

# Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

## E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

June 2006, Volume 1, Issue 5

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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### TFKC Membership Meeting in Three Weeks

Monday **June 19** is the date set for the next statewide meeting of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition. It will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center, 511 S Santa Fe in Salina.

The short business meeting will be held from 10:00 to 10:45 prior to the strategy session. The business meeting will include updates on Coalition activities across the State.

In addition to other coalition business, we will be collaborating with partners in the Kansas Cancer Partnership to establish comprehensive cancer control and **tobacco cessation and prevention programs** through increased tobacco excise taxes in Kansas.

As tobacco is a major contributor to cancer, a recent grant to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Health Promotions, will look to a comprehensive tobacco plan across the state as a means to reduce cancer in the state. Statewide prevention and cessation programs, that can be funded through an increase in Kansas excise tax on tobacco, are a major element of a comprehensive approach.

The C-Change grant is from the Cancer Control Consortium, a nationwide partnership of government, business and non-profits to conquer cancer. The strategic planning session will develop local community efforts that will form the base needed to support a Kansas tobacco tax increase. The session will be facilitated by Tom Kean, national health planner.

**Find out how you can make a difference in this initiative.** Plan on coming to Salina June 19 to get in on the ground floor of this exciting objective and help establish TFKC priorities for the coming year.

For more information or to make a reservation, call TFKC at 785-272-8396 or e-mail [tjohnston@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:tjohnston@tobaccofreekansas.org). Lunch will be served.



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## **Kansas Cities Studying Smokefree Regulations**

Work still continues in several Kansas cities as the local governments look at various smokefree solutions. Hearings or working sessions have been held recently in **Garden City, Manhattan, Olathe** and **Westwood**.

If you or someone you know reside in one of these communities, please contact your elected officials and let them know that a smokefree environment is important to you.

## **Watch For Your Ballot**

Ballots for the election of TFKC officers for the next year will be mailed soon to regular members of TFKC. Nearly all current officers have agreed to serve for another term. Biographies are included with the ballot.

The ballots are scheduled to be mailed June 2, with a return date of June 14. Please look for your ballot and return it promptly.

The nominees are:

- Jon Hauxwell, President
- Lisa Benlon, Vice-President
- Terri Roberts, Treasurer
- Diane McNichols, Secretary
- Miriam Ibrahim, North Central Region
- Jennifer Kelley, South Central Region
- Janel Rose, Northwest Region
- Anita Mason, Southwest Region
- Jane Shirley, Northeast Region
- no candidate, Southeast Region

Write-in candidates are possible.

## **Time to Renew Your Membership**

You will be receiving a notice of membership renewal. Please complete the information and return your membership payment as soon as possible.

## **Save the Date**

The **Kansas Tobacco Control Summit 2006** - Unite, Inform, Empower - will be held **November 13-14** at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

Look for more information in future mailings.



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## **Advocacy Materials Available**

Clean Air Kansas City has developed a set of materials — fact sheets, studies, PowerPoint presentations and promotional materials — which can be used by community coalitions beginning their smokefree workplace initiatives.

Please visit the Clean Air Kansas City website ([www.cleanairkc.com](http://www.cleanairkc.com)) or contact the coalition at 913-652-1927 for the information. A link to the information will be placed on the TFKC website.

Additional information to assist communities and local coalitions is available from TFKC. Please call (785- 272-8396) or e-mail [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org).

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**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 .**

Mary Jayne Hellebust, Executive Director  
Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition  
e-mail: [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org)  
phone: 785-272-8396  
Web site: <http://tobaccofreekansas.org>