

# TFOCC NEWS

Issue 2

May 2009

## TPCP Funding Restored

On April 23, 2009, the Joint Finance Committee voted to restore the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program funding to its current level of \$15.25 million per year. (Vote 12-4) This is great news for state taxpayers, our next generation of youth in Wisconsin, and tobacco users who need help quitting their addictions. The budget still has to be approved by the Assembly and Senate before being signed by the Governor.



JWMS FACT students and TFOCC members discussed the cigarette tax increase and smoke-free air bill with Representative Meyer on May 1st.

## In-District Legislative Meetings

JWMS FACT students, TFOCC members Cooper Henckel, Jackie and Pete Cody, and Oneida County Tobacco Coordinator, Niki Kostrova met with Senator Holperin on Monday, April 27 and Representative Meyer on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the dangers of secondhand smoke and the benefits of a smoke-free Wisconsin.

Senator Holperin believes the ban included in the state budget will be removed, but a bill separate from the budget will be likely to pass in the fall. He stated that he does support a ban and will vote for it, but believes that the "other side" needs to be recognized.

Representative Meyer on the other hand, does not support a cigarette tax increase and feels that the smoke-free air bill as it stands, will not pass. He stated he would not vote for the smoking ban as is, but if a compromise was reached between the opposing sides of the issue, then he would support it. He believes that if this happens then we would see smoke-free legislation this year.

Both legislators commended the students on their efforts and told them to keep up the good work.

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From left, Cooper Henckel, Jessica Jacobson, Niki Kostrova, Amber Toboyak, Derek Thorn, Hailey McCarty, Senator Holperin, Callie Pisut, Amber Dalka, Angela Towne, and Blaine Conley.

## Statewide Ban as Separate Bill

The Legislature is back on track to snuff out smoking in all bars and restaurants across Wisconsin.

Two Democrats and two Republicans introduced a bipartisan bill Friday that would ban smoking in all indoor workplaces 60 days after passage.

The sponsors who deserve credit for moving forward this public health proposal include Sens. Fred Risser, D-Madison, Mike Ellis, R-Neenah, and Reps. Jon Richards, D-Milwaukee, and Al Ott, R-Forest Junction.

Many more lawmakers are sure to sign on to the bill. But its passage won't be easy, particularly in the Democratic-led Senate, where it stalled last session.

Getting this measure into law will require the public to demand it.

### TAKE ACTION

**CALL, EMAIL, OR WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

For more information on your legislators or for letter writing "how to's" please contact Niki Kostrova at 715-369-6115 or [nkostrova@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:nkostrova@co.oneida.wi.us)

## **Congratulations to Pine Isle Sports Bar & Grill for Going Smoke-Free!**

The Pine Isle Sports Bar & Grill in Three Lakes re-opened as a smoke-free establishment on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg Elisha and Dave Jackson, owners of the Pine Isle said, "The timing felt right and the decision fit well with our goal to make Pine Isle a family-focused experience."

**WAY TO GO PINE ISLE!!**

### **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

## **Taverns Clearing the Air**

A group of Wisconsin hospitality business owners launched "Taverns Clearing the Air" in support of the statewide smoke-free law.

Taverns Clearing the Air represents almost 100 taverns statewide, along with some owners of restaurants, golf courses, lodges, and bowling alleys. Some of these venues allow smoking, some are nonsmoking because of a local smoke-free ordinance, and some are smoke-free by choice. All members share a common goal of a statewide smoke-free law.

"In June of 2007 I had four by-passes, totally unexpected," added Richard Wuestenhagen, owner of the Tamarack Tap in Lake Tomahawk. "We went smoke-free because of secondhand smoke being a major factor of my surgery."

"We get daily compliments on the clean atmosphere – even from smokers. This is about health and it's time businesses follow in our footsteps, for themselves and their employees," said Wuestenhagen, noting that the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, the Wisconsin Innkeepers Association and the Wisconsin Association of Tourism Attractions all support a statewide smoke-free law, too.

Thirty-eight communities in Wisconsin have passed smoke-free ordinances that often pit one community's laws against another's. This will continue to happen until Wisconsin passes a statewide smoke-free law, according to members of Taverns Clearing the Air.

### **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition Meeting**

will be held on

**Monday**

**May 18, 2009**

**5:30 – 6:30 PM**

at the

**Riverside Clinic – Ministry  
Health Care**

**1020 Kabel Avenue**

**Rhinelanders**

**Conference Room 1 (Fish Bowl)**

**RSVP: Niki Kostrova**

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