



## Saint Paul City Council Names Dec. 13, 2023 'Jeanne Weigum Day'

To honor her selfless dedication and service to the City of Saint Paul over the past 50+ years, the Saint Paul City Council named December 13, 2023 'Jeanne Weigum Day.' Dozens of ANSR current and former staff, board members, neighbors, three former Park Directors, community partners and friends filled the Council Chambers to celebrate.

The resolution honors Jeanne's commercial tobacco prevention policy achievements and her anti-billboard activism with Scenic Saint Paul, as well as recognizes her public gardens and her efforts to preserve and protect Saint Paul park lands.



*Council President Amy Brendmoen read the 'Jeanne Weigum Day' resolution aloud at the Dec. 13 meeting.*

Council President Amy Brendmoen read the 'Jeanne Weigum Day' resolution and Jeanne shared the many "roots" that keep her in Saint Paul. In true Jeanne fashion, her speech was both a statement of gratitude and a call to action for the Council. "The majority of the Council is leaving, but I'm not," she said, meaning her advocacy work is far from over. Jeanne called out disposable vapes as an environmental hazard, warned about a proposed digital billboard at I-94 and 280 letting the Council know "I'll be there to say NO" and called on the new council to adopt the Nicotine Free Generation ordinance to protect youth from ever starting to smoke.

Several councilmembers shared kind words about Jeanne after her remarks. "There's so much that you've done in this community, and I just want to say I am truly grateful for you as a citizen, as an advocate and as a friend," said Councilmember Tolbert. "I look forward to the thing that you're up to next."

Supporters gathered outside the Chambers for photos, dessert and refreshments after the council meeting.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **A WALK THROUGH 50 YEARS OF ANSR HISTORY, 1973-2023**

#### **49TH ANNUAL MN PREVENTION PROGRAM SHARING CONFERENCE IN BRAINERD**

#### **LICENSE CAPPING PASSES IN SAINT PAUL**

The celebration was a fantastic way to wrap up ANSR's 50th year. Much like Jeanne, who has been with ANSR since 1975, the organization has accomplished so much over five decades. In this issue, we look back on some of ANSR's greatest achievements from the past 50 years.

# A Walk Through 50 Years of

**1973**

## ANSR Founded

Originally created as an American Lung Association program named the Association for Nonsmokers' Rights, ANSR is the oldest organization in Minnesota dedicated solely to commercial tobacco control.



## MN Clean Indoor Air Act

ANSR joins partners in leading efforts to pass the first clean indoor air law in the nation.

**1975**

## ANSR On Its Own

After seven years at the American Lung Association, ANSR becomes an independent organization and renames itself as the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota.

**1980**

## Freedom to Breathe Act

ANSR helps expand the Clean Indoor Air Act to ban smoking in bars, restaurants and workplaces and further protect Minnesotans from secondhand smoke.

**2007**

## ANSR's First TV Commercial

"Thank You St. Paul!" runs over 600 times on local cable channels after the city bans smoking in bars, restaurants and other indoor public places.

**2006**

## St. Paul Prohibits Imitation Products

ANSR assists the city in banning candy cigarettes, bubblegum cigars, novelty lighters and other tobacco-like products.

**2010**

## Little Cigars in Brooklyn Center

ANSR helps set a minimum price on little cigars in Brooklyn Center, the first MN city to do so.

**2014**

## Menthol & Tobacco 21

With assistance from ANSR, Edina is the first MN city to raise the tobacco sales age to 21 and Minneapolis is the first to restrict menthol-flavored commercial tobacco sales to tobacco-only stores. St. Paul follows close behind.

**2017**

## MPLS Restricts Flavors

ANSR helps Minneapolis become the first city to restrict flavored commercial tobacco products, excluding menthol, to tobacco-only stores.

**2015**



# ANSR History, 1973-2023

## First Plant & Garage Sales

The annual plant and garage sales are still staples in ANSR fundraising efforts.

1983

## Metrodome Bans Tobacco Advertisements

ANSR helps the Metrodome become the first professional sports stadium to ban tobacco advertising.

1987



## White Bear Lake Bans Tobacco Vending Machines

This first-of-its-kind ban inspires many cities across the country to do the same.

1989

## ANSR Begins Smoke-Free Housing Work

The Initiative for Smoke-Free Housing is the predecessor of ANSR's current Live Smoke Free program.

1990s

## Tobacco Settlement

After a four-year legal battle, MN and Blue Cross Blue Shield settle with the tobacco companies. The MN Partnership for Action Against Tobacco (later, ClearWay Minnesota) is created, which helps fund ANSR.

1998



## State Youth Access Bill Passes

ANSR helps pass the Youth Access Bill, which regulates retail commercial tobacco sales and requires compliance checks.

1997

## Price Discounting in St. Paul

Another first-of-its-kind policy (passed during the COVID-19 pandemic)! ANSR helps St. Paul prohibit coupons and price discounts for commercial tobacco products.

2021



## Juul Settlement

Minnesota is the first state to take Juul to trial. The lawsuit settles for \$60.5 million, and funds will be dedicated to prevention.

