

COALITIONS  
Janet S. Hughes  
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SC, GA, VA, AL, TN, KY, NC, FL

The Carolina Shag Association - approximately 50% of the members of this association are smokers. This association is made up of 56 shag clubs and 9,000 members within the states of GA, VA, AL, TN, KY, NC and SC. The Shag (for those of you who do not know) is the state dance for South Carolina. This dance originated years ago in Myrtle Beach, SC and the age of most shaggers range from 30 - 60 years old. Most shaggers tend to be in the middle to upper class also. This association publishes a newsletter three times a year that is sent to the 9,000 members. I will continue to research this association to get the names, addresses and phone numbers of the contact persons in each of the 6 other states.

One of the major sponsors of the Shag Association has been Miller Brewing (Philip Morris). I am told that RJR has never been really involved with this association except to provide some small cash contributions. Philip Morris pushes their local distributors (Miller) to get involved with any shag clubs in their area. If this is true that RJR is not real involved with the shag association, it might be time to change this, especially in SC.

NATIONAL COALITIONS:

Bikers' Rights Organizations Nationwide - Will send a list of the ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) Clubs in 49 states and Canada.

Citizens for Tax Justice: 1311 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 2005 (202) 626-3780. Formed in 1979 and opposes regressive excise taxes. Seeks fairer tax laws at the federal, state and local levels. Robert McIntyre, Exec. Director.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Florence and Pee Dee Shag Club: A membership of 750. 50% are smokers. Jeff Lee, Board of Directors of Club, 737-0549. (There are other chapters located in the major metropolitan areas of SC; however, I am not sure of their location at this time. Will pursue this information).

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On April 3, I have been invited to attend the 7th anniversary of the passage of bill #329 whereby the shag was designated as the state dance. This occasion will provide me an opportunity to meet some of the smokers/shaggers in other shag clubs throughout SC. It is my understanding that each one of the clubs have their own newsletters. I plan to pursue getting smokers' rights information in their newsletters; however, this is a coalition that will take some "elbow rubbing" and spending time with in order to get to know the movers and shakers of this club.

Abate: A membership of approximately 300 persons and 16 chapters in SC. 60% are smokers. Carl Taylor, Asst. Director, 794-3561.

Have met with Carl on two occasions. Carl is now getting the SC Smokers' Rights Newsletter and I'll be speaking with Bruce "Parkay" Butters to see how I can also get smokers' rights information in the newsletter that Parkay produces for ABATE in SC.

ABATE in SC also has a "Lobbying Daze" when club members spend the day at the State Capitol shaking hands and introducing themselves to members of the State Legislature. Lobbying Daze takes place in January each year and next year I plan to have these bikers shaking hands and telling members they are bikers and also smokers. This is a group most smokers will not readily accept at first. However, I believe with a gradual transition and the right match up of some smokers' rights group members it could work. Smokers will also have to become familiar and support bikers on some of their issues like motorcycle education. In SC the bikers are well known for their motorcycle runs to help needy children and mothers.

South Carolina Convenience Store Operators: A newly organized association. Two months ago this association began producing a monthly newsletter PULSE, which is distributed to approximately 250 store owners. I have already provided smokers' rights information in the two issues. My contact through this organization is Mike Edelmeyer, Division Sales Manager, RJR, who is a member of the board of directors. Mike plans to invite me to one of their meetings soon.

South Carolina Coin Operators Association (Vending): Not sure the number involved in this association. However, this association is trying to team up with the SC Convenience Store Operators. At present, there is proposed legislation that would outlaw poker vending machines in SC and, of course, this would hurt the Coin Operators. I am also aware that only 3% of market share of tobacco is sold in vending machines. Will research this group more later. Contact: Mike Daniel (former Lt. Gov. of SC), Lobbyist, 765-1030.

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South Carolina Beer Association: Contact Julie Cox, Lobbyist,  
765-1988.

South Carolina Wholesale Liquor Distributors Association: Joe E.  
Berry, Lobbyist, 765-1030.

South Carolina Merchants Association: James Hatchell, Lobbyist,  
783-2183.

South Carolina Outdoor Advertising Association: Russ Mellette,  
359-3216.

South Carolina AFL-CIO: Contact: G. O. Smoak, Lobbyist, 798-8300.

South Carolina Taxpayers Union: Contact: Dennis Shedd, Lobbyist,  
252-9898.

South Carolina Restaurant Association: Contact: John Riddick,  
Lobbyist, 254-3906.

South Carolina Retail Liquor Association: A new association.  
Contact: Tom Lloyd, Lobbyist, 794-2563. Tom is also a member of  
the Columbia Smokers' Rights Group. He also provides a monthly  
newsletter to approximately 150 members. Need to work on him.

Greenville, South Carolina Taxpayers Association: A group of local  
businessmen, directed by an attorney, that ban together to oppose  
any taxes. The spokesperson for this group Butch Taylor is to meet  
with the Greenville Smokers' Rights Group at their April or May  
meeting. Contact: Diana Jones, 244-1596.

SC ACLU: Contact: Steven Bates, 799-5151.

#### ALLIES:

I understand that the following coalitions are natural allies;  
however, I also think it is important that these groups be made  
aware of local smokers' rights groups in SC and other tobacco  
growing states. It is important to network and increase these  
allies' awareness of our groups now.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp: Contact: Lisa  
Eddington, Asst. to Chief Exec. Officer, Raleigh, NC, (919) 821-  
4560.

South Carolina Tobacco Asso.; Bright Belt Tobacco Asso.; South  
Carolina Warehouse Asso: Contact: George Abbott, 395-0294, serves  
as an officer or is involved in all of this associations. Tom  
Ogburn and I have been invited to attend the Warehouse  
Association's Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on April 30.

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South Carolina Department of Agriculture: Leslie Tindal, Commissioner, 734-2210. Had dinner with Commissioner Tindal in March 1991. He has asked to be invited to one of the Columbia Smokers' Rights Meetings.

South Carolina Farm Bureau: Contact: Harry Bell, Lobbyist, 796-6700.

**GEORGIA:**

Most of my research has been in South Carolina since this was a state facing an increase in excise taxes and a more restrictive Clean Indoor Air bill. However, I would use the same coalitions in GA as in SC.

**FLORIDA:**

I defer to Ken Walton's research on coalitions in FL. However, I would like to add:

Florida AFL-CIO: Dan Miller, President, Tallahassee. The FL AFL-CIO on 3/18/91 passed an employee privacy resolution. This resolution will be used by the labor personnel in union companies when bargaining their next contract. Resolution already has been faxed to W-S and prohibits employer telephone eavesdropping, prohibits employers from allowing employees to smoke after hours etc.

FL Convenience Store Association: It is my understanding from Roy Dotson, RJR Regional Sales, that there is not a convenience store association in FL. However, there are several locally owned convenience stores i.e., Little Champ, Jiffy Stores that work very closely with RJR Sales Reps obtaining signatures on petitions. Will research this information further.

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