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Subject: Re: Chamber ball Accountant takes top honors

I just received this response back very interesting !! A must read

Skip Hoagland has turned up the heat over the past several years calling for the chamber and its leadership for transparency, accountability and results. The chamber and its leadership has been fighting his requests tooth and nail for years now refusing SC FOIA and answers to his questions . Skips lawsuit still pending .

So the Chamber receives the Chamber of the year award from an organization that represents a fraction of all chambers in the US. The same organization (The American Chamber of Commerce Executives) that in its blog, referenced Skip Hoagland's questions to the Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber regarding its handling of UBIT, and this organization told all of its members to be very careful of the reporting of unrelated business income. Then the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber receives Chamber of the Year Award from this same organization. (really 1 of 4 Chambers of the Year winners).

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2014-08-14/hilton-head-island-bluffton-chamber-commerce-named-national-chamber-year#.VM6Z2kfF-So>

Then the Chairman of the Hilton Head Bluffton Chamber is awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Haley, and Palmetto Electric establishes a \$100K scholarship at USCB (where Upshaw's wife, Jane is chancellor). The Order of

the Palmetto is considered the highest civilian honor in the State of South Carolina. Where is the audit of palmetto electric non profit coop ? Where is the audit of USCB run by Jane Upshaw also board member of HHI chamber with Bill miles and fighting to hide transparency.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/06/18/3170533/tom-upshaw-wins-state-award-scholarship.html>

As the drums beat even louder in favor of an investigative/forensic audit, Ray Warco, Hilton Head Island Bluffton board member and member of its audit committee, last night is provided the Chamber's highest honors by being awarded the Alice Glenn Doughtie Good Citizenship award. This award should not be used for politics .

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/01/31/3568181/longtime-accountant-honored-at.html>

Are these institutions and its leadership truly the best of the best in the State of South Carolina ? Under what criteria and how can you be the best if you support non transparency and IRS violations ? Let's not forget Bethea law firm headed by David Tigges it's chairman who is also fighting transparency and was chairman of the Low-country alliance and yes Tom Upshaw still chairman of the Economic development council ? Is this all subterfuge to establish this fine institution and its leadership to be beyond reproach for transparency and accountability. Who would dare question the integrity of the Chamber of the Year, the Order of the Palmetto and the best citizen of our community? Right? Other than Skip Hoagland ? An investigative audit will either corroborate this perception to be real and thus relegate Skip as nothing more than a paranoid blowhard. Or it will prove that all that meets the eye may not be as it appears and we should all have been betrayed by an elaborate illusion, and Skip Hoagland will have been correct all along and will deserve all these awards, a reward and more . For me we all owe him thanks for what he has done to date. Now let's see that audit and action by our state and IRS on violations . Thanks

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO