

# Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

## E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

September 2006, Volume 1, Issue 8

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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### More Cities Studying Smokefree Options

**Manhattan** continues to work on the smokefree issue. At the Manhattan High School homecoming parade on September 8, Teens Leading Teens and SADD built a float with the theme "My wish: a smoke free little apple." The float had a giant red, shiny apple with a shooting star and lots of green grass and flowers. It was awarded first place among the floats.

Manhattan advocates are fighting back against a "fake" ordinance proposal that would set "smoking hours" between 9 PM and 5 AM and exempt many establishments from smoking restrictions, including bars, billiards, bingo, bowling, private clubs and sole proprietorships.

A press conference was held as the first step in this fight, which may culminate in a hearing of the various proposals on October 3. Any one with contacts in Manhattan is encouraged to get involved.

**Overland Park** could be the next city to pass a smoking ban. A city committee on September 6 unanimously recommended approval of a draft ordinance that bans smoking in all enclosed public places, including bars, restaurants and hotels.

The city is revisiting the issue after spending almost six months last year discussing tighter restrictions. The proposed ban includes all places of employment, including bowling alleys, sports arenas and outdoor dining areas. It also prohibits smoking within 10 feet of any entrance to a public place. The ban would not apply to private residences or retail shops whose primary business is the sale of tobacco products.

The latest communities to review clean inside air options are **Derby** and **Maize**. **Parsons** also has recently passed an ordinance but its version provides for late night smoking hours, which allows for the toxins in secondhand smoke to linger in the air even when active smoking is not taking place.



## **Kansas Hospitals Continue the Move to Tobacco Free**

Many hospitals across Kansas are demonstrating their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Kansans by restricting the use of tobacco products on their campuses and facilities. For more than a decade, hospitals have banned smoking inside their facilities; hospitals are now taking the next step by banning the use of all tobacco products and expanding the areas where their use will not be allowed. The enhanced restrictions result from discussions between representatives of the hospital community and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Some, but not all hospitals across Kansas have pledged to be tobacco-free by January 1, 2007, and many hospitals have already begun implementing tobacco-free policies. For the latest information on this project, please see the the KHA Web site.

## **Tobacco Control Advocate Brings His Message to Kansas**

National tobacco control advocacy speaker Rick Stoddard will share his personal testimony of losing his wife to lung cancer after only a few months of being diagnosed. She was 46 years young. As his public service announcement says, "I guess I never thought of 23 as middle aged." Join Kansas tobacco control advocates as they share Rick Stoddard's personal story of loss and triumph October 9 to 20. The Sunflower Foundation has supplemented planning grant communities with funds to organize, promote and conduct presentations in their communities. It is intended to help recruit for coalition membership, build capacity and utilize earned media opportunities. Invitations will be extended to community individuals in these areas on the following dates:

- October 9 - Seward County
- October 10 - Stevens County
- October 11 - Norton County
- October 12 - Rawlins County
- October 13 - Cloud County
- October 16 - Osage County
- October 17 - Coffey County
- October 18 - Pratt County
- October 19 - Meade County
- October 20 - Sedgwick County

Anyone interested in tobacco control efforts is encouraged to attend this opportunity to learn and share hands-on experiences and innovative ideas with other advocates in tobacco control and coalition building. There is no cost to attend. Stoddard also will be speaking to middle and high school students in the counties he visits. For more information, contact the KDHE TUPP program office in Wichita for further information. That number is 316-337-6023.

## **How to Choose a Really Smokefree Hotel**

Our thanks to Judy Young, Sedgwick County, for the following hints.

*I discovered there are three questions we should ask when looking for a TRULY smoke-free hotel.*

First of all THANK them for being smoke free and ask them to convey your appreciation to their



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owners. Then ask:

1. What date did you go smoke free?
2. When did you last remodel the property? If this date is prior to their smoke-free date hang up.
3. Did you replace all carpeting and draperies in all rooms and the hallways at that time?

I just had a miserable experience with a chain in Iowa, Heartland Inns. One, their conversion is so recent that there are still far tooooooo many smokers who smoke right outside the entry door and none of the carpets or drapes have been changed in twenty plus years.

### **Tool Kit Presented at KPHA Conference**

The Clean Air Kansas City tool kit was presented during a breakout session at Kansas Public Health Association conference this year. Information about the packet and how to use it will be presented, as well as information about media relations and effective strategies. Check for information about the packet and how it can be used by going to the Clean Air Kansas City Web site.

