

South Carolina Association of Taxpayers (SCAT)

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TAXWATCH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011



Since 1982 we have been gathering information about state taxes and spending, and delivering it to our members, to state government officials and to the public.

We are an independent, privately funded research group whose purpose is to encourage government to work more efficiently.

We study the way South Carolina Officials spend money and formulate tax policies. We keep track of bills being considered by the Legislature that relate to fiscal policy, and urge lawmakers to either support or oppose them.

2011 Annual Legislative Luncheon

SCAT Officers and District Representatives

Don Weaver
President

Jim Keasler
David James
Vice-President

Mark Johnson
Treasurer

Stephanie Haile
Executive Assistant

Mary Williams
2nd Cong. District

Dan Winchester
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SCAT held it's 15th Annual Legislative Luncheon on March 9, 2011. The luncheon is held annually to honor the legislators and organizations that have protected and served the taxpayers and citizens of South Carolina.

This year the following awards were presented:

Senator Shane Martin (R-Spartanburg) for Voting for Transparency and Voting No to the cigarette tax increase.

Governor Nikki Haley for her 2 ½ year fight to get roll call votes passed. (signed into law on April 12th.)

Governor Mark Sanford for Life Time Achievement Award.

Senator Tom Davis (R-Beaufort) for opposing the shopping center and helping Senator Ryberg with the retirement system.

Richland County Auditor Paul Brawley for Standing up for taxpayers and opposing Richland School District Two millage increase,

and opposing Richland County's "transportation tax".

Representative Thad Viers (R-Horry) for Spending caps, school choice, transparency in voting, and reducing the ability of municipalities to annex property in violation of property rights.

These people represent what our legislators and elected officials should do. We thank them on behalf of all South Carolina Taxpayers!

The following were sponsors at the luncheon:

Bronze

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Thomas & Brenda Crooks
(Newberry)

McAlister Communications (Columbia)

J. M. Martin (Columbia)

Silver

Prime Financial Services/Don Weaver
(Columbia)

Irmo Insurance/Scott Moseley

Columbia TEA Party

Gold

AT&T

S.C. Retail Association

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2011 Legislative Luncheon



Governor Nikki Haley and Don Weaver



Senator Shane Martin



Richland County Auditor Paul Brawley



Senator Tom Davis



Representative Thad Viers

Special thank you to Lindsay Haile for taking the pictures!

South Carolina School

District Consolidation

Senator Darrell Jackson introduced a bill on January 26, 2011, S.432. This bill is requesting a study committee to study the feasibility and cost effectiveness of consolidating the school districts within the individual counties. In making its determinations, the study committee shall consider potential savings that may occur from the centralization of the administrative and programmatic functions of the several districts”.

SCAT President, Don Weaver has requested to be placed on the study committee that will be formed in the upcoming weeks. We will keep you updated on the progress.

Columbia Tea Party Rally

The Following is from *The State*

On March 12, 2011 the Columbia Tea Party, South Carolina Association of Taxpayers and other groups participated in a counter protest against “a Moral Budget” rally. A “Moral Budget” is being described as a budget that reflects the state’s properties. “A lot of the things they talk about, I agree with, especially (criticism of) special interests that control the money,” Columbia Tea Party leader Allen Olson. “But they fail to see they are included in the special interests they rail against.” Allen Olson said. State lawmakers will begin deliberating a budget that must be cut by \$800 million on March 14, 2011.

For one moment, everyone was on the same side. It came at the beginning of the rally, when the crowd sang the national anthem. Don Weaver, president of the South Carolina Association of Taxpayers, who came to protest the rally, put down his sign during the anthem.

. He kneeled down to make sure his daughter had her hand over her heart.

“All right,” he said as the song ended, hoisting his sign back in the air. “Back to protesting.” ~The State 3/13/11~

Members Spotlight

SCAT would like to thank the following members for their continued support!

David Morris, Lexington
 Mark Johnson, Peak
 Dial Exterminating, Columbia
 Don Weaver, Columbia
 Mary Koob, Mt. Pleasant
 Jim Irwin, Abbeville
 David James, Cayce
 Barbara and Norman Thomas, Chapin
 Thomas and Brenda Crook, Pomaria
 Dan Harvell, Belton
 Fritz Waidner, Irmo
 Butch Taylor, Greenville
 Don Carlson, Chapin
 Jan Williams, Greenville
 Aurelia and Edward Hood, Pacolet
 Emerson Read, Charleston
 Michael Williams, Camden
 Irmo Insurance, Irmo
 Joe and Pauline Mitchum, North Charleston
 S.C. Trucking Association, Columbia
 Pickens County Taxpayers Assoc., Pickens
 Barry and Mary Anderson, Hopkins
 Mitchell and Mary Olinger, Hartsville
 Keith and Lucille Dismukes, Spartanburg
 Palmetto Family Council, Columbia

Thank you!!

SCAT Monthly Meetings

Schedule:

May 21, 2011-

Phone Conference

June 18, 2011-

Phone Conference

July- No Meeting

Please contact Stephanie Haile to get the phone conference information!

The Meetings are held at 4001 Rosewood Drive in Columbia, SC 29205 (Prime Financial Services).

Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you would like an email reminder about our meetings or to get the phone conference information, please email: scatsh@yahoo.com.

SCAT Membership Renewal Reply Form

YES, I want to renew my membership to The South Carolina Association of Taxpayers, to continue fighting tax increases and big government. Please choose the monetary amount of your donation and circle the gift that you would like from the choices below:

___ **\$19.00**



or



___ **\$29.00**



or



S.C. Flag Magnet

S.C. Shaped Brass Key Chain

Metal Note Pad and Pen Set

Metal Decorative Hook

___ **\$59.00**



or



___ **\$100.00**



3x3 Decorative Plaque

Walnut Desk Top Note Holder

4 1/2 x 5 1/2 S.C. Statehood Stamp Plaque

___ **\$200.00** 2 Legislative Luncheon tickets plus recognition in the Luncheon Program.

___ **\$500** 4 Legislative Luncheon tickets plus recognition in the Luncheon Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to **SCAT** and mail to: SCAT, PO Box 50799, Columbia, SC 29250

Gifts subject to change without notice, due to availability

SCAT

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