



## Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

**JANUARY 2015 Vol 31 Number 1**

### **Minneapolis includes e-cigarettes in clean indoor air ordinance**

The Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously to prohibit electronic cigarette use in most public indoor spaces in December 2014. The ordinance update means the use of electronic cigarettes is not allowed anywhere conventional cigarette use is also not allowed, such as work places, restaurants and bars.

This ordinance change helps protect the general public from exposure to electronic cigarette emissions, which are known to contain ingredients that are harmful to human health. It also upholds a smoke-free norm and protects youth from exposure to these products, which is important given that electronic cigarettes are becoming popular with high school students.

The recent Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey, released in November 2014, showed 28 percent of high school students have tried e-cigarettes, and 13 percent have used or tried them in the past 30 days. Nearly a quarter of those who have tried e-cigarettes have never tried conventional tobacco products.

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### **Bloomington increases price of cheap, flavored cigars, includes e-cigarettes in clean indoor air act**

The Bloomington City Council voted unanimously to include electronic cigarettes in its clean indoor air ordinance and set a minimum price for single cigars at \$2.60 each. All cigars sold in packages of less than five must be priced at \$2.60 each. For example, a two-pack of cigars would cost \$5.20, a three-pack would cost \$7.80 and up to five.

Increasing the price of tobacco is the single most effective way to prevent youth tobacco initiation. The ordinance update means the use of electronic cigarettes is not allowed anywhere conventional cigarette use is also not allowed, such as work places, restaurants and bars.

“A decade ago, the Bloomington City Council showed its commitment to public health when it amended our ordinances in favor of smoke-free workspaces and public places,” Bloomington city council member Cynthia Bemis Abrams said. “(This) vote aligns limits on e-cigarettes to regular cigarettes, so that our local businesses can

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## ANSR presents to Hennepin, Ramsey County Commissioners

## Macalester College latest to go tobacco-free on campus

be consistent with enforcement, and our residents and visitors can be confident that the air they breathe, in their offices or in a restaurant, is clean.”

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ANSR representatives testified on Jan. 13, in front of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners health committee in favor of adding electronic cigarettes to the clean indoor air law. President Jeanne Weigum was one of several testifiers advocating for the change. In addition, RTC’s Alicia Leizinger made a presentation to the St. Paul/Ramsey County Advisory Board of Health on the same issue.

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Macalester College in Saint Paul implemented a comprehensive 100 percent tobacco-free campus policy on Jan. 1. The policy comes after years of considering how best to address tobacco use on campus, a process that involved faculty, staff, students and community partners. Macalester’s policy prohibits the use of tobacco in any form, including electronic cigarettes, anywhere on campus. It also provides for accessible cessation resources for the campus community.

Macalester joins more than 50 other campuses in Minnesota in adopting a tobacco-free policy, including many nearby post-secondary institutions. St. Kate’s, St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities have all implemented tobacco-free policies for their campuses.

While adult tobacco use in Minnesota continues to tick downward, tobacco is still a problem on many college campuses. The use rate among 18-24 year-olds has been the highest for any age group in the state. This is largely because the tobacco industry targets young adults with advertising, promotions and new products, creating a cohort of new, life-long tobacco users. New data from the 2014 Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey showed a decrease from 21.8 percent to 15.3 percent in 2014, the lowest for this age group since the survey began.

The goal of Macalester’s tobacco-free campus is to improve the health outcomes for all students, faculty, and staff, including those who live and work near smokers. Tobacco-free campus policies are proven



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## **Child-resistant packaging for e-cigarette juice in effect**

to support those tobacco users who would like to quit, prevent initiation among non-tobacco users, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and decrease costly and harmful tobacco litter. Nationwide, there are at least 1,477 smoke free campuses.

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A new state statute went into effect on Jan. 1, that requires electronic nicotine liquid (e-juice) to be sold in child-resistant packaging. E-juice is primarily comprised of propylene glycol and/or vegetable glycerin, flavorings, and nicotine, and usually comes in fruit and candy flavors.

The nicotine often contained in e-juice is highly toxic, especially for children. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, poisonings related to electronic cigarettes more than doubled from 1,543 in 2013 to 3,957 in 2014. About half of poisoning cases involve children six and younger.

Enforcement of the new statute will be carried out under municipal tobacco licensing ordinances. Federal guidelines on child-resistant packaging require packaging be “significantly difficult” for a child of five or younger to open in order for it to be classified as child-resistant. It is tested by giving children between the ages of 3.5 and 4.25 five minutes to open an empty package. If they cannot open the package they are given instructions and an additional five minutes. Eighty five percent of test subjects must fail in the first round and 80 percent in the second for the packaging to be considered significantly difficult.

