



Dear ACUIA Member:

Recently, some of you may have received an email from the group Unite Here. The email detailed complaints that Unite Here has with the Hyatt hotel chain and requested cancellation of the 2013 ACUIA conference at the San Francisco Grand Hyatt.

**This is an issue between Hyatt and Unite Here.** Attached below are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will address this issue.

The request that Unite Here is making of ACUIA – to move our conference out of the Grand Hyatt – is impractical from a logistical, but more importantly a financial standpoint. There would be significant financial costs to the association and the practicality of moving a national meeting three weeks out makes it impossible.

We are committed to providing the best conference opportunities for our members, but we will not jeopardize the financial well-being of the association.

Sincerely,

*ACUIA Executive Office*



P.O. Box 150908  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
[www.ACUIA.org](http://www.ACUIA.org)

This FAQ provides information for members and 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference attendees with questions.

---

**What is the nature of the dispute between the Hyatt Corporation and Unite Here?**

Unite Here and the Hyatt Corporation have been in negotiations for two years over a range of issues. While tentative agreements have been made regarding wages and benefits (the same as those in other hotels in San Francisco in which Unite Here has members; benefits are 100% employer paid), policies regarding union-membership voting rules and broader Hyatt chain worker safety history remain unresolved. (More details can be found at [The Hyatt Corporation website](#) and the [Unite Here website](#) and [hotelworkersrising.org](#).)

The workers at the Grand Hyatt are not on strike. But because of unresolved labor issues, Unite Here has waged a campaign to urge travelers and meeting planners to boycott Hyatt Hotels. ACUIA is not alone in being contacted. Other major membership associations have been and are being contacted by Unite Here. Other hotels being targeted for boycotts are in San Francisco, Chicago and Honolulu.

**Did ACUIA know about the dispute?**

We were not made aware of the dispute by Unite Here or the hotel until mid-May of this year, three years after we signed our contract with the Grand Hyatt.

**Will ACUIA participate in a boycott?**

After looking into the matter closely, ACUIA has determined that participating in a boycott and pulling out of our three year-long standing contract is not an appropriate or viable course of action. Pulling out of a binding contract would have resulted in a six-figure cost — a non-starter for a nonprofit organization such as ours, which relies on the registration and sponsorships that come from our annual conference to provide member benefits and serve our internal auditor community. While ACUIA is supportive of the ongoing negotiations process and has communicated with and urged both parties to resolve their issues in a timely manner that is fair to all, it is committed to holding the conference as planned.

**What is the Grand Hyatt's role in the negotiations?**

The Hyatt, in response to Unite Here complaints related to its collective bargaining and organizing agenda, have had the injury records and substantive working conditions of 11 hotels thoroughly reviewed by Federal OSHA, California OSHA and two other State Plans. As a result of UNITE HERE complaints and substantial review by OSHA, CalOSHA and other State plans, no ergonomic issues or other serious working conditions affecting housekeepers or Hyatt's other associates have been cited and no corrective actions have been required. These investigations have involved looking at thousands of records and at least three ergonomics experts and more than a dozen compliance officers following and videotaping countless housekeepers and other Hyatt associates doing their jobs. After all of this review by Federal and State agencies, Hyatt has not received any material serious citations as relates to the specific complaints made by Unite Here to Federal and State OSHA, including any ergonomic issues.

**Are the hotels workers at the Grand Hyatt San Francisco on strike?**

No. The workers at this Hyatt hotel are not on strike, nor are health and safety issues on the negotiating table in the dispute between Unite Here and Hyatt.

As far as we can know, the Grand Hyatt workers are not expected to strike, so ACUIA attendees will not be crossing a picket line, although there is a remote possibility of demonstrations.

**What if I am contacted by Unite Here about the boycott?**

If you are contacted by Unite Here representatives urging you to support a hotel boycott, please feel free to refer Unite Here representatives to ACUIA at [ACUIA@ACUIA.org](mailto:ACUIA@ACUIA.org). If you feel you have been contacted inappropriately, please let us know at the same email address.

**Are there other resources available to learn about the dispute?**

Yes. You can also visit the following sites for additional information regarding the dispute:

The Hyatt Corporation website at [hyattworkplace.com](http://hyattworkplace.com).

The Unite Here website at [unitehere11.org](http://unitehere11.org) and [hotelworkersrising.org](http://hotelworkersrising.org).