

Is Our Chamber of Commerce Out of Control?

Think about these bullet points
and come to your conclusion.

- What do Chamber members get for their not-inconsiderable fees?
A normal small business for 1-3 employees annual membership fee is \$320 plus \$35 application fee. For that members get their name listed in a publication and a sticker for their door—(plus invites to gatherings paid for by local host companies not even the Chamber).
- Why does the Chamber president's compensation package equate to approximately 30% of what is spent for marketing of Hilton Head Island? (that's his \$400,000 salary + benefits). It's triple the salary of South Carolina's governor, 11x above our mayor's salary and equal to President Obama—taking 1,000 members to pay just one person!
- If our Chamber is a 501C-6 organization that accepts public funds, why does it ignore Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and have two attorneys from Charleston to refuse information requests from its own members?
- Why does our Chamber outsource major projects (funded by SC tax dollars) to companies in New York, Florida, Canada and elsewhere outside of the local community, outside of South Carolina, and even outside of our country—to the obvious detriment of fully qualified firms both locally and in South Carolina ?

*Somewhat hypocritical when they place newspaper
ads saying "Shop Local for the holidays"
Wouldn't you agree?*

- Why does our Chamber charge highly respected civic volunteer organizations, like Zonta, \$1,000 for the "privilege" of announcing their own "Woman of the Year" award at The Chamber Banquet/Ball?
- Why does our Chamber compete with many of its own members for advertising revenues?

How long will these and other abuses continue? I for one will not stop until every rock is turned over, and every abuse brought to light.

I sincerely appreciate the growing list of local residents and businesses who have been calling, writing and encouraging my efforts to shine more light on the abuses that continue month after month. Please keep sending your emails to SpeakUp@StopChamberAbuse.com and let me know what additional suggestions you might have. You may also send letters to our address noted below, or contact your town council representative or favorite news editor with your opinion.

*My continued thanks for your support and understanding the
importance of fixing our Chamber.*

Skip Hoagland
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