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1981 SAIR-NCAIR CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 29, and Friday, October 30, 1981, are the dates you should have reserved on your calendar for the 1981 SAIR-NCAIR Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina; if you are planning to take advantage of one of the excellent workshops that have been arranged, you should have Wednesday, October 28, 1981, reserved as well.

Details included in this mailing about the preconference workshops, the conference program, and conference registration are testimony to the outstanding job Mike Staman and his program committee have done in organizing an exciting and extensive conference.

Building on the contributed papers and panel ideas of the SAIR-NCAIR membership, the conference program speaks directly to the professional interests and professional development needs of institutional researchers in the South. That is not to say, however, that the 1981 SAIR-NCAIR Conference is only for institutional researchers or Southerners. Anyone who might be interested or might benefit from attending is invited to participate in the conference. Don't hesitate to pass the conference brochures around your office or campus; you can even pass them to friends in other sections of the country. In fact, with Jeff Holmes and Norm Uhl on the program, this has become an international meeting.

A BIT OF BAD NEWS - A LOT OF GOOD NEWS

You will note from the registration materials that the SAIR annual membership fee has increased from \$5 to \$10 and the conference registration fee from \$25 to \$30 (SAIR membership is included in the conference registration fee). One hardly needs to explain the need for fee increases in light of the increased costs of mailing and supplies; it is noteworthy, however, that this is the first increase in the membership fee since the days of the Southern Conference on Institutional Research. A less obvious but perhaps more important reason for the SAIR Executive Committee to increase the membership fee was the need to make the SAIR self-sufficient. To date, individuals (notably the officers) and their institutions have underwritten significant proportions of the SAIR organizational costs through their own pockets and budgets. That's not a bad way to keep the cost to the membership low, but it ultimately restricts potential officers to those who can individually or institutionally support the operating costs of the organization; such restriction isn't of any benefit to the membership. The intent is to eliminate any financial considerations in selecting officers and to maintain and increase the vitality of the SAIR. The good news? Well, the increase could (should) have been more. Still, at even twice the rate, where can you find a better return on your professional growth investment? SAIR is clearly a best buy.

FUTURE CONFERENCE HOSTS

The 1981 SAIR-NCAIR Conference is being hosted and jointly sponsored by the North Carolina Association for Institutional Research, in an arrangement that should be of mutual benefit to both groups. All indications point to a good relationship and the possibility of such "joint" meetings for future SAIR conferences. With one co-sponsored conference as a building block, it is hoped that other state organizations will consider serving as hosts for SAIR meetings. If your organization does volunteer to host the conference, remember that the meeting should be in an easily accessible place (easy to get in and out of by airplane) and in as economical a place as possible.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry G. Jones
University of Georgia

SAIR ELECTION RESULTS

Although the location of next year's conference is uncertain, it is certain that Gerald McLaughlin will be the program chairman by virtue of his election to the position of SAIR vice-president. While it is unlikely that Gregory Litaker (who was elected to follow Richard Howard as an executive committee member-at-large) will volunteer to host the 1982 conference, he proved he could do so in Louisville in 1980. Congratulations to Gerry and Greg, who will assume their offices at the Charlotte conference.

The membership owes a vote of appreciation to Richard Howard, who has completed his term on the SAIR Executive Committee, and to Bob Lewis and Kevin Hunt, who stood for election this year. The strength of SAIR clearly rests with members who are able and willing to serve the organization.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Suzanne Larsen has moved back to the University of Tennessee from Washington, D. C.

Norm Uhl has moved to Mt. Saint Vincent's College, Nova Scotia, as Professor of Higher Education.

Steve Ahrens has moved to the Board of Trustees for State Institutions of Higher Education in Mississippi.

John Matlock has moved to the staff of Congressman Harold Ford in Washington, D. C.