

American Council on Consumer Interests



Consumer Interests Annual

Teresa Mauldin, Editor

CONSUMER INTERESTS ANNUAL

40th Annual Conference

of the

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON CONSUMER INTERESTS

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Teresa A. Mauldin
Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

In celebration of our 40th anniversary the Annual Conference of the American Council on Consumer Interests was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, site of the first organizational meetings of the Charter Members. Several Charter Members were in attendance at the conference as well as a number of individuals who have provided outstanding leadership and commitment to ACCI over the years.

As long-time ACCI members will note, the title of the publication was changed this year to Consumer Interests Annual. The ACCI Board of Directors approved this change at its fall 1993 board meeting to coincide with our 40th anniversary.

Consumer professionals from education, business, and government discussed a wide variety of topics in the consumer interest at the conference. Dr. Gordon Schiff, M.D., presented the Colston E. Warne Lecture on health care reform. The interest of consumers regarding international trade was the subject of the Esther Peterson Policy Forum.

Forty-four manuscripts were submitted for consideration as refereed papers with 28 accepted for presentation (36% rejection rate). Papers covered a wide variety of topics including food and health issues, budgeting and financial issues, elderly, international concerns, and consumer protection. Of the 23 poster abstracts submitted 18 were accepted for presentation (22% rejection rate). Poster topics focused on economic well-being, financial management, and food and health issues. There were numerous special topic sessions, invited paper sessions, workshops, panels, and roundtable discussions at the conference. These sessions focused on issues such as consumer expenditures, consumer decision making, technology uses and impacts on consumers, health care, international consumer issues, effective teaching in the consumer area, home-based businesses, and current status of the profession.

Presenters at the conference were invited to submit manuscripts or abstracts to be included in this publication. We are now into the third year of submitting manuscripts on disk. While this procedure still has a few bugs, it allows us to provide Consumer Interests Annual in a more timely fashion to our members and in a consistent format. I appreciate the authors' and administrative assistants' attention to format and style directions which made my job so much easier.

The program chair, Debbie Godwin, is to be commended for her hard work in putting together an excellent program--an exceptional mix of research, government activities, and discussion of timely topics. Committees which identified and selected the guest lecturers for the conference and individuals who made suggestions/arrangements for luncheon speakers are given a special thanks. Extra special appreciation is expressed to Les Dlabay for being a wonderful master of ceremonies at the celebration luncheon.

Weather conditions in Minneapolis, Minnesota in March are unpredictable but the outstanding work of Jean Bauer in handling local arrangements was not unpredictable. Many thanks to Jean for choosing an excellent location and accommodations and for ensuring a smooth-running conference.

I am extremely grateful to the individuals who provided assistance in the publication of Consumer Interests Annual--my departmental secretaries, Susan Brooks and Linda Toney, and my graduate assistant, Ben Bedell. And finally, a special thank you to Anita Metzen for her support and patience during my term as editor.

Teresa Mauldin
University of Georgia

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