

JANET S. HUGHES
WEEKLY REPORT
January 24, 1990

ALABAMA GROUPS

Huntsville: The Madison/Huntsville Smokers' Right Group met on 1/22/90. Eighteen persons attended this meeting. During this meeting, Lynda Konency discussed the Huntsville's city ordinance, which bans smoking in public places; House Bill #327 "Clean Indoor Air Act", which is now before the Health Committee of the House; and the FET increase and the need to begin petition drives, letter writing and to meet with Congressman Flippo during the Easter recess. Lynda reported that she is in favor of HB327 which she states is "less restrictive" than the city ordinance and plans to meet with Bill Putnam, a member of the Huntsville City Council, next week and ask that he repeal and throw out the ordinance and support HB327. Right before this meeting, Lynda was interviewed by Channel 48, a local TV station, and publicly announced her support for this bill. Channel 48 also was present during the Madison/Huntsville Smokers' Rights meeting, and after the meeting interviewed one other person from the group about their opinion of HB327. This person responded that he was not in favor of any smoking restrictions; however, he would have to study the bill more. Lynda and I also discussed the upcoming FET increase and gave everyone sample petitions; pens to hand out; literature on FET and its unfairness, how to write a letter to your congressman, and a list of the names and addresses of their congressmen. A list of the Huntsville's "tobacco friendly" legislative members and a list of the members of the Health Committee of the House were also distributed to those present. All members were encouraged to write their members of congress expressing their opposition to any cigarette tax increases. Lynda plans to meet face-to-face with Congressman Flippo and present petitions opposing the increase to him during the Easter recess. The group discussed various ways i.e., local Flea Market, Convenience Stores to get signatures on petitions opposing this increase. Beatrice Crutcher was elected as Co-Leader for the group; Harriett Wright as Secretary; Teresa Willis, Diane Davidson, Laurie Hudgins, and Lois Burnette as members of the Phone Bank Committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for 2/26/90, 7:00 pm. Lynda will find a place for the meeting and will notify folks.

Mobile: No activity this week. Group will meet on 2/1/90, Thursday, at 7:00 the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Mobile. I sent out 44 letters to active members of the Mobile group encouraging them to attend this very important meeting to discuss the up and coming FET increase. Michelle Dunay and Stephanie Ward, leaders, will call folks a couple of days before meeting on 2/1 to remind them to attend.

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Decatur/Athens: Group met on 1/23/90. Eight persons attended this meeting. During this meeting, the group discussed the FET petition drive and agreed to meet with both Congressman Flippo and Shelby about the increase. They prefer to meet with them at the same time as the Huntsville group meets both congressmen. The group also discussed the HR327 "Clean Air Bill" now in the House Health Committee. The group will decide later when they plan to meet next month.

Florence: Group met on January 18, 1990, at Glenda Rickard's house. Three folks attended this meeting, although, Glenda had called to remind all the active members of this meeting. Two folks called during the meeting to say they had the flu and would be unable to attend. During this meeting, I discussed the FET increase. Sample petitions were passed out and we discussed the active members writing to their congressmen opposing the increase. Brochures on how to write a letter, the unfairness of FET and a list of congressmen were passed out during the meeting. All three folks attending said that they plan to write and plan to pass around petitions for signatures. Their next meeting is scheduled for 2/15/90, Thursday, at 7:00 pm, at Glenda Rickard's house. On 1/24/90, I sent out 22 letters to the active members of the Florence group alerting them of the FET increase. Therefore, folks that could not attend this meeting are aware of the FET increase and the petition drive.

Tuscaloosa, AL: A very restriction city ordinance that bans smoking in public places was redrafted by Bill McFarland, a smoker, and has been presented to the city attorney. It is my understanding that this redrafted ordinance now reflects more the "status quo" for smokers and non-smokers and will be taken up at the city council meeting held on 1/23/90.

SOUTH CAROLINA GROUPS

Columbia: Group met 1/9. Eight folks attended the meeting. The group mainly talked about splitting up into small groups and talked about getting a letter writing campaign to the editor started. I sent out 49 letters encouraging the active folks in the group to begin having petitions signed opposing increase in cigarette taxes. Two of the leaders of the group will call and remind folks to attend the meeting on the 2/13 a couple of days ahead of time.

Greenville: No activity this week. The group's next meeting is scheduled for 2/1/90, Thursday, 7:00 pm at Shoney's.

