

# Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

## E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

April 2006, Volume 1, Issue 3

Welcome to the TFKC E-Newsletter for those interested or involved in tobacco control in Kansas. We would like to hear your comments and ideas for future issues. See the "Sign Up" information on the previous page to receive this e-newsletter every month.

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### You are invited to the TFKC meeting in Salina

**June 19** is the date set for the next statewide meeting of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition. **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center, 511 S Santa Fe, Salina, Kansas** In addition to other coalition business items, we will be collaborating with the partners of the Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Plan to establish a plan to obtain funding for comprehensive cancer control and tobacco cessation and prevention programs through increased tobacco excise taxes. Plan on coming to help establish TFKC priorities for the coming year.

### Toll of Tobacco in Kansas

You can find the most recent fact sheet on the Toll of Tobacco in Kansas as compiled by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids as of December 2005 at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=KS>

### Clean Air Summit - KC

Share smokefree successes with organizations from around the Kansas City metro area and receive valuable information and resources to make your community smoke free. Clean Air Summit \* May 3 \* 9:00 am to noon \* St. Joseph Hospital Community Center, Building D, Alex George Auditorium, 1000 Carondelet Drive, Kansas City, MO For more information, contact [lindsay@cleanairkc.com](mailto:lindsay@cleanairkc.com) or 913-652-1927.



## Smoking on Kansas Campuses

Kansas colleges and universities recognizes the health and safety hazards of smoking and tobacco use. State institutions do not allow smoking within state buildings. Many take stronger actions.

**Pittsburg State** prohibits the use of tobacco within all university buildings, facilities, and vehicles owned by the University, as well as in any other designated exterior spaces. Soon, each PSU building will have at least one fully accessible, non-smoking entrance, with smoking is prohibited within 30 feet of that entrance.

**Emporia State University** has certain areas where smokers can not smoke without getting a fine. Union Square, the seating and track and field area are smoke free areas. Also, smokers are not allowed to within 30 feet of a building or inside the building. In spring of 2005, ESU conducted a survey over the use of tobacco. "52.5 percent think that because tobacco is addictive, people who smoke or use smokeless tobacco should be confronted and offered treatment, much like we do for those with other addictions," according to a survey on the ESU Web site.

**Kansas State University**, smoking is not permitted in any university building on the main campus, the veterinary medicine campus, or University Motor Pool vehicle. Research investigating smoking is allowed in laboratories designated for that purpose with authorization granted by the Department of Environment Health & Safety. Smoking is prohibited within 30 feet of marked entrances to university buildings. In general, those entrances where smoking is prohibited are main entrances, most ADA accessible entrances, and those entrances near fresh air intakes to the building that impact the air quality inside the building. The Department of Environmental Health & Safety and Department of Facilities Planning designates which entrances are required to have no smoking within 30 feet.

At **KU**, smoking is not permitted in any Lawrence Campus or Edwards Campus building, or in the facilities of the KU Public Management Center in Topeka. Smoking also is prohibited in the Kansas and Burge Unions, the Adams Alumni Center, and the facilities of the KU Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR). In Memorial Stadium, smoking is permitted only in designated areas on the east and west ramps and outer concourse. It is prohibited in the press box, concourses, and all seating areas. All facilities operated by the Department of Student Housing are smoke free. Each campus building has at least one fully accessible smoke-free entrance. These entrances are clearly marked and no smoking is permitted within a twenty- foot radius of them. Smoking also is prohibited in any other outdoor areas where "No Smoking" signs are posted.

At **Wichita State** last semester, the HEALTH student association (Health Education Advocates for Leadership, Teamwork and Humanity) helped smokers develop a quit plan prior to the Great American Smokeout and using the resources of the Kansas Quitline. HEALTH is working on various strategies to educate on the need for nonsmokers rights. For more information about HEALTH contact Amy Drassen Ham, MA, MPH ([amy.ham@wichita.edu](mailto:amy.ham@wichita.edu))

## **Kansas Kids Kick Butts**

Kids in Kansas took center stage in the fight against tobacco on April 5 as they join thousands of young people nationwide for the eleventh annual Kick Butts Day. More than 2,000 events were planned in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Kick Butts Day is an annual celebration of youth leadership and activism in the fight against tobacco use. Kids are sending two powerful messages on Kick Butts Day: They want the tobacco companies to stop targeting them with marketing for cigarettes and other tobacco products, and they want elected leaders to do more to protect them from tobacco.