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## **ANSR to coordinate ClearWay Minnesota Policy Champions**

ANSR was awarded a grant from ClearWay Minnesota to coordinate the 2015 Policy Champions Project. ANSR will work with alumni from the Leadership and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota’s Parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP) to engage in state and local tobacco prevention policy advocacy. The seven-month project began in December 2014. ANSR has recruited eight Policy Champions who will lead efforts to educate their communities and decision makers about important tobacco control initiatives.

The LAAMPP institute is an 18-month program designed to build the capacity for commercial tobacco control work among five priority population groups: Africans and African Americans; American Indians; Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Chicanos/ Latinos, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) communities.

The Policy Champions Project gives LAAMPP alumni an

## Youth access compliance rates in 2014 slightly down from 2013, but still strong

## ATOD prevention coordinator celebrates first year of program

opportunity to continue their work in tobacco control policy. This is the third cohort of Policy Champions since its inception in 2013. In the past, Policy Champions helped pass a tobacco tax increase and statewide legislation requiring smoke-free environments for children in foster care and regulations limiting the sale and use of e-cigarettes.

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The North Suburban Tobacco Compliance Project (NSTCP) conducts youth access compliance checks in Ramsey County. For the seventh year in a row, vendors were more than 93.5 percent compliant.

### 2014 Results

- In 2014, the compliance rate was 93.5 percent, compared to 95 percent in 2013 and 91.5 percent in 2012.
- NSTCP recognizes Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Gem Lake, North Oaks, and Vadnais Heights for achieving 100 percent compliance in both checks.

### Trainings

- Three vendor trainings were held during 2014. Staff from NSTCP are always available to do vendor trainings as requested.

### Student Volunteers

- 15 new students were recruited and trained to participate in the program. The program currently has 24 students trained and ready to assist with tobacco compliance checks.
- Students receive gift certificates and letters certifying hours.

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ANSR is celebrating its one-year anniversary with its Regional ATOD Prevention Coordinator, Lindsey Smith.

The Regional ATOD Prevention Coordinator (RPC) program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse division to support local communities in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse. RPCs are hosted by partnering agencies in seven regions of the state, with ANSR being the host for the Metro Area region. ANSR received the grant in October 2013.

The RPC supports local coalitions and partners by providing resources, consultation and professional development opportunities. She works closely with coalitions in South Minneapolis, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Lakeville.

These efforts include strategic planning, interpreting assessment data, coalition marketing, and more. In October 2014, the RPC

## Carver County Community Development Agency goes smoke-free

partnered with the Public Health Law Library to host a training on the nuances and options for coalitions to inform public policy.

To learn more about the RPC program, visit [www.rpcmn.org](http://www.rpcmn.org) or email [lindsey@ansrmn.org](mailto:lindsey@ansrmn.org).

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With assistance from Live Smoke Free and Carver County Public Health, the Carver County Community Development Agency (CDA) went smoke free on Jan. 1, 2015. Policy champion and Carver County CDA Housing Director Allison Streich coordinated with Live Smoke Free in seeking board approval early in 2014.

Policy planning and preparation occurred throughout the year and included three presentations from Live Smoke Free for residents of Carver County CDA properties. The policy change provides smoke-free living to more than 300 Carver County CDA residents.

In tandem with the new smoke-free policy, residents of Carver County CDA properties are participating in a tobacco survey from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) that will measure tobacco use, quit attempts, and secondhand smoke exposure among residents in buildings that are going smoke free. Live Smoke Free is coordinating with MDH in administration of surveys at five Carver County CDA properties.

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Thanks to all of ANSR's supporters, members, board members

## Give to the Max Day 2014 tops first-year total

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6

### **32nd Annual ANSR Garage Sale set for May 15-16**

and family and friends for their generous support in our second year of participation in GiveMN's Give to the Max Day. The event was a huge success.

Members and supporters have always been generous with donations, both monetary and garage sale items, and it was no different in November with Give to the Max Day. Members, supporters, friends, family and ANSR Board members combined to contribute \$5,050. That surpasses 2013's total of just less than \$4,000.

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It won't be long until it's time for the annual ANSR garage sale. This year's sale, the 32nd annual, will be on May 15-16. Mark your calendars!

Again this year, we need your stuff. We no longer take clothing, TVs, exercise equipment or large 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 ANSR's 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.