



Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

May 2014 Vol 29 Number 1

ANSR's 31st Annual Garage Sale just around the corner

Spring is finally here, which can mean just one thing: It's time for the annual ANSR garage sale. This year, it will be on May 16-17. Again this year, we need your stuff. We no longer take clothing, TVs, exercise equipment or furniture. Best for us are small items, such as housewares, jewelry, tools, books, CDs/DVDs, collectables and decorator items. This sale supports our public policy work, which we can not do with most of the grants we receive. Funds raised at the sale are essential to our mission.

Do you have time to help? We always need help collecting saleable items before the sale, organizing and pricing things the day before the sale and working the sale itself. We would love your help. Please call Jeanne at 651-646-3005 to volunteer or talk about other ways you can help.

Electronic cigarette bills move forward in Senate and House

The Senate passed the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill on May 9. It included Senator Kathy Sheran's electronic cigarette bill to add electronic cigarettes to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act. An amendment to prohibit e-cigarette use only in government buildings failed on a 35-28 vote, and the omnibus bill passed on a 48-17 vote.

In the House, the e-cigarette portion without the Clean Indoor Air provision was passed from the floor on May 5. Amendments to require childproof caps, prohibit using electronic cigarettes in government buildings, and prohibit kiosk sales of electronic cigarettes all passed successfully.

Next, the omnibus bills will be reconciled in conference committee and passed by both bodies of the legislature. The governor has moderated his opposition to the bill and has said he will not veto it.

Many legislators have advocated for this bill, and if you would like to express your opinion you can contact:

*Thank you for all you
do for ANSR. Please
consider sharing this
newsletter with a friend!*

RTC assists passage of 24/7 smoke-free foster care

Sen. Kathy Sheran, (651) 296-6153, sen.kathy.sheran@senate.mn
Sen. Ron Latz, (651) 297-8065
Sen. John Marty, (651) 296-5645
Rep. Laurie Halverson, (651) 296-4128, rep.laurie.halverson@house.mn
Rep. Jason Isaacson, (651) 296-7153, rep.jason.isaacson@house.mn
Rep. Phyllis Kahn, (651) 296-4257, rep.phyllis.kahn@house.mn
Rep. Mike Freiberg, (651) 296-4176, rep.mike.freiberg@house.mn

The Ramsey Tobacco Coalition (RTC) helped pass 24/7 smoke-free foster care first in Ramsey County and then at the state level.

RTC worked with the Leadership and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota's Parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP) program to advocate for 24/7 smoke-free foster care. On a local level, RTC and LAAMPP advocates met with Ramsey County Commissioners Toni Carter, Blake Huffman, Jim McDonough, Mary Jo McGuire, Rafael Ortega and Victoria Reinhardt to discuss instituting this measure in the county. The commissioners passed a resolution enacting 24/7 smoke-free foster care in March. The resolution requires the Ramsey County Community Human Services department to implement this policy in Ramsey County.

At the state level, Rep. Tina Liebling championed the bill through the House, while Sen. Jeff Hayden did the same in the Senate. After going through two hearings in the House and one in the Senate, the bills were added to Health and Human Services Omnibus bills. The Omnibus bill was passed in the House and the Senate.

FDA moves to regulate e-cigarettes, other items

More than four years after gaining the authority to regulate novel tobacco products, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations on electronic cigarettes, pipe tobacco, nicotine gels, hookah, and dissolvable tobacco. Under the proposal, anyone selling these products must register with the FDA, provide a list of ingredients, submit new products to the agency for pre-market review,



The ANSR Bulletin is published quarterly. For more information, contact ANSR at: 2395 University Ave. West, Ste. 310, St. Paul, MN 55114 or at (651) 646-3005.

Permission to reprint articles with credit to ANSR granted. For an online version of the newsletter, go to ANSR's website at www.ansrmn.org.

*Go to
www.regulations.gov
to voice your opinion!
Docket No:
FDA-2014-N-0189*

ANSR staff and partners voice concerns with state legislators

ANSR making presentations at ATOD forums

and include health warnings. Furthermore, sellers may not sell from vending machines unless they are in adult-only facilities, may not sell to minors, may not provide free samples, and may not make reduced risk claims without evidence. Many of these regulations are already in place for conventional tobacco products.

The agency is proposing two options for the types of tobacco products covered under the regulations. Option 1 would “extend FDA’s authority to all products meeting the definition of “tobacco product,” including “all cigars, including small, large, and premium cigars.” Option 2 would exempt premium cigars due to “differences in their effects on youth initiation, the frequency of their use by youth and young adults, and other factors...cigar only use beginning in adulthood is less likely to produce addiction than the use of cigarettes.”

The regulations do not prohibit television advertising, which has been prohibited for cigarettes since the early 1970s. The agency also does not propose prohibiting characterizing flavors. The agency is currently seeking comments on extending this prohibition to these novel tobacco products, similar to existing regulations on non-menthol flavoring in cigarettes. Also missing from the proposal are regulations on placement of products at the point of sale, meaning that these products do not need to be placed behind the counter.

The public comment period is open until July 9, 2014, with more than 3,000 comments already submitted. Individuals are encouraged to visit [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) to submit comments. FDA staff is required to review all comments.

