

JANET S. HUGHES
WEEKLY REPORT
Feb 20, 1991

SOUTH CAROLINA GROUPS

Columbia: Met with Jeff Lee, works in Gov. Ombudsman's office, on 2/19. Sterling Smith, TI Lobbyist, introduced me to Jeff in hopes that Jeff would be interested in leading the Columbia group. When I met with Jeff he was quite energetic about this possibility; however, he had to check this out with his boss and will get back with me. Keep your fingers and anything else crossed.

RJR Divisional Manager, Mike Edelmeyer, from Columbia called me this week to provide him an update on information regarding smoking restrictions and taxes in SC. Mike, who is a board member for the convenience store operators, plans to place this information in the convenience store association's newsletter.

Greenville: Group met on 2/5. Next meeting is scheduled for 3/5/91, Shoney's in Greer, SC.

Greenville County Council has recently proposed passing a more restrictive smoking ordinance than the statewide bill; however, this proposal has been tabled until the County Administrator can get an opinion from the Attorney General's office that the local governments can supersede state law. Several counties in SC continue to try to override statewide bills. However, I have been assured by Joe Murray that they have received confirmation from the AG that this cannot be accomplished. Soooo, I am told this is no problem; however, the Child's will continue to monitor this issue and they have also written the AG's office.

The Sheriff's department is also trying to stop the sale of cigarettes from vending machines. The Child's have talked with Major Barnette of the Sheriff's office and he reported that this is their office's campaign to stop the sale of drugs, crime and cigarettes to minors. There is probably not much that can or will be done to stop this ban. However, the Child's did receive a list of vending machine operators in the Greenville area from RJR sales. Lori Childs has contacted two of the ten vendors; however, they are not showing a lot of interest to do anything about the ban. The Child's plan to stay informed of this issue also.

Child's also sent me a copy of the by-laws they adopted at their last meeting. Faxed copy to Mike Phillips 2/21.

Spartanburg: Next meeting scheduled for 3/5/91.

Florence: Group has not set another meeting date. George and Joyce Abbott, Leaders of group, attended LTS; however, George is still recovering from surgery. George plans to have group meet again once he can get on his feet and back to work.

Anderson: Group met on 2/14/91, fourteen persons attended. Group discussed results of the LTS, recruitment efforts and placing petitions in the local tobacco shops. Carol Banister also reported that Shoney's (the restaurant where the group meets monthly) was packed for Valentines Day. So Carol seeing an opportunity to recruit new members from the folks standing in line waiting to be seated, announced that if any of them were smokers they were welcome to attend their meeting in the back room. As a result 6 persons joined them for their meeting and contributed \$8.00 to their treasury. This group also decided they wanted to be involved in the booth set-up for smokers' rights at the two tobacco festivals this year in July and September. Group also decided to donate donuts each month to one of the local nursing homes. Next meeting scheduled for 3/14/91.

Greenwood & Laurens: Carol Banister will do her "own thing" on 3/5 and 3/12 when she will hold her own smokers' rights meetings in Laurens and Greenwood. Meeting places have already been reserved and 760 letters from Carol and phone calls will be sent and made to smokers in these areas. Carol has her own agenda made up which we have thoroughly discussed several times. This will be my first try at the "discipleship" program as explained in my 1991 plan. More later.

Charleston: Group met on 2/25/91. More later.

Beaufort: Follow-up meeting held on 1/31. Next meeting scheduled for 2/28.

Rock Hill: Follow-up meeting held on 2/20/91, nine persons attended. Leaders chosen. Group's first meeting scheduled for 3/21.

Sumter: Follow-up meeting held on 2/19/91, five persons attended a real disappointment; however, leaders chosen and group scheduled to meet again once they find a meeting place.

GEORGIA GROUPS

Senate Bill #251 has been moved to a subcommittee of the Youth, Aging and Human Ecology committee.

Macon/Milledgeville: Group will meet again on 2/19/91. Group was activated this week to write letters and made calls to Lt. Governor regarding SB251. More about meeting later.

Jonesboro: Group met on 2/5/91. Group's next meeting is scheduled for 3/4/91.

Savannah: Group met on 2/4/91. Next meeting 3/4/91.

Three RJR sales persons from the Savannah area presented information about Smokers' Rights groups to approximately 150 persons at their Southeastern Regional meeting last week. SR

brochures, pens and stickers were given to the participants and they also viewed the SR video. The three RJR sales staff stated the presentation went quite well.

Gainesville: City Council is holding a public hearing on 3/12 at the GA Mountain Center for input on a potential smoking restriction ordinance. Contacted Bob Kriner, Leader, and he has attended several city council meetings when the ordinance was discussed; however, he feels this ordinance will maintain the status quo for smokers. Bob reported that a group of AARP citizens are the crusaders for this ordinance; however, he does not feel smokers will be "up in arms" about it since the ordinance reflects the way things are already working. Bob will attempt to get a copy of the ordinance and forward to me. He also plans to attend the meeting on 3/12. More later.

Columbus: Group scheduled to meet 3/19, 7:00 pm at VFW.

Valdosta: SRM held on 2/12/91. Follow-up scheduled for 2/26/91.

Albany: SRM held on 2/13/91, 18 persons attended. Two participants were already aware of SB251, one participant works at the local newspaper office, two participants were retired US Marines, and one participant owns a local distillery sooooo, from all indications this is likely to be a good group. Follow-up scheduled for 2/26.

FLORIDA

Will be sending out FL LTS survey next week. LTS scheduled for 4/20 at the Ocala Hilton.

Orlando: Has not had a monthly meeting this year. Have not been able to reach Ruth at home. Will try calling her this weekend.

Lakeland: Polled active members to find out if there is enough interest in maintaining this group last week. Of thirty-four members polled response were: "not enough time"; "a lost cause"; 15 no answers or left message on answering machines; "didn't like meeting place"; "health problems and quit smoking"; "fixing dinner too busy to talk"; 3 moved; 3 already attend Tampa meetings which are closer; "wasn't crazy about leader" etc. Bottom line is there is not a lot of interest in maintaining this group. Will talk to Ken and make sure those three folks already attending the Tampa meetings be placed on Tampa's mailing list. I will also write a letter to all members suggesting that they may want to join the Tampa group if they want to remain active.

Ocala: Group met on 2/21. More later about meeting.

Gainesville: Group meet 2/19. More later about meeting.

MICHIGAN

Saginaw: Telepro data sent to Toby. Sent letters to Saginaw group members announcing Toby as their new coordinator.

SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

February 22	Office
February 25	Office
February 26	Valdosta FU
February 27	Albany FU
February 28	1/2 travel; 1/2 office
March 1	Office
March 4 & 5	Office
March 6	Jacksonville SRM
March 7	Lake City SRM
March 8	1/2 travel; 1/2 office