



**Business Meeting Minutes  
Conference 2013  
Friday 12 April 2013, 9:45 AM  
Portland Oregon**

Researching Consumer Economic and Financial Issues

The Annual Business Meeting of the American Council on Consumer Interests was called to order by President, Deborah Haynes. The 2012 Minutes were not available. There were no additions to the agenda.

President Haynes reported on the association's year just past where a number of issues had unfolded which have now been effectively addressed. These included filing taxes, reapplying for IRS tax-exempt status and the like. The financial standing of the association remains sound. Your Board attended a several-day retreat focusing on board strategic planning while maintaining the focus on ACCI Mission, Members, and programs; your Board is committed and invigorated. Our goals are to increase membership, be good stewards of our resources, and provide transparency with the new system of accountability. We will be holding a Conversation Café to get your input and this is upcoming shortly. Current Board Members were introduced and asked to stand.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Cliff Robb; copies were provided to attendees. Fran Lawrence made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Liz Dolan Seconded. The report was accepted on a voice vote.

Ginger Phillips provided the Executive Director's Report. The challenges with recordkeeping and filing have been rectified and services to Members have been made more accessible. Boxes of years of records have been investigated and materials shared with the Archives at Kansas State. The calendar of when things need to be done is almost back on track. More proposals were submitted this year than recently and membership is starting to grow, as has the number of Volunteers. The Awards Program continues to be a highlight. Later in the meeting, the new Website was debuted.

Hyungsoo Kim provided a report on the work of the International Committee which has been very active, warmly inviting our colleagues in the consumers' interest from other countries and we have a 17% attendance at this conference from other countries.

Sharon Tennyson, Editor, *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, provided a report for this past year. She thanked Cornell University for their support of her editorship. The *Journal* has enjoyed a good year having received 220 submissions from 32 countries. Of these

48.68% were from the U.S.A., 53% were from North America, and the remainder from the rest of the world. ACCI can be proud of the reviewers and the Associate Editors all of whom contributed their time to an average 51-day turn round time in 2012. Carolyn McCarley, Editor from Wiley/Blackwell, the *Journal's* publisher was introduced and thanked for attending. Editorial Board Members attending the conference were recognized. Tom Rushmer, the Editor's assistant at Cornell, will be glad to contact anyone who would like to become a reviewer. Please contact Sharon Tennyson to let her know of your wish volunteer.

Poster Awards were given by Committee Chair, Holly Hunts. First, second and third prizes were awarded.

At this time, Deborah Haynes recognized the service of Board Members who have served their three-year terms and are rotating off the Board. These are Teresa Mauldin, Immediate Past President, Hyungsoo Kim, and Margaret Fitzgerald (who has volunteered to serve one additional year next year to fill an unexpected vacancy).

The new MemberClicks Website was debuted and several slides were provided and information on how to use the site and find the information you are seeking. Members can login and access a Members' Only section. This includes a directory of all other Members.

President Haynes then "passed the gavel" to incoming President, Jonathan Fox.

President Fox shared his vision for the 2013-2014 year by thanking those who have stepped up volunteered to serve ACCI, its Mission, and Members. Goals for the upcoming year included more focus on the *Journal* and integrating what the Journal does with what the Conference does; to grow Membership and funding; to solidify the changes in the management of the association; to plan a great conference for 2014 that is more interactive; and to build an even stronger ACCI in the consumers' interest.

Newly elected Officers were introduced: Cliff Robb was welcomed as President-Elect and his term as Treasurer will be filled by Swarn Chatterjee. Board Members elected for the new year included Joyce Serido, Yunhee Chang, and Jodi Letkiewicz.

The meeting was adjourned