ANSR staff and partners had an opportunity to speak with Minnesota Legislators on April 8, regarding the harms of tobacco at ClearWay’s Tobacco is Still a Problem Day at the Capitol.

ANSR worked with partners from Tartan High School, Rainbow Health Initiative, LAAMPP, Breathe Free North (a NorthPoint program) and Vision in Living Life - Change is Possible (an Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation program).

ANSR staff have been presenting at a series of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) forums across the state in recent months. The forums, sponsored by the Minnesota Prevention Resource Center (MPRC) with funding provided through a grant from the Alcohol and

Drug Abuse Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, focus on the topic of marijuana prevention. Entitled “The Changing Landscape of Marijuana: Lessons learned and prevention strategies moving forward,” the forums provide law enforcement, educators, healthcare providers, corrections professionals and prevention staff with information about the changing landscape of youth marijuana prevention as it relates to emerging medical and recreational marijuana use laws across the country.

ANSR’s contribution to the forums focuses on the rich history of the tobacco control movement in our state as a way to provide a possible framework for those working in marijuana and other drug prevention. ANSR’s presentation, “Lessons Learned from Tobacco Prevention: Strategies that worked and didn’t work,” provides attendees with an overview of the history of the tobacco industry and the tobacco control movement in our state dating back to the 1940s. The presentation also outlines what the Minnesota tobacco control movement has determined to be both best practices and ineffective strategies for countering the human and economic impacts of tobacco on our population.

Our involvement in these forums comes as a direct result of work by our newest staff person, Lindsey Carlson, who is the new Region 7 ATOD Prevention Coordinator (RPC). Her work supports local communities in the seven county metro area as they work to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. She provides technical assistance and resources to multiple prevention-focused coalitions and agencies. Because of Lindsey’s work at ANSR, we will be able to continue to partner with and support the work of ATOD groups across the state!

RTC staff performed compliance checks at Saint Paul tobacco vendors in March. An underage 17-year old girl attempted to purchase cigarillos or small cigars at 24 stores.

Nine vendors (or 37.5 percent) sold cigarillos to the minor. Of the nine vendors who sold to the student, six did not ask for her identification. Three vendors looked at her ID and still sold to her. In one specific situation, the clerk did not sell to the student but asked the student if she would like one of the clerk’s cigarillos from the clerk’s pocket. This failure rate is almost four times higher than the 2012 failure rate for cigarette compliance checks in Saint Paul, which was 10 percent.

RTC compliance checks demonstrate growing problem with cheap, flavored little cigars

LSF undergoes changes in staffing after long-time program head leaves

RTC also conducted compliance checks in two suburban Ramsey County cities. In Shoreview, we visited eight stores that sell tobacco. Five stores (or 62.5 percent) sold cigars to our 17-year old buyer. In Vadnais Heights, we visited five stores and none of them sold to our 17-year old buyer.

Overall, the compliance rate for cigars in Ramsey County is only about 62 percent. In other words, more than one in three stores sold these cheap, flavored cigars to a minor. This is a problem.

ANSR marked the end of an era in December when it said goodbye to long-time Live Smoke Free (LSF) Program Director, Brittany McFadden.

During her 13 years at ANSR, Brittany created ANSR's Tobacco Free Youth Recreation (TFYR) and Live Smoke Free programs. At the time, each program was groundbreaking and among the first of its kind in the nation. While with LSF, Brittany's work resulted in hundreds of multi-unit buildings going smoke free statewide, resulting in thousands of Minnesotans being protected from secondhand smoke. McFadden also traveled throughout the United States to mentor other public health advocates on smoke-free housing. Live Smoke Free wishes Brittany the best in her future endeavors!

ANSR Membership Form

Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter.



I want to help in ANSR's work for nonsmokers as a:

Guarantor \$100 \$200 Other

Sustaining member \$50 \$75

Contributing member \$30 \$40

Regular member \$25

Associate member \$15 \$10

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zipcode _____

H (____) _____ (W) _____

Home/Work Telephone _____

Email address _____

ANSR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Please mail this form with your check to:
Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512



Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
 2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310
 St. Paul, MN 55114-1512

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Twin Cities, MN
 Permit No.
 2985

ANSR Bulletin

www.ansrmn.org

6

Three cities update tobacco ordinances with help from ANSR

Filling her big shoes is former Live Smoke Free Assistant Program Director, Kara Skahen. Live Smoke Free staff also includes 5-year veteran, Laura Lebron, who has added Community Outreach Coordinator-Dakota County to her title of Office Administrator and Chris Farmer-Lies, who works on smoke-free housing in Ramsey County.

In January, LSF was delighted to welcome Rose Hauge, Community Outreach Coordinator for Hennepin County, to the LSF team as well.

RTC's ongoing work with cities to update their tobacco ordinances to include e-cigarettes paid off. Three cities, including Brooklyn Center, Shoreview and Mounds View, updated their definitions and strengthened their ordinance.

In addition, Brooklyn Center became the first city in the metro area to set a minimum price for cheap, flavored little cigars. The minimum price was set at \$2.10 each for any little cigars packaged in less than five. Previously, single little cigars cost as little as 45 cents. The increase goes a long way in preventing youth tobacco initiation. Additionally, the city closed a loophole on sampling and included e-cigarettes in its tobacco ordinances.