



A MESSAGE FROM THE ACUMA BOARD

Barry Stricklin

Facing Tough Decisions in Difficult Times, Credit Unions Do the Right Thing

ACUMA Also Puts Health and Safety of Its Members First



As Chairman of the ACUMA Board of Directors, I'd first like to wish you and your families safe passage through these difficult times. I have been in mortgage lending for more than 30 years and would say the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge like no other we have experienced. It affects every part of your life—of all our lives.

At work you were all faced with daunting tasks and very difficult decisions. So what did you do? I have no doubt that you did what Credit Unions always do—you did the right thing. You looked beyond the pure economics and weighed heavily the safety and well-being of your employees and members.

At the same time you did not let the pandemic stand in the way of carrying out your mission of providing your members with mortgage loans. Staying true to our mission, credit unions came out of the last Great Recession with increased mortgage loan market share, and I believe the same will be true of the post-pandemic and the “new normal.”

ACUMA CONTINUES SERVING MEMBERS

At ACUMA we faced the same pandemic challenges, and we carefully considered how to proceed with our events. We weighed heavily the safety and well-being of our employees, members and vendor partners.

While we felt cancelling our live conferences during 2020 was the right thing to do, we did not let that stand in the way of our mission to serve ACUMA's members. We created ACUMA on the Go, a series of virtual events providing exceptional and timely education from industry experts. ACUMA on the Go is a delivery channel we will continue to use in the future.

But, perhaps best of all, I do look forward to seeing you, face-to-face, when we return to our live events in 2021.

In the meantime, ACUMA continues to play a key role in helping individuals with their career paths as well as helping credit unions advance their mortgage programs.

Over the years I have been asked many times, “What is ACUMA?” My answer is always the same: “It is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity to network with and learn from the best of the best in credit union mortgage lending.” And ACUMA will continue to fulfill that mission as we move forward. (Please see ACUMA President Tracy Ashfield's column in this issue for more on our plans.)

“ACUMA continues to play a key role in helping individuals with their career paths as well as helping credit unions advance their mortgage programs.”

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ACUMA'S PARTNERS

I also want to take the opportunity to thank our many vendor partners. Without their financial and intellectual support ACUMA would not be able to provide the exceptional value we deliver to our members.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank our vendor partners for the attention and support they have given the credit union industry over the years.

They play a vital role in the everyday mortgage operations and continued growth of lending.

I also want to recognize and thank the members of ACUMA's Board. It is made up of a very talented group of credit union professionals who, through their voluntary board membership, give back to the industry by donating perhaps their scarcest commodity—time. The board is committed to carrying out ACUMA's mission of

promoting and supporting credit union mortgage lending.

I wish you all continued health and look forward to your continued participation and membership. ▲

Barry Stricklin serves at the Chairman of the ACUMA Board of Directors, which governs the organization. He is the Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer for Tower Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Laurel, Maryland.

WHAT DOES THE ACUMA BOARD DO?

It Provides Guidance for the Non-Profit Association

ACUMA is a non-profit association dedicated to advancing mortgage lending within the credit union space. The ACUMA Board of Directors sets governance for the association and provides guidance to the ACUMA President.

A Board Member serves a three-year term. Terms are staggered. The current Board has eight members. The Board Members are volunteers who have a strong desire to give back to the Credit Union industry and receive no compensation.

Officers of the Board (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are selected by the entire Board at the Organizational Meeting following the Annual Meeting of the membership, normally held in September of each year in conjunction with the annual Fall Conference.

The time commitment for a Board

Member includes conference calls as needed and two in-person meetings each year, including a planning session and the Organizational Meeting, and attending ACUMA conferences. In addition they may also serve on standing or ad-hoc committees, and participate in occasional special projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BOARD SEAT?

To be eligible for a Board position, you must:

- Be a member of ACUMA's Primary Member Organizations (CUs and CUSOs).
- Serve as an employee of a Primary Member Organization.
- Accept ACUMA's policies and rules of governance.
- Have the support of your own credit union for serving on the board.

When openings for the Board of Directors become available, ACUMA would welcome interested candidates. Openings will be communicated to ACUMA members through our website and the *Pipeline* magazine.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Each year since 1997 and led by our Board of Directors, we have gathered to present ACUMA's State of the Association via our Annual Business Meeting. This meeting historically has been held during our Fall Conference.

As we will not be coming together in person this fall due to the coronavirus, we will hold our meeting virtually. The Annual Meeting of the American Credit Union Mortgage Association will be held at 11 a.m. Eastern Time (10 a.m. Central, 8 a.m. Pacific) on Thursday, September 3, 2020. All members are invited to attend; all Primary Members (Credit Unions and CUSOs) are eligible to vote.

The meeting will include reports from our Board Officers, the Board Nominating Committee and a brief discussion of how ACUMA has pivoted to ensure members continue to get access to relevant and timely education.

Any member wishing to attend must RSVP to Krista Korfmacher, Member Services Manager at Krista@acuma.org by August 21, 2020. All members expressing a desire to attend will be sent an invitation link the week of August 24.