This year, Kick Butts Day is focusing attention on the number 1,200 – the number of Americans who die every day from diseases caused by smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke (totaling about 438,000 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Tobacco is still the number one preventable cause of death in our country. The good news is that we know how to prevent kids from smoking and reduce the 1,200 deaths a day caused by tobacco. Kick Butts Day should inspire elected leaders to implement these proven solutions. In Kansas, 21.1 percent of high school students smoke, and 5,000 kids become regular smokers every year. Every year, tobacco use kills 3,800 residents and costs the state \$854 million in health care bills. Nationally, about 22 percent of high school students smoke (down from a high of 36.4 percent in 1997), and tobacco costs the nation more than \$89 billion in health care bills a year.

Kick Butts Day comes as the tobacco industry is spending record amounts to market its deadly products. According to the Federal Trade Commission, the tobacco companies spend more than \$15.4 billion a year to market their products in the U.S. – that's \$42 million a day. In Kansas, tobacco companies spend \$126 million a year to market their products.

On Kick Butts Day, kids turned the tables on Big Tobacco with events that ranged from the 1,200 shoes event to mock-funerals for the Marlboro Man to rallies at state capitols. Activities in Kansas included: Topeka High School students held an assembly and conducted a number of Kick Butts Day activities, including exploring "What's in a Cigarette?" and talking about the dangerous ingredients in cigarettes such as ammonia and arsenic. On April 1, Youth Empowerment Seminar students in Medicine Lodge had a Kick Butts Day booth at a local health fair. They released 1,200 balloons after their seminar graduation to symbolize the 1,200 Americans who die every day because of tobacco.

## **Attend the Washington, DC, tobacco conference**

[13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health](#) - July 12-15, 2006, Washington, DC If you have the time and inclination to attend the World Tobacco OR Health Conference in Washington, D.C., here is your chance to apply for scholarship to that tremendous training/networking opportunity.

The majority of expenses will be provided for up to three TFKC members/partners in exchange for preparation of two presentations on specific topics or strategies that the successful applicants gained at the conference. Application deadline, by fax, e-mail or mail, is the close of business on April 14, 2006. Send your application to Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, 4300 SW Drury Lane, Topeka, KS 66604, 785-272-9297 fax, or [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org).

## Regional Network Sessions Successful

Nine sessions in March provided training for local tobacco control advocates, health organization staff, community volunteers and student during March. Sessions were held in Salina, Bel Air, Lawrence, Girard, Great Bend, Garden City, Satana, Hays and Norton with various presenters. More than 200 people learned more about building community coalitions and tobacco control at the sessions. In addition, there were 19 additional attendees via ITV connection from the Garden City site.

Approximately 1,400 high school and middle school students at seven locations heard presentations by Rick Stoddard, author of *The Burning Truth*, whose passion for tobacco control stems from his wife's death from cancer caused by cigarette smoking. Since the death of his wife Marie in 2000 at age 46, Stoddard has shared her story throughout the nation and with more than 750,000 youths. Stoddard spoke at all the Western Regional Network Sessions.

## TFKC receives grant

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition again has been awarded a core funding grant for 2006 from the Kansas Health Foundation for staff and program support of coalition activities. The grant award of \$177,500 will provide support for community coalitions, regional network activities, TASK youth coalitions and health professionals committed to cessation strategies. Educational materials and information regarding the efficacy of policy changes at the state and local level will be provided through a variety of methods, including statewide and regional meetings as well as the 2006 Summit on Tobacco Use. In addition, the Coalition will provide tools for tobacco control advocates across Kansas to ensure that goals to decrease tobacco use continue to be met.

## Save the Date

**Clean Air Strike Training** - April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Atchison Heritage Conference Center (710 S 9th St) free training for high schools in Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha Counties to help students advocate for a tobacco free lifestyle. Anyone can attend. Contact the NEK Tobacco Use Prevention Program for information at [riverbluff@directway.com](mailto:riverbluff@directway.com).

**Please share this newsletter with others interested in tobacco control in Kansas. The TFKC electronic newsletter will be distributed monthly to your e-mail. Please report a change of your e-mail address to [TFKC](mailto:TFKC).** Mary Jayne Hellebust, Executive Director Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition email: [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org) phone: 785-272-8396 web: <http://tobaccofreekansas.org>