Spartanburg: No activity this week. Spartanburg group will meet in early February.

GEORGIA GROUPS

Gainesville: No activity this week. This group will meet on 1/30/89, at 7:00 pm at Shoney's Restaurant, 635 Broad Street, in Gainesville. Alerted Betty Black, Leader of group, of increase in cigarette FET. Sent 22 letters to Gainesville attenders, leaders and persons returning action forms to encourage them to attend the meeting on 1/30 to discuss FET.

Dalton: The group met on January 20, at 5:00 pm at the Ruritan Club, Dawnville, GA. Five folks attended the meeting. During this meeting, Sue, the leader, discussed the FET issue and encouraged members to begin a petition drive. Sample petitions were given to folks and folks were encouraged to write to their congressman opposing this increase. Sue also mentioned that she would like to meet with the Chatanooga, TN, group leader (which meets on Feb. 6) and discuss the possibility of boycotting the McKee Bakery, at Collage Dale, TN, a suburb of Chatanooga, that manufacturers Little Debbie Snack Cakes. Sue had a lady that works at McKee to call her and report that the bakery has just recently banned smoking. Workers are not even allowed to smoke in their cars in the parking lot. She said employees now have to work for 10 hours without having a cigarette. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 17, Saturday, at Edna Porter's house at 5:00 pm.

Duluth/Kennesaw: No activity this week. The group is scheduled to meet on 2/10/90, Saturday, at 11:00 am, at Ryan's Steak House in Lawrenceville. Alerted David Kennedy, Leader of the group, of the increase in FET. Sent 85 letters to Duluth and Kennesaw leaders, attends and those persons returning action forms to encourage them to attend this meeting on 2/10. David and others in his group will call folks encouraging them to attend meeting.

Macon: This group next meeting is scheduled for February 13, Tuesday, at 7:00 pm at Shoneys Restaurant. Sent out 18 letters to active members of group alerting them of the nationwide petition drive for the FET issue. Also sent out 321 letters and action forms (to no-shows, futures) announcing Max Montgomery as the leader for the Macon Smokers' Rights Group. I did this also for the Greenville, SC, group and as a result so far have recruited 10 new members to this group.

Waycross: This group met on January 16. Seven folks attended this meeting. Sent out 27 letters to active members alerting them of the nationwide petition drive and encouraging them to go ahead and start having petition signed opposing increases in cigarette taxes. During this meeting the group mainly discussed the petition drive and two of the members of the group plan to distribute petitions at local convenience stores, restaurants and other places where there are cigarette machines. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 21, Wednesday, at the King Edward Cigar Conference Room, at 6:00 pm.

Milledgeville: Last week a local newspaper reporter, Thomasina, interviewed Charles a member (a non-smoker) of the Oconee Area Smokers Rights Chapter and a resident of the War Veterans Home. During the interview, Dr. Umbryant a staff physician for the War Veterans Home, listened to Thomasina interviewing Charles. After the interview Dr. Umbryant told Charles if he doesn't like the rules of no smoking why didn't he just leave. Charles gave no response to this statement. Later in the day, Charles was then summoned to Dr. Umbryant's office, however, Dr. Umbryant did not show up for the meeting but sent another physician to talk to Charles. Right before the scheduled meeting with Dr. Umbryant, Charles had asked the Patient Rights Advocate for the hospital to attend this meeting with him. During this meeting, the physician told Charles that he did not appreciate Charles spreading vicious rumors about Dr. Umbryant being run out of the prison system and that he must apologize to Dr. Umbryant. Charles said he was not spreading rumors about Dr. Umbryant but that he had certainly heard the rumor that he had been run out of the prison. Sounds like undo pressure is being place on Charles because of his position on smoking in the War Veterans Home. The Patient Rights Advocate suggested that Charles "cool it" for awhile about the smoking issue. The reporter Thomasina plans to print the interview with Charles next week. I sent out 32 letters to their active members alerting them of the possible FET increase and encouraging them to start petitions. Their next meeting is scheduled for 2/7/90, Wednesday, 7:00 pm at Shoney's Restaurant.

SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

January 24	1/2 day travel; 1/2 day in Office
January 25-26	In Office
January 29	In Office
January 30	Attending Gainesville, GA meeting
February 1	Attending Mobile, AL meeting
February 2	1/2 travel; 1/2 day in office
February 5-9	In Office
February 11-12	Atlanta, GA SRM's
February 14-22	Winter Park Fun and Quarterly