
TFOCC NEWS

Issue 1

April 2009

Joint Finance Committee Hearing

On April 1, 2009 there was a Joint Finance Committee Hearing held in Appleton. Chrystal Woller, Oneida County Health Dept Assistant Director and Niki Kostrova, Oneida County Tobacco Coordinator traveled with RHS FACT students Cooper Henckel and Sam Chavez to educate legislators on smoke-free air, the increase in cigarette tax, and program sustainability. The hearing proved to be a success with numerous testimonies given in support of these three issues.



Pictured are Cooper Henckel and Sam Chavez giving their testimonies on smoke-free air and the cigarette tax which are issues in Governor Doyle's budget

JWMS FACT Mini Lock-In

The James Williams Junior High FACT students hosted a mini lock-in on April 3, 2009 at the Rhinelander High School., inviting all Oneida County youth in grades 6th through 8th. More than 75 students attended. Activities included tobacco prevention games, open swim, basketball, and a dance with D.J. Shake It Up. In addition, area businesses donated prizes, and drawings were held throughout the night.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, the tobacco industry addicts more than 1000 youth every day. Almost 90% of adults who smoke began smoking before they were 18. "It's important to educate our peers on the dangers of tobacco," said Rainne Britton, a 7th grade FACT member. "We wanted to make sure they know about tobacco lies and in a fun way we can educate them to never use tobacco."

The lock-in was made possible by grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Student AODA Mini-Grant Program and sponsorship from the Oneida County Health Department and Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition. Prizes were donated by Hodag Lanes, Rouman Cinema, Family Video and Ripco Credit Union.

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Federal Cigarette Tax Increase

Cigarette smokers are paying more to light up. A major tax hike on cigarettes increased the price by 62 cents a pack. The federal tax on cigarettes jumped from 39 cents a pack to \$1.01. The new federal tax increase took effect on April 1, 2009 which makes the average cost of a pack of name-brand cigarettes to be around \$6.00.

Congress approved the higher federal cigarette tax earlier this year to expand coverage in the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP. CHIP covers uninsured children in lower income families.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking results in an estimated 443,000 premature deaths annually and costs the economy \$193 billion in health care expenses and lost time from work.

Governor Doyle's budget includes a 75 cent increase per-pack in the cigarette tax. The budget proposal also raises the maximum tax on cigars from 50 cents to 71 cents and the tax on moist snuff products from \$1.31 per ounce to \$1.87 per ounce. These provisions would take effect September 1, 2009.

FACT – Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco



To celebrate Kick Butts Day, a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak up and take action against tobacco, James Williams Middle School FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) students Callie Pisut, left, Amber Dalka, middle, and Mark Schmidt, right, put up a window display at Associated Bank on the dangerous contents of cigarettes and secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke contains over 4000 chemicals and kills 900 in Wisconsin every year.

Data Shows Smoke-Free Laws are Good for Health and Business

- Wisconsin studies show bartenders are healthier after smoke-free policies are in place.
- Data indicates indoor air pollutants drop from "hazardous" to virtually non-existent within days of going smoke-free
- Studies prove restaurant and bar business stays the same or increases
- Wisconsin communities experience economic growth after going smoke-free
 - Increased bar and restaurant employment
 - Increased property value
 - Increased liquor license applications

There's Help To Quit Smoking

If you smoke and want to quit, or know someone who does, visit the Wisconsin Quit Line at <http://www.WiQuitLine.org> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You'll talk to a friendly quit coach who will send you a free two-week supply of quit-tobacco medications, plus help you develop strategies on how to quit that are just right for you. The Quit Line has already helped more than 123,500 callers just like you.

WISCONSIN TOBACCO
QuitLine
800-QUIT-NOW

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition Meeting

will be held on

Monday

April 20, 2009

5:30 – 6:30 PM

at the

**Riverside Clinic – Ministry
Health Care**

1020 Kabel Avenue

Rhineland

Conference Room 1 (Fish Bowl)

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