



**Business Meeting Minutes
Conference 2014
Thursday, April 10, 2014, 9:08 AM
Milwaukee, WI**

Researching Consumer Economic and Financial Issues

President Jonathan Fox called the Annual Meeting of ACCI to order at 9:08 am with a welcome to all and a thank you for attending. A thank you for work on this year's conference was expressed to the 2014 Conference Committee: MJ Kabaci, Chair, Joyce Serido, Board Liaison, Karen Duncan, 2014 Chair, and Ginger Phillips, Executive Director. This year's conference features some changes including an App in lieu of a many-paged program book, Featured Research Sessions arranged by topic and in three distinct sessions, as well as expanded interactive and networking opportunities.

After a review of the agenda and 2013 minutes, which were posted on the ACCI Website, there were no additions to this year's agenda, nor were there any additions or corrections to the minutes. Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to approve the 2013 minutes and this was seconded by Clinton Gudmunson. The motion passed unanimously.

President Fox summarized the accomplishments of the 2013-14 ACCI year including approved Bylaws revision, continuing to update the Handbook, recent action by the IRS on review of ACCI's request for retroactive reinstatement of its tax-exempt status, continuation of our strategic planning, changes to update the conference formats, good management and a very active, working Board of Directors.

All attendees are invited to attend an early morning session during breakfast on Friday to learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to become involved.

Swarn Chatterjee, Treasurer, presented an abbreviated Financial Report as the documents are [posted](#) on the Website for review. ACCI is in a financially stable position with investments doing well and governed by an investment policy, revenues up, a very good audit review with no findings, and an annual budget in place against which the Board reviews expenditures monthly. Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and this was seconded by Brenda Cude. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Ginger Phillips, Executive Director provided an overview of some of the accomplishments from the past year. The MemberClicks database is fully functional and we continue to work on new features. Please watch for these in the next year. ACCI has a LinkedIn group, which you are encouraged to join. One of the issues that ACCI faces year after year is that ACCI is not a policy association. Many Members comment on this. However, you may not know that ACCI is a member of the Consumer Federation of America, an organization of organizations that has policy issues and stands as one of its primary functions. Irene Leech (stood to be recognized),

our current ACCI Board Member is both the new President of the CFA Board of Directors, and has served as Policy Committee Chair for a number of years. Thus, if you wish to be involved in policy issues; you are welcome to volunteer to serve on CFA Issue Committees. A copy of the CFA policy book and a poster board with issues has been set up; please review and sign up for any Committees on which you would like to serve. In addition, we have brought some back issues of the Journal of Consumer Affairs; please feel free to take copies as well as a coupon for \$15 off a first-time membership. Please do not miss the closing general session as it addresses something important to everyone: grants and funding! We will have special Wisconsin brews and cheese curds to celebrate this year's conference at its closing session. Additionally, and perhaps for the first time in a long time, the Featured Research Session Thursday evening includes a hosted bar. This report then finished with directions on how to use the Conference App.

Sharon Tennyson, Editor, *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, then gave a summary of the past JOCA year report. The journal received 273 submissions in the 2013 issue year from 36 countries in addition to the United States. The Associate Editors were recognized, as were the Editorial Board Members who were in attendance. Currently the process takes about 2.5 months in review with 58% invited to revise and resubmit and among those 59% are accepted. An additional 23% are asked to revise again and only 18% of those are rejected after the second submission. The process has been considerably streamlined. Please note that the spring 2014 Issue just now coming out is a special edition and there are two more special editions for which articles are being called, which are described on the Website. The Editorial Board met this morning and additional ideas for special issues were discussed. This year JOCA was indexed in JSTOR in both economics and business, which is very important to the distribution and recognition of the content of ACCI's Journal. Please note the slide, which indicates the list of the most downloaded articles. The Journal has a wide reach.

A number of Committees worked very hard this year. The Committees and their Chairs/Liaisons include: International – Yunhee Chang; Awards – Sonya Britt; Conference 2014 – MJ Kabaci, Joyce Serido; Membership & Marketing – Patryk Babiarcz and Jodi Letkiewicz; Nominations & Elections – Debby Haynes; and Website Committee – Tansel Yilmazer.

It is always at this time that the new Board of Directors and Officers assume their roles. This year we thank and say goodbye to the following who have served diligently: Debby Haynes who will continue to serve as Chair of the Consumer Education Committee; Irene Leech who will revitalize the Consumer Policy Committee in liaison with CFA; and Margaret Fitzgerald who has now been elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee. We thank all for their commitment and service.

As ACCI moves into the future, a new opportunity for collaboration is opening with our sister organizations. Conversations have begun to explore how these groups might work more together and where there might be potential for economies of scale, as in future conferences. These would not be partnerships but modeled like ASSA with perhaps co-locating and co-meeting, with associations of similar size. We recognize that there are practical, cultural, and

organizational challenges to be discussed. The approach lead by ACCI is “arms wide open” for discussion.

President Fox then invited President-Elect Cliff Robb to the podium and transferred leadership to him. President Robb introduced the new Board Officers and Members: Joyce Serido as President-Elect, MJ Kabaci and Gianni Nicolini as new Board Members, and Swarn Chatterjee continuing as Treasurer and Yunhee Chang as Board Member, both continuing to fill the last year in roles vacated during part of the three-year previous terms.

There was a call for any additional business and hearing none, Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting; this was seconded by Brenda Cude and passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

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