

JANET S. HUGHES
WEEKLY REPORT
May 1, 1991

SOUTH CAROLINA GROUPS

Columbia: Group met on 3/26/91. Next meeting 5/7/91.

Greenville: Group met 4/2. Next meeting scheduled for 5/7.

Spartanburg: Group met 4/2. Next meeting scheduled for 5/7/91.

Florence: Group's next meeting is scheduled for 5/7/91 at George's Warehouse in Darlington.

George Abbott, Tom Ogburn and I attended the 42nd SC Warehouse Asso. meeting 4/29 & 4/30 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Approximately 60 folks were there from growers, inspectors, buyers, stabilization folks, government folks, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, warehouse folks, Philip Morris and RJR folks. RJR had 5 folks there and Philip Morris had 2. It was a very interesting meeting for me. I had no idea tobacco farming was so complicated. To be honest, for someone who works for smokers I know very little about tobacco. This was certainly a good time for me to network with so many allies in the tobacco industry.

Anderson: Group met on 4/11/91. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/9/91.

Laurens/Clinton: Follow-up meeting held on 4/9. Next meeting scheduled for 5/14, 7:30 pm, at Royal Academy of Hair Design.

Charleston: Group met on 4/22, nine persons attended. Group decided to write the N. Charleston Sewer District and oppose their decision which does not allow their employees to smoke at work. Group also decided to join the Tobacco Action Network. Group is also writing to their Congressmen to oppose an attempt to pass a bill banning smoking in all airports. Group will be searching for a new place to meet each month, since the VFW will begin using this meeting space on the night their smokers rights group meets. Group also would like some assistance from the other SC smokers' rights groups in writing to all Piggy Wiggly Stores in SC. Piggy Wiggly just recently banned all smoking in their grocery stores to include no smoking in the parking lot or just outside of the store. Need to write to: Director of Personnel, Piggy Wiggly Carolina Co, Inc., 4401 Daley Avenue, North Charleston 29419. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/27/91.

Beaufort: Group originally was scheduled to meet on 4/25; however, the meeting was canceled at the last minute and rescheduled for 5/7. I was able to meet with two of the members of the group although the meeting was canceled. Both of these members have some

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real concern about the leaders Debi Apgar and Sally Wiska. Their concern is that both women are involved in running a janitorial business and when they attend meetings, they are so dirty. Not sure what I can do about this, since there is not a lot of active folks that the group has to choose from to lead the group. Also both group members I met with will be leaving the Beaufort area (they are US Marines) in a month and wanted information about touring Tobaccoville. I'll check into this and let them know.

Sumter: Group's first meeting was held on 4/1. Next meeting scheduled for 5/13/91.

GEORGIA GROUPS

Macon/Milledgeville: Group met on 3/12.

Jonesboro: Group's next meeting is scheduled for 5/7/91.

Savannah: Group in-active at this time.

Gainesville: The second public forum on a proposed citywide smoking ban was held on 4/23 at 7:00 pm by the Chamber of Commerce at the GA Mountain Center. Six smokers' rights group members attended this meeting. Joyce Frank, the leader of the group and a social worker with the Dept. of Family and Children Services, reported that this was a very hostile meeting. She reported approximately 50 anti smokers attended and said some of the most "off-the-wall" comments about smoking that she had ever heard. Joyce stated one man, who was from the Church of Latter Day Saints stated "it is the will of the Lord that he sent us here today to stop smoking in this city" another anti comment was "smoking has rat poison in it so every time you are around a smoker you are breathing in rat poison and that the smoker should be charged with assault and battery." Other comments such as "non-smokers are paying the health bill for smokers" and "the number one pollutant in the US is tobacco smoke" and "it has been proven that children of smokers have a lower IQ's" and on and on. The Chamber of Commerce, which was holding the forum also read a letter from the Lt. Governor (who called in his "chips" with the senate to stop an anti-discrimination clause this year in the legislation) which commended the Chamber for holding this forum. Joyce stated she is not sure what the next step is; however, she will continue to stay informed. Joyce also reported that she talked with one of the commissioners after the meeting and he reported that all of this "showing and off-the-wall comments" were not necessary. So, may be the anti's make have shot themselves in the foot. We'll see. Joyce plans to write letters to all the commissioners in behalf of the group and provide them with some facts about ETS that they were not able to talk about at the meeting. She also plans to send petitions with the letters.

Columbus: Presently, group inactive.

Valdosta: Group's meeting was held on 4/22. Next meeting scheduled for 5/20.

Albany: Group's meeting held on 4/17. Group's next meeting is scheduled for 5/15/91.

FLORIDA

Orlando: Presently group in-active. However, group working on finding another place to meet monthly.

Ocala: Group met on 4/16. Next month's meeting scheduled for 5/21.

Jacksonville: Group's first meeting was held on 4/24. Twenty eight persons attended. Rosemarie Neveils, the Leader, ended up setting up extra tables at Shoney's they had so many to attend. During the meeting, Rosemarie took out a city map and divided Jacksonville into 7 districts. Four members attending this meeting from four of the districts will try to start group in their four districts over the next several weeks. Since Jacksonville is so large the group felt like they would get more exposure if they were more spread out over the city.

Rosemarie also reported that she has collected approximately 2,000 more signatures on petitions. She and a couple of other members set-up a card table at one of the local "dying" malls and ended up getting over 400 signatures in 5 hours. The manager at the mall was so pleased with the crown she drew that he thanked her for coming and invited her to set-up outside their mall anytime. Rosemarie reported she had folks standing in line to sign petitions. Rosemarie also collected several more signatures from a couple of country stores in the Live Oaks area of FL. She had to go to Live Oaks overnight for some business and stopped by two small country stores while wearing her smokers' rights hat and ended up leaving petitions and then returning to pick them up filled. Group's next meeting scheduled for 5/22/91.

Lake City: Group's first meeting was held on 4/18. Next meeting scheduled for 5/16.

Gainesville: Group presently inactive at this time.

SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

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| May 1 | 1/2 day travel; 1/2 day in office |
| May 2 - 3 | In office |
| May 6 - 9 | In office |
| May 10 - 17 | Staff meeting Santa Fe |