckman, Treasurer, and Board members Soo Hyun Cho, and Robin Henager-Greene. In working with the Board and the membership, MJ identified four goals that she wanted to address in the upcoming year:

- To increase our membership
- To increase the attendance at our annual meeting
- To identify and establish partnerships with various organizations that can serve our members in a variety of ways
- To provide quality educational opportunities at various times throughout the year

After President Leech called for any additional business and hearing none, Barbara O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting. This was seconded by Rob Mayer and passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.