2023

## Looking Forward...

ANSR staff are busy with flavored commercial tobacco policies, disposable vapes, cannabis legalization, smoke-free housing policy and more. Here's to 50 more years!



# Minneapolis Price Discounting Coming in 2024

The Business, Inspections, Housing and Zoning (BIHZ) Committee of the Minneapolis City Council approved a proposal that would prohibit the redemption of coupons for all commercial tobacco and vaping products, set a minimum price for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, increase penalties for retailers who violate the ordinance and close the "sampling" loophole, which has allowed cigar bars and hookah lounges in Minneapolis to allow indoor smoking despite the statewide Clear Indoor Air act. Many advocates testified at the public hearing in support of the changes, yet a number of cigar lounge regulars voiced their opposition in the news and on social media.

The ordinance made significant progress in 2023, but with the year quickly coming to a close, further action will be postponed until after newly elected council members are seated in early January.

At that time, Councilmember Latrisha Vetaw will reintroduce the ordinance and it will go through another public hearing and vote. ANSR will call on partners and Minneapolis residents for support when the time comes. Stay tuned!



CM LaTrisha Vetaw and advocates after the November 29 BIHZ Committee meeting at Minneapolis City Hall.

# ANSR's Jack Ayim Retires

After over nine years at ANSR, Jack Ayim retired on October 14. On the Live Smoke Free team and beyond, Jack helped numerous multi-unit housing buildings adopt smoke-free policies, contributed to countless point-of-sale policy successes, championed authentic engagement with community partners, and much more. His impact cannot be overstated.

We wish him a restful retirement as he returns to Kenya. Thank you, Jack!



Jack will be dearly missed by all in the commercial tobacco prevention community.

## ANSR Membership Form

*Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter. Also, please send in your email address to help us update our records.*



I want to help ANSR's ongoing work:

- 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.*

Anyone wishing to donate to ANSR or renew their membership online may do so at [www.ansrmn.org/donate](http://www.ansrmn.org/donate)

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



# Donor Spotlight: Why I Support ANSR

## Paul Pentel



*Paul Pentel testified in Minneapolis in 2017 to restrict menthol-flavored tobacco to tobacco-only shops.*

Paul Pentel, MD, is an internist and was the Director of Clinical Pharmacology at Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis. His research was focused on finding ways to treat nicotine addiction. Though partially retired, Paul continues to look for ways to help people who smoke and prevent a new generation of those addicted to nicotine.

Paul has served on the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee as well as the Minnesota Commercial Tobacco Cessation Advisory Committee and has advocated for policies to reduce commercial tobacco's health toll.

On the ANSR board, Paul is a strong advocate for ANSR's work to train the next generation of tobacco control and public health advocates. This year he provided startup funding to establish the ANSR Health Advocacy Fellowship fund to support college and graduate level interns at ANSR.

Paul says, "I've always seen the training of the next generation of public health advocates as one of the most important pieces of ANSR's mission and activities. ANSR offers a wonderfully rich environment for training, with an exceptionally talented staff and a wide range of community-focused programs. ANSR in turn benefits from the fresh ideas and perspectives its trainees bring to the table, and these trainees often fill a critical gap in being able to fully implement our programs. But funding for trainees is difficult to obtain with grants or contracts that are directed at specific projects. It's my hope that creating a separate funding stream will highlight and facilitate ANSR's ability to continue these efforts."

## 49th Annual MN Prevention Program Sharing Conference in Brainerd

The Minnesota Prevention Resource Center (MPRC) hosted the 49th annual Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference on October 17-18. More than 250 people registered for the conference, 22 organizations exhibited and over 50 speakers shared their prevention work and expertise (including three ANSR staff). Thank you to the MPRC staff, planning committee and volunteers for making the conference such a huge success! **Save the Date:** The 50th annual conference will take place on October 15-16, 2024 in St. Cloud.



*ANSR's Jason Lind, Madeline Bremel and Kara Skahen at the conference registration table.*



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



## License Capping Passes in Saint Paul

The Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously to remove tobacco vending machines, reduce the number of tobacco shop licenses from 150 to 100 and reduce the number of tobacco product shop licenses from 25 to 15 immediately following the Jeanne Day celebration on December 13. These policy changes will help reduce the availability of commercial tobacco and nicotine products within the city. Research shows that density of tobacco shops contributes to normalizing tobacco use and predicts higher levels of smoking.

Before the vote, Council President Brendmoen said that some retailers were concerned their licenses might be taken away. While all current license holders will be able to continue to sell tobacco, “If you have [your tobacco license]...revoked for noncompliance, there’s not one waiting for you to get,” she said. “We’re expecting compliance will be high, and our goal at the end of the day is to keep reducing these licenses.”

Thank you to all who testified at the public hearing in early December and wrote emails or letters in support. The ordinance will take effect 30 days after publication.



*ANSR staff members give a 'thumbs up' after the Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously to remove tobacco vending machine licenses and reduce the number of tobacco retailer licenses on Dec. 13, 2023.*