



DRAFT - Business Meeting Minutes
Conference 2018
May 19, 2018
Clearwater Beach, FL, USA

Researching Consumer Economic and Financial Issues

President MJ Kabaci called the 2018 Annual Business Meeting of ACCI to order at 12:20 pm, welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. The minutes of the 2016 Annual Business Meeting were distributed on tables in the room. Elizabeth Dolan made a motion to accept the minutes; Brenda Cude seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report

MJ Kabaci reviewed accomplishments of the 2017-2018 ACCI year to date, and explained ongoing efforts.

- **New Editor Hired:** A new Editor was engaged for ACCI's journal, *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*. Please welcome Ronald Paul Hill, Georgetown University, who assumed editorship on January 1, 2018 from outgoing editor, Sharon Tennyson. Thanks again to Sharon for her years of service to ACCI.
- **Wiley, the publisher of *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*:** The ACCI Board has had increasing and positive interaction with JCA's publisher this year. The contract with Wiley is expiring and ACCI has engaged Kathleen Gaffney as a consultant to help navigate this rather complex and very important contract. In November 2017, several members of the ACCI Board and the Executive Director met at Wiley's Boston offices for a strategic planning day. Additionally, Board members Robert Scharff and MJ Kabaci attended a Wiley Executive Seminar.
- **Strategic Planning Task Force:** As is customary, the Board met early in the fall of this FY in a two-day retreat where we began a review of ACCI's current mission, vision, goals, and tagline. Members are strongly encouraged to speak with Board members and share their thoughts on these topics as well as how ACCI can better serve its members. This Task Force will be continuing to work throughout this FY.
- **Board Retreat:** The annual Board Retreat has been moved to as early as possible at the start of the ACCI fiscal year, which is September 1. New Board Members and officers now assume their duties on September 1 as well.
- **Board Governance and Committee Restructure:** The Board also considered existing board size and decided not to recommend any changes at this time. Committees, however, were created some time ago and need to be reviewed. Project work on specific topics will now be assigned to *Task Forces*, which unlike committees, will have short-term goals and will disband when the work is complete.
- **Budget:** ACCI's financial position remains strong and the Treasurer, Executive Committee and full Board of Directors examine financial reports regularly. The ACCI budget is drafted in July, reviewed in July and August, and approved in August in time for the start of the ACCI FY, September 1.
- **Executive Director:** The contract with Arden Solutions and Executive Director, Ginger Phillips, has been renewed.
- **Presidents' Advisory:** ACCI Past-presidents will continue to be involved with ACCI on an advisory basis in support of current and incoming presidents.
- **Summer Projects:**
 - The Awards Coordinating Chair will lead a Task Force to review and recommend revisions to the current ACCI Handbook to provide clearer guidance on award selection criteria and eligibility of potential awardees where the Handbook appears unclear or vague.
 - Committee review is being addressed by a Task Force, which will recommend keeping, updating, combining, or retiring committees currently in the Handbook.

Treasurer's Report

ACCI's financial position is strong. The final balance sheet for the 2016-17 FY is provided on the tables for your inspection (posted on the ACCI Website [HERE](#)) as is the balance sheet as of the end of last month. The most recent audit is also posted. ACCI's restricted and reserve accounts are invested with Schwab and are earning at a reasonable rate. Questions about ACCI's financials are welcomed at any time.

Executive Director's Report

Ginger Phillips presented the Executive Director's report and thanked her staff, Jennifer Bijaczyk and Sherry Colodny 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 the past six years.

Membership Report

Membership Chair, Sophia Anong and Judith Anongye analyzed the ACCI member, lapsed member, and prospective member databases and presented analysis and insights. These are summarized in the PowerPoint presentation posted [HERE](#).

Thanks for Service to ACCI

All volunteers were thanked, with special recognition to the Conference and Awards Committees.

Rui Yao, the incoming President for 2018-19, then thanked and recognized the outgoing Past-president Irene Leech, and Board Members Patryk Babiarez, Robert Scharff, Jonathan Fox. She then welcomed the new Board members: Karen Duncan, President-Elect, and Board members Angela Fontes, Yoon Lee, Caezilia Loibl, and Hyungsoo Kim. Special thanks was offered to the Nominations and Elections Committee for their work in this year's elections.

Looking Toward 2018-19:

President-elect Rui Yao identified Adding Value and Promoting *Excellence* as goals for the 2018-19 year.

Closing:

President Kabaci called for any additional business and hearing none, Liz Dolan made a motion to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting. This was seconded by Deanna Sharpe and passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Note: The PowerPoint presentation accompanying this meeting is posted on the ACCI website [HERE](#).