### **Lawrence Bar Owner Challenges Smoking Ban**

A new wrinkle in clean indoor air efforts was presented when Dennis Steffes, a bar owner from Lawrence, filed suit on constitutional issues against the city of Lawrence on the grounds that state law allows for the regulation of smoking but not the complete prohibition in public places.

The suit also claims ordinance enforcement section is "vague" and that he cannot understand his responsibilities to enforce it. The suit was denied in Lawrence District Court but has been appealed to the Court of Appeals and then was bumped up to the Kansas Supreme Court, which accepted the case for hearing.

With the long tradition of local control in Kansas, tobacco control advocates anticipate a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court that affirms local communities have local control on smokefree restrictions, as long as such provisions are at least as stringent as the state law.

A decision from the Supreme Court of this case may not occur until next spring. In the meantime, many communities across Kansas are continuing their efforts to promote local ordinances that protect workers from exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace.

### **Cancer Control Plan Affirmed**

On September 8, members of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition and the Kansas Cancer Partnership met to affirm their commitment to implementing a comprehensive cancer control plan with strong elements of tobacco use prevention and cessation.

More than 60 people met in Wichita to review the political process related to funding the comprehensive plan, which at this point has a projected yearly budget of about \$56 million. The



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plan would reduce the burden of cancer through prevention, screening and early detection; effective treatment, including access to clinical trials, programs for survivors and end-of-life care; and data and research efforts. Funding sources are being outlined, with an increase in tobacco taxes leading the options, which also include allocations from the state general fund or from tobacco settlement funds.

At the Partnership meeting, participants were introduced to the new Cancer Kansas Website- [www.cancerkansas.org](http://www.cancerkansas.org).

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 17, 2007, the next Comprehensive Cancer Control Partners and Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition meeting. The meeting will be held at the St. Francis Cancer Center, 1700 SW 7th Street in Topeka from 9:00- 4:00.

### **Submit a Poster Abstract for the TFKC Summit**

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition Summit seeks poster presentations that will provide tobacco control advocates and other health professionals, students and volunteers with current scientific and practical information on effective tobacco control strategies and developments.

Anyone knowledgeable about any aspect of tobacco control — veterans, newcomers, and everyone in between — is welcome to submit an abstract.

The theme of this event is “Unite, Inform, Empower.” You are encouraged to address this theme in your abstract. Abstracts not addressing this theme will be considered. Abstracts addressing diversity and disparities also are encouraged.

For information on developing an abstract, please visit: [http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/grantee\\_resources.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/grantee_resources.html) (see ‘Abstract Design’)

Send an e-mail to [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org) if you need additional time to complete the poster abstract section.

### **Nominate a Tobacco Hero**

At the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition '06 Summit in Wichita this November, the organization will recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations for their part in tobacco control in Kansas. And you can nominate a potential winner.

The Nomination Categories/Award Descriptions are:

**Policy Maker Award** will be made to an individual of any age who has made a significant contribution to changing a public policy related to tobacco use, either at the community level or at the state level; **Community Partner Award** has been set up to recognize a local organization, coalition, agency, business, or other group that has led the way in changing a local policy on tobacco use (e.g. smokefree air, tobacco free school grounds, youth access); **Youth Group Award** will be presented to a local club, school or other youth- affiliated organization whose youth members have worked to reduce the number of youth becoming

addicted to tobacco use through a successful public relations policy or educational initiative; **Workplace Award** will be designated to a business, public or private, judged to have surpassed the norm in providing a smokefree, healthy workplace environment and/or adopting a broad-based cessation program for its employees; and **Media Award** will recognize a newspaper, writer or advertising agency for electronic or print media that is an accurate and consistent portrayal of tobacco control issues or for its focus on presenting the sequence of an ongoing tobacco control policy issue, such as a smokefree ordinance initiative.

## Save the Date

An **Earned Media Workshop** has been set for Tuesday, February 20, 2007, for the Ramada Inn of Downtown Topeka. This event will be in conjunction with state efforts to assist partners with their efforts to protect Kansas children and teens from being sold or provided tobacco products at the PAXIS training that will take place the subsequent two days. More details will be forthcoming. The **Kansas Tobacco Control Summit 2006 - Unite, Inform, Empower** - will be held **November 13-14** at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. For more information, see the link below. [Summit Information](#)

## All in Our Family

Congratulations to TFKC Administrative Assistant Theresa and husband Mike Johnston on the birth of Braeden Michael.

He was born on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at 9:26 am at Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka; 7 pounds, 5 ounces and 20 inches long.



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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 